



## **International Sheep Veterinary Association Secretary's Report**

November 25, 2021

The Secretary took over from the previous secretary in the summer of 2019. Below are some of the initiatives headed by the Secretary with the input and assistance of the ISVA Committee.

### **Changes to evaluation of ISVC bids**

In the summer of 2020, a So-Go survey was conducted on-line to evaluate the criteria used to rank bids to host the International Sheep Veterinary Congress. All member country delegates were invited to complete the survey. The response rate was 75.7% (22 of 29 responded). These results were communicated to all delegates.

The ISVA committee reviewed the responses and made changes to the bid evaluation form. Please note that the form is used only to assist each member country in their deliberations to determine which bid is preferred. This form is posted at:

[http://www.intsheepvetassoc.org/sites/default/files/Appendix%201 ISVC%20Bid%20Scoring%20Sheet.pdf](http://www.intsheepvetassoc.org/sites/default/files/Appendix%201%20ISVC%20Bid%20Scoring%20Sheet.pdf)

### **Update to the ISVA Congress Rules and Procedures**

This was updated in 2021 to reflect changes to the timing of the congress (triennial rather than quadrennial) and to better accommodate a virtual component to the Congress. The document is located at:

[http://www.intsheepvetassoc.org/sites/default/files/ISVA%20Congress%20Rules%20%20Procedures\\_Updated%202021.pdf](http://www.intsheepvetassoc.org/sites/default/files/ISVA%20Congress%20Rules%20%20Procedures_Updated%202021.pdf)

The appendices were also updated: 1. Bid Scoring Sheet referred to above; 2. ISVC Manuscript Guidelines; and, 3. ISVC Planning Timelines. These can be found at:

<http://www.intsheepvetassoc.org/11th-isvc-2025>

### **Update to the ISVA Recommendations and Guidelines to Host ISVA Congresses**

The guidelines are to assist countries in developing a bid and if selected, to organize that bid. The document was revised based on feedback from experiences from previous congresses and also to take into account virtual meeting requirements. The ISVA committee also reviewed and made changes and clarifications. It is posted at:

## **Updating Country Membership and Soliciting New Members**

The list of country delegates was firstly contacted to complete the SoGo Survey. Several delegates either didn't respond or indicated that a new delegate had been or should be appointed for that country. There appeared a need to clarify each country's information to make sure it meets the criteria for voting membership and to also approach other countries to determine if they qualify for voting membership. The following actions were taken:

- The on-line and paper membership form was updated to more clearly identify whether an applicant qualified for country member status.
- Voting countries were asked to update information including identifying the appropriate delegate and in many cases, a back-up person who could be contacted as well.
- Some countries lost voting membership because of one or more of the following reasons: the delegate did not respond to emails; the delegate did not represent a national veterinary association as defined by the constitution; when requested to correct a deficiency, the delegate did not respond. If a country lost its voting membership, every effort was taken to identify and contact a qualified association and delegate for that country although we were not always successful.
- The secretary took on the task of approaching countries with small ruminant associations but which were not yet member countries and encouraging them to apply. We had some success in that regard but need more.
- Additionally the number of votes each country may cast to determine the next ISVC host country, has been updated using the criteria provided in the ISVA constitution.
- The current list (as of May 2021) is provided at <http://www.intsheepvetassoc.org/membership-list>

Although ISVA membership is free, there is difficulty in identifying potential member countries and there are still significant countries missing from this list where we know there are many small ruminant veterinarians. To promote the international status of this association and of the congresses, it is important to have wider international participation. Any assistance to identify or solicit new member countries and delegates is appreciated.

## **11<sup>th</sup> ISVC Bid Process**

Letters of invitation to bid on the 11<sup>th</sup> ISVC were sent to all ISVA members. While there were several countries that indicated an intent to submit, all but one country declined to follow-through for various reasons. The remaining country, Australia submitted an excellent bid and the ISVA committee met with the Australian bid committee to review it. The ISVA committee recommended that Australia be awarded the 11<sup>th</sup> ISVC, to be held in Wollongong, New South Wales. March 10-14, 2025.

## **Web Page**

We would like to thank the Richard Anderson and the New Zealand Veterinary Association for hosting the [ISVA website](#). This has been a very generous arrangement and is appreciated every day!

## **Karl Linklater funds**

Currently the Karl Linklater funds are managed by the Sheep Veterinary Society UK. On the advice of the President, it was investigated if there was a method to have the ISVA become an international charity or to connect it to another international charity so as to be able to have the ISVA manage and dispense the funds. At this point, we have not been successful but continue to investigate.

## **2021 ISVA Virtual Meeting - Sponsorship of applicants from lower income countries**

As mentioned in the President's Report, we were successful in winning sponsorship funds from Animals 2021 Academic Conference Grants. These funds, as well as the Karl Linklater funds have allowed us to sponsor 59 applicants (veterinarians, paraveterinarians and veterinary students) from 11 lower income countries from Africa and Central Asia. We used several ways to reach out to contact potential individuals and consider the response a success. Many thanks to those who assisted in this regard. However, for future meetings it would be ideal to better assure that all qualified countries and their small ruminant veterinarians are reached. Any suggestions are welcomed.

Paula Menzies, Secretary ISVA  
[sec.isva@gmail.com](mailto:sec.isva@gmail.com)

November 17, 2021