

Business meeting of the International Commission on Trichinellosis ICOPA Glasgow , August 8, 2006

Participants : Jean Dupouy-Camet, Pascal Boireau, Karsten Noeckler, Isabelle Vallée, Bruno Bruno, Dante Zarlenga, Francisco Bolas-Fernandez, Lorry Forbes, Nino Iashvili, Fabrizio Bruschi, Edoardo Pozio, Albert Marinculic and a dozen colleagues not belonging to the ICT.

The ICT board has exchanged dozen of emails in the past two years and have been debating a lot of topics. The agenda of this meeting reflects this work.

News :

- *Obituaries* : Two active members of the ICT - Prof Cuperlovic from Serbia and Pr Bessonov from Russia - passed away in 2005. Letters of support were sent by the ICT to their families and colleagues.

- *Web site* : It has been modified and is regularly updated by Jean Dupouy-Camet & Fabrizio Bruschi. Please feel free to email us any comments you believe will further improve our web site.

- *Guidelines* : One of our past presidents Darwin Murrell is coordinating the publication of guidelines on the management of trichinellosis, at the request of the FAO, WHO & OIE. These guidelines will deal with epidemiology, management of clinical cases, and veterinary control. Dr. Murrell asked Jean Dupouy-Camet to help him as a co-editor as the OIE printers are located in Paris. The preparation of these guidelines will be a good occasion to update the ICT control guidelines available on the web site. This will be done by Ray Gamble with the help of a small committee.

- *Epidemiological surveillance* : Jean Dupouy-Camet sent a survey form to all members of the ICT both last year and again this year. The questions were: how many cases of human trichinellosis were reported in your country; in how many outbreaks ? how many deaths, the source.... The results of this survey were interesting as for 2004 we identified more than 3200 cases. 1100 cases were identified by the OIE during the same period. The provisional figure for this years is of 2400 cases in 44 outbreaks and 5 deaths were reported. The results of these surveys are available on the web site.

- *European network*: A lot of the European ICT members are included in research projects funded by the European Community. This was done through the Trichiporse program and now through the Trichinet and Medvet programs. These programs have provided the opportunity to plan and convene meetings and collaborations at the European level. European members met at Paris in November 2004 and in Berlin in June 2005. Pascal Boireau must be thanked for the tremendous efforts he has made in handling all these complicated files and organising so well these collaborations. Pascal Boireau outlines that a new project at the EU level might include once again ICT members.

- *European center for disease control* : A European center for disease control has been created, based in Stockholm. The ECDC was informed of the existence of the ICT and ICT advice was requested for a case definition of trichinellosis.

ICT12 in Croatia (fall 2007)

Albert Marinculić gave a brief overview about the organization of the next ICT 12 that will be held in the National Park Plitvice Lakes, Croatia from 25th to 30th September 2007. Dr. Marinculić presented the members of the Local Organizing Committee and their roles. Albert will send the Invitation Letter with tasks to each member. He also presented the brochure and accepted all suggestions and corrections that should be included in the official printing. The participants discussed the proposed registration fee and concluded that the fee should be adjusted for the country origin of each participant. The participants from G8 and first 15 EU countries should pay a fee of 250 euros. The participants from all other countries should pay a lower fee of 150 euros.

The preliminary programme scheme presented by Albert Marinculic was accepted. The programme has to be adapted in order to have a free afternoon for the Business Meeting and MEDVETNET Meeting.

Dr. Marinculic proposed the organization of a pre conference meeting on Standardization and Accreditation of *Trichinella* Diagnostics at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Zagreb. After a short discussion the idea was accepted and the members of the organizing team were proposed: Boireau, Blaga, Pozio, Nockler, Marinculić, Beck, Forbes, Dupouy-Camet, Gamble, Gajadhar, Madox-Hytel. Albert also proposed to organize a one day local meeting on trichinellosis with international participation in order to attract local sponsors. Dr. Blaga proposed that besides ordinary hotel accommodation, low price accommodations should be also offered. Dr. Dupouy-Camet thanked Dr. Marinculic for his excellent presentation and preparation.

ICT Proceedings :

- *Recommendations for the organizers of future ICT meetings* :The board had a lot of exchanges on the topic and issued simple recommendations for the organizers of future ICT meetings. These recommendations are :

- a. ICT Conference Organizers should solicit abstracts in an “extended” format (i.e., one or two pages with references and one table or figure) to allow a more complete presentation of data that can be printed in an abstract book and/or posted on the web site.
- b. The Organizers should provide to Authors clear guidelines for preparation of both abstracts and manuscripts. Guidelines for manuscripts should adhere to the format of the journal where these manuscripts will be published.
- c. A deadline should be established for manuscripts to be given to the Conference Organizers in the weeks immediately following the conference to assure that the Proceedings will be published within one year following the Conference
- d. ICT Conference Organizers should establish an Editorial Committee consisting of session chairs, and other ICT members, if necessary. The Editorial Committee will be responsible for the review of all manuscripts (finding peer-reviewers and minor editing of manuscripts). For each scientific session, a rapporteur should be nominated to make notes of the discussion, which would contribute for the evaluation of manuscripts.
- e. Manuscripts should be published in a referred journal (although citations may or may not be as “Proceedings”). The Organizers should announce the journal in advance of the

Conference and note that all papers submitted for publication would be peer-reviewed according to normal journal standards. Authors will be responsible for revision of manuscripts, which could be accepted for their scientific content, but require improvement in the English language.

These procedures were approved by the board of the ICT

- Dan Zarlenga's proposal.:

D. Zarlenga sent to Jean Dupouy-Camet the following message :

“ I am on the editorial board of Veterinary Parasitology and we recently had our annual board meeting. At that meeting, I suggested that ICT might be interested in using Veterinary Parasitology as their publishing medium every 4 years. This would alleviate ICT trying to find a new publishers, negotiating rates, and at worst, trying to publish the proceedings themselves. It would also guarantee that the papers (published in Veterinary Parasitology) would be indexed in an international database, be available to a much broader audience than only those scientists who attend the meeting and purchase copies through their participant fees, and be subject to higher publishing standards which in turn will lend credence and higher acceptance to the published articles. At this stage, I will "bow out" from further discussion inasmuch as I am not on the executive board; however, should this be an option that ICT wishes to pursue, I would be happy to forward the information to Ken Plaxton, the publishing editor of the Journal. At this time, he is considering my proposal as well. His initial thoughts were very positive, but there is no final agreement since I am not at liberty to make such a decision on behalf of ICT”

Dr. Zarlenga was thanked for this very interesting proposal which was discussed by the audience. The main concerns dealt with the fact that only a limited number of papers could be included, that submitted papers would require a careful English language revision. The problem also was the possible commitments of Albert Marinculic with The Croatian Medical Journal. The possibility to publish papers dealing with human medicine in the Croatian Medical journal and those dealing with other topics in Vet par. was discussed.

No decision was taken on this point. ...

ICT Student Award :

Ray Gamble, organizer of the last ICT in San Diego, had some funds remaining from this meeting, which was transferred to the ICT account, Keeping money on account is not a primary goal for the ICT, so the board decided to create a prize to help young scientists to participate to ICT conferences. See forms attached.

These procedures were approved by the board of the ICT

ICT representatives updating and nominations :

There are several types of members: active, retired and honorary. The board of the ICT decided to remove the retired and honorary members from the country list and to put them in a special section.

Several new members have been suggest to be nominated as members of the ICT during the next ICT conference. Bulgaria (Prof Kurdova); Poland Prof Stefaniak, Laos Dr Valy (600 hundred cases reported last year). For UK, Austria, Hungary there are no active members. Dr

Karsten Noeckler and others will attempt to identify possible members for these countries. The ICT has lost electronic contacts the members from several countries such as Egypt and Russia. For Russia, Dr Gamble provided the mail of Dr. Uspensky, vigis@dialup.ptt.ru. The floor suggested Catherine Lawrence for UK and Rebecca Davidson for Norway. Albert Marinculic will try to find candidates for Slovenia, Bosnia, Macedonia....

The board felt that it was important to have, for each country members active in molecular or immunological aspects of trichinellosis but also members who are involved with epidemiological national networks and able to communicate epidemiological data for their respective countries.

Question : can we nominate these members or wait until ICT12 ???

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ICT meetings during other conferences

ICT conferences are held every 4 years; between these 4 years there is no official ICT meeting, although trichinellosis is present in EMOP, ICOPA... An idea issued by Alvin Gajadhar is to organize an official ICT meeting during the next meeting of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology in Calgary. The opinion of the board was that a satellite ICT meeting could be organized every 4 years in conjunction with the WAAVP (as we had in ICOPA) but of course this could depend of the local organizers. Alvin Gajadhar is involved in Trichinella and also in WAAVP so he has this possibility but it might not be the case for future meetings...The ICT membership present voted to ask Alvin to go forward with organizing an ICT meeting along with the 2009 WAAVP and based on the outcome we will evaluate whether this should be done for future WAAVP meetings..

2007: WAAVP held in Belgium ICT in Croatia;

2009: joint meeting ICT-WAAVP in Calgary,

2011 WAAVP and ICT different;

2013 : joint meeting and so on

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Questions

There were no additional questions or comments, and before closing this business meeting.

Jean Dupouy-Camet thanked all the participants. He also thanked the board for the excellent, friendly and frequent exchanges.