

Ethnoveterinary Medicine Conference, Harvesting Knowledge, Pharming Opportunities

**Writtle College, Chelmsford, Essex,
 14-15 Sept 2006**

Preparations for the Ethnoveterinary Medicine conference at Writtle College in September are well under way. Jes Scaife and his team are developing a two-day programme for the main conference. So far they have 27 submitted summaries.

This two day conference will address 4 major issues

- (1) the conservation of the knowledge base and information gathering techniques, respecting intellectual property and creating trust, making the most of local knowledge;
- (2) learning the lessons from local farmers, botanical identification, matching growing conditions to optimise medicinal properties translating symptoms into veterinary diagnosis;
- (3) traditional veterinary medicines; origins and applications throughout the world;
- (4) targeting biological systems, the gut, immune system and animal health.

Invited speakers at the conference are:

Prof Chris Garforth, Reading University

Local knowledge as a resource in developing livestock systems

Dr Evelyn Mathias, League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development

Livestock keepers' knowledge versus test tubes and mice: ethnoveterinary validation and use in animal healthcare projects

Dr Irene Mueller-Harvey, Reading University

Sustainable farming practices for optimising the synthesis of natural and veterinary products

Dr Spiridoula Athanasiadou, SAC

Medicinal plants for parasite control: fact and fiction

John Wallace, Rowett Research Institute

Natural plant materials for manipulating rumen fermentation

Dr Harindar Makkar, University of Hohenheim

Bioactivity of phytochemicals in some lesser-known plants and their potential applications in aquaculture and livestock production systems.

The conference will also be preceded by a two-day workshop run by the Atomic Energy Authority, where world experts will be discussing future research priorities. These experts will then become keynote speakers in the main conference.

On 13 September there will also be a student training day at Writtle which is FREE to BSAS student members (see over for details).

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2006 Conferences

14-15 September
 Ethnoveterinary Medicine and Ethnobiological Issues
 Writtle College, Chelmsford, Essex, UK

19-20 October
 Linking up the meat chain: Ensuring safety and quality for consumers
 Krakow, Poland

2007 Conferences

2-4 April
 BSAS Annual Conference
 Southport, UK

30-31 October
 Fertility Conference
 Liverpool Hope University, UK

BSAS Summer Placements

BSAS has once again awarded a number of summer placements for undergraduates to undertake a project for research experience in their vacation period. This year we are funding the following:

Luciano Gonzalez, University of Barcelona who will undertake a project at SAC Edinburgh

Carolina Kyriacou, University of Newcastle, undertake a project with Biomin

Claire White, University of Liverpool, undertake a project with Harper Adams and BPEX

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STUDENT COUNCIL

BSAS Student Council continues to be very active and full of ideas. It recently held a meeting in Edinburgh to discuss its programme over the next 6 months and to reappoint responsibilities to individuals. Ruth Pickard has stepped down and Suzanne Rowe of Roslin Institute is now Student Council chairperson.

The team now consists of :

Suzanne Rowe, Roslin Institute
Ruth Pickard, Newcastle University
Fiona Lang, SAC
Charlotte Kearsley, Roslin Institute
Carol-Anne Duthie, SAC
Catherine Hayhurst, Liverpool
Ryan Law, Queens University, Belfast
Catherine Hale, Writtle College
Carolyn Atkin, Harper Adams University College

The student council is very keen to expand its network of contacts within appropriate colleges and institutes within and outside the UK. They would very much like to make contact with individuals studying bioscience type topics that include animal science. If you fit this criteria then please contact suzanne.rowe@bbsrc.ac.uk

Currently the student membership of the BSAS is one area that is growing in number and much of this expansion relates to the work being undertaken by the Student Council. They have an annual budget of £5,000 to put towards activities that enable BSAS student members to take part at highly subsidised rates. The student day at Writtle for example is FREE to all BSAS members which includes meals and accommodation. If you are interested in joining in their activities please contact either the BSAS office or one of the Student Council members. The council is also beginning to address the problem of gender balance - we very much welcome the addition of Ryan Law from Northern Ireland.

BSAS Student Day, Writtle College, Chelmsford, Essex 13 September 2006

The student Council is looking to attract participants studying at postgraduate or final year undergraduate level in relevant disciplines. The number of places is limited as the sessions are hands on and thus very participative. The aim is to give everyone practical skills to take away. Topics include:

Viva techniques	Peter Rowlinson, University of Newcastle
Handling the media	Janice Harland, (BSAS PR and Press Officer)
Writing papers for Journals	Brian Grout, Writtle College
Industry Forum	Presentations on career pathways/opportunities from a variety of industry reps
How UK research funding works	David Garwes, Livestock Consultant (David was previously with DEFRA)

In the evening there will be plenty of time to network over dinner or in the bar and during the games and quiz programme. There is overnight ensuite accommodation on site for the evening of 13 September.

For BSAS student members the student day package is FREE (this includes registration, meals and one nights accommodation (sorry we are not able to fund travel costs). If non members want to come then they would have to join BSAS in advance! If participants then wish to attend the following ethnoveterinary conference, 14-15 September, then student registration will be subsidised by 50%.

For further information please contact bsas@sac.ac.uk

BSAS Membership

A team led by Alan Duncan has been asked by BSAS Council to review membership levels. The team have selected a market research company to undertake a survey to identify why the membership has steadily declined and options for redressing the situation .

The team received over a dozen proposals and selected Customers Matter to undertake the telephone and email surveys over the next few months. Led by Donald Pollock, Customers Matter based in Peterborough, will identify representative groups from the BSAS membership for confidential in depth talks about their relationship with BSAS. We would be very grateful, if selected, if you would give Donald a little of your time to answer questions. We think you'll find it good fun!

Once the telephone survey has been completed the findings will be incorporated into an email survey of all BSAS members and potential members. Again, we would very grateful if you could cooperate. The aim is to have initial results ready for the Council meeting in early September with a full set of findings by early autumn. One group Customers Matters wish to talk to are our students, as they will have now finished exams and gone home or to work for the vacation, their response might not be known until September.

Many of BSAS members recently completed a questionnaire on their interests and disciplines for which we are very grateful. Over 60% responded and the results make interesting reading and have helped to identify parameters for the surveys. We will be putting some of these statistics on the members area of the website.

New Developments in Sheepmeat Quality Ninth Langford Food Industry Conference May 2006

Book of summaries available from BSAS.
£10.00 to members, £12.00 non-members.

ANIMAL

The first official meeting of the animal management board took place recently in Rome and the three BSAS members Nigel Scollan, Brian Cooke and Mike Steele all attended. The meeting made good progress with regard to setting up the editorial team and its electronic handling system. At the meeting CABI announced that they would be placing the whole of their journal portfolio with Cambridge University Press. A presentation was given by Geoff Nuttall of CUP who outlined the benefits of the move. Cled Thomas, Mike Steele and Brian Cooke subsequently visited Cambridge and met the CUP Chief Executive and the whole journal team. They came away from Cambridge confident that the move from CABI to Cambridge will be a positive one. CUP publish some 200 journals and are significantly stronger than CABI in the Journal publishing world. ANIMAL will fit very comfortably into the Cambridge journal portfolio and will benefit greatly from the very strong marketing team they have and the very powerful electronic platform 'Cambridge journals online'. CUP are very committed to the launch and success of ANIMAL and confident that it will do well in both the emerging countries such as India and China as well as the established ones in Europe and North America.

The first edition of Animal will be published at the end of January 2007. There will be 10 editions in 2007 and thereafter 12 annually. The success of Animal very much depends on the quality of the papers it publishes and to that end we need support from all BSAS members in submitting their best quality papers. We need your help to make ANIMAL a success – please submit your paper via the BSAS website.

CONFERENCE VENUES

Mike Steele visited both Glasgow and Belfast in May to look at possible sites for future Annual BSAS Conferences. Both are very vibrant cities and would be great places to hold the meeting. Both have excellent communications links and facilities. In Northern Ireland Mike looked at Queens University, the Europa Hotel and the Waterfront as well as dinner venues such as the Ulster Folk Museum and Belfast Castle. In Glasgow he looked at the Concert Hall, Glasgow Caledonian University and a number of Hotels. The Arches Club (under Glasgow Central Station) and the old indoor Fruit Market would make excellent dinner venues. Likely timings for either city would be 2009/10.

If you have been to a conference where you thought the venue and event would suit BSAS then please let Mike know via bsas@sac.ac.uk

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2-4 April 2007

Southport Theatre and Floral Hall Complex, Merseyside, UK. This an event we all look forward to...eminent speakers, an exciting programme and networking all in a relaxed convivial atmosphere.

One page summary to be submitted by **27 October 2006**. Submission link will shortly be available on the BSAS website.

We accept summaries on any aspect of Animal Science. Summaries that may fit any of the following invited sessions are also welcome.

Genetics of Robustness
Farm Animal Genetic Resources
Animal Welfare Issues and Meat Quality
Ruminant Lameness
Equine Science
Agricultural Production and food security
Alternatives to antibiotics
Genetic effects on meat quality
Livestock and water

Linking up the meat chain: Ensuring quality and safety for consumers

International Conference 19-20 October, 2006, Krakow, Poland

It is a chance to return to beautiful Krakow to meet colleagues from east and central Europe to discuss the issues associated with producing good quality and healthy meat. Excellent value flying with Ryanair or Easyjet from a number of UK cities and even cheaper to stay and eat. After the conference visit the Royal salt mine, castle and churches or just do some early Christmas shopping. An ideal conference to combine business with a long weekend!

Session 1

Primary production and quality

- Producing high quality pork meat, *Mike Ellis, University of Illinois, USA*
- Handling broiler chickens antemortem to optimise carcass yield and quality, *Paul Wariss, University of Bristol, UK*
- Effects of diet on beef carcass composition, *Jeff D Wood & Nigel D Scollan, University of Bristol, UK*

Session 2

Genetics and Meat Quality

- The molecular control and genetics of meat quality tenderization across species *Tim Parr, University of Nottingham, UK*
- Effects of breeds, sex, body weight or daily gain on muscle characteristics of pigs *Dorota Wojtysiak & Wladyslaw Migdal, Agricultural University of Krakow, Poland*
- Comparable evaluation of cattle breeds and their crossbreeds *Vigilijus Jukna, Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Lithuania*

Session 3

Food safety and Human Health - risks and opportunities

- Trans Fatty Acids of animal origin - an attempt to judge potential health risks and benefits *Martin Scheeder, Swiss Research Institute, Switzerland*
- Impact of animal health on pigmeat quality *Sandra Edwards & Jonathan Guy, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK*
- Oxysterols in meat and health implications *Marek Piezka, Animal Science Research Institute, Poland*

Session 4

Meat and its nutritive value

- Walter Rambek, Munich University, Germany

For further information contact bsas@sac.ac.uk or p.pasciak@neostrada.pl

Conference Calendar

13 Sept 2006	BSAS Student day , Writtle College - see page 2
14-15 Sept 2006	Ethnoveterinary Medicine - Harvesting Knowledge, Pharming Opportunities , Writtle College, Chelmsford, Essex, UK - see front page
19-20 Oct 2006	Linking up the meat chain: Ensuring quality and safety for consumers , Krakow, Poland, see above.
4-6 Sept 2006	BGS 8th Research Conference RAC, Cirencester www.britishgrassland.com/bgs/about/calendar.asp
12 Sept 2006	The Annual Nottingham Cattle Fertility Conference One day conference hosted by Nottingham University, UK, Please register at www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/ah/cattle_fert_conference/index.ht
12-14 Sept 2006	The 40th Annual Feed Conference , University of Nottingham, UK please register now at www.nottingham.ac.uk/feedconf
17-20 Sept 2006	EAAP Annual Meeting, Antalya, Turkey . www.eaap2006.gen.tr
18-20 Sept 2006	What will organic farming deliver? Heriott Watt University, Edinburgh www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=25&basket=wwshowconfdets
2-4 April 2007	BSAS Annual Conference , Southport, Merseyside, UK - see page 3 or visit www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/Annual_Conference/
17-19 April 2007	High Value Grassland , University of Keele, Staffs www.britishgrassland.com/bgs/about/calendar.asp
30-31 August 2007	Fertility Conference , Liverpool Hope University, UK - further details in August Newsletter.

BSAS Committee Meetings 2006

11 Sept	Presidents and Publications - London
12 Sept	Council - London
21-22 Nov	Programme Committee - Southport
5 Dec	Technical & Ethical - London