Short summary of WVA activities during WVC2018

The 34th World Veterinary Association Congress took place on 5th - 8th May 2018, in Barcelona, Spain, under the Honorary Presidency of the Spanish Royal Family. With participation of delegates from 67 countries, this new edition delivered an excellent scientific program covering different fields of veterinary medicine from innovation and research, veterinary public health to vast aspects of clinical practice.

The Opening Ceremony of the WVAC2018 was opened by the presidents of the College of Veterinarians of Barcelona, General Council of the Spanish Colleges of Veterinarians and the World Veterinary Association welcoming the delegates. The Opening Ceremony continued with presentations by the Secretary General of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Minister of Health, Social Services and Equality, Mrs. Dolors Montserrat i Montserrat. Both highlighted the importance of the One Health concept and the major role of the veterinary profession for the Spanish and European society. Those topics were also highlighted by Vytenis Andriukaitis, the EU Commissioner for Health & Food Safety who also emphasized the
importance of the profession in Europe for the wellbeing of society and welfare of animals and the need for collaboration with other health professionals. The Opening Ceremony was concluded with the announcement of the names of 41 winners of the MSD/WVA Veterinary Students Scholarship program 2017 and a keynote speech by Chief Executive Officer of Zoetis, Juan Ramón Alaix on “the forces shaping the future of animal health” and how the role of veterinarians will evolve to address the world’s most important animal health issues.

As part of the new WVACs structure, the Scientific Committee has made great efforts to select quality contents and the best speakers to attract specialist veterinarians from different fields. The WVAC2018 focused on three distinct subject areas: Innovation and Research, Veterinary Public Health, and Clinical Practice. Please find hereafter the congress proceeding booklet that includes the abstracts of all the congress lectures.

In addition to the congress scientific program, WVA organized the 5th One Health Summit in collaboration with FAO, OIE and WHO to discuss the issue of Global Biosecurity and the Global Seminar in Animal Welfare to understand better the concept of One Health (a short summary of these meetings can be found in pages 3 and 5 of this report).

The WVAC2018 Congress was accompanied by a special publication; WVAC Journal that was prepared by the General Council of the Spanish Colleges of Veterinarians and covers many of the congress features, history of the WVA, World WVA Map, WVAC’s scientific program, speakers profiles and many more. Click HERE to read the WVAC Journal.