



World Association of Veterinary Anatomists WAVA

Association Mondiale des Anatomistes Vétérinaires AMAV

Weltvereinigung der Veterinäranatomen WVVA

Asociación Mundial de Anatomistas Veterinarios AMAV

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## **Minutes of the General Assembly of the WAVA in conjunction with the 29<sup>th</sup> World Veterinary Congress WVC in Vancouver July 31, 2008**

The General Assembly of the WAVA was held at the Meeting Room 16 in the Convention & Exhibition Centre (VCEC), 999 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the president
4. Report of the treasurer
5. Committee and other reports (Otto Zietzschmann)
6. Formal admission of the Asian Association of Veterinary Anatomists as a regional section of the WAVA (President: Dr. Kazuyuki TANIGUCHI)
7. Amendment of the constitution allowing correspondence to be dealt with by e-mail instead of surface mail and allowing e-mail voting
8. Amendment of the constitution with respect to the link between WAVA general assemblies and the World Veterinary Congress or the International Federation of Anatomy, respectively
9. Amendment of the constitution with respect to splitting Region I
10. Establish a separate region for Africa and, if approved, determine the boundaries between "Europe" and "Africa"
11. Elections into the executive board (opening of the ballots)
12. Others

The president calls to order at 2 pm.

### **Attendance**

The roll was taken by secretary general Michael H. Stoffel

#### Present were:

President	Prof. Larry Freeman, USA
Secretary general	Prof. Michael H. Stoffel, Switzerland
WAVA members	Prof. Henry Robert (USA), Prof. Taniguchi Kazumi (Japan), Prof. Taniguchi Kayuzuki (Japan)

## **1. Welcome**

The president welcomes the audience and expresses his gratitude for the effort undertaken by those being present. The secretary-general provides the list of participants who signed off for the present assembly. He also forwards the greetings and a statement of Prof. R. E. Habel.

## **2. Adoption of the agenda**

With the addition of the topics “Affiliation with *Anatomia Histologia Embryologia*” and “Illustrated Veterinary Anatomical Nomenclature” under 12. Others, the agenda is adopted.

## **3. Report of the president**

*Since the last WAVA General Assembly, one of the highlights of activities in our association has been the publication of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria. This new edition was announced by Prof. Paul Simoens of Ghent at the 26<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Association of Veterinary Anatomists in Messina, Italy, in July, 2006. This N.A.V. has been posted and is available to all on the internet at the WAVA website. Many thanks are due to Prof. Simoens and colleagues on the nomenclature committees for their fine efforts. A printed version will also soon be available, again via the efforts of Prof. Simoens who is working with a printer who will make the hardcopy version available for a nominal fee.*

*Issues related to membership of regional associations of WAVA, and hence, constitutional implications, have come to the fore with the discussion initiated at the special WAVA session held during the EAVA-Messina Congress. There Prof. Kazuyuki Taniguchi, of Iwate University, Japan, and President of the new Asian Association of Veterinary Anatomists, shared information concerning the establishment of this new society and presented a formal request for the new Asian Association to be recognized as a constituent society of WAVA. The Asian Association has now held two Congresses, first—the organizing congress—in Ibaraki-Tsukuba, Japan, in March of 2006, and the second in Bangkok, Thailand, in September of 2007.*

*Also at the Messina Congress, it was proposed that the African countries should be encouraged to organize an African association and that such should eventually be considered for status as a distinct region of WAVA, thereby, giving impetus for the cultivation of increased activity and participation of the veterinary anatomists in the various countries of the African continent. Under the leadership of Prof. Ashraf Saber of Egypt, an organizational meeting was held in February, 2008, in Cairo, and the African Association of Veterinary Anatomists was formed. The WAVA President was kindly invited to attend; however, he was unable to make the trip at a very busy time in the academic year and instead sent a letter of greetings and encouragement to Dr. Saber and the attendees. EAVA President, Prof. Rudolf Leiser, of Giessen was able attend and to represent EAVA and, hence, other international veterinary anatomists.*

*Meetings of WAVA at which constitution and by-laws changes may be made, by current constitutional requirement, must be those meetings held in conjunction with the congresses of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) or the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA). These WAVA meetings are considered regular meetings. Other special meetings can be held in conjunction with other WAVA constituent associations. One item to be discussed at the Vancouver meeting is whether to change wording of the constitution in order to allow a fully official business meeting to be held in conjunction with a congress of WAVA's affiliated associations such as the European, Japanese, American, etc. This change will permit at such meetings voting on constitutional changes and others official business. I believe that this change is critical in that it will foster greater attendance at WAVA general assemblies since few veterinary anatomists attend congresses of the WVA or IFAA.*

*WAVA has just recently experienced a distressing event. Within the past few weeks, Wiley, Inc., the publisher of our journal, *Anatomia Histologia Embryologia*, has informed the Editor-in-chief Prof. Fred Sinowatz and the WAVA president that Wiley will be changing the title of the journal to “Plasticity in*

*Development and Growth” effective with the January, 2009, issue; will change and limit the focus of the journal; will relieve the editor, Prof. Fred Sinowatz, of his duties effective August 1, 2008, and are appointing a new editor and editorial board to take over on that date. At the meeting of the Journal Board and WAVA officers on July 25, 2008, at the EAVA-Budapest Congress, Fred Sinowatz reported that he had spoken with Wiley’s managing editor for the journal and was trying to get more details from the less-than-forthcoming publisher regarding WAVA’s right to the present journal title. He will hold submitted and reviewed papers that have not yet been sent to the publisher. He is also investigating the possibility of another publisher for the WAVA journal. The WAVA president and president-elect are drafting a letter to the publisher registering WAVA’s concern over the way that this issue has been handled. We offer our wholehearted appreciation to Prof. Sinowatz for his long service to WAVA and to veterinary anatomists during his tenure as editor of our journal.*

#### **4. Report of the treasurer**

As unexpectedly neither the past nor the upcoming treasurer was able to join, the financial report dropped out.

#### **5. Committee and other reports**

##### ***International Committee on Veterinary Gross Anatomical Nomenclature (ICVGAN)***

The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the NAV was published and is accessible for free on the WAVA homepage as a pdf-File. Prof. Simoens was able to make arrangements for printed copies at shipping and handling costs only. He also provided an index for the printed version.

Prof. Waibl retired as a chairman of the ICVGAN but is willing to continue to act as a member of the committee. The former secretary, Prof. H. Gasse (Hannover, Germany) was nominated as new chairman and Prof. W. van den Broeck (Ghent, Belgium) as new secretary. Both are unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

##### ***International Committee on Veterinary Embryological Nomenclature (ICVEN)***

The secretary-general forwards the report of Prof. Simoens, chairman of the ICVEN

*After re-establishing the ICVEN in Knoxville (2003), the second edition of the Nomina Embryologica Veterinaria (NEV) was published on the website of the WAVA in January 2006. Still, a further thorough revision of the NEV is necessary as several important questions need to be addressed. These include species coverage (rabbit, birds), improvement of the classification of terms, and elimination of ambiguous and contradictory terms. In a first initiative, proposals for a uniform nomenclature of terms that are listed differently in the Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria, Nomina Histologica (Veterinaria) and Nomina Embryologica Veterinaria were submitted to the International Committee on Veterinary Histological Nomenclature.*

*Attempts to recruit more members willing to contribute actively to the revision of the NEV should be intensified world-wide. At present, the ICVEN is composed of 9 members only (2 from Belgium, 1 from Bulgaria, 3 from Germany, 1 from Hungary, 1 from Poland and 1 from the USA. Veterinary morphologists who are interested to contribute by sharing their expertise are requested to contact ICVEN.*

Prof. Simoens retired as a chairman of the ICVEN. Prof. F. Sinowatz (Munich, Germany) was nominated as new chairman and Dr. Pieter Cornillie (Ghent, Belgium) as new secretary. Both are unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

### ***International Committee on Veterinary Histological Nomenclature (ICVHN)***

This committee shall be organized into subgroups in order to address all relevant issues. As Prof. K.-D. Budras retired from his charge as secretary, the nomination of Prof. J. Seeger (Leipzig, Germany) is unanimously approved by the General Assembly. He will coordinate the efforts, the top priority being to eliminate ambiguous and contradictory terms in order to achieve full congruence between NAV, NEV and NHV.

### ***Coordinating Committee on Veterinary Anatomical Nomenclature (CCVAN)***

No report.

### ***Otto Zietzschmann-Prize (OZP)***

The secretary-general forwards the report of Prof. Simoens, chairman of the Board of Trustees:

*The laureates of the O. Zietzschmann Prize were*

- 2003: Prof. Dr. Dr. Fred Sinowatz (Munich, Germany)
- 2004: Prof. Dr. Deryl L. Troyer (Kansas, USA)
- 2005: Prof. Dr. J.-C. Park (Gwang-ju, Korea)
- 2006: Dr. N. El-Nefiawy (Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt)
- 2007: Dr. T. Tada (Nagoya University, Japan)

*The OZP is awarded for embryologic papers published in the Journal Anatomia Histologia Embryologia. Further information on the pertinent papers and the laureates is available on the website of the WAVA.*

*In commemoration of Prof. a. Dr. Dr. Fritz Preuss, who was the Initiator and Donator of the O. Zietzschmann Prize and who passed away in 2006, the Board of Trustees proposes to commemorate the scientific merits and professional excellence of both eminent morphologists by renaming the Prize as the Zietzschmann-Preuss Award for the furthering of Veterinary Embryological Research. This proposal is submitted herewith for approval to the Executive Board of the World Association of Veterinary Anatomists.*

The General Assembly supports the Change of the name to Zietzschmann-Preuss Award. As the affiliation between the WAVA and has been discontinued by the editor (see below), the bylaws may need to be amended in the near future. Therefore, the assembly suggests that the Board of Trustees shall change the name whenever appropriate.

### ***Report of the Secretary-General***

The website has a registered URL [www.wava-amav.org](http://www.wava-amav.org). It provides up-to-date information on the Association, on its constitution and bylaws, on the executive board and all the committees, on the OZP, on previous and upcoming meetings as well as links to important associations and a collection of interesting websites being related to Anatomy teaching. It also provides free access to both the NAV and the NEV.

The secretary-general announces the new members who have joined the WAVA from 2003 through 2008.

The members list was amended and every effort was taken, to check the records and to obtain as many e-mail addresses as possible. Yet, e-mail addresses are available from half the members only. Members are currently being listed on the website including their e-mail address where available. A brief discussion of privacy aspects lead to the consensus that e-mail addresses shall be removed upon request.

The secretary-general declares that decision making within the WAVA has been hampered by cumbersome procedures. He urges the assembly to take action in order to make our association an active and effective organization to serve all Veterinary Anatomists.

## **6. Formal admission of the Asian Association of Veterinary Anatomists as a regional section of the WAVA (President: Dr. Kazuyuki TANIGUCHI)**

The President of the Asian AVA, Prof. K. Taniguchi, reports on the activities of his regional section:

*I am very grateful for having the opportunity to speak at the WAVA General Assembly about the establishment and activities of the Asian AVA in recent years.*

*We established the Asian AVA to promote research and education in veterinary anatomy and to develop other relevant activities for the benefit of veterinary anatomy through international co-operation between the Asian countries.*

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of the Asian AVA was held from March 19, through 21, 2006, at Tsukuba International Congress Hall, Japan. The statutes were approved and the executive board members of the Asian AVA were elected. The symposium on the research work and education in veterinary anatomy in the Asian countries was held, and the poster presentation covered 46 subjects. The participants came from Japan, Korea, Thailand, China, Bangladesh, Indonesia, USA and Hungary and amounted to about 100 persons.*

*The 2nd Congress of the Asian AVA was held during September 12 to 14, 2007, at the Maruay Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. The scientific program consisted of 13 lectures, 10 oral presentations and 45 poster presentations. The participants came from Thailand, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Malaysia, USA, Germany and Poland and amounted to about 150 persons.*

*The 3rd Congress of the Asian AVA was decided to be held in autumn 2009 (mid-September), in Seoul, Korea.*

*Finally, I would like to submit the application of the Asian AVA to be approved as one of the affiliated organizations of the WAVA at equal rank with the European AVA and American AVA.*

The application of the Asian AVA is unanimously approved and this new regional organization is cordially welcomed. The executive committee congratulates Prof. Taniguchi for his outstanding work in establishing the Asian AVA.

## **7. Amendment of the constitution allowing correspondence to be dealt with by e-mail instead of surface mail and allowing e-mail voting**

In order to be able to act within due time, a world association such as the WAVA is highly dependent on rapid exchange of information. Therefore, the assembly approves the suggested amendment of Art. 3.2 of the constitution:

... They enjoy all the rights and privileges of the Association, including the right to vote and to hold office. **Active members must provide a valid e-mail address.**

As adequate systems for voting by e-mail are currently available, this option shall be included by amending Art. 8.2 of the bylaws as follows:

... A mail vote **or an e-mail vote** is obligatory in this case.

## **8. Amendment of the constitution with respect to the link between WAVA general assemblies and the World Veterinary Congress or the International Federation of Anatomy, respectively**

As the lack of attendance clearly indicates, the requirement to hold General Assemblies in conjunction with WVC or meetings of the IFAA must be loosened. The assembly approves an amendment of Art. 4.1 of the constitution:

... The Association holds regular meetings in conjunction with **Meetings of one of the regional Associations of the WAVA**, the World Veterinary Congresses or Congresses of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists.

A general assembly shall be held at least every two years.

Terms in office shall be 4 years.

## **9. Amendment of the constitution with respect to splitting Region I**

Splitting of Region I into Europe and Africa was suggested earlier. Careful assessment of the issue has led the executive committee to consider this step to be premature. A comprehensive list of countries being affiliated with the newly formed African AVA must be established. Region 2 still encompasses both North America and South America. Thus, a change with respect to the regions of the WAVA needs to be considered on a global level. A committee shall be appointed to carefully assess the regionalization of the WAVA.

## **10. Establish a separate region for Africa and, if approved, determine the boundaries between “Europe” and “Africa”**

The WAVA welcomes the African AVA and encourages its efforts to foster the interests of Veterinary Anatomy in Africa. As stated under 9, establishing additional regions requires a more detailed analysis.

## **11. Elections into the executive board (opening of the ballots)**

Opening of the ballots yielded the following results:

76 votes in favour of Prof. R. Henry for President

76 votes in favour of Prof. J. Klimek for Treasurer

76 votes in favour of Dr. Z. Szladovits for Secretary-General

32 votes in favour of Prof. P. Sótonyi for Vice-president of region 1

19 votes in favour of Prof. M. Sampaio for Vice-president of region 2

18 votes in favour of Prof. K. Taniguchi for Vice-president of region 4

3 ballots were null and void.

## 12. Others

The option of automatically promoting the members of the regional associations to become WAVVA members should be considered. Collecting the membership fees via the treasurers of the regional associations would be far more efficient.

Mrs. Suzanne Albrecht, Journal Publishing Manager of *Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia* (Wiley-Blackwell) has informed the WAVVA that this journal shall be discontinued and re-launched with new aims and scope under the name of *Plasticity in Development and Growth*. All accepted papers shall be published by the end of 2008. This means that our association will be deprived from its own publication organ. As the WAVVA is convinced that an affiliation with a scientific journal is essential, it will consider starting a new journal or negotiate an affiliation with an existing journal.

Prof. G. M. Constantinescu was appointed by Prof. Schaller and by the publisher (Enke Verlag) to supervise a fully revised 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Illustrated Veterinary Anatomical Nomenclature. He would like to encourage all veterinary anatomists to contribute to accomplishing this huge task by reporting all errors and by suggesting whatever improvements might be appropriate. The issue of a possibly necessary copyright transfer for the NAV to Prof. Constantinescu shall be studied.

The General Assembly unanimously supports the idea of preparing a revision of the constitution and to submit the amendments to a mail vote. This ballot shall be opened at a general assembly during the meeting of the IFAA in Cape Town, August 16 – 20, 2009. This will also provide the opportunity to tighten the bonds to this Federation. Should the suggested amendments be accepted, a general assembly could then convene in Paris at the 28<sup>th</sup> congress of the European Association of Veterinary Anatomists.

Prof. Freeman adjourned the meeting at 16:15.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael H. Stoffel".

Michael H. Stoffel  
Secretary General