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Dear ICT Members:

Happy New Year to all! This year marks the half way point between ICT conferences, so I think it is timely to provide an update on recent and planned ICT related activities.

A new ICT website has been activated, and it is a valuable resource for information for members and others interested in Trichinella. The homepage (http://trichinellosis.org/) provides an overview of ICT and an index of the available information. A new series of Guidelines on Quality Assurance in Digestion Testing Programs for Trichinella has been added. They consist of 48 pages of recommendations on QA in regulatory testing, digestion testing, proficiency testing, training, and lab certification. These recommendations were the outcome of a series of ICT workshops which were held over the past several years.

Given recent challenges by national and international authorities to develop effective regulations for establishing risk for Trichinella in pigs under various management conditions, the ICT is responding to develop guidance based on expert opinions. With the support of an OECD sponsorship grant, the ICT will be holding an expert workshop entitled “Best Practices in Documenting Negligible Risk for Trichinella in Pork”. Outcome recommendations will be posted on the ICT website. A related initiative that recently started is a pilot ring-trial study to improve and standardize the production of Trichinella ES antigen for ELISA.

A Special Issue of Veterinary Parasitology containing the Proceedings of ICT-13 is currently in the production pipeline of the publisher. Publication is expected in late April, 2013. In the meantime, ICT-13 abstracts are assessable on ICT website.

The 14th International Conference on Trichinellosis (ICT-14) will be held in Berlin, Germany from 14-18 September, 2015. Preliminary information is available on the ICT website, and further details will be made available with the first announcement which is expected before the end of 2013.

As was announced at ICT-13, the ICT will be meeting with the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) at its 24th International Conference in Perth, Australia from 25-29 August, 2013. Both organizations have many members in common, and they share a number of goals and interests. Although ICT is dedicated solely to the study and control of Trichinella and trichinellosis, the activities of many its members span a broad scope of parasitology issues related to zoonoses, food safety and public health.

Common goals at scientific meetings of both WAAVP and ICT include the cooperation and exchange of knowledge on the biology, physiopathology, epidemiology, immunology, and clinical aspects of trichinellosis, and the prevention and control of Trichinella infection in animals and humans. Trichinella-specific events at WAAVP-Perth will include presentation of scientific papers, group meetings or workshops and, if there is quorum, an ICT business meeting. Registration for WAAVP is open and submission of abstracts can be made on its website, www.waavp2013perth.com. This conference will be an opportunity for ICT members to meet and to interact with a large group of parasitology colleagues from around the world. I hope you will be able to attend and I look forward to seeing you in Perth.

Best regards,

Alvin

www.trichinellosis.org