Overview of Activities in 2020

1. Congress-related activities

1.1. 2020 WSAVA FECAVA PSAVA Congress in Warsaw, Poland

1.1.1. Scientific abstract review for poster session

The SC reviewed 164 submissions from the global veterinary community and 107 abstracts were accepted for presentation at the poster session to be held at the Warsaw Congress.

1.1.2. Completion of the original program grid

The initial scientific program for a 4-day onsite congress to take place in Warsaw September 23-26, 2020 was finalized with the help of the LHC
in April. It consisted of a total of 290 lecture hours (with some split in 2 lectures) including 8 ninety minutes multidisciplinary case rounds.

1.1.2. Rescheduling to March 2021 with hybrid program (September)

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Congress was first rescheduled to March 21-24, 2021 with a combined online and onsite program consisting of a total of 258 lecture hours. All speakers scheduled on the program grid were contacted in June 2020 to ascertain their availability and willingness to participate at the new dates and to travel to Poland at that time. With this information, the scientific program was then contracted to a 3-day program preceded by a ½ day with multidisciplinary case rounds and the congress opening ceremony.

1.1.3. Format switch to virtual only program (November)

Due to multiple uncertainties about maintaining an onsite event, the format of the Warsaw Congress was switch to online only. Consequently, the first ½ day was cancelled and the program grid was reorganized to include live and pre-recorded lectures with mandatory live Q&A sessions at the end of each block of 2 lectures. Some minor changes were required to ensure that speakers would not have to intervene in the middle of the night in the time zone of their residence. In addition, about 3-4 pre-recorded sessions were identified each day that would be translated to other languages. The final program consists of 248 lecture hours including 5 multidisciplinary case rounds seminars.

1.2. 2021 WSAVA FASAVA FSAPAI Congress in Hyderabad, India

1.2.1 Site visit by SC Co-Chair (February)

The SC Co-Chair visited the congress site in Hyderabad, India and met with the members of the LHC in Mumbai and Hyderabad during a very informative visit in India.
1.2.2 Preparation of the scientific program (November and December)

In parallel with the work done for the Warsaw, the planning of the scientific program grid is currently underway. We are currently planning this event as an onsite congress to take place November 13-16 and will revisit as necessary following the WSAVA EB decisions in early 2021. Members of the SC, WSAVA standing committees, the LHC and our affiliated and corporate partners have been contacted or will be contacted shortly to organize their contribution to the program design.

2. General scientific activities

2.1. Advice for WSAVA members about the new coronavirus and companion animals.

2.1.1. SARS-CoV-2 Advisory document

As the novel coronavirus outbreak started to spread globally, concern rapidly emerged among pet owners and the general public as to whether SARS-CoV-2 could be transmitted by pets to humans and if pets could get infected and sick. In order to provide updated scientific information to our community and all companion animal veterinarians, the Scientific and One Health Committees have provided up-to-date advice about key scientific facts related to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, with regular e-shots with the latest evidence update.

2.1.2. Portuguese video about coronaviruses

For colleagues in Brazil, where there has been confusion over the canine enteric coronavirus vaccine, Professor Mary Marcondes, Co-chair of Scientific Committee and VGG member, has produced a short video in Portuguese, explaining the differences between coronaviruses and why it
is inappropriate to consider that the enteric coronavirus vaccine might be relevant to SARS-CoV-2.

2.2. Review of the annual applications for clinical research funding under the AFSCAN program (WSAVA Foundation), giving them a score on the basis of scientific merit.

2.3. Identification of possible candidates and proposal of the selected recipient for the 2020 WSAVA Scientific Achievement Award to the Executive Board.

2.4. Review of the proposal to create a new WSAVA committee on the scope of small animal clinical oncology - WSAVA Oncology Working Group.

Plans and Priorities for 2021

1. Congress-related activities

1.1. 2021 WSAVA FECAVA PSAVA Virtual Congress

1.1.1. Last checklist items
Preparation of the congress proceedings book, and training of the speakers for the recorded or live delivery of their lectures and Q&A sessions will be done by our PCO Kenes. Moderators will play a key role in the success of the virtual meeting by introducing the speakers and channeling the questions from the chat room and from live participants for the Q&A sessions. They will be recruited from the various WSAVA, FECAVA and PSAVA committees and affiliated WSAVA associations (January) and trained to enable them to successfully fulfill their role (February).
1.2. 2021 WSAVA FASAVA FSAPAI Congress in Hyderabad, India

1.2.1. Scientific program grid preparation
In collaboration with the LHC, WSAVA standing committees and affiliated and corporate partners, the scientific program grid will be finalized and publicized by February.

1.2.2 Abstract submission for the poster session
The SC intends to prepare one or more videos to be posted online to assist members of the global veterinary community in the preparation of the abstracts they intend to submit for presentation at the Hyderabad Congress. The goal of these videos will be to sensitize submitters about the information required in the scientific abstract to ensure successful review by the SC and acceptance.

1.3. 2022 WSAVA FIAVAC AMVEPPA Congress in Lima, Peru

1.3.1. Establishing contact with the LHC
The Co-Chair will establish contact with the Peruvian LHC and consider feasibility of a possible site visit for late 2021 or early 2022. The congress is currently scheduled for October 29-31, 2022.

2. General scientific activities

2.1. Continue to scan for scientific developments of relevance to the members of WSAVA and monitoring new diseases that can affect dogs and cats.
2.2. Continue to provide expert review of new proposals from WSAVA committees and project groups with recommendations to the Executive Board.

2.3. Review annual applications for clinical research funding under the AFSCAN program.

2.4. Identify possible candidates and propose the selected recipient for the 2021 WSAVA Scientific Achievement Award to the Executive Board.

2.5. Develop multicentric small companion animal infectious disease surveillance projects to provide novel data on the prevalence and distribution of vaccine-preventable infectious diseases and vector-borne diseases in countries where there is a marked lack of relevant information available to the veterinary profession, using the scientific and organizational strength of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association to perform studies supported by veterinary pharmaceutical companies.