Editor’s Note

Dear Members,

Welcome to another insightful edition of INFAH Connect!

The recent months have been very incredible, with respect to INFAH’s ambition and vision. Perhaps the most important and historic milestone being the creation of an exclusive Veterinary Cell at CDSCO. However, this is just the beginning. The next and most important step is working cohesively with CDSCO on the draft of the Rules for Regulation of Veterinary products. Regarding the same, CDSCO has already held a series of meetings and is in process to finalise the animal health specific policies and guidelines.

In the last few years, INFAH has been very active in its role towards ONE HEALTH. Its most recent contribution was participating in the recently concluded One Health Conference at New Delhi where it deliberated upon Intersectoral Collaboration for an effective ONE HEALTH approach. Issues related to Export and Import of Animal Health products drew a lot of attention in the recent past. Import concerns were shared with the concerned departments while a major initiative has been undertaken with an aim to yield positive results in months to come. Collaboration with other major stakeholders like IDA and CLFMA is being planned to tackle issue of Antimicrobial Resistance with progressive scientific backups. INFAH also participated in the IAAVR Annual Conference at Kolkata and had its presence amongst researchers and academicians.

As you know, INFAH has been taking its social responsibility very seriously and has been involved in some major CSR initiatives recently. INFAH celebrated World Egg Day to create awareness about protein supply by the animal based products especially eggs and also stood hand-in-hand with the farmers affected with Kerala Floods.

The subcommittees of INFAH are its robust gears, smoothing functioning in tandem to keep the growth engine going. Several subcommittee meeting were held in past few months to address specific concerns and plan the way forward. As a testament to its continual and impactful role towards the development of the poultry industry, INFAH was awarded the IPJA Award. This is a matter of pride for all of us and speaks volumes of the collective efforts of INFAH members.

We hope you enjoy this edition of INFAH connect. Please share your valued feedback with us so we can ensure every edition offers more in terms of qualitative and quantitative content. Until we meet next time, I wish you the very best as you formulate plans to conquer your respective goals for the new financial year.

With Regards,

Vijay Teng
Editor

INFAH CONNECT

Participation at ONE HEALTH INDIA 2019 Conference

INFAH participated at One Health India 2019 Conference, organized by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, in partnership with Departments of Agriculture, Research and Education (DARE) and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHDF), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, Department of Health Research (DHR) and Department of Health & Family Welfare (DHFW) in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologica (IAHVB) and Penn State University (USA) at New Delhi on 18th and 19th February 2019.

One of the key attraction of the event was launch of India’s new One Health Initiative – an intersectoral approach to tackle the nation’s most urgent health threats. The Conference brought together thought leaders from India and across the globe, and provided a platform for researchers, public and private stakeholders and policymakers to integrate knowledge and identify needs and opportunities to coordinate activities for addressing major human, animal and environmental health challenges.
INFAH was represented by Dr. Vijay Makhija, General Secretary (INFAH) as speaker in the Session: Inter-sectoral Collaboration, to share the industry’s perspectives. He emphasized on addressing the problem of Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR) in an interdisciplinary, interdependent and holistic manner. Dr. Makhija also highlighted need for strengthening the surveillance, reporting mechanism and data analytics for better monitoring and control of diseases. He emphasized on continuous farmer awareness on better hygiene and clean environment to bring scientific animal healthcare practices.

**INFAH proposed following to address Indian requirements**

- Drafting a local/country specific approach to address the AMR concerns rather than adopting global/other country strategies
- Promote Investments in AMR initiatives
- Framework for collaboration to improve surveillance and monitoring of emerging diseases
- Setting up physical/virtual centers for zoonosis & public health
- Setting up of One health centers under central government with the medical/ veterinary/ bio-science faculties at least 1-2 per state with an outlined mandate targeted towards better health for all

The session was chaired by Dr. S.R. Rao, Senior Advisor, DBT & there were presentation from DADF, ICAR, OIE, WHO, Bill & Gates Foundation, ICMR.

ONE HEALTH India 2019 conference was attended by over 250 national and International delegates.

The FSSAI had issued a notification on antibiotic residues and other pharmacological substance in milk. The notification had listed 93 commonly used drugs and prescribed limits for them in parts per million (ppm). Inidan Dairy Association is preparing a representation for presenting to FSSAI in context of antibiotic testing in milk. INFAH extended its support in preparation of the representation with technical database. The general secretary INFAH, Dr. Vijay Makhija, met Dr. Abdul Samad (Technical Advisor, IDA) and the other key members of IDA at Bombay Veterinary College, Parel, on 19th January 2019. IDA expressed sincere thanks to INFAH for its technical inputs.

INFAH and its member companies participated in 19th Indian Veterinary Congress and XXVI Annual Conference of Indian Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Research (IAAVR) and National Symposium on ‘Innovative Progress in Animal Health and Production for Safe and Secured Food under One Health perspective” organised on 1st-2nd February 2019 at West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences (WBUAFS), Kolkata. The conference was participated by around 250 Veterinarians working with Universities, Ministries, Allied sectors and the Animal health industry. Eminent personalities who graced the dias were Dr N H Kelawala, Vice Chancellor, Kamdhenu University; Dr Y Hari Babu, Vice Chancellor, SVVU; Prof Purendu Biswas, Vice Chancellor, WBUAFS; Dr C Balachandran, Vice Chancellor, TANUVAS; Maj Gen Shrikant Sharma, President of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences and many others.

The conference had nine technical sessions, poster presentation and Young Scientist Award competitions. INFAH Managing Committee members, Dr D K Dey and Dr Arun Atrey also participated/chaired sessions. Other industry professionals also actively participated during the proceedings of the conference especially the sessions on AMR, molecular biology and biotechnology and clinical interventions.

INFAH subcommittee on Imports and Exports met the Commissioner Customs (Imports), DDC (I), ADC (I) South Zone along with other Drug Inspectors and staff at Chennai on 20th December 2018. Dr Jeetendra Verma (Delcon), Dr Tanweer Alam (Kemin) and Mr Kashish (Zoetis) represented INFAH in this stake holder’s meeting.
Dr Verma apprised the group with INFAH activities and acquainted them with the current issues faced by the member companies during import of feed supplements, vaccines and drugs. Mr Nayak, Commissioner Customs (Imports) patiently listened to the issues and guided INFAH to meet him to resolve issues of pending bank guarantees. Mrs Shanthy Gunasekaran, DDC(I) assured all possible help from her office and Dr Manavalan, ADC(I) assured us to assist the animal health industry in all import related issues.

It was very fruitful meeting with these officials in building the relationship on behalf of INFAH. All member companies having any issues related to imports in South Zone can approach them directly or in co-ordination with INFAH.

India has been one of the major suppliers of Animal Health products to the world, but still there are lot of opportunities for Indian manufacturers to attain good share in exports of Animal Health products. In International market, Indian products are considered to be quality products at an affordable cost unlike Americans and Europeans where the quality is there, but with huge price whereas the Chinese products with low quality and low price.

In order to increase the exports of Animal Health products from India INFAH has taken a major initiative with Ministry of Agriculture and CDSCO.

To focus more on Animal Health products INFAH would like to set up an organization like Pharmexcil with the support from Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Commerce and Industries. There are many Human pharmaceutical manufacturers who are benefiting from government policies through Pharmexcil. If Animal Health Industry can get the same support from government through a separately focused Export Promotion Council, it can serve better to our Country.

Below are some of the schemes that INFAH has proposed to support its members.

1. Marketing Development Assistance (MDA Scheme)

Under this scheme, Government supports the manufacturers to participate in trade delegations, Buyer-Seller Meetings, fairs and exhibitions abroad to explore new markets for export of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical products.

2. Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme:

Under this scheme government can support the exporters in various ways in order to promote the exports, some of them are underlined below.

- Product Registration Reimbursement –Patent Charges Reimbursement
- Visit of foreign regulators reimbursement
- Opening of Showrooms, Warehouses and Marketing Offices abroad and display in International Departmental Stores
- Publicity Campaign and Cataloguing
- Research and Product Development

Veterinary Health care products are regulated in India under Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and this does not differentiate between Human Pharma and Veterinary!! The Animal Health Industry has faced several obstacles in terms of regulation, licensing norms, ambiguity on feed supplements etc. INFAH is closely working with our Regulators to have better clarity on regulatory guidelines that can address specific requirements of Animal Health Industry.

With this move our industry will have the privilege of an exclusive guidelines for Veterinary Biologicals, Therapeutics and Feed supplements. The first meeting between CDSCO officials and Industry stake holders took place on 20th December 2018. The subsequent meeting to finalise the guidelines was held on 20th February 2019 and is scheduled on 22nd April 2019.
3. Veterinary Pharmaceutical Promotion and Development Scheme:

Government / Academic bodies, National/State level industries Associations should be eligible to avail assistance under this sub-scheme for organizing training programmes / organize conventions, exhibitions related to Animal Health Industry.

4. Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme:

Small and Medium enterprises (SMEs) are eligible to avail interest subvention for the purpose of technology / infrastructure development to upgrade to the standards of WHO GMP. This is very important to veterinary manufacturers as most of the veterinary manufacturers are small scale manufacturers and if they can upgrade their facilities at WHO GMP Level, it will increase the exports and quality of Indian products.

The International Conference on Poultry on the sidelines of Agroworld Expo was organized by Indian Council for Food & Agriculture (ICFA) on 25th to 27th October 2018 at New Delhi. The General Secretary of Dr. Vijay Makhija attended the event on behalf of INFAH and delivered a presentation during the event. Honorable Joint Secretary Shri. O.P. Chaudhary & Senior officials of DADF, MOA New Delhi were present for this session. Dr. Pankaj Shukla Professor & Head, Department of Poultry Science, COVSAH, Dean, Post Graduate Studies and Scientific and Technical Advisor to Vice Chancellor U.P provided valuable guidance for this conference.

Indian Poultry Journalist Association of India organized IPJA Awards 2018 on 28th November 2018 at Hyderabad. The contribution of INFAH towards Indian Poultry Industry was recognized by presenting IPJA Appreciation Award. This recognition is the result of collaborative efforts of INFAH to ensure Healthy Animals and Healthier India. Dr. D K Dey, President- INFAH, Dr. Vijay Makhija, Vice-President- INFAH and Dr. Jeetendra Verma, Executive Member- INFAH received the award on behalf of INFAH. We congratulate and complement all members of INFAH for this recognition.

INFAH has been contributing in creating awareness about the nutritional value of animal based products especially eggs. One of the initiative which the subcommittee of GMP and CSR has been doing consistently every year is the celebration of World Egg Day. On 12th October 2018, World Egg Day, INFAH participated in the seminar organised by Department of Poultry Science, Bombay Veterinary College, Goregaon East, Mumbai. Dr. Vijay Makhija, General Secretary- INFAH was invited as the Chief Guest. Dr. D. U. Lokhande Bombay Veterinary College presided over the program. Dr. P. E. Avari, conducted the programme. Dr. Vijay Makhija shared the Vision of INFAH in ensuring Healthy Animals & Healthier India to participants. Dr. Vijay Makhija gave the prizes of Egg Slogan Competition & Egg Shell art to winners. Dr. D. N. Desai, Bombay Veterinary College, MAFSU appreciated the contribution of Indian Federation of Animal Health Companies (INFAH) in creating the awareness on consumption of Eggs. He thanked INFAH members for attending this event. Boiled Eggs were distributed to all the participants of this seminar.
INFAH General Secretary Dr. Vijay Makhija was invited to deliver a presentation at the Brainstorming Session on “Promoting Livestock, Poultry, Dairy & Fisheries as engines of Growth” at Commissionerate of Animal Husbandry Pune on 2nd September 2018. Honorable Vice Chancellor of MAFSU Dr. A. Patarkar and Senior officials of Commissionerate of Animal Husbandry, Maharashtra Government were present for this session.

During his presentation, Dr. Vijay Makhija shared the challenges of high volatility in poultry industry like input cost, disease challenges impacting livability, fluctuating prices of broiler chicken/eggs and inconsistent demand. He shared thoughts on mitigating these challenges by proposing structured market intelligence for estimating demand supply, precision feeding, usage of alternative raw materials, improving digestibility, minimizing anti-nutritional factors, need of dynamic national/regional database on epidemiological status of disease prevalence and vaccination, stringent biosecurity measures, record keeping, traceability, thrust on marketing of broiler chicken: leveraging e-commerce, digital ecosystem, smart point of purchase, novel delivery systems, engaging with food bloggers, value addition, packing, presentation, display and marketing, inclusion of eggs in governments mid-day meal program, additional thoughts on acceleration to applied research and skill development: Vaccination, Cleaning and Disinfection, farm management, feed mill management, hatchery management, poultry bird dressing etc., bio gas and branded organic manure marketing, poultry waste rendering; the rendered product replaces feed protein sources with significant cost savings.

The subcommittee on GMP and CSR has been very active in supporting the social cause. One of the natural calamity which shook the entire nation was devastating Kerala Floods. INFAH took the initiative of extending its support to the farmers affected due to this natural calamity. The Livestock farmers were provided veterinary aid in terms of veterinary medicines, dewormers and nutritional feed supplements by many INFAH member companies. This aid was routed through the state animal husbandry department. The veterinary aid provided by INFAH members had the message “Kerala you are never alone, we are always with you” which depicts the spirit of INFAH to ensure Healthy Animals & Healthier India.

On 27th August 2018, INFAH concludes its 7th AGM with participation of more than 80 delegates at Mumbai. The event was represented by 48 member companies including 4 new members. The event started with Welcome address by Dr. Arun Atrey (Immediate Past President - INFAH) followed by President’s Address by Dr. D. K. Dey. In the welcome address, Dr. Atrey highlighted the journey of INFAH from a small seed to a big tree. He emphasised how a fragmented industry has come under a single roof and the united force has started bearing fruits of successes in the representation of various issues of animal health industry. Dr. Dey in his presidential address shared the journey, mission and vision of INFAH for the benefit of new members. He also highlighted the various achievement of INFAH and applauded the contribution of subcommittees of INFAH by addressing them as the “Life of INFAH”. He shared the animal health market data of globe versus India with identification of various opportunity areas and also the challenges ahead. He shared the agenda of the AGM and, appealed all the members to contribute for welfare of Kerala.
The general secretary of INFAH, Dr. Vijay Makhija presented the annual report of 2017-18. He gave a helicopter view of the various activities undertaken by INFAH. He congratulated all the subcommittee members for the ground work and execution done till date. Dr. P. G. Phalke (Treasurer - INFAH) continued with the proceedings of AGM, he was supported by Dr. Shirish Nigam (Joint Secretary - INFAH) who read the minutes of last AGM. Dr. Phalke presented the auditor’s report and answered the various queries of the members. In the session of open forum there were discussion on various topics like counterfeit, e-commerce, manpower outsourcing, feed supplement classification and white paper etc. The session was concluded by thank you note from Mr. Vijay Teng (Vice President - INFAH).

The AGM concluded with INFAH Awards and recognitions. The Award for exemplary contribution to Animal Health Industry was bestowed upon Dr. Atma Prakash Mamtni and Dr. Asoke Banerjee. This was followed by awards to subcommittee members for their support in taking-up various activities of INFAH. The new members received the membership certificates for joining INFAH family. At the end, vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Shirish Nigam which was followed by networking dinner.

The post GST era for the feed supplements and the misclassification of feed additives & feed supplements was explained by Mr. Satish Pasrija (Past President - INFAH). The white paper on feed supplements is under development to address the various issues related to feed supplements. Mr. Pasrija shared the expected content of the white paper. The KPMG team led by Mr. V. Krishnan explained the various controversies around the GST and showed the way ahead to address it. His team also focused on the benefits and ways to improve profitability in the post GST era.

Mr. D. G. Shah (Secretary General - Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance) provided valuable inputs to lead a successful association. He shared his wisdom to tackle the various issues in reference to the pharmaceutical industry. The audiences relished an interesting presentation by Mr. Rajkumar Jha (President - Rural Marketing Association of India) suggesting to bridge the gap of communication between the Industry and the end-users i.e. farmers.
The Therapeutic and Disinfectant subcommittee meeting was held on 14th December 2018 at Ahmedabad under the chairmanship of Dr. Arun Atrey. The meeting was attended by Mr. Vijay Teng Vice President INFAH and subcommittee members- Dr. E Shankariah (MSD), Dr. Nitin Bhatia (Intas), Dr. Smita Mahajan (Zoetis), Dr. Ram Prakash (Virbac), Dr. Mubeen Patel (Vetoquinol) and Dr. D J Kalita (Zydus). The agenda discussed in the meeting included Guidelines on Veterinary Drug regulation, FSSAI guidelines on MRLs, AMR concerns with respect to recent prohibition on Colistin as feed additive, issues related to IP monograph and new amendments in Rules 96 and fee hike for regulatory approvals etc.

Guidance Document on Veterinary Drug Regulation:

With the creation of separate Veterinary division at CDSCO, more reforms are expected for new regulatory guidelines for Veterinary pharmaceuticals. Discussion for formulating separate guidelines for Veterinary drugs has been taken place at CDSCO. Committee members deliberated on the issues of current regulation and the required changes for new guidelines. It was agreed to make the necessary modification of existing regulation as per the need of the veterinary drugs without compromising the quality & compliance. Members have discussed in length on every chapter of regulatory approvals - New Product, Import & Registration, Test License, Post Approval Changes etc. During the discussion it was observed that various clauses of approval process are meant for human pharmaceuticals only that are not relevant for veterinary. Necessary amendments were suggested for such clauses including the CTD modules and checklists for regulatory approvals as per the need of veterinary pharmaceuticals.

Representation from INFAH to Regulatory Authority:

Members have also deliberated on recent fee hike of the regulatory approvals and it was decided to make a fresh representation to the authority on the subject owing to its small size of the business volumes as compared to human pharmaceuticals.

New Product Approval:

Committee members have also expressed their views regarding approval process of DADF, MOA especially for new products. It was felt by the members that many times such approvals are neither time bound nor based on scientific rationale. Therefore, the committee has divided to make representation to the authority for allowing applicants (company) to present their viewpoint during technical committee meeting.

Feed Supplements & Feed Additives

The subcommittee meeting of Feed Supplements and Feed Additives was held on 12th December 2018 at Virbac office, Mumbai. The meeting was attended by Mr Satish Pasrija (Virbac), Dr Ram Prakash (Virbac), Dr Tanweer Alam (Kemin), Dr S Baksı (Hester), Dr Raja Mukherjee (Intas), Dr Shirish Nigam (EW Nutrition), Dr Abhishek Jain (Zydus), Mr G N Rao (Vetoquinol), Dr Jitendra Verma (Delacon). The event was also attended by the guest members Mr A Sundaresan (Virbac – Supply Chain), Mr Jayesh Udeshi (Virbac – Legal).

Mr. Satish Pasrija, President Subcommittee reviewed the discussion of last meeting and pointed two important topics for action.

1. Representation to authorities to mitigate the issue of misunderstanding of Feed supplement with drugs and notifying it for higher GST and holding the transit shipment across state borders
2. Creation of “White Paper” document on Feed Supplement in collaboration with KPMG

Representation Seeking Differentiation of Feed Supplements from Drug & Issue of Clarification Letter in this Regard

The update about the representation that is being made through KPMG to Ministry of Finance at state and centre level was presented. The representation of the matter is made to Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu Finance Ministers. The copy of representation has been shared with all the members.

Through the representation INFAH has requested to issue a letter of clarification mentioning that Product label indicating the legend – “Feed Supplement for Animal Use” and “Not for Medicinal Use” should be invariably taken as “Feed supplement” which exempts them from GST.

White Paper on Feed Supplement

KPMG shared the zero draft of document “White Paper on Feed Supplement”. The draft was circulated to all members for review and comments. To accomplish the review more effectively a core group of 4 people was formed consisting of Dr Ram Prakash, Dr Shriraj Nigam, Dr Tanweer Alam and Dr Raja Mukherjee. The core team reviewed the White Paper thoroughly and also co-ordinated with other members for their comments and suggestions. The core team met on 8th January 2019 and finalised the draft of White Paper for submitting to managing committee for final approval.

The White paper would provide a 360 degree description of feed supplements at domestic front, import front and regulatory front. This will help in aligning the understanding of feed supplements among all the member companies and also the stakeholders. The paper would also become the basis to represent the issue of clarification letter to define status of feed supplements from the concerned authorities.

Safety and Health of Employees

HR subcommittee members have listed down various basic needs of employees on the matter of their safety and health. The subcommittee will soon be addressing this issue.

Salary Band Width at Entry Level

Discussions were made on salary band width at entry level. There were also suggestions to outsource the work of analysis of salary bands of INFAH companies to a professional agency. Some of the member companies who are already outsourcing this job have shared their experiences. The discussions were made on possibilities and limitations of hiring an outside agency. The identification of agency and cost involved will be a challenge.

Career Progression

The HR subcommittee members will be collecting the best practices on career progression by the INFAH member companies. Soon we will be having standards of career progression within the animal health industry.

Bringing Diversity

The diversity and gender equality is the need of hour in the new genre. The importance of recruitment of freshers and women in the animal health industry was emphasised during the meeting. INFAH would like to encourage its member companies to bring the diversity at work place.

Best HR Practices

Brainstorming and discussions were made to arrive at the “Best HR Practices” for INFAH. The subcommittee plans to finalise the same before June 2019. After finalisation the best practices will be send to all INFAH member companies. It will also be uploaded on INFAH website.

The meeting was concluded with encouraging notes from the president.

Import and Exports

The meeting of INFAH Import and Export subcommittee was held on 21st January 2019 at Mumbai and the following areas/ concerns were discussed. The meeting was attended by the subcommittee members and was headed by Dr. Jeetendra Verma, Chairman- Subcommittee.

Meeting with Chief Custom Commissioner- Chennai Airport

The subcommittee participated in a meeting with Chief Custom Commissioner (Imports), DDC(I) and ADC(I) at Chennai airport on 20th December 2018. The meeting improved coordination and brought clarity on number of aspects especially bank grantees and bonds submitted by
companies for import of animal health drugs and feed additives. The subcommittee planned to arrange for such meeting with port officials at Nava Sheva, Mumbai and resolve industry matters on imports etc.

Meeting with DADF
The subcommittee had decided to represent the matter of imports of feed additives to Mr Sagar Mehra, DADF for release of a consolidated list of approved feed additives. The subcommittee met Mr Sagar Mehra and represented the matter on 7th February’ 2019. The discussions were encouraging especially for the consolidated list of approved feed additives and further proposed the list of feed additives for Animal Health Sector.

Tax Rates on Imports
The subcommittee had discussion on the tax rate for imports. The members decided to collate the tax structures in practice by Asian countries and discuss the possibility of representing the concerns to respective government authorities.

Other Topics Discussed
The subcommittee also discussed on the following matters
- HSN Codes and its application worldwide
- DYCC related issues
- Regulation for MFAs
- Import of Biologicals

Vet given key appointment at Royal Society of Medicine

Louise Clark – a European specialist in veterinary anaesthesia and analgesia, and head of anaesthesia at Davies Veterinary Specialists – has been appointed president of the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) pain medicine section. This is the first time the RSM pain medicine section council, which comprises a broad range of medical practitioners and consultants, has appointed a veterinary surgeon as president. Dr Clark took over the two-year presidency on 1 October.

Source: https://www.vettimes.co.uk/news/vet-given-key-appointment-at-royal-society-of-medicine/

Team performs ‘impossible’ surgery to save dog’s sight

German shepherd dog Oliver presented to Penrith-based Veterinary Vision Ophthalmic Referrals with acute loss of sight from both eyes after a life spent working as a guide dog for his owner Alan Roberts.

The eight-year-old animal had become stressed and his owner noted, over time, the guide dog was unable to find his way, and, increasingly, would collide with obstacles. The subsequent diagnosis of spontaneous bilateral retinal detachment with a giant retinal tear was made by Iona Mathieson at Eye Vet Frodsham, and Oliver was sent as tertiary referral to pioneering veterinary ophthalmologist Chris Dixon. Surgery was performed at Veterinary Vision to reattach the right retina. Retinal reattachment surgery in dogs is an extremely complex procedure and it is understood only 16 vets perform this worldwide. Mr Dixon and colleague Gary Lewin, who performed the surgery, are two of that elite group of clinicians. In a shining example of the one health concept, their skills have been honed by learning from human eye surgeons at the Sunderland Eye Infirmary, combined with their own pioneering techniques.

Source: https://www.vettimes.co.uk/news/team-performs-impossible-surgery-to-save-dogs-sight/
2018 Elected AAAS Fellows Include Veterinary Faculty

Seven faculty at U.S. veterinary colleges are among 417 fellows chosen this by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which is the world's largest scientific society. Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon association members by their peers. The association's fellowship program recognizes individuals whose efforts toward advancing science applications are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished.

The 2018 fellows were recognized at a certificate and pinning ceremony on 16th February 2019 during the association's annual meeting in Washington, D.C.


University of Florida to Launch Cardiac Surgery Program

The University of Florida (UF) College of Veterinary Medicine is preparing to launch the first canine open heart surgery program in the United States in collaboration with Masami Uechi, DVM, PhD, DAIcvim (Cardiology), of the JASMINE Veterinary Cardiovascular Medical Center in Yokohama, Japan. It will be the only such program in the country to offer training in mitral valve repair surgery.

Mitral valve repair surgery is commonly reserved for dogs with degenerative mitral valve disease, or endocardiosis, which thickens and weakens the heart valves. Although the disease is found most commonly in cavalier King Charles spnaniels, dachshunds, Malteses, poodles, and Chihuahuas, any dog can develop it. Older dogs develop the disease more readily than do younger ones.

Dr. Uechi, who performs mitral valve repair surgery regularly with a success rate of over 90%, will train UF cardiologists, surgeons, anesthesiologists, perfusionists, critical care specialists, and other key staff.


My Vet Future: New website offers a one-stop guide to veterinary careers

The British Veterinary Association and Vet Record have launched a new online careers hub which offers future and existing vets and vet nurses comprehensive content and resources to support and inspire them at every step of their careers. It is open access and free of charge, which means that it is available for everyone to use.

My Vet Future (www.myvetfuture.com), was launched on 15 November at London Vet Show, provides valuable content for those interested in becoming a vet professional or developing their existing career. This new hub is linked to the existing Vet Record Careers job site where employers can advertise their vacancies and vet professionals can look for new career opportunities.

My Vet Future features free editorial content and resources from a range of organisations including BVA, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), the British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA), the Veterinary Schools Council (VSC) and the Association of Veterinary Students (AVS). Existing careers content from Vet Record will also be available.

The site has been developed as part of the Vet Futures project, the joint BVA/RCVS initiative, which set out a vision for the veterinary profession and recommended the creation of a one-stop-shop for careers advice and support to promote diverse career opportunities.


Center for One Health approved for Nagpur: ICMR Director

Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Prof Balram Bhargava during 9th convocation of MAFSU on 8th March 2019 declared that the ICMR has decided to establish ‘Center for One Health — a satellite centre under National Institute of Virology, in Nagpur. Maharashtra Animal and Fisheries Science University (MAFSU) will be the knowledge partner in this project. MAFSU Vice-chancellor Dr Ashish Pathurkar said that the centre would cater the need for systemic epidemiological studies on important zoonotic diseases in Central India.

Source: https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/center-for-one-health-approved-for-nagpur-icmr-director/68330732
**7th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference**

The 7th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association was held on 3rd - 7th March, 2019 at National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bengaluru. Around 800 national and international delegates participated in the event. Along with scientific deliberations, workshop on Veterinary Dentistry and Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (RAWS) and OIE Animal Welfare Focal Point Training Programme workshops were also held during the conference.


**Foundation stone-laying ceremony for Sex-Sorted Semen Production Unit at Hapur, UP**

Foundation stone-laying ceremony for Sex-Sorted Semen Production Unit of Frozen Bovine Semen Production Centre was held at Babugarh in Hapur district of West Uttar Pradesh. The event was attended by UP Animal Husbandry Minister SP Singh Baghel is the chief guest. In attendance are Hapur MLA Vijay Pal Aadhati, principal secretary of animal husbandry Sudhir M Bobde, officials of the state’s Livestock Development Board and executives from Minnesota, US-based Genus Breeding Pvt Ltd, a biotech company.

The IntelliGen sexing of semen technology will be adopted for separating sperms containing Y chromosomes so enabling birth of only female calves. The government officials see this as a revolutionary step in reducing the menace of stray animals as many of the male calves are abandoned by the famers.

Source: [economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/67918649.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst]

**Dr Kelawala takes over as Vice Chancellor, Kamdhenu University**

On 26th October, Dr. N. H. Kelawala joined Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar as Vice Chancellor. Dr Kelawala, prior to the same was associated with Navsari Agricultural University (NAU) as Dean, Veterinary College.

Dr Kelawala graduated from Veterinary College, Anand Agricultural University in the year 1986. He started his career as a Veterinary Officer, Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology in September, 1986 and served in different capacities till January, 2009. He obtained his Masters and Doctorate degree in the year 1989 & 1996, respectively. He was awarded ‘Jawaharlal Nehru Award for outstanding Agricultural Research’ by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for his doctorate research. He was deputed under bilateral collaborative exchange programme of Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi to Peoples Republic of China and Brazil in the year 1999 & 2005-2006, respectively. He later joined as Dean, Veterinary College, NAU, Navsari, since its establishment in the year 2008-2009. During his tenure as Dean, he developed the college and was instrumental in getting it recognized by Veterinary Council of India which is first after indictment of VCI Act, 2008. During his academic career, he has guided twenty post graduate and doctorate students and published more than 50 research articles in national and international journals of repute. He recently also participated in the 2nd Regional Workshop for “Veterinary Education Establishment (VEEs) and Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSBs)” on 19–20th November, 2018 at University of Tokyo, Japan as an OIE sponsored Indian Delegate nominated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Farmer Welfare & Cooperation, GOI, New Delhi.

**Prof Vishnu Sharma – The New Vice Chancellor of RAJUVAS**

Prof Vishnu Sharma, an eminent Animal nutritionist and Dean of Post Graduate Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (PGIVER), Jaipur has taken over charge as Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (RAJUVAS), Bikaner on 9th August, 2018. Dr Vishnu Sharma succeeds Dr A K Gahlot, yet another eminent Veterinarian and Former Vice Chancellor of RAJUVAS.

Dr Sharma is a doctorate in Animal Nutrition. During his academic career he has been primarily associated with PGIVER. He has consistently worked in shaping the potential of PGIVER to the current position. Prof Sharma has been bestowed with Fellowship from Netherland Government for Livestock Production in Philippines (2010); CLFMA Award and is fellow of National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (NAVS).

Dr Vishnu Sharma is member of various policy committees like Rajasthan Livestock Policy Formulation committee; Rajasthan Animal husbandry Vision 2025 and Rajasthan core sub group for Animal Husbandry five year planning. He is honorary consultant to Green Earth Foundation and Rajasthan Go SevaAyoog and resource person in Organic farming and Certification course of Rajasthan Agricultural University (RAU), Bikaner.
Dr Sanjitha Sharma takes charge as Dean, PGIVER (RAJUVAS)

Post-Graduate Institute of Veterinary Education & Research (PGIVER), Jaipur has been an Apex and Research centre for disease diagnosis, monitoring, surveillance and was further constituted under the 12th five-year plan by government of Rajasthan in 2012 as a constituent Post Graduate College of Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (RAJUVAS), Bikaner. The institute is a premier Veterinary institution of Rajasthan to develop specialized & super specialized human resources in different areas of Veterinary & Animal Sciences and pursue livestock owners/farmer’s need-based research, extension and development activities.

Dr. Sanjitha Sharma has taken over as the Dean of the Post-Graduate Institute of Veterinary Education & Research (PGIVER), Jaipur. Dr Sanjitha is a doctorate in Animal Nutrition and before resuming as Dean was working as Professor and Head, Department of Livestock production and management, PGIVER. During her academic career, she has supervised number of post graduate research works of the departments, has been involved with teaching various undergraduate, postgraduate and doctorate courses of Animal production and been Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-PI for various research projects funded by DST, RKVY, APEDA and her key area of research is ‘Milk Quality and Safety’. She has to her credit about 40 research and invited papers in peer reviewed journals and has authored/co-authored 4 books and 6 manuals. She has also served Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia as a faculty and is National Fellow of Animal Production and Management Society. She has been awarded university gold medals at undergraduate and post graduate levels and was the recipient of ICAR-JRF and SRF.

Great Strategist of Indian Pharma Industry left for heavenly abode

Mr. Dilip G. Shah, the secretary general of Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, left for heavenly abode on 22nd February 2019. The industry will be deeply feeling the void created by the loss of the magnificent persona.

Mr. Shah graduated from the premier business school in India, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. He had 50 years of varied experience in the pharmaceutical industry. He had addressed several WTO workshops on TRIPS, WIPO seminars on IPRs and Public Health, WHO meetings on Access to Medicines and several other international meetings and conferences. He was a Member of the official Indian Delegation to WTO Ministerial Conference at Cancun. He also appeared before the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) and testified in Investigation No.332-543 hearing in Washington DC in 2014.

Apart from being the Secretary-General of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance he also held many other prestigious positions like Member of the Expert Review Committee of Access to Medicine (ATM) Index; Member of the CPhl International Advisory Board; Member of the Board of Advisors of Pharmabiz.com; and Member of Task Forces and Expert Groups constituted by the Government of India for accelerating growth of the Indian pharmaceutical industry. He also chaired the International Generic Pharmaceutical Alliance (IGPA) for two terms (2005-07) and (2010-11).

Mr. Shah was an independent director on the Boards of Fresenius Kabi Oncology Ltd, Anuh Pharma Ltd, Shaily Engineering Plastics Ltd and CEO of Vision Consulting Group, a firm specialized in strategic planning. Before starting Vision in 1997, he was a Member of the Board of Directors of Pfizer-India for whom he worked for 30 years.
Indian Animal Health Industry

The Indian Animal Health industry is expected to be >5,300 cr. in 2019. The industry has grown at >11% since last 5 years.

India habitats several species of domestic animals. The animal health industry feel privilege in serving the various animal species. Many companies have exclusive teams for the respective species segment. The Livestock industry is the largest contributing segment of 53% to the total animal health Industry and is growing at CAGR of >9% since 2015. The value of sector is contributed by the huge livestock population and increasing demand of milk and milk products. Though the small and marginal LS holders dominate in India, the organised dairy segment is coming up in a huge way and will be leading the segment in years to come.

Poultry industry contributes 33% to the Animal Health Industry and is growing at a CAGR of 11.50%. Industrialisation and modernisation has taken Indian poultry industry to a greater peak. At present India stands 5th in poultry population and 3rd in egg production.

Companion animal segment is contributing 8% to the animal health industry. This segment holds huge potential and will be a major contributor in both value terms and growth terms. Amidst many challenges in parent parenting the industry is growing nearly at 17%. With modernisation, infrastructural support and greater societal acceptance the pets in the country will surely have a brighter future.

Aqua is another segment which is under tremendous focus of both government and private sector. The Aqua industry enjoys a share of 5% of the total Animal Health Industry. India stands 2nd in both fish and shrimp production. The fisheries industry has welcomed the modern techniques and scientific farming like never before. From a not so profitable industry in the past to a large scale lucrative farming at present, the Industry truly holds great potential for the fishermen of India.

The other domestic species including piggery and equine contribute around 1% to the Indian AH industry. Though niche, they are doing well in their respective areas and showing healthy growth patterns. Because of the size, these niche areas don’t attract exclusive focus of the Industry players but are to some extent addressed through the portfolio meant for other species of animals.

The vast area of disease affections sometimes even varying among the geographical conditions mandate the industry to offer range of therapeutic category of products. Out of all the categories Nutrition & feed additives is the largest contributing segment i.e. 39% to the total industry followed by Parasiticides- 20%, Antinfectives- 17% and Biologicals- 13%. The other categories are Anti-inflammatory- 3%, Disinfectants- 3%, Topical- 3% and Miscellaneous- 2% of the total industry.

The data clearly shows the perspective of Industry towards maintaining health and nutrition of animals through balanced diets and hygienic animal husbandry practices. The focus is on preventing the disease through proper vaccination and deworming. The AH industry strives to provide a holistic approach towards managing animal healthcare.

Source: INFAH
Gazette notification from CDSCO for amendment in label requirement for the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, in rule 96, in sub-rule (1), in clause (i), in sub-clause (A) as the words “in brackets” shall be omitted.


Centre has transferred administrative control and matters concerning cow shelters, prevention of cruelty to animals and its governing law from environment ministry to agriculture ministry.

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