

Editorial

This year we celebrate 250 years of veterinary medicine. The world's first veterinary school was established in Lyon, France in 1761 by Claude Bourgelat who managed to persuade King Louis XV of France of the need to train specialists to treat animal diseases mainly because Rinderpest was ravaging Europe's countryside and ruining the rural economy. Claude Bourgelat (1712-1779) is considered the founder of the modern veterinary profession.

The idea was quickly adopted throughout Europe and by the turn of the century, 19 veterinary schools had been created.

Throughout the year events have been taking place around the world to commemorate this anniversary. This issue of the Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine is dedicated to the celebration of 250 of the veterinary profession. The issue contains a brief history of the pioneers of the veterinary profession in Israel written by Prof. Arnon Shimshony. Fortuitously this is also the year in which the world has achieved freedom from Rinderpest, one of the most dreadful animal diseases which also ravaged in Israel and had a severe impact on livelihoods. The final report by the Joint FAO/OIE Committee of the eradication of Rinderpest is included in this journal. To complete the picture, a history of Rinderpest in Israel has been written by Dr. Orly Friedgut of the Department of Virology of the Kimon Veterinary Institute.

Another celebration of the Journal is the launching of a new internet site for the journal. The internet address is www.ijvm.org.il. The internet site allows the reader to study the journals of the past few years. Earlier editions will be added over time and we hope to be able to have all past journals on line.

I encourage everyone to enter and browse. On entry to the site there is an option for registration which will allow for communications and updates. The site has a search facility both by author name and keywords. Importantly there is the ability to save and print individual articles from the journals in PDF format. The site has been designed to be user friendly. A number of our colleagues have reviewed the site and have approved its format. My hope is that the Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine will now become more visible to many throughout the world. I welcome your comments and your suggestions for improvement which you can send to the journal email address at ijvm10@gmail.com.

A further piece of good news is that the "citation index" of the journal has improved but we still have a long way to go. I encourage everyone to write articles, reviews, case reports and letters. Your input is important.

I take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the editorial board to wish all our readers a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Trevor Waner
Editor-in-Chief
Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine