

Dear Readers,

The Israel Veterinary Medical Association is celebrating its Centenary! One Hundred years ago on the 8th of July 1922, the pioneers of Veterinary Medicine in Israel, Dr. Yosef Shem-Tov, Dr. Moshe Caspi and Dr. Yakov Neriah who initiated the meeting together with Dr. Samsonoff decided unanimously on Sunday the 9th of July 1922 on the resolution to establish "The Association of Jewish Veterinarians in the Land of Israel". The decision was published in the Medical Association Journal and in the agricultural journal "HaSadeh". In Haifa, in November of 1928, a general assembly of the association decided to form an autonomous group called "The Palestine Veterinary Surgeons Association", to be later renamed the "Israel Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA)".

Since then Veterinary Medicine in Israel has grown, blossomed and flourished. Today, the veterinary profession in Israel boasts a Veterinary School associated with the Hebrew University and a Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The IVMA has grown and has a new competent President, Dr. Michael Etinger who is upgrading the association. He aspires to provide continuing Education for Veterinarians and improvements in the quality of all aspects of veterinary medicine in Israel. A number of Virtual Continuing Education courses and lectures are already underway and more is planned for the near future, to cover all aspects of our profession. Furthermore, he is dedicated to the continuation and advancement of the Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine. I wish him the best of luck in his endeavors. I am sure that not only the quality of veterinary medicine in Israel, but all the citizens of the State of Israel, will benefit from his efforts.

The IVMA will be officially partaking in the 37th World Veterinary Association Congress to be held in Abu Dhabi from 29 - 31 March, 2022. Members of the IVMA will receive reductions in registration fees and other benefits. This is indeed a very welcome development from every point of view. More information about the meeting can be obtained from the website at: <https://bit.ly/3t5CF5g>. Looking forward to seeing you in Abu Dhabi.

The Journal this month features some interesting articles. Among them is an article entitled: "Emerging Zoonoses in Israel: Avian Influenza viruses. The Threat is Around the Corner", by Dr. Nir Rudoler. The article follows the history of Avian Influenza viruses in our region and explains why we must be vigilant for the next outbreak. This article by Dr. Rudoler was indeed written even before the current outbreak of Avian Influenza virus in Israel at the end of December 2021, and in this lies the importance and significance of this predicting and forecasting article. Veterinarians are acting to contain this severe outbreak of avian 'flu H5N1 type that has already led to mass culling of infected poultry and has caused the deaths of about 5,000 migratory cranes. The Israeli minister of environmental protection, Tamar Zandberg has described the outbreak, as "one of the worst blows to wildlife in Israel's history."

The Journal also includes the abstracts of the 43rd Symposium of Veterinary Medicine of the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. A lot of interesting research is presented and we are proud to include this symposium in the Journal.

Wishing all our readers good health and a happy Passover Celebration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Trevor (Tuvia) Waner

Editor-in-Chief, Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine