



28th International Conference of the  
World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology  
18th-22nd July 2021, Dublin, Ireland

### **WAAVP 2021 – Get your Abstracts Ready!**

2020 – will be no doubt be a year that most of us will be glad to leave behind. At the time of the last WAAVP Conference in Madison during the summer of 2019, we did not envision the chaos and turmoil that would emerge at the end of that year to engulf the entire planet throughout 2020. Perhaps we should have considered the electricity interruption in the venue as a harbinger...

Before giving more details of the plans and developments in relation to WAAVP 2021, I would first like to take this opportunity to sympathise with any of the veterinary parasitology community who have been affected directly, or among their family members, friends and colleagues, by COVID-19. My sincere sympathies are extended to anyone who has been ill, who has lost family members, or who has suffered economically during the pandemic.

The Local Organising Committee for WAAVP Dublin 2021 has, like the general research population, been working in changed circumstances, with virtual calls, meetings and teaching, not to mention delays to lab-based research programmes. However, rest assured, that planning for WAAVP in July 2021 has continued apace and that we are well on track.

We have been working closely with our conference organiser, Keynote PCO, to make provision for all eventualities, given the continuing uncertainties around international travel. The optimal outcome, of course, remains that as many delegates as possible will be able to travel to Dublin and participate in the scientific sessions in person while also enjoying all that our wonderful city has to offer at first hand. We will also be making preparations to enable virtual participation, as many conferences have done during 2020. We are currently evaluating the various platforms available to ensure the best possible experience with maximum potential for interaction. One advantage of this hybrid model, likely to persist beyond the pandemic, is that it facilitates participation by those for whom personal circumstances, caring responsibilities, travel restrictions or other considerations make in-person attendance impracticable.

Our sponsors have responded enthusiastically to these plans. So, please do keep an eye on our website [www.waavp2021.com](http://www.waavp2021.com) as more sponsorship details and the conference programme appear.

I am also pleased to say that we have an exciting line-up of invited speakers to headline our programme – again, keep an eye on our website for updates. As promised, the Scientific Programme will incorporate cutting-edge research relevant on understanding and advancing control of parasitic diseases in farm animals, companion animals, wildlife, and through public health initiatives. Whether you are excited about epidemiology or education, horses or helminths, ectoparasites or ecology, immunology or *Isospora*, drug development or *Demodex*, we invite you to participate. We will have sessions that consider the interface between science and public policy, and through a Foresight Exercise, will look ahead at the future of veterinary parasitology. During the Conference, a number of organisations such as the European Veterinary Parasitology College and COMBAR, will run focussed sessions.

We expect the Call for Abstracts to launch this week – so stay tuned, and we look forward to welcoming you all to WAAVP 2021.



With best wishes,  
Grace Mulcahy  
Chair, Local Organising Committee, WAAVP 2021

Professor Grace Mulcahy  
Conference Chair