LEROY AWARD TO THEO MEUWISSEN

The EAAP Leroy award highlights the work of an active scientist or professional whose activities and reputation are internationally recognised. Every year the Scientific Committee and the Council recognize a scientist with the most prestigious award of our organization. Prof A. M. Leroy was one of the main founders of EAAP and the President for the first twelve years of our organization. This year the Leroy award was given to the Dutch scientist, since many years working in Norway, Theo Meuwissen. His studies in animal genetic made the work of Theo central for the development of animal breeding worldwide. Theo will be granted at the EAAP plenary session in Warsaw this year and in that occasion he will present a main lecture.

EDITORIAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL - EAAP:

This issue of the Newsletter already gives relevant news and facts about the 2015 Annual meeting to be held in Warsaw. EAAP is proud to inform that the 2015 Leroy Award recipient is Theo Meuwissen for the important researches he did in the field of animal genetic. Theo will present a main lecture at the plenary session that will be held on September 1st in Warsaw. Other important news that you can read concerning the annual meeting are about the sessions dedicated to or organized by the EAAP Young Scientists Club. We are also happy to inform that for our annual meeting we received about 1000 abstracts; therefore we can forecast another successful EAAP meeting. Please also remember there is time until May 31st to register with the early-bird discounted fee. Many other news from research, industry, about job offers, meetings, etc. are available in the EAAP Newsletter.
For Young and Early career scientists

Here are important sessions of the annual meeting to be held in Warsaw that the EAAP Young Scientists Club suggests following especially for young scientists:

- Young scientist competition in the Genetics Commission. Chair: H Mulder. Young scientists are encouraged to enter abstracts for this session, all those accepted being eligible for a prize for the best presentation. This session is devoted to the young scientist competition. All PhD-students, Postdocs, and other young researchers that are 38 or younger and working on exciting research in animal breeding and genetics are encouraged to present their work in this competition. The jury will judge the presentations on the quality of the presentation and the science.

- Young train "Dairy innovative research and extension" - includes NOVUS Award - General session in cooperation with Young Scientists Club. Chairs: A. Kuipers/P. Aad, young scientists (students, PhDs and early stage of career; up to 35 year) are invited to present their own research and/or innovative extension work related to dairying (animal, herd, farm, product, system or environment). The session intends to stimulate discussion and to further design his/her research or extension work and to contribute to the societal debate. In this session a candidate will be chosen for the NOVUS Award for the best dairy presentation, offering a visit to the ADSA/ASAS congress in 2016 in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Moreover, Wageningen Academic Publishers offers a scholarship to attend the EAAP congress in 2016 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

- Success factors for careers in the livestock industry. (Industry / Young Scientists Club). Chair: Young Scientists Club.

As a further incentive, here’s a summary of last year’s meeting organized for young EAAP scientists:

- On Monday Aug 25, 2014 (Session 8), the Young Train session had 14 young researchers presenting on dairy innovative and extension research. Presentations were extremely competitive. The NOVUS Award to attend the JAM 2015 in Florida, USA went to Anne Fischer from INRA whereas the Wageningen Academic Publishers Award to attend the EAAP 2015 meeting in Warsaw, Poland went to Marco Horn from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna.

- On Tuesday Aug 26, 2014 (Session 28), under the challenge program “Careers in the Livestock Industry”, our young club hosted representatives from different sections of the Livestock Industry who gave interesting overviews of their career paths. Reinhard Grandke, Director General of the German Agricultural Society, Simon Lague, Business Development Manager for Fancom BV and creator of the iFarming brand philosophy, and Michael Pearce, Zoetis Animal Health, all gave very interesting insights into their expectations on the qualifications and skills of young scientists. Lively discussions during our ice cream social followed.

- On Wednesday Aug 27, 2014 (Session 35), the commission on animal genetics started a joined competition for young scientists under 35 years of age. Our club participated in judging 14 oral presentations of excellent quality and the jury, composed of members of the animal genetics commission, had a hard time deciding on a winner. Finally, Han Mulder from Wageningen University was selected.

Three awards were granted last year. We sure are looking forward for your valuable presentations in Warsaw 2015.

NEWS FROM RESEARCH

Animal research projects on hold at Nebraska centre.
No new research projects will begin at the Nebraska-based Meat Animal Research Centre (MARC Centre) until new protocols are implemented to address concerns over the welfare of animals at the Agricultural Research Service centre conducted with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. When news of animal mistreatment at the Meat Animal Research Centre in Nebraska was reported by the New York Times in January, Secretary of Agriculture of USA Tom Vilsack ordered an independent review with a report on the facility’s practices to be delivered within 60 days. Vilsack said the independent review did not find mistreatment of animals presently taking place at the MARC Centre, but he did direct all the recommendations of the report be implemented immediately. The review was conducted by the ARS Animal Handling and Welfare Review Panel (ARS-AHWRP), which included four university researchers from across the USA, and one ex-officio member, which was Dr John Clifford who previously served as the chief veterinary officer at USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The Food & Drug Administration of USA announces strategy to create animal food definitions.

FDA announced on March 27th a strategy to establish ingredient definitions and standards for animal food in order to increase transparency and affirm the safety of the animal food supply, as required by a specific FDA Amendments Act of 2007. At the same time a bill of FDA seeks uniform GMO labelling. Only last year, 125 bills mandating the labelling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food were introduced in 30 different states of USA. Congress is ramping up its efforts to provide a more uniform approach that protects consumer choice better than the patchwork system that has begun to manifest with individual state actions. Currently, the Food & Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are tasked with determining the safety of food products.

NEWS FROM INDUSTRY

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) allocates almost € 2.6 m for the annotation of livestock genomes.

BBSRC is the lead funding agency for academic research and training in the biosciences at universities and institutes throughout the UK. As part of a comprehensive plan to support bioinformatics, BBSRC will finance up to 2.6 m € a new structure dedicated to the genome annotation of livestock. This new structure is a partnership between the Roslin Institute, EMBL-EBI (European Bioinformatics Institute) and the TGAC (genome analysis centre, Norwich Research Park, UK). There are nearly € 10m the BBSRC will invest in various structures dedicated to big data generated by the biosciences. This plan aims to facilitate the storage and use of computer data generated by health research, agriculture and biofuel.

This infrastructure project was launched in January for a period of 18 months. It aims to meet the need of the international project FAANG (Functional Annotation of Animal Genomes), dedicated to genome annotation (transcriptomes and regulatory regions) livestock in which INRA is also involved.

EWOS: A new R & D centre for farmed fish feed

EWOS (Norway), a leading and trusted supplier of feed and nutrition for the international aquaculture industry, will build in Los Lagos (Chile) a new research centre dedicated to food and health of farmed fish, including salmon. The company will invest € 8.4 m in this new centre that will house laboratories, research facilities and livestock. EWOS has more than 1000 employees and now produces a third of the global food market trout and salmon. EWOS is already present in Europe (United Kingdom, Norway), Chile, Canada and Vietnam where the company produces feed for tropical
species. It has partnered with the company Protix (Netherlands) in the Aquafly project incorporated insect meal in fish feed. EWOS also works with the Canadian University Memorial University to develop a platform quantification of the expression of genes related to growth and health of the fish.

Valicor Purina and partners to utilize the proteins of the residue of distillation

Valicor Separation Technologies LLC (Dexter, USA) and Purina Animal Nutrition LLC signed an agreement to enhance animal feed, concentrated protein in corn distillates. These proteins are obtained from a recently acquired by Valicor technology, coupled with Vfrac separation system (Valicor Stillage Fractionation Technology). This set provides various by-products during the distillation of corn: Dried Distillers Grains with Solubles (DDGS), oil and protein concentrates.

Two industrial sites for ethanol production are already equipped and two other facilities are planned. Valicor was born in 2012 from the merger of two companies specializing in the treatment of fluids, Solution Recovery Services (SRS) and United Waste Water Services (United). A subsidiary operates in France. Since 2013, Valicor launched new proprietary technology platforms:

- algae oil extraction for biofuel production;
- ethanol from corn;
- processing of waste oils;

Valicor has installed more than 60 fractionators across the US. To improve its process Vfrac, Valicor acquired a patent to extract gluten from various corn fractions (distillate DDGS or Wet Distillers Grains) obtained in the production of ethanol.

Merck Animal Health (MSD) and China Animal Husbandry Industry Co., Ltd. (CAHIC) signed a partnership agreement in the livestock for vaccines. The agreement states that the two companies will collaborate in the commercial and scientific plan to better meet the needs of the Chinese market. CAHIC is one of the key players in the animal vaccines market in China (20% market share). The company is part of China Agricultural Development Group (CNADC) present both in livestock activities (including aquaculture) service for farming, fishing and fish processing, or plant breeding.

Genus PLC buys Vitro Brazil.

The British company Genus PLC (Basingstoke, UK) has confirmed the acquisition of the majority of the biotech company for cattle breeding, In Vitro Brazil (Mogi Mirim, Brazil). In Vitro Brazil (IVB) has thus strengthened the skills of Genus - including its subsidiary dedicated to ABS bovine genetics - in vitro fertilization in dairy cattle or beef breeds. Founded in 2002, IVB is a world leader in in vitro fertilization for livestock and operates in different countries in North and South America.

IVB has developed skills in embryo transfer (over 260,000 in 2013) in semen production gendered in partnership with ABS Pecplan (Brazilian subsidiary of ABS) and that by cloning (creating a specialized joint venture in 2005 with the US Cyagra, has since become a wholly owned subsidiary of BVI, BVI Cloning). IVB is also interested in vitro fertilization in sheep (diffusion of technology in Australia, Turretfields Centre, Adelaide) in horses and buffalo.

Merck is partnering with a Chinese company to increase its presence in the Chinese vaccines market.
CONFERENCES, WORKSHOP AND MEETINGS

April 22nd-23rd, 2015

Pig Breeders Round Table in Canterbury (United Kingdom)

The Pig Breeders Round Table will be held at the University of Kent in Canterbury on 22nd-23rd April 2015 (https://kenthospitality.kent.ac.uk/Register/pigbreeders2015). The Round Table is a small, friendly bi-annual meeting with interesting science and stimulating discussion. It is relevant to international pig research and the industry world-wide and attracts many delegates from all over Europe, North America and beyond. The scientific programme as usual will be composed of contributions from those attending the meeting. The meeting gives an excellent opportunity to present and discuss new results with an informed and interested audience.

May 6th-8th, 2015

2015 CSAS Annual Conference in Ottawa (Canada)

There is still time to register for the 2015 Annual Conference of the Canadian Society of Animal Science. This year’s meeting will be held with the Canadian Meat Council and will take place May 6th-8th in Ottawa, Ontario at the Westin. https://asas.org/meetings/csas2015/home

May 8th–10th, 2015

Symposium on Dairy Cow Nutrition and Milk Quality in Beijing (China)

The 4th International Symposium on Dairy Cow Nutrition and Milk Quality will be held in Beijing, China on May 8th–10th, 2015. For more information: http://www.mrtweb.cn/English/Symposium/2015/

May 19th – 20th, 2015

Animal production conference in Zaragoza (Spain)

The XVI Jornadas Sobre Producción Animal (the 16th conference about animal production) will be organized on May 19th and 20th, 2015 at Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza, Campus de Aula Dei in Zaragoza (Spain). For more information, please use the conference website http://www.aida-itea.org/ or contact the secretariat of the conference at administracion@aida-itea.org.

June 12th, 2015

EAAP-ASPA Joint Session in Milan (Italy)

During the Milan EXPO 2015, dedicated to food, EAAP and the Italian Scientific Association for Animal Production
(ASPA), will organize a one day workshop on June 12th in Milan dealing with “System Approach for improving the sustainability of animal production, health and welfare” the workshop is in connection with the biannual meeting of ASPA (June 10th–12th). More information can be found on [http://www.aspa2015.org](http://www.aspa2015.org).

**June 15th-18th, 2015**

**Symposium of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians** in Saskatoon (Canada)

The 17th International Symposium of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD) will be held on June 15th-18th, 2015 in Saskatoon (Canada). For more information: [www.wavld2015.com](http://www.wavld2015.com)

**July 12th–16th, 2015**

**2015 JAM** in Orlando (USA)

The 2015 ADSA-ASAS Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) will be held in Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando FL (USA). For more information: [http://www.jtmtg.org/JAM/2015/](http://www.jtmtg.org/JAM/2015/)

**July 27th-29th, 2015**

**International Symposium on Animal Functional Genomics** in Piacenza (Italy)

The 6th International Symposium on Animal Functional Genomics, ISAFG 2015, will start in Piacenza, Italy, July 27-29, 2015. State of the art lectures from top-notch scientists can be considered by looking at the final scientific schedule that is on line: [http://www.isafg2015.it](http://www.isafg2015.it). Thanks to the ISAFG Sponsors some fellowships for young researchers and Poster Prizes can be offered.

**August 27th-29th, 2015**

**Congress on Farm Animal Endocrinology** in Billund (Denmark)

The 8th International Congress on Farm Animal Endocrinology will be held on August 27th-29th, 2015, at the Hotel Legoland in Billund, Denmark. For more information: [http://anis.au.dk/fileadmin/DJF/Anis/FINAL_8th_Farm_Animal_Endocrinology_FLYER_February_2015.pdf](http://anis.au.dk/fileadmin/DJF/Anis/FINAL_8th_Farm_Animal_Endocrinology_FLYER_February_2015.pdf)
August 31st-September 4th, 2015

EAAP – European Federation on Animal Science in Warsaw (Poland)

The 66th Annual meeting of EAAP this year will be organized by our Polish colleagues. The conference will be held for five days from August 31st to September 4th at the University of Warsaw. Around 1000 abstracts were already received. Deadline for early registration and obtain the relative discount is May 31st: www.eaap2015.org

September 10th-11th, 2015

Animine Academy in Paris (France)

The 1st Animine Academy will be held in Paris on September 10th – 11th and will be jointly organized by EAAP and Animine. The conference will be dealing with growth promoters, nutritional requirements and mineral supplementation in domestic animals diet. There will be six major invited speakers and open discussions. Registration is not open yet. For more information: http://animine.eaap.org

September 21st-24th, 2015

23rd Animal Science Days in Brijuni (Croatia)

The 23rd International Symposium “Animal Science Days” title is “Utilization of local animal breeds and production systems in sustainable production of high quality animal products”. The symposium will be organized in National Park Brijuni, in Croatia on September 21st-24th, 2015. This year, Faculty of Agriculture in Osijek will organize ASD 2015 under the patronage of EAAP. The deadline to submit a paper at the conference is approaching, April 20th. http://asd.pfos.hr/

October 15th-17th, 2015

1st World Conference on Innovative Animal Nutrition and Feeding in Budapest (Hungary)

The conference will be held on October 15th–17th, 2015 in Budapest (Hungary) and aims to present how the latest developments of animal nutrition and related disciplines can be applied to produce high quality and safe animal derived foods and to ensure production in a sustainable manner.

Furthermore it will also be discussed the effect of climate change on crop and on the quality of animal derived foods for human consumption, and how the adverse effects of climate change can be alleviated by nutrition. Moreover, the recent knowledge on mycotoxins and their impacts on feed and animal origin food quality, the using alternative protein and energy sources and the new generation of the feed additives are also be included in the program of the conference. More info on: http://www.wianfconferences.com

November 27th-29th, 2015

International Symposium of Veterinary Ethology in Paris (France)

The 3rd International Symposium of Veterinary Ethology will be held at the Monsouris Mutualist Institute in Paris, 27th-29th November, 2015. The topic will be “Selection and behaviour: what influences, what consequences?” Dealing with dogs, cats and horses mainly the symposium will consist in several sessions of oral communications and posters, introduced by plenary lectures.

All the conferences and questions will be simultaneously translated (French into English and English into French). The call for oral presentations and posters will be closed on May 30th. More info on: http://www.wsava.org/event/third-international-symposium-veterinary-ethology
January 12th-15th, 2016

Steps to Sustainable Livestock International Conference in Bristol (United Kingdom)

On January 12th-15th, 2016, in Bristol, there will be held an International Conference on sustainable ruminant livestock production. This event will be held under the joint auspices of the Global Farm Platform (www.globalfarmplatform.org), the Food Security and Land Research Alliance (www.fsrla.ac.uk) and the Cabot Institute (http://www.bris.ac.uk/cabot), with financial support from the Global Innovation Initiative (www.global-innovation-initiative.org) and the Worldwide Universities Network (www.wun.ac.uk). The conference will focus on seven themes, namely: Consumption of human food by livestock, Animal species and genotypes suited to their environment, Animal health and welfare, Feeding animals optimally, Human nutrition – focus on healthy food, Husbandry systems appropriate for local environment, culture and economy, Knowledge transfer, and additionally, Minimising environmental footprint. More info on: http://www.globalfarmplatform.org/author/eislerm/

JOB OFFERS

Nofima (www.nofima.no) in Ås (Norway) is currently searching for three scientists and a PhD student in breeding and genomics. Please note the announcements on the links below, for the three scientist positions: http://nofima.easycruit.com/vacancy/1351347/59425?iso=gb and for the PhD position: http://nofima.easycruit.com/vacancy/1351439/104809?iso=gb

I would like to bring your attention to a Dairy Geneticist opening at Genus ABS Global.

To apply, please follow the instructions in the posting available in the Genus ABS Global website or write to Katie Olson, Lead Research Scientist at Genus ABS: katie.olson@genusplc.com

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Postdoctoral Fellowship in Quantitative Genetics is offered in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Otago (New Zealand); the position is for two years. To see a full job description and to apply online go to: www.otago.ac.nz/humanresources/join-otago

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Four professorship positions are offered in the newly created Centre for Integrated Breeding at the Georg-August-University Goettingen. Among the positions is a full professorship Functional Breeding and Genetics and improvement of functional traits by breeding and a temporary (5 years) professorship with tenure track on Breeding Informatics. Further information can be found at http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/507592.html, or you can contact me Prof Henner Simianer at: hsimian@gwdg.de. Further information and the application portal are available at http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/507592.html

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Open position to work in IRTA-Torre Marimon, Caldes de Montbui, Barcelona. The position is founded by EU Feed-a-Gene project and the candidate will work on quantitative genetic aspects of feed efficiency both in growing pigs and lactating sows. All the details of the vacant position, as well as the procedure for submitting CV, can be found here:


Further details on IRTA and on the working centre can be found in IRTA webpage:

New issue of Animal Frontiers.

The April issue of Animal Frontiers (jointly produced by EAAP, ASAS and CSAS) is now available. Everyone can download the magazine for free at: https://www.animalsciencepublications.org/publications/af

The Theme of issue is “Insects as a source of nutrients: Beyond the Western prejudices”. The Guest editor is Christian Girard, representing one of the members of Consortium, The Canadian Society of Animal Science.

OBITUARY

Professor Stephen Bishop passed away peacefully on 2nd April 2015 a few short weeks after being diagnosed with a brain tumour. Stephen Bishop (Steve) was an influential scientist, known and respected worldwide. He made an outstanding contribution to our understanding of the impact of host genetics on infectious disease outcomes in farmed animals at the individual and population level. In particular, he introduced epidemiological concepts into the field of quantitative genetics and successfully demonstrated the application of these concepts to several diseases. Stephen Bishop studied in Lincoln College (New Zealand), Edinburgh (UK), Technical University of Munich (Germany). He had worked in New for the Livestock Improvement Corporation, the Roslin Institute and the University of Edinburgh.

Dr Salvatore Casu passed away on March 2nd in Sassari. Dr Casu had studied in Italy and France and was among the major developer of genetic selection of dairy sheep. He was extremely successful in research activities using quantitative genetic methods for improving dairy sheep and mainly to implement the research into a successful genetic program allowing the Sarda sheep to become one of the most productive dairy sheep breed worldwide. He managed for many years the Sardinian Animal Science Research Centre. He received many honours in his long career, including a Distinguished Service Award from EAAP.
The **Flash-e-news** is the Official EAAP Newsletter. This interesting update about activities of the European animal science community, presents information on leading research institutions in Europe and also informs on developments in the industry sector related to animal science and production. The Newsletter is sent to all EAAP Members and supporters.

You are all invited to submit information for the newsletter. Please send information, news, text, photos and logo to eleonora@eaap.org

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