
Editorials

From the beginning of 1999 Dr Jim McNab takes over editorship. In wishing him well I know that he brings to the journal a wealth of experience in poultry science and the whole editing process. Under his care I am certain that the *WPSJ* will make great progress in the challenging years ahead. A profile of our new editor follows these editorials.

In my first editorial (*WPSJ* 42: 204) I referred to the challenges and inevitable changes that lay ahead, and to the importance of maintaining standards and reflecting the needs of readers. It is my hope that in the ensuing 12 years, and with the help and encouragement of many others, there has been some success in achieving these objectives. I hope readers will forgive a brief resume of some of the events during my term of office. Operational changes included the retirement in 1988/89 of Molly French, the journal's Production Manager. This coincided with the start of a five year excursion into the commercial publishing sector with Butterworth Scientific. Although successful, this ended because rising costs forced the Association to find a more economical production system. With much help from Watt Publishing of Mount Morris, Illinois, USA, new arrangements came into effect from the beginning of 1994 and for a time the journal was printed in, and distributed from, the USA. However, by the end of 1995 it was clear that these stages in the production process could be accomplished more cheaply, and with fewer logistical problems, in Europe. Thus printing is now carried out in The Netherlands. A particularly pleasing landmark came in 1997 with the return after 16 years to four issues of the journal each year. Feedback suggests that, in spite of the inevitable problems that these various changes have created and the assimilation of many technological developments in the production process, your journal has consolidated its position and reputation as a reliable source of scientific and technical information about the poultry industry.

Journal publication is a team enterprise involving a great many people ranging from authors and referees to typesetters and printers, and without whose collaboration nothing would happen! As departing editor I express my gratitude to them all, but extend special thanks to members of the Editorial Board, and particularly the four Associate Editors who have tirelessly produced the translated summaries – currently Dr L. P. Borgida, Professor José Castello Lloblet, Dr Werner Hartmann and Mrs Nina Selina; also to Dr Pete Lewis, Assistant Editor, for his constant help and encouragement, and Mrs Elizabeth Stockman, whose eagle eye during sub-editing and proof reading does so much to ensure a high standard for the journal; and finally to Mr Allen Wesson and his staff at Genesis Typesetting and Dr Piet Simons who oversees the printing and distribution undertaken by Ponsen and Looijen in the Netherlands.

For myself, I look forward to having more time to spend with my family, including eight grandchildren, and for gardening, woodwork and other 'do-it-yourself' activities.

Chris Hann

Changes rarely come singly. Also retiring at the end of this year is one of the journal's staunchest and most dedicated supporters, both in terms of his contributions to the journal and for the advice and wise counsel he has given over many years. This is Werner Hartmann who has been an Associate Editor since 1973. Over this time he has translated nearly 450 summaries, published 14 main papers and reports in the journal and has acted as a referee on many occasions. Such a record will surely stand for a very long time. In thanking Werner for his support during the past 12 years, we believe he really has earned his retirement. Succeeding Dr Hartmann as German language translator and as Associate Editor we welcome Professor Dietmar Flock.

Although it often tends to be taken for granted, the fostering of collaboration at all levels of the poultry industry is a major objective of our Association. A new and encouraging

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international example is illustrated in the organization of the forthcoming First World Waterfowl Conference (1–4 December 1999) to be held in Taichung, Taiwan. This brings together the Taiwan branch and the Waterfowl Working Group (8) of the WPSA European Federation. For contact details see the Calendar on page 417.

Chris Hann
Pete Lewis



A profile of Jim McNab

A glance at Jim McNab's curriculum vitae reveals that the new editor of the *World's Poultry Science Journal* brings with him a remarkable range of experience – experience that is matched by many endearing qualities evident to those who have come to know him. How far his eminently balanced and sensible approach to life and his work stems from the fact that psychology was one of the subsidiary subjects featuring in his original (1962) Edinburgh University degree in Chemistry, one can but surmise. His subsequent PhD thesis at Edinburgh focused on the structure of plant gums, with special reference to mannose-containing polysaccharides. This led in 1965 to an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Biochemistry Department of the University of Colorado, working on a programme investigating the biochemistry of the interaction between pathogens and plants.

After one year back at the University of Edinburgh (1967–68) working on the properties and structure of polysaccharides and plant pectins, Jim joined what was then known as the Poultry Research Centre, Edinburgh – and his long involvement in poultry research had begun. This has included many aspects of poultry nutrition covering the digestion of carbohydrate and protein and including assay methods for feedstuffs evaluation, feed quality enhancement, assessments of non-traditional feeds and the chemistry of anti-nutritive factors.

Over the past 15 years or so the original Poultry Research Centre has undergone several upheavals within the wider framework of the re-structuring of UK agricultural research. Jim McNab has been successively leader of the Feedstuffs Research Group of the newly formed Pig and Poultry Division of the Institute of Grassland and Animal Production, head of a new Avian Biotechnology Department in the Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics Research and, since 1993, head of the Environment and Welfare Division at the Roslin Institute. Currently he co-ordinates the work of 13 project leaders and 30 support staff as well as leading a personal research programme focused on the mechanisms underlying food/enzyme interactions. Jim's other activities have included responsibility for many national and some international collaborative projects, the graduation of six PhD students and refereeing papers for a number of scientific journals, including the *WPSJ*. For over 10 years he has been Co-editor of *British Poultry Science*, a position he plans to relinquish next year.

Jim is very much a family man with two, now grown up, sons. His spare time interests include gardening – particularly the growing of vegetables – bridge and collecting stamps. Both he and his wife enjoy travelling.

Chris Hann