

The official publication of the International Association for Paratuberculosis

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16th International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis - India

PLEASE DIRECT YOUR NEWSLETTER COMMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS TO:

newsletter@paratuberculosis.com

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Natalia Elguezabal
nelguezabal@neiker.eus

Matteo Ricchi
matteo.ricchi@izsler.it

Antonio Facciuolo
antonio.facciuolo@usask.ca



Dear members, the 16th International Association for Paratuberculosis Colloquium (ICP 2024) in India will take place October 21 to 25, 2024. Recently, a flyer was circulated in February 2024 to all members by e-mail containing key dates. That flyer is appended to this newsletter.

Key Dates for ICP 2024 India:

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION CLOSED: July 05, 2024

ABSTRACT DECISIONS: July 15, 2024

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES: July 31, 2024

Visit the ICP 2024 India website for additional details and to submit your abstracts!

www.gla.ac.in/icpindia

Election - Board of Directors

The Secretary-Treasurer has provided the list of candidates for Board of Directors to be published in this issue of the newsletter. Along with the names of these candidates is included a short biography and candidate statement. Please carefully review each of these for consideration. The elected Board of Directors will start their term at the close of ICP India and serve a 2-year term that will end at the next ICP in 2026.

Voting Process

The election is conducted by our Secretary-Treasurer, Adel Talaat. All official communications regarding the election will come directly from the Secretary-Treasurer. Each member - in good standing - has the right to vote and cast ONE (1) vote for each vacancy on the Board. Specific details on how to vote in this upcoming election will be published in the September 2024 newsletter. Candidates will be appointed to the Board based on the number of votes received until all **4 seats** are filled. Please contact Adel Talaat (adel.talaat@wisc.edu) with any questions or concerns regarding this election.

IAP Member Support and Recognition Award for ICP India

We wish to announce the selected awardees for the Richard Merkal Memorial and Helping Hand Fellowships for ICP 2024 India. Congratulations! We look forward to seeing these awardees at ICP India and hearing more about their paratuberculosis research.

RICHARD MERKAL MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

Alejandra Isabel Navarro Leon (Spain)

Chris Pickrodt (Germany)

HELPING HAND FELLOWSHIPS

William Lelorel Nankam Nguekap (Cameron/Canada)

Abdollah Derakhshandeh (Iran)

Maria Natalia Alonso (Argentina)

Junnia Luisa Pena (Brazil)

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Candidates for the Board of Directors

ALEJANDRA COLOMBATTI (ARGENTINA)

Postdoctoral researcher, Johne's Disease Lab, USDA-ARS, Ames, IA, USA.

Assistant researcher, Lab. of Paratuberculosis, IABiMo, INTA-CONICET, Argentina.

Assistant professor, Dept. of Microbiology, Veterinary School, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. Colombatti Olivieri has a veterinary medicine degree with a specialization in infectious diseases and university teaching. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA) in 2017. Her primary research interest is the immune response and pathogenesis of *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* (Map), specifically focusing on developing new vaccines against bovine paratuberculosis (PTB). She has also contributed to the characterization of Map virulence factors and the diagnosis of PTB. In addition to her research, Dr. Colombatti Olivieri has taught microbiology at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, UBA, and is an assistant researcher at the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) in Argentina. In terms of her experience in academic associations, she is an active member of the Mycobacteria Scientific Committee of the Argentine Association of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories (AAVLD). She has also served as a member of the Institutional Committee for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Currently, she is a post-doctoral researcher at the Johne's Disease Laboratory, USDA-ARS, under the guidance of Dr. Bannantine, and has recently joined the IAP association. As a young and dedicated researcher, Dr. Colombatti Olivieri is eager to contribute to the Association's mission and support its members. She fully understands the time and responsibility involved. She believes increased engagement with researchers from diverse geographic areas can benefit the IAP Association and foster a more prosperous scientific community. Her experience as a researcher and educator has provided her with strong organizational and collaborative skills, and she is confident that she can bring valuable insight and a proactive approach to the Board.

EIICHI MOMOTANI (JAPAN)

Part-time lecturer (research), Department of Neurology, Juntendo University School of Medicine,
Part-time lecturer (student education), Faculty of Health Sciences, Juntendo University
Director, Institute of Comparative Medicine, Ringgold ID 608474.

My research interests include elucidating the pathological mechanisms of autoimmune diseases related to *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*. I would like people to learn more about Japan's Johne's disease countermeasures, which have made relatively good progress in epidemic prevention and eradication, and to use this as a reference.

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GILBERTO CHAVEZ-GRIS (MEXICO)

Veterinary Zootechnician (DVM), National Autonomous University of Mexico (1989)

Doctor in Animal Pathology (PhD), University of Zaragoza, Spain (1993)

Professor of Animal Pathology (UNAM)

Experience on Paratuberculosis since 1989, participating in national and international projects on paratuberculosis and with national and international publications, as well as contributing to the training of professors and researchers in Pathology and Microbiology with emphasis on paratuberculosis. Participant of the National Technical Advisory Committee on Diseases of Bovines and Small Ruminants in Mexico (CONASA) since 1994 and proposed a Voluntary Paratuberculosis Control Program for Mexico. Organizer of the 14th International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis. Currently working with sustainable strategies for paratuberculosis control in cattle and small ruminants. I believe that it is important to have representatives from different countries where paratuberculosis is present and to establish collaboration, support and research networks according to regional or country problems. It is also important to generate links with international and national health authorities to promote the understanding of paratuberculosis, as well as to manage support for research that contributes to its control according to the conditions of each region and country. Particularly, my interest would be to promote the participation of the Latin American and Hispanic American region in this association. I believe that I have the energy and passion to work on the Council and to encourage participation and interaction with colleagues who have been researching for a long time and with those who are just starting out in paratuberculosis. I believe that the association could ask members how they can support research in their region and also participate in calls for joint research, considering the different levels of knowledge of paratuberculosis in these countries, considering that in many of these there is still no broad knowledge of the disease and the diagnosis is not easily available; but also encourage the interaction of basic research projects that promote knowledge of paratuberculosis. Also, encourage communication channels to learn about the members' points of view. Take advantage of the Colloquium to look for lines of work or some collective publication, such as the one generated from the 14th International Colloquium in Mexico with the enthusiastic direction of Dr. Richard Whittington that culminated in an article that is highly cited to date.

HAN SANG YOO (KOREA)

DVM, Ph.D., Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine

I earned DVM and MS from Seoul National University, Republic of Korea and Ph.D. from University of Minnesota in USA. I have been working as a professor at College of Veterinary Medicine, Seoul National University, which is AVMA accredited, for past 30 years. Most of my research was focused on animal infectious diseases during my academic period and for the past 20 years, various studies on paratuberculosis were conducted using systemic biological tools and published the results in several international journals. I already served as president of the Korean Society for Veterinary Science and the Korean Society for Zoonosis, and as a vice president of the Korean Vaccine Society. In particular, I have held several conferences at international level while serving as president and board member of those societies. Furthermore, I also severed as an Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Veterinary Science, a SCIE-listed journal. Those indicate how much experience

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I have in running academic societies. As many members already know, paratuberculosis is an infectious disease that not only causes enormous economic damage to related industries but also poses a threat to public health. However, because it is an infectious disease that is very difficult to treat through research and control, research on it is not active. Given the reality of paratuberculosis, I think we need to find efficient ways to overcome it by exploring control measures through research and discussion. For these reasons, I would like to apply to a member of the Board of Directors of IAP. If I am elected as a board member, I will actively participate to revitalize research on paratuberculosis in various countries, including Korea, through pursuing international cooperation.

PETE ORPIN (UK)

I would like to apply for position on the Board of IAP. I am currently serving on the Board of the IAP and Chair of the Technical Group in the UK. I act as the rapporteur for the UK to the IDF. I have been an active member of the IAP and have presented papers and posters at numerous ICP Congresses over the last 12 years. I am currently Chair of the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons, a leadership organisation aligned to the British Veterinary Association. I am a past President of the British Cattle Veterinary Association, Dairy Vet of the year (2016) and was awarded a Fellowship of the RCVS for Meritorious contributions to the profession in 2021. I have worked in clinical practice for 38 years, have co developed an online Johne's management program for successful control and written several papers focusing on the practical control of the disease. In 2021 I co-developed the Johne's Tracker tool to allow vets, farmers and our national group to track progress with JD Control . I also work as a Business consultant supporting veterinary practices which has broadened my experience beyond the clinical. My skills lie in effective communication, team working, developing structures to help organisations run more effectively and finding solutions to help an organisation achieve its aims. There is much to do to help the IAP expand its reach and relevance in the world and I would be happy to work with the IAP to further develop its strategic aims and purpose.

RAMON JUSTE (SPAIN)

DVM, PhD, Dip. ECSRHM.

I have been involved with paratuberculosis, mostly in sheep and cattle, since the middle 1980's exploring different aspects of its study from diagnostics, epidemiology and modelling to experimental infection and control. Building upon my PhD work on sheep vaccine microbiological and pathological protection against experimental challenge, I promoted the successful largest paratuberculosis field cattle vaccination program in the world and designed the widely cited meta-analysis on paratuberculosis vaccination. This allowed us to be the first to report trained immunity in cattle. Currently my main interest is promoting the use of killed vaccines for animal mycobacteriosis to control them in settings where costly testing-and-culling are failing. I am a founding member of the IAP back in 1989. I was elected by my Spanish colleagues to serve on the Board of Directors in successive terms until 2007 when I was appointed President. I served in that position until 2018 when I stepped back to allow younger people to bring new ideas and energies to the Association. I was head of the NEIKER Animal Health Department (1998-2015) and Managing-Director of the Asturias regional agricultural research center between (2015-2020). I

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served as President of the Spanish Association of veterinary laboratory diagnosticians (2009-2017) and as such I was responsible for the organization of its annual meetings. I was the chairperson of the 7th International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis in Bilbao, Spain (2002). Associate editor for the SJAR (2015-2023) and Heliyon (2016-present). Although I thought that I had given all I could to the IAP, the recent changes in the Association have made reconsider my involvement in the management of the IAP. Now I feel that sharing my experiences and knowledge of the Association with younger people can help move the Association forward and thriving in the service of paratuberculosis knowledge in the upcoming years.

ROD CHIODINI (USA)

Founder of the Association and President 1989-1996. President Emeritus. In January 1989 during the Second International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis in Alfort France, Dick Merkal, Geart Benedictus, Akle Benedictus, and I came up with the notion to establish an Association for Paratuberculosis. I accepted that task and the International Association for Paratuberculosis was incorporated in March 1989 with 3 members, Dick Merkal, Claud Buergelt, and myself. A broad reaching recruitment campaign, which included over 1,000 personal letters from me, resulted in 139 members by the end of 1989. I served as president of the Association from 1989 until 1996 when I passed the torch off to Mike Collins to become the next President of the Association. I stayed out of the Association's business between 1996 through 2018 until I was cast into the position of Vice-President as a condition under which Vivek Kapur would accept the nomination of President of the Association. Then, in 2020, with the resignation of Vivek Kapur, I became President once again under the successions defined in the Association's Laws & ByLaws. In 2022, I withdrew from consideration as President or any other position within the Association. Over the years, the Association has had its upsets, turmoil's, and controversies, both internal and external, but has been able to overcome these obstacles and not only survive, but to grow and prosper. But I believe the Association is now in decline with membership participation lower than it was when founded in 1989. While the Association needs and I support a younger leadership, it also needs some of the old "guard" that have years' experience in managing, promoting, and building the Association. Dick Merkal, clearly the grandfather of Johne's Disease after Johne himself, died before seeing his dream of an Association come to light. In his honor, the integrity and prominence of the Association must be maintained. I can ensure that happens.

SAM STRAIN (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Dr Sam Strain is the Chief Executive of Animal Health and Welfare NI (AHWNI), a not-for-profit company focusing on the control of endemic infectious diseases of ruminants. AHWNI is managed by a Board of Directors and is the delivery organisation for the NI Johne's Disease Control Programmes together with other animal health initiatives. Sam is a veterinary surgeon and was awarded a PhD in immunogenetics from the University of Glasgow. He has worked in mixed general practice in Scotland and Northern Ireland for ten years and subsequently was head of the Brucella, Salmonella and TB diagnostic labs in the veterinary sciences division of AFBI. He has undertaken research into mycobacterial infections including the early pathogenesis of TB and Johne's Disease, the evaluation of novel vaccine and diagnostic targets for bovine mycobacterial diseases and the effect of parasite co-infection on mycobacterial immune responses and disease outcomes. His current work focuses on the design, implementation and management of

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infectious disease control programmes and was recently co-editor for a special issue of the scientific journal *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* on 'Global Control and Eradication Programmes for Cattle Diseases.' He has a particular interest in Johne's Disease and the development of practical control strategies in ruminant livestock. He was instrumental in developing the Northern Ireland Johne's Control Programme within which the great majority of Northern Irish Dairy herds now participate. Sam is a member of the all-island (Ireland) Technical Working Groups on Johne's Disease and IBR providing technical support to AHWNI and Animal Health Ireland and was until recently the scientific member of the TB Eradication Partnership providing independent expert advice to government on bovine TB. Johne's Disease is one of the most pressing challenges to ruminant health and production. The International Association for Paratuberculosis has the potential to play a crucial role in facilitating the dissemination of knowledge on the infection as well as championing best practice in its control. I would hope that should I be elected to the membership of the Board of Directors I would be able to use my experience at organisational board level and in the development of control programmes to assist the other Board members and office bearers to maximise the impact of the association in the global understanding of the infection as well as how to control it at farm level and mitigate the exposure of consumers to the causal organism.

SHOORVIR SINGH (INDIA)

Graduation & PG, 1977 -1983 & Ph.D. (1998)

Scientist at Central Institute for Research on Goats, Mathura (Dec., 1984 - Jun, 2018)

Presently, HoD, Biotechnology Dept., GLA univ., Mathura

Achievements in 40 yrs., professional career (1984 to 2024): Engaged in active pTB research (20.12.1984 & continuing, Worked on diagnosis (clinical, laboratory & necropsy), treatment, management (culling) and control of Johne's disease, in cow & goat herds, and sheep flocks. Supervised students (Ph.D., M.V.Sc., M.Sc.) & trained other professional) from India and abroad. Have repository & provided standard reagents to scientists. Completed & doing several 'out funded projects', including a mega project on vaccine. Developed indigenous ELISA kit, Johnin & vaccine. Introduced new strain, Indian Bison Type'. Establish several research groups to develop research capabilities. Possess huge data base on different aspects of pTB in livestock, wild life, humans, milk & milk products, soil, water etc., and biotype profile. Activities in IAP board and ICPs: Participated in all ICPs, with students & RAs, since 8th Edition (Copenhagen. 2005). Presented several papers (posters, oral and lead lecture), with IAP & JDIP support. Provided insights on different aspects (prevalence, biotype profile, diagnosis, public health, pathogenesis, molecular biology, human infection, disease resistance, with Indian perspective. Serving on IAP board since long and took active part in discussions. Laid emphasis on global partnership, for the control of MAP in different countries. Developed personal and professional repertoire with number of ICP participants and IAP members. Won confidence of IAP and hosting 16th ICP in India. It will be great opportunity to further cement our ties with board & IAP members. Now wish to play bigger role in IAP and establish Centre of Excellence on pTB in South Asia. Will continue my association with IAP and ICP for more time to come.

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VICTORIA CASTRELLON-AHUMADA (MEXICO)

Academic information.

27/04/2018 Doctorate in Animal Production and Health Sciences. Income 2013-2. National Autonomous University of Mexico/Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics. University City, CD MX. Thesis: "Expression of the P35 protein of *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* and its use as an immunogen in sheep naturally infected with paratuberculosis." Degree obtained with honorable mention.

18/01/2013 Master in Animal Production and Health Sciences. Income 2010-2. National Autonomous University of Mexico/Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics. University City, CD MX. Thesis: "Expression of the recombinant protein P35 DE *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* and its use in the diagnosis of paratuberculosis in sheep."

24/09/2009 Veterinary Zootechnician, Academic Unit of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics, Autonomous University of Zacatecas, Mexico. Thesis: "Use of specific Homeopathic and Allopathic medications for the treatment of respiratory problems in foals from seven to eighteen months of age."

DIPLOMATES. Virtual Diploma in Basic Epidemiology, from September 1, 2022 with a duration of 168 hours. Taught by the Federation of Colleges and Associations of Zootechnical Veterinary Doctors of Mexico, A.C., 3ER. International Diploma in Swine Production, Autonomous University of Zacatecas, Academic Unit of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry, Liaison Coordination and Coordination of the Agricultural Sciences Area.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS. Certification in Veterinary Pathology. Period 2019-2024. National Council for Certification in Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics, A.C. LABOR DATA. Teacher-Researcher, Fixed-Term Hiring. Academic Unit of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics of the Autonomous University of Zacatecas. Responsible for the Molecular Biology Laboratory, Postgraduate building. Academic Unit of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics of the Autonomous University of Zacatecas. Responsible for Agricultural Production at the Agricultural Production Post "MVZ Donato Fernando Cortés Bañuelos" of the Academic Unit of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics of the Autonomous University of Zacatecas.

Officers of the Association

President: Conor McAloon

Vice-President: Marta Alonso-Hearn

Secretary & Treasurer: Adel Talaat

Board of Directors

Richard Whittington (Australia)

Antonio Facciuolo (Canada)

Raphael Guatteo (France)

Heike Koehler (Germany)

Shoorvir Singh (India)

David Graham (Ireland)

Matteo Ricchi (Italy)

Eiichi Momotani (Japan)

Gilberto Chavez-Gris (Mexico)

Ad Koets (Netherlands)

Natalia Elguezabal (Spain)

Peter Orpin (United Kingdom)

Marie-Eve Fecteau (United States)

Contribute to the Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published in September 2024.

We welcome all members (and trainees) who wish to contribute an opinion piece, share news regarding a recent publication or project update, provide regional updates on Johne's disease incidence and policies, or circulate information pertinent to paratuberculosis research or communications to submit their article to:

newsletter@paratuberculosis.com

We welcome all submissions!

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