



# World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association

*One Profession; One Discipline; One Voice – Cohesive & Inclusive!*

[www.WAVMA.org](http://www.WAVMA.org)

**2010**

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Dear Colleague,

As I embark on my year as President I wish to personally invite you to join or renew your WAVMA membership for 2010. We have great things planned for members.

The Association continues to grow and now has members from more than 22 countries; WAVMA is a truly a diverse international organisation. Members are involved with all areas and species relevant to aquatic veterinary medicine (from aquaculture and ornamentals, to research/education and zoos). Many are veterinary students; some work for governments. But by far, the largest group are private veterinarians who seek connections with colleagues and clients, and information through Continuing Education and Professional Development (CEPD) Programs to build their practices and serve their clients.

**WAVMA is here for you.** While WAVMA has accomplished a lot in the past year, here are a few programs for members I hope to see in place in the next year or two:

- Convening the 2010 WAVMA Annual General Meeting and Aquatic Veterinary Conference in Greece, and a similar one in South Africa in 2011.
- Identifying veterinary school, and other (in-person and on-line) aquatic veterinary CEPD opportunities throughout the world, to help members hone and refine their clinical knowledge and skills.
- Examining necessary core competencies and systems for recognizing and certifying academic and work experience towards aquatic veterinary "general practitioner" and Board Certification.
- Developing, coordinating and sponsoring and clinically relevant WAVMA CEPD meetings in many locations, including workshops building on the success of the IABC ([www.IABCConference.org](http://www.IABCConference.org)).
- Revising the WAVMA website with Members-only access to Board and Committee matters, online CEPD for veterinary credit, listings of relevant meetings around the world, emerging legislation and regulations, discussion listservs, and much more.
- Clarifying, providing guidance and advocating the roles and responsibilities of aquatic veterinarians, veterinary technicians/nurses and non-veterinarian paraprofessionals in diagnostic, therapeutic, clinical aquatic animal health and disease response programs.
- Initiating the development of an International Journal of Aquatic Veterinary Medicine.

We will continue to build strong relationships with veterinary schools, allied-aquatic, and National and International veterinary organizations around the world and, when WAVMA meets the criteria, we hope to obtain membership and a seat on the World Veterinary Association.

WAVMA is here to serve its members. Feel free to let me or any of the Board members know your desires. Contribute by actively participate in any WAVMA committees. Come join us in helping advance the fastest growing discipline in veterinary medicine.

Please take the time to join or renew your 2010 member by completing and returning the attached renewal form. Annual membership starts January 1 of each year and with a little grace period, only members in good standing will be entitled to receive membership benefits.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful festive season, a great New Year, and a very fulfilling 2010.

Fotini [Effie] Athanassopoulou DVM, PhD, MRCVS  
President 2010