

A message from the 2019 President

The founders came together to form WAVMA some 14 years ago, with the aim of creating a global organization to serve the interests of aquatic veterinarians and the veterinary profession; and ensure that this discipline grows to meet the needs of producers, industries and other stakeholders. Over the years, WAVMA has proved itself to be a global leader in aquatic veterinary medicine, with membership and alliances spanning more than 85 countries.

Without a doubt, individuals are increasingly looking to WAVMA as a source of leadership in aquatic veterinary medicine which is exemplified by the continued interest in membership and WAVMA programs. Over the years, quite a number of individuals have contributed to bringing the organization to where it is today. The task at hand is to build on the gains of the past decade and shape the direction of 2020 and beyond. Against this background, 2019 is pivotal to build on what the Executive Board and our committees have previously developed. As President, my focus for the year is on the strengthening and streamlining of WAVMA programs and the internal procedures and policies of the organization. This is important since it is essential that WAVMA engages the public and other organizations from the position of transparency, competency and credibility. The 2019 Board will benefit from a mix of persons with lots of years in the WAVMA leadership and persons being on the board for the first time, thus providing both experience and fresh ideas.

Current members should not only expect a continuity of programs being offered but an improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness in which these are delivered. This requires however, the cooperation of everyone. Feedback in the form of recommendations, complaints and participation in surveys when launched is needed to better meet the needs of our members. On the other hand, the work of WAVMA has unfortunately been dependent on a handful of individuals. It is time for all of the WAVMA members to be a bit more involved in the affairs of the association. I will do all I can to bring the affairs of the administration of the organization closer to all the members.

To the new and aspiring members, I recognize that there are other associations around the world that supports aquatic veterinary medicine, therefore, your interest in WAVMA and its programs is welcomed, encouraging, and not taken for granted. As a member, please take full advantage of the opportunities that you are afforded and get involved. As is evidenced by the Listserv, WAVMA members are quite supportive, so please reach out.

I do look forward to a great year ahead as my team and I serves you and the interests of WAVMA.

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WAVMA President 2019