

WPSA UK BRANCH

SUMMER 2016

NEWSLETTER

www.wpsa-uk.com



Introduction

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter – a little later this year, but looking out of the window the sun is shining and Summer still seems to be with us. We had a very successful Spring Meeting in Chester and the news is that we will be returning to Chester again in 2017. Numerous awards and Scholarships were awarded this year and further details can be found later in this Newsletter.

Please remember that I am always looking for useful articles, information and announcements that will be of interest to our members so please let me have any details as you come across them.

Don't forget to use our website to update yourself and also see ways of spreading the word by use of social media.

Stephen Lister
Branch Secretary, WPSA UK
salister@crowshall.co.uk

STOP PRESS!!!!

It is with great pleasure that we announce that our nomination to have Dr Paul Hocking inducted into the WPSA International Poultry Hall of Fame has been successful.

Paul was inducted at a special ceremony at the WPSA Congress in Beijing this month.

Paul needs no introduction to members but it is worth highlighting his contribution to our Branch and wider WPSA.

He has been a long standing member of WPSA and was secretary/assistant treasurer of the UK branch from 1996-2000, treasurer/assistant secretary 2000-2002 and president from 2002-2006. In 2006 he was elected as an honorary Life Member of WPSA and as a Vice President of the European Federation of WPSA branches (2006-2010). He has been on the WPSA International Speakers Bureau since its inception.

Paul has been the UK representative of Working Group 3 for many years and organised the 7th European Genetics Symposium in 2009. He is the WPSA representative on the Robert Fraser Gordon Trust and became its chairman in 2015.

The UK Branch is pleased and honoured that Paul has been recognised in this manner.

The Presidents Piece

Contributed by Vicky Sandilands

Welcome to the Summer newsletter, I hope you have all found some time to enjoy the good (?) weather over the Summer months

At the spring meeting in Chester last April, we bade farewell to two of our councillors, Elizabeth Ball and Anthony Waller. We are grateful for the time they spent on council and wish them all the best.

I hope you found the spring meeting beneficial – please do get in touch if you have ideas for the programme of forthcoming meetings, we would be happy to hear from you.

Something poultry journal editors and referees are well aware of is that many papers are submitted by people whose native language is not English. As a consequence, sometimes papers are rejected because the English is so poor as to make the science unintelligible. As a result, we may be missing out on some good work. Council have offered to support our journal, WPSJ, with volunteers from the membership to assist with English editing. This will be accompanied by a small remuneration from WPSJ. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO ASSIST WITH ENGLISH EDITING, please contact the WPSJ editor Lucy Waldron (lucy@animalnutrition.co.nz).

Please do not fear being overburdened, you can assist with as little as just one paper if you wish, providing that you can deal with it in a timely manner! Your assistance is much appreciated.

Obituary: Christopher Wathes

**Christopher Michael Wathes
BSc PhD FIAgrE OBE**

It is with regret that we announce the sad death of Christopher Wathes, OBE on 6th May 2016, a long term member of WPSA UK.

Christopher was emeritus professor of the Royal Veterinary College, London, former Chairman of the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) and a friend and colleague of many working in the field of animal welfare both in UK and globally.

Throughout his career, Christopher was an advocate for pragmatism in the approach to understanding and improving animal welfare. Christopher was a believer in evidence based decisions as well as plain common sense. I was privileged to work under Christopher's Chairmanship of FAWC and during that time he oversaw its revised strategy at a time of economic constraints, always resisting attempts to compromise or diminish the independence and influence of FAWC. His development of the concept of a "good life" and a "life worth living" for all farmed animals kept for food production gave all involved a template on which to assess provisions and requirements for assessing welfare, and more importantly improving standards. Christopher was

justifiably proud of any measures that could enable animal keepers and legislators to monitor and improve welfare. The concept of a “life worth living” is a fitting and lasting legacy for his hard work and dedication.

During his earlier career he headed up the bioengineering division of the Silsoe Research Institute in the 1990s where he undertook work concentrating on animals preferences in their environment and its importance in achieving the best facilities to keep livestock. His move to the Royal Veterinary College in 2005 allowed further development of his interests in animal welfare and ethics from the animals perspective, which was the bedrock of his time chairing FAWC. At all times during his career Christopher showed a passion for good animal welfare but also cared a lot about people. He encouraged good thinking and wanted those around him, students, peers and friends to grow and succeed.

He faced his latter health issues with stoicism and courage, but was clearly frustrated that it impacted on his lifelong skills of communication.

He was proud and deserving of the prestigious award this year from the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) with their Medal for Outstanding Achievements in Animal Welfare Science, presented posthumously, to his wife Claire, recently.

Christopher will be sadly missed by all who knew him and worked with him. He certainly demonstrated how to have a “life worth living” and his legacy is that animal welfare has benefited

from his considerable efforts and that he enriched the lives of people who knew him.

Stephen Lister, WPSA UK

Hennovation

*(submitted by Claire Weeks,
University of Bristol)*

In a novel approach to knowledge transfer the Hennovation project aims to promote and develop innovative ideas at the grassroots level. Led by the University of Bristol the project has six other partners and has established networks in the UK, the Netherlands, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Spain. These are either on-farm networks which are mainly trialling ways of controlling feather pecking, or off-farm networks looking at end of lay opportunities. For the latter in the UK in conjunction with ADAS we are looking at improving the efficiency of catching from colonies. The aim for both networks is for the industry to lead in terms of generating and prioritising ideas. The project assists by facilitating the groups and finding experts or information as required to support the innovation process, which is being documented by social scientists at the University of Exeter. It is expected that this approach will transfer to other agricultural initiatives and indeed it has much in common with the [Innovative Farmers](#) set up by the Soil Association. Hennovation will be disseminating its findings widely via the media, its website www.hennovation.eu and through the [EIP-Agri](#) portal as well as arranging workshops during 2017. We would welcome expert additions to the [wiki](#) that provides supporting information on end of lay and injurious pecking.

**WPSA (UK Branch)
Annual Meeting/AGM
University of Chester
April 2016**

The WPSA UK annual meeting was again held at the University of Chester.

About 80 delegates attended the meeting and listened to a varied programme of over 25 papers, many offered by young, enthusiastic researchers.

The invited speakers session heard **Mike Toscano** of University of Bern, Switzerland discuss aspects of bone health (and ill health!) in the modern laying hen, and **Peter Kettlewell** of SRUC considered methods of protecting poultry during transport, balancing welfare and economic.

The annual joint session with BSAS considered the intriguing topic of “Big Data in practice”, with thought provoking presentations from **Helen Masey O’Neill** of AB Agri and **Dr K Mertens** of Prophyrio NV Belgium.

A further highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the **Gordon Memorial Lecture**. This was delivered by **Prof Michael Hess** of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria with the title of “Commensal or pathogen in chickens – a challenge to fulfil Kochs postulates”. Prof Hess discussed the need for application of science to establish and confirm the role of specific pathogens in disease syndromes.

The Spring meeting is also an opportunity to recognise the

contributions of the participants and this led to a record numbers of prizes and awards, in recognition of the quality of presentations, both Oral and as Posters:

Presidents Prize (£100):

Oral

Brendan Duggan – Roslin Institute & R(D)SVS

Poster

Lucy Hood – Harper Adams University

Special Recognition Awards (£50):

Oral

Angus Reid – Roslin Institute & R(D)SVS

Poster

Joanne Atkinson – Northumbria University

Jalil Abdulla – Harper Adams University

Congratulations to these winners and all those who presented in Chester to ensure the high standards of excellence for which our Meeting is becoming increasingly renowned for.

Attracting applicants for our Summer Scholarships and Research Awards is another challenge but the excellent presentations from past winners and confirmation of successful applicants for this years awards demonstrates that the recipients and membership benefit greatly from this initiative. Our ongoing challenge is to retain this enthusiasm and promote WPSA and the wider poultry industry as an interesting and sustainable career option for young researchers.

This year WPSA UK has awarded the following Summer Scholarships:

Melissa Zigler (Roslin): Evaluating the effect of ovodefensin variants as alternatives to antibiotic growth promoters (part of a larger BBSRC Link project)

Ceara Suther (Glasgow University): Are the precursors of the egg shell cuticle retained in the secretory granules of the non-ciliated cells of the shell gland of laying hens after a premature oviposition (part of a BBSRC project focusing on the genetics and physiology of cuticle deposition in meat and egg type chickens)

Jessica Stirling (Roslin): Mapping neuronal circuits underlying maternal behaviour in the chicken brain

Ben Brown (Roslin): The developmental programming of bone growth in Japanese quail using a prenatal CORT exposure protocol

Alex Desbruslais (Nottingham Trent University): Investigating the absorption and utilisation of silica in young broiler chicks

The venue for 2017 will again be the University of Chester and the meeting will run from 26th to 27th April 2017.

PLEASE SEE THE WPSA UK WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS www.wpsa-uk.com

**WPSA UK Branch
Spring Meeting
26th and 27th
April 2017
University of Chester**

**WPSA SUMMER
VACATION
SCHOLARSHIPS**

This year WPSA UK has awarded five Summer Scholarships – further details above. Now is the time to consider whether you would like to follow their example and undertake some study during Summer 2017 with support, financial and advice from WPSA UK

The conclusions of the work will be presented at the 2017 Spring Meeting.

It is not too early to start thinking about applications for Summer 2017:

Conditions of Award

1 Scholarships will be awarded to selected bona fide students for the furtherance of a period of study or research into an aspect of poultry science, or a poultry related subject. BSc, (taught) MSc or other “qualifying” degrees will be considered. Only students who are undertaking, but have not yet completed, a UK based recognised first degree or (taught) MSc course may apply.

2 This period of study is normally expected to take place during the summer vacation in the year of application, and to be of

approximately eight weeks duration.

3 The application must be supported by the Supervisor/ or Head of Department/Director or equivalent, who should also provide guidance and supervision during the project.

4 Preference will be given to applicants who are, or whose Supervisors are, members of WPSA.

5 Applicants may be in receipt of other concurrent awards, but any applied for or already agreed must be declared in the initial application.

6 Applicants should not normally be more than 35 years of age and scholarships will not normally be awarded to the employees of commercial enterprises. This is at the discretion of the Branch Council who will consider applications on merit, see para 8.

7 Successful applicants will be expected to produce a short report in a standard format (full details will be provided to successful applicants) on the completion of their period of study/research. These must be completed and submitted by 1 October in the year of the award and may be chosen for presentation as either short papers or posters at the WPSA UK Branch Annual Conference in the following Spring.

8 Applications will be considered on their merit, irrespective of the level of degree course being undertaken by the applicant. The decision of the Council of the UK Branch of WPSA is final. The Branch reserves the right to make awards in full or in part, to withhold awards in exceptional circumstances and holds no responsibility for any claims which may arise as a result of these awards.

9 Any research or other work undertaken must comply with all existing legislation and any necessary licences must be obtained.

10 Applications, which must be made on the appropriate form (photocopies are permitted), must be received prior to the Branch Annual Meeting, April 2017.

WPSA UK Research Award

The WPSA (UK Branch) is pleased to offer an annual award in addition to their existing Summer Vacation Scholarship. The award is of £1000 to support a piece of research of broad benefit to the UK poultry sector. The intention of the award is to catalyse small research projects not generating commercial gain for individual organisations. Projects involving matched funding will be considered on an equal basis, but a condition of funding is the publication

of findings within 12 months of project completion, ideally via the Branch's Spring Meeting. Proposals covering any aspect of poultry science are welcomed, including laboratory analysis of samples, collection of field data, expansion of an existing poultry trial or compilation and analysis of existing field data. For details on how to apply for the award, please contact WPSA Secretary. Further details will appear on the WPSA website

- Submission of an abstract
- Being an undergraduate registered at a UK university or institute
- Not having attended this meeting before

The closing date for applications is 31st January 2017

Dates for your diary:

WPSA UK Branch Spring Meeting Scholarship

A key priority for WPSA is to improve opportunities for students in poultry science. As a result, the UK Branch is offering sponsorship for students to attend the annual Spring Meeting, in order to gain insight into poultry research and to meet established poultry scientists.

There are ten £150 scholarships available each year which can be used towards the meeting's registration and accommodation costs.

Scholarships are assessed and awarded at the discretion of the Council. All students (UK based or otherwise) studying poultry, animal and allied sciences are invited to apply but the following will be considered as supportive of your application:

32nd Poultry Science Symposium

**3 to 5 July 2017
Clare College,
Cambridge, UK**

Poultry Feathers & Skin – the past present and future of poultry integument

WPSA UK is pleased to announce the 32nd Poultry Science Symposium that is scheduled to be held in the historic and scenic city of Cambridge in July 3 to 5, 2017. The theme of the symposium is "Poultry feathers and skin – the past, present and future of poultry integument". The programme committee is working to ensure that this informative symposium is of wide appeal to all in the poultry industry.

Please follow updates regarding the symposium at www.wpsa-uk.com

**XVII European
Symposium on the
Quality of Eggs and
Egg Products
XXIII European
Symposium on the
Quality of Poultry Meat,**

3 to 5 September 2017

Scientific sessions 4-5th
September

**John McIntyre Conference
Centre**
Edinburgh University
**Edinburgh
Scotland**

**Further details will appear
on the WPSA UK website**

**The 10th European
Symposium on Poultry
Genetics will take place
at the Congress Center
in Saint Malo in France,
June 26-28, 2017.
Save the date!**

The Symposium will offer sessions on “One health”, genomics, New Breeding Technologies, genetics of product quality and breeding issues for other species

Visit
www.wpsa-uk.com

for more details

**Xth European
Symposium on Poultry
Welfare**



Visit the conference website
www.poultrywelfare2017.com/

19 to 22 June 2017 -
22 June 2017
ISPAIA - ZOOPOLE
développement
Ploufragan, France

**Abstract submission opening:
June 2016
Abstract submission deadline:
November 2016**

**For further details on any WPSA UK
activity please visit our website at**

www.wpsa-uk.com

or

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**UK Branch Administration
2016/2017**

President

Dr V Sandilands

Vice President

Dr E Burton

Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Mr A Ball

Secretary

Mr S A Lister

Elected Councillors

Dr H Masey O'Neill (2018)

Mr S Wilson (2019)

Dr D Scholey (2019)

Prof M Bain (2020)

Dr C Donaldson (2020)

Dr J Martin (2020)

Mrs L Tovey (2017)*

Dr I Dunn (2018)*

Mr R Kempsey (2018)*

Dr O Olukosi (2020)*

* = second term - ineligible for re-election

Co-opted Council Member:

None

Programme Committee Spring Meeting:

Dr I Dunn Cahir

Dr M E Ball

Dr I Dunn

Miss N Whenham

Mr P Garland

Dr V Pirgozliev

Dr S Pace

Dr V Sandilands

Dr N Sparks

Mr S Wilson

Dr D Scholey

Organising Committee 32nd Poultry Science Symposium

Joint chairs Mrs L Tovey and Dr O Olukosi

Representative on Egg and Poultry Industry Conference Committee:

Mr S A Lister

R F Gordon Memorial Trust:

Dr P M Hocking

(**Webmaster:** Dr O Olukosi)



education organization research