**WORLD BUIATRICS CONGRESS 2022**

**Spain hosts the world's leading veterinary specialists in buiatrics this week**

**- The opening ceremony took place this afternoon at the Palacio Municipal de Ifema Madrid, during which the prizes awarded by the World Association of Buiatrics (WAB) were presented.**

**- With 3,003 veterinarians from 74 countries registered, the thirty-first edition of the World Buiatrics Congress, organised by the Spanish National Association of Specialists in Bovine Medicine, has beaten the previous attendance record.**

**- The technical sessions will take place from Monday to Thursday, and will cover twenty thematic blocks in which experts from the world's leading universities and research centres will take part.**

**4 September 2022.** The opening ceremony of the 31st World Buiatrics Congress was held today in the auditorium of the Palacio Municipal de Ifema Madrid. The speakers today were Joaquín Ranz, president of the WBC organising committee; Émile Bouchard, president of the WAB; Gumersindo de la Riera, president of the WBC scientific committee, and Esperanza Orellana, director general of Agricultural Productions and Markets.

The president of Anembe Joaquín Ranz stressed in his speech that despite the pandemic situation that forced the event to be postponed on two occasions, the organising committee "never lost its way" and that they tried to imbue this meeting with "the spirit of the annual congresses that we hold at Anembe". Demonstrating the level of Spanish Buiatrics and making it a congress that will go down in history were the two factors that Ranz pointed out as the main objectives for this 31st World Buiatrics Congress.

The president of the World Association of Buiatrics praised the efforts of the organisation during these years of preparation: "They have faced many unforeseen events and have had it more difficult than previous committees due to the public health situation," said Buchard. He also welcomed all the attendees: "This is a long-awaited congress, it was a long-awaited reunion after the last edition in Sapporo 2018".

Next, Gumersindo de la Riera, president of the WBC scientific committee, presented the work carried out by Anembe, "we aim to be the link between the academic environment and daily clinical practice", and alluded to the high technical level of the congress, with a comprehensive programme in which they have reinforced the number of speakers per block: "While in previous congresses each thematic block had one speaker, in this edition we have decided to work with two star presenters per theme".

Finally, the Director General of Agricultural Productions and Markets, Esperanza Orellana, argued that "making this congress happen is evidence that the production sector in this country has a great present and an unquestionable future". She also placed special emphasis on the role played by the buiatry professionals in its progress: "You are the ones who make this a leading economic and social activity", said Orellana.

**WAB AWARDS CEREMONY**

The WAB President's Award, the Ruminant Welfare Achievement Award, the Gustav Rosenberger Memorial Fund and the BVDzero Scholarship Programme were also presented.

 **• WAB President's Award**

The WAB President's Award, endowed with 3,000 Euros, recognises the participation of a young veterinarian (37 years or younger) making a presentation at the World Buriatrics Congress (oral or poster).

This year's winner, Diego Noriega, was present at the event and received the award from Émile Bouchard, president of the WAB.

 **• Gustav Rosenberger Memorial Fund**

The Gustav Rosenberger Memorial Fund, which this year was sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim, awards an annual scholarship of 10,000 euros to a promising young veterinarian, preferably from a country or area with suboptimal possibilities, to finance his or her training.

Theo Lamb of Utrecht University announced the winner at the ceremony: Canadian-Nepalese veterinarian Susan Pyakurel.

During the award ceremony, Gerald Behrens of Boehringer Ingelheim said that the company is committed to supporting such activities "as we are convinced that contributing to the advancement of the sector in developing areas will be key to the proper nutrition of their population," he said.

 **• Ruminant Welfare Achievement Award**

Sponsored by the WAB and Boehringer Ingelheim, the award aims to raise public awareness of the important role veterinarians play in monitoring and improving the welfare of ruminants.

Laurent Goby (Boehringer Ingelheim) presented the awards to the two winners: Antoni Dalmau and Louise Adeline Marie Kremer.

 **• BVDzero Scholarship Programme**

Boehringer Ingelheim also sponsors the BVDzero Scholarship, which consists of 1,000 euros for each of the selected students worldwide. With this initiative, which is implemented in collaboration with the World Association of Buiatrics, the company aims to increase awareness of bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) among veterinary students.

The five scholarship students present to receive the award were Amy Birch (Australia), Bruna Mendes (Brazil), Jessie Hesseling (The Netherlands), Samuell Kalis (USA) and William Philips (UK).

 **• Fellowships for young doctors**

Furthermore this year, in order to promote interest in buiatrics among young veterinarians, Anembe and the WAB have awarded a total of 30 scholarships to veterinary students from all over the world to finance their attendance at the 31st WBC.

**ANEMBE, ORGANISER OF THE 31ST WORLD BUIATRICS CONGRESS**

The Spanish National Association of Specialists in Bovine Medicine (Anembe), which brings together 1,400 veterinarians specialising in cattle, has been entrusted with organising the 31st World Buiatrics Congress (WBC) by delegation of the World Association of Buiatrics (WAB), made up of 53 professional associations from all over the world, with more than 50,000 members working in the field of buiatrics, veterinary medicine specialising in production ruminants.

The technical sessions will start tomorrow. This edition has managed to break all attendance records with 3,003 registered congress participants from more than 74 countries, more than 20% of the figure recorded at the most attended edition, which was held in Dublin in 2016, with some 2,300 participants.

Quick reminder that the last edition of the WBC took place in Sapporo (Japan) in 2018 and that the Mexican city of Cancun will take the reins in 2024.

You can find the complete programme of the Congress on the following link: https://www.wbc-madrid2022.com/index.php/es/https://www.wbc-madrid2022.com/index.php/es/

Photographs and additional information: https://prensawbcmadrid2022.transmedia.es/

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