

## **The 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology goes online in October 2020**

Dermatologists all over the world had very much been looking forward to the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology in Sydney Australia in October and were disappointed when this had to be changed to an online meeting as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then the organising committee and sponsors have been working very hard to bring as much as possible of the original conference into a truly global setting. An impressive 3D virtual conference centre has now been designed, set in an attractive virtual-Sydney setting with lecture halls, a colourful and interactive commercial exhibition, and poster displays for the online visitor to explore and exploit.

The Online Congress is now active and is being delivered by The Webinar Vet, an organisation with over 10 years of experience in online education; details and registration facilities are available at <https://www.wcvd-9.com/>. Registration fees have been reduced greatly and electronic delivery of recorded presentations allows access to the entire programme without the constraints of what to attend and when, typical of the physical conference. Registration will give full access for a six-month period from 21st of October 2020 until 20th of April 2021 so that participants can work their way through all the different components of the programme, revisiting the congress centre repeatedly at their leisure. Whilst some 2000 delegates had been expected in Sydney, it seems likely that more than double this number will attend online and from a much wider population that has been reached in the past. WCVD9-online promises to be the biggest meeting ever in veterinary dermatology and will be an important milestone in the development of our discipline.

Delegates will be able to register for the full Congress with well over 100 hours of presentations covering the whole range of dermatology by the world's leading authorities, and including special streams on feline, equine and exotic animal dermatology. Alternatively, a lower cost registration will enable selection of the entire CPD programme or, for a lower fee, comprehensive CPD for the practitioner. There will be free access for all registrants to 3-hour symposia presented by the Congress Principal Sponsors, amounting to some 24 hours of presentations by experts in a wide range of fields of dermatology. As always, registrants will also receive - free of charge - the special online supplement of *Veterinary Dermatology* with abstracts of the presentations and posters, published this October, and the full texts of the main themes of the Congress published in a special issue of *Veterinary Dermatology* as "Advances in Veterinary Dermatology 10" in July 2021.

As the world becomes more accustomed to social distancing and online communication, and delegates are less inclined to travel because of the impact on climate change, it seems likely that conferences will increasingly adopt the online format for at least some parts of their programmes; WCVD9 will be remembered not just for excellent clinical and scientific presentations but also for paving the way to new ways of learning in veterinary dermatology.

David Lloyd  
*Dept of Clinical Sciences and Services,  
Royal Veterinary College Hawkshead Campus, University of London, UK*