



York 2010 29th to 30th March Royal Hotel York



25th November 2009

We are now just over one hundred days away from York 2010. This year's conference is to be held in a new venue – the Royal York Hotel and a new city – York. Thus far, we are extremely pleased with this decision – we hope that members will agree that this move has been worthwhile and enhances the meeting both in setting and facilities.

Over the past few months, AVTRW has re-examined its purpose and aims. We have decided to concentrate on our existing strengths.

- 1) To showcase and promote the very best of UK and Irish veterinary research, to industry, policy-makers, funding bodies and the wider public.
- 2) To provide a forum for younger veterinary researchers to develop and sharpen their presentational skills.
- 3) To encourage learning and education through the quality of the plenary speakers.
- 4) To provide a forum for debate on veterinary education issues. Advances in the delivery, content and assessment of veterinary education have implications beyond veterinary science, affecting the agricultural, medical and bioscience fields.
- 5) To provide an opportunity to meet with other members from both similar and other disciplines so facilitating interaction, co-operation and collaboration. The social element of AVTRW meetings should not be discounted – it is a unique opportunity for president to meet student, professor to meet researcher, dean to meet someone who likes them.

The scientific programme commences on the morning of Monday 29th March, with sessions on Education, Pathology, Diagnostics, Infectious Disease, Epidemiology, Clinical Research, Veterinary Public Health and more, and concludes with the full-day BBSRC conference *UK Forum for Animal Science* on Wednesday 31st. The social programme includes the 'Meet the Presidents' reception (MRCVS, BVA, CVO) prior to the banquet on the Monday night. There will be an AVTRW AGM late on the Tuesday afternoon.

Conference Format

As in 2009, the Association has decided that we will continue with the format of four presentations per hour (10 minutes duration with 3 minutes discussion). The scientific programme is designed to reflect current developments in research and teaching and the Association is therefore keen to attract contributions on a broad range of topics.

Abstract Submission

We have improved the system for submitting abstracts.

If you wish to present a paper, please log on to the Association's web site (www.avtrw.co.uk), and submit your abstract online. Alternatively contact the AVTRW Office directly as below.

All submissions will be acknowledged by the AVTRW office.

Please observe the strict deadline of **31st January 2010** to ensure inclusion of your paper(s) and speedy compilation of the scientific programme. Members of the Association may submit more than one paper.

We encourage you to travel by train as the new venue in York is literally next-door to the main railway station and York itself is easily accessed by train from all corners of the UK.

I enclose a booking/registration form for next year's conference.

Please encourage your colleagues and students (including postgraduates) to attend Conference – updates and details of the final programme will be circulated via email early in 2010 with updates maintained on the website.

The heart of AVTRW has always been its membership.

Your support of the annual conference is vital to ensure the organisations future into 2010 and beyond.

I am always grateful for any comments, suggestions, or any other input on AVTRW matters.

Please do not hesitate to email me directly on president@avtrw.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Ronan O'Neill
AVTRW President