Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology
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Preface and Acknowledgements

The Second Congress of the European Association for Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology (EAVPT) was held from 13th to 17th September 1982 at the quiet setting of the National Veterinary School of Toulouse. The meeting was organized by Dr Y. Ruckebusch and the Scientific Programme Committee consisting of Dr M. Debackere (Belgium), Dr J. Espinasse (France), Dr R. Faustini (Italy), Dr. H. Frey (FRG), Dr P. Lees (UK) and Dr F. Sanz (Spain), in close co-operation with the organizing local committee comprising the staff members from the host institutions (ENV: Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire, INRA: Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, and IST: Institut de Sérothérapie de Toulouse).

The programme covered the fields of perinatal pharmacology and toxicology, comparative pharmacology and toxicology, pharmacokinetics and drug therapy, pharmacological methods and new animal models. Five sessions (out of nine) were devoted to the ruminant, hence the sections of the Proceedings: (1) Developmental pharmacology, (2) Ruminant pharmacology, (3) Non-ruminant pharmacology, (4) Pharmacological methods, and (5) Toxicology. The week’s plan was for series of lectures presented during the days with evenings free for two workshops and informal discussion of posters and presentations. On the last day a series of demonstrations* was presented simultaneously at the INRA, IST and in the Departments of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology and of Large Animal Clinic of the ENV.

A congress book of near 500 pages (no. 8 of the series ‘Les Colloques de l’INRA’) which provided abstracts of the lectures and full texts corresponding to the 64 poster presentations and 16 demonstrations was distributed to more than 300 participants from 36 countries. This book (‘Pharmacologie et Toxicologie Vétérinaires, 1982’, ISBN – 85340-439-0) is still available from the Service des Publications de l’INRA, Route de Saint-Cyr, 78000 Versailles, France.

The programme of the congress started out with the official opening by Dr Lautie (ENV) and Dr Mauléon (INRA). Dr van Miert commemorated Dr Yoxall, the President of the Association. Highlights of the Congress were the assessment of carcinogenic properties of veterinary drugs, the clinical utility of pharmacokinetics as well as the use of levamisole in neonatal disease of calves, or the slow release formulation of fenprostalene. The words to be remembered in pharmacotherapy for the next decade are: detomidine,
etomidate, metoclopramide, atracurium, augmentin, and ketanserin. A detailed account about these new drugs will be found in the Proceedings.

The Proceedings which contain 64 reports invited by the EAVPT Scientific Committee and two workshops have been prepared with the help of my colleagues Dr Toutain and Dr Koritz (on leave from USA) and of various referees. I would like to thank especially two of them, Prof. Phaneuf, Editor of the Canadian Veterinary Journal, who spent several days after the Congress at Toulouse, and Prof. Lees, Co-editor of the Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics for his preparation of the workshop on anaesthesia.

At the closing dinner, provided courtesy of Dr Terré (Director of IST), the dean of the ENV'T (Dr Lautié) discussed the input of the Congress upon veterinary pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacotherapy. On behalf of the non-European countries, Dr Short (USA) spontaneously expressed recognition of the meeting as a success: thanks to the early sponsorships of the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (Dr J. Poly), the Direction Générale de l'Enseignement et de la Recherche (Dr M. Gervais) and the Mission Interministérielle de l'Information Scientifique et Technique (Dr B. Cassen) who made this possible.

On behalf of the Scientific Committee, I would like to express also my appreciation to the Conseil Général de la Haute-Garonne, le Crédit Agricole, la Ville de Toulouse, and the firms listed below for special financial support: Boehringer-Ingelheim, Reims, Clin-Midy, Montpellier, Elanco (Div. Vét. of Eli Lilly), Saint-Cloud, Pierre Fabre (Centre de Recherches), Castres, Licotal (Div. Vét. of Wellcome), Paris, Madaus, Köln, Pfizer Int., Orsay, Specia (Rhone-Poulenc), Paris, Sanofi Santé Animale, St-Jean-la Ruelle, Institut de Sérothérapie, Toulouse and Vétoquinol, Lure.

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*– New computerized system for the evaluation of drug effect on digestive motility.
  – Use of echography in the mare.
  – Specific drug responses of the uterine cervix in the conscious ewe.
  – Mass spectrometric identification of chloramphenicol traces in animal tissues.
  – Use of analogue computer in the calculation of rate constants.
  – Broncho-alveolar sampling in cattle.
  – Serum production by plasmaphresis (horse).
  – Bottle-pack system for filling of drugs.
  – Production of bacteria and toxoids.
Co-founder and editor of the *Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, co-editor of *The Pharmacological Basis of Small Animal Medicine* and *The Physiological Basis of Small Animal Medicine*, Andrew Yoxall will long be remembered for the energy with which he pursued the organizational advancement of the discipline of veterinary pharmacology in the UK and in Europe, and as a catalyst in the emergence of clinical pharmacology as a recognized entity in veterinary medicine.
In Appreciation of
Andrew Thomas Yoxall
MA, Vet MB, MRCVS, DVA

A. S. J. P. A. M. van Miert and P. Lees

Dr A. T. Yoxall, president of our Society, first secretary of the Association for Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics in the UK, co-founder and co-editor of the Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics, died quite unexpectedly on January 5, 1982 in Balderton near Newark, where he ran his own practice. His tragically early death, at the age of 33, was a real shock for all his colleagues and friends in the UK, Europe and the United States. As vice-president, I am not the right person for the presentation of a balanced account of Dr A. T. Yoxall's many contributions to our profession, but it is clear that they were both considerable and distinctive. This short contribution is a tribute to a clinician who was highly dedicated to veterinary clinical pharmacology and therapeutics. He was a bright young student, an easy learner with an active interest in physiology, pharmacology and veterinary medicine. After qualifying from the Cambridge School in 1972, he pursued, at Cambridge, postgraduate studies which led to the Royal College Diploma in Veterinary Anaesthesia. It is in the field of veterinary clinical pharmacology, however, that he made a profound and lasting impact. As a teacher, clinician, editor and author he contributed more than anyone within so short a span. He demonstrated that he could complete work, write about it clearly and simply, and publish it. He was co-author of several texts including The Pharmacological Basis of Small Animal Medicine and The Physiological Basis of Small Animal Medicine. It was to his vision and seemingly limitless reserves of energy, that the AVCPT was founded in the UK. Moreover, he supported us with the creation of EAVPT. He approached colleagues with youthful enthusiasm and with the unshakable belief that free exchange of ideas and experiences among individuals from different backgrounds and different countries enables us to move forward step by step.

As part of the Biocentennial celebrations of the 'Tierärztliche Hochschule', veterinary pharmacologists from all over Europe met in Hannover in June 1978 to exchange views on the proposed foundation of a European Association for Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology. During that
meeting the Association was formally founded and Dr Yoxall was elected as first president of EAVPT. In his address to the audience, he expressed his hope that a pleasant and productive programme of active work would ensue, with co-operation between schools, universities, research institutes and pharmaceutical industries. In discussing the purposes of the Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics, he stressed the aim to give an identity and coherence to a movement which has resulted in the almost simultaneous creation of associations for veterinary pharmacology in the UK, USA and Europe. 'It is hoped', he said, 'that the Journal will improve co-ordination and communication among pharmacologists and veterinary clinicians; it is designed for the publication of topics relating both to the clinical aspects of veterinary pharmacology, and to fundamental pharmacological topics of veterinary relevance'. He was worried about the schism between 'scientific' pharmacology and veterinary clinical medicine. I recall some quotations from editorials with which he addressed the readers of the Journal: ‘Veterinary clinicians have had to devise their own advances in surgery, radiology, anaesthesia, clinical pathology, preventive medicine, and other clinical disciplines, whilst the rapid transition of veterinary therapeutics from materia medica to a branch of pharmacology has taken place within ‘pure science’ laboratories and within the establishments of the pharmaceutical industries’.

Andrew Yoxall was an active participant in the first EAVPT congress which was held at Woudschoten Conference Centre in Zeist in September 1979; he was the sole organizer of the first International Conference on Veterinary Pharmacology, Therapeutics and Toxicology, held in Cambridge in July 1980 and prepared at that time with Dr Ruckebusch the programme of the Second EAVPT Congress specially devoted to the ruminant species. It is not for me to judge the success or otherwise of these meetings, not least because the success of any meeting must be judged by each individual in terms of the benefits that he hoped to obtain from attending the meeting, and the extent to which these hopes were fulfilled. One clear benefit that did arise from these conferences, however, was the possibility to contact other workers. Most participants did gain some benefit from personal contacts, and did come away with some sense of stimulation.

In January 1981, Andrew Yoxall wrote me a letter in which he requested to be relieved of his task as president of EAVPT and also of his editorship of the Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics. A protracted illness had forced him to give up many of his professional duties.

Dr Andrew Yoxall was a tireless worker, often overcommitted, but always dedicated to the discipline covered by the umbrella title of ‘Veterinary Pharmacology, Therapeutics and Toxicology’. He perhaps accomplished more in a few short years than many do in a lifetime and will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues.

It is fitting that Andrew Yoxall and his outstanding contribution to veterinary pharmacology be both remembered and honoured by this Congress.

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