



24th International Pig Veterinary Society Congress



8th European Symposium of  
Porcine Health Management

**The 24<sup>th</sup> IPVS in Dublin 2016 was a combination event with the European Association and European College of Porcine Health Management. This was a first for the IPVS with previous conferences always as stand-alone conferences. The combined event was considered appropriate because of the synergistic aims of the two associations and in order to streamline pig conferences in Europe for 2016.**

**The Irish summer is always a movable feast. However, the clouds parted on the day before the conference and remained clear and cloudless until the closing ceremony when we had a few showers of seasonal rain. A late order for ice-cream on tap led to 6 freezers being installed to cool the thirst of the delegates and keep them happy in the Royal Dublin Society, the venue for this historic conference.**

**Upwards of 3500 delegates from all corners of the globe registered and attended at IPVS/ESPHM 2016, a record for the conference. A scientific panel of more than 50 world experts was convened under the excellent leadership of Paolo Martelli and Heiko Natheus. The invitation for papers yielded in excess of 1100 papers, with 900 being adjudicated for posters and the remainder for oral presentations in 4 streams. We also held three sessions of clinical club under the expert guidance of David Chennells, a first for the conference but one that will be revisited in future gatherings.**

**Conferences of this size don't just happen. Many people and organisations put a great deal of effort into their conception and delivery in the 8 years before a flight is booked or a delegate arrives at the venue. Of special note in this effort was the Trojan work done by our PCO, MCI, and the Local Organisation Committee. Our sponsors also deserve special mention. Without their finance nothing could be achieved to the extent of what was achieved in Dublin.**

**Socially, this was an excellent conference from the explosive video and dancing scenes at the opening to the thunder of the hooves on the turf at Leopardstown Races and the extravaganza and piano playing of the gala dinner on the final night in front of nearly 1200 guests. There was plenty of time for networking and there was a constant buzz about the conference exhibition centre, the heart of any conference where all the deals are done and contacts are made or sustained.**

**A gaping chasm and a sense of anti-climax always follows an event of this size. Dublin 2016 is no different. The baton has been passed to Hanchun Yang and his team in Chongqing in China for their Congress in July 2018. We wish them all the best in their endeavours and look forward to enjoying the Chinese City of Bridges on the Yangtze River in two years' time!**

**Le gach dea ghúí Ó Éire ..... With every best wish from Ireland!**

**Pat Kirwan**

**IPVS President 2016**

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