

## Announcements

### INTERNATIONAL UNION OF IMMUNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES (I.U.I.S.)

#### Formation of a Veterinary Immunology Committee by the International Union of Immunological Societies — December 1980

A Veterinary Immunology Committee has just been inaugurated by the Council and General Assembly of the International Union of Immunological Societies meeting during the recent International Congress of Immunology in Paris. The IUIS has thus become the first international scientific group to recognise the veterinary aspect of its subjects as a distinct and important speciality. The Veterinary Immunology Committee owes its origin to the initiative of Dr. John Humphrey, past president of IUIS. It was at his suggestion that the Council formed an ad hoc preparatory group who reported favourably on the proposal to form the new committee. We are very grateful to him for his interest in the matter.

The International Union of Immunological Societies was formed in 1969 as a grouping of national societies, of which 27 are at present members. The objectives of the Union are those of organising international cooperation in immunology, encouraging communication between immunology and allied subjects, and of contributing to the advancement of immunology in all its aspects. These objects are pursued by means of committees. At present there are committees on Education, Nomenclature, Standardisation, Symposia, Clinical Immunology, the European Federation, and now, Veterinary Immunology. Each of these is a working committee whose members are chosen by the Chairman for their ability to make an active contribution to the subjects.

The Council of IUIS elected Dr. W.J. Herbert of the United Kingdom to the chairmanship of the new committee, with Dr. Flemming Kristensen of Switzerland as secretary. The initial members come from France, Germany, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the U.S.A. and Canada. Others will be invited to serve as new areas of activity are identified and to increase the breadth of the committee's geographical representation.

The objects of the committee include inter alia facilitation of the exchange of information amongst veterinary immunologists, the transfer of information on immunological problems in domestic animals to non-veterinary immunologists, improvement of the standard of the education of veterinary students in immunology, the improvement of training opportunities in veterinary immunology for scientists of all disciplines, encouragement of the identification of spontaneous animal models of human immunological diseases and, not least, stimulation of the application of immunological knowledge to animal health and production. The present members of the Committee have each agreed to develop one of these themes. The committee is thus already in action, and looks forward to providing aid, information and assistance to all veterinary immunologists in the future. Colleagues interested in this aspect of IUIS and its functions are encouraged to contact the secretary.

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