



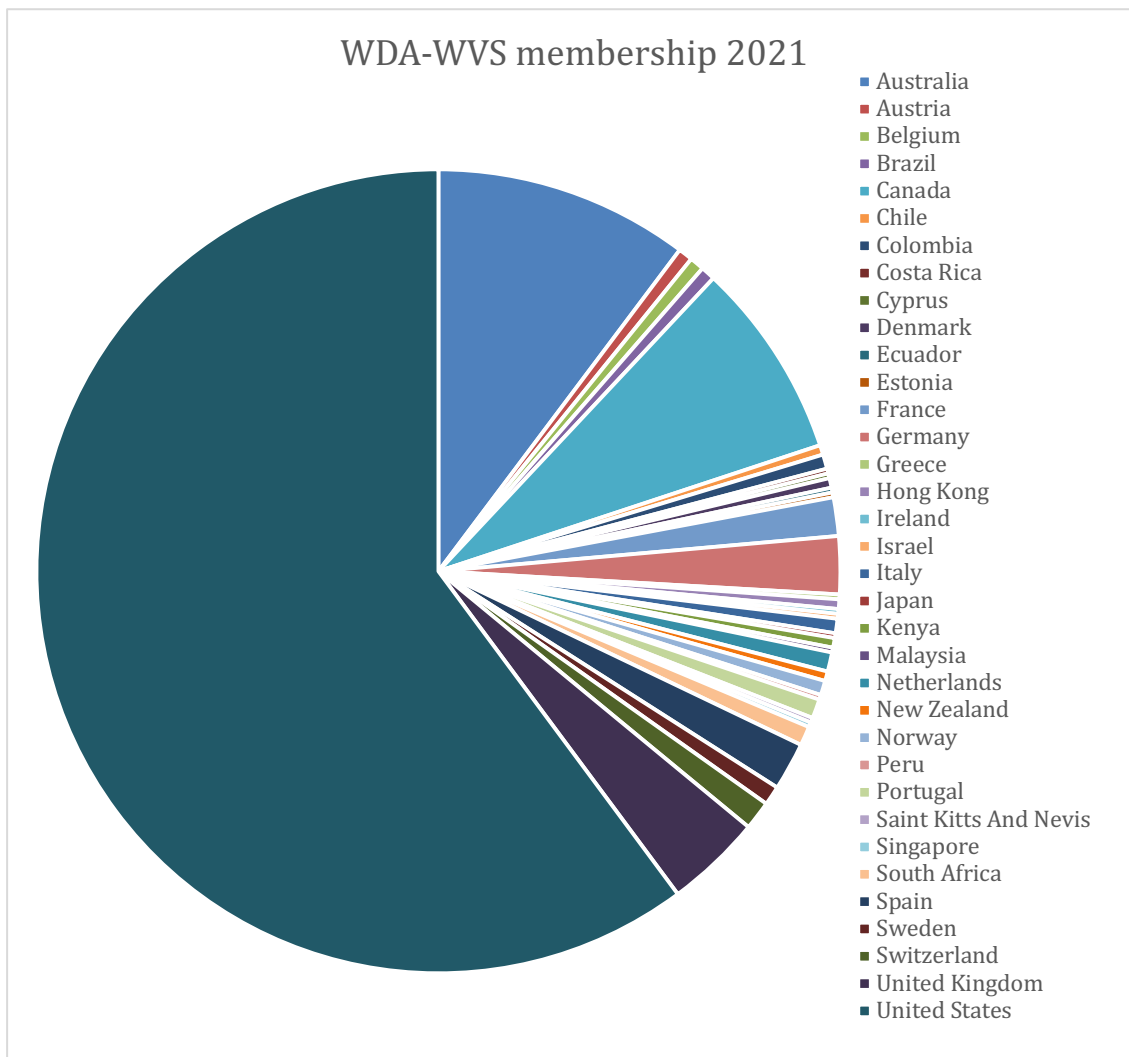
2021 Wildlife Veterinary Section Annual Report
20 July 2021

Dear WDA Council

Below, please find a summary of the WDA WVS activities for the period of July 1, 2020-July 1, 2021.

Membership

To date, we have a total of 517 active members from 35 countries which is **an increase from 377 for the 2020-2021 year.**



Finances

Our current balance is \$21,467.42. We are expecting a deposit from the general section of around \$5,000 to reflect section dues and general donations.

Last year's balance at the time of the WDA conference was \$21,593.32. Thus, our total balance has remained fairly steady.

A check will also be paid/ transferred shortly in the amount of \$5,000 for this year's research grant proposal winner (see below). We have another pending transaction of \$452 to help cover the remaining cost of registration for 11 students to attend the virtual WDA conference.

Activities

Travel Awards to International members to attend the annual conference:

This year, we have not advertised the travel awards because there is not an annual conference. However, we did contribute to the registration of WVS student members to the annual conference, as part of the Morris Animal Foundation support. Jointly we supported 11 students and WVS contributed \$452 towards that effort.

We expect to resume our travel grants for international members for the 2022 annual conference.

Research Award

This was the second year that the WDA WVS offered a research award. We did so independently of the Small Grants Committee. To diversify our expertise, we also solicited additional members to help with the scoring of the awards. The officers of the WVS and other members met to score and discuss the awards. We received 35 qualified applications. The top 5 applications required additional review and scoring as they were within 0.5 points of each other, exemplifying the quality of the proposals. We elected to only award one award this year. We selected as the winner **Dr. Michele Miller for a proposal entitled "Improving antemortem diagnosis of Mycobacterium bovis in free-ranging African rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*, *Ceratotherium simum*) using the Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra assay"**.

Trilateral Webinar

In the fall of 2020, the officers of WDA WVS reached out to the officers of AAWV and the TWS WDWG and we decided to offer a bimonthly webinar series for our memberships. This is an added-value benefit and (at times) offers CE for veterinarians. It is announced through the WDA, TWS WDWG and AAWV listserves, features a speaker whose work has broad appeal for all 3 organizations and takes place mid-month during the noon hour (EST). Thus far we have hosted 4 speakers with the highest attendance of 104 and the lowest of 57 members. We feel this is a great way to keep the WDA family connected year-around and continue to strengthen our relationship with our sister organizations. We needed a student member to help with organization/logistics and agreed to provide free membership to WDA for that member. The current person in that role is Julia Silva Seixas. We will search for a new student organizer in the fall of 2021, to begin in January 2022.

Communications

The officers communicated approximately once per month through Zoom calls. The officers communicated with the membership through various announcements via Facebook, Instagram, email listserv and through the WDA announcements.

Elections

In August of 2020, we held elections during which all of the officers presented for an additional term, and a new position was created (Communications Officer). The current officers were elected. On August, 2021, the Chair, Sonia Hernandez will be installed as the WDA Vice-President, and thus we collectively agreed to hold an additional election for the WDA WVS Chair. However, despite announcements to the membership, we have not received interest for a new candidate.

2021 Business Meeting

The membership will meet via zoom in late August or early September around the time of the annual WDA conference via Zoom. The business meeting agenda will include:

- 1) Updates of the election and solicitation for a new Chair
- 2) Revamping of the Bylaws and a vote for new Bylaws
- 3) Re-organization on how to solicit for the Research Award and a formal scoring committee
- 4) Continued coordination and participation of the Trilateral Webinar and solicitation for a new student logistics coordinator for January 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia M. Hernandez, Chair, on behalf of the Wildlife Veterinary Section

Officers:

Julia Burco-Treasurer

Sandie Black-Secretary

Daniella Guzman-Student Member

Michelle Kneeland-Communications