

## Our Origins and Story

On 28th July 1980, a total of 25 odd veterinary medicine specialists representing 15 different states agricultural universities of the country gathered at the Department of Veterinary Medicine, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana to attend the valedictory function as the participants of an ICAR sponsored Summer Institute on 'production diseases with particular reference to rumen dysfunction'. Along with them were the learned faculty members of the Department of Veterinary Medicine of PAU Ludhiana under the able leadership of the Director of Summer Institute Dr. S.K. Mishra. The participants and faculty members univocally expressed their desire that a common platform be created in the country for the teachers, research workers, extension specialists and field veterinarians with specialization in veterinary medicine who are devoted to the cause of animal health. They nominated an ad hoc committee under the leadership of Dr. S.K. Mishra, Prof. and Head, Department of Veterinary Medicine, PAU Ludhiana to formulate the modalities for such an association and register it with the Registrar of Societies besides mobilizing more people to join the association. Dr. P.C. Choudhuri was assigned the task of the General secretary-cum-Treasurer. Dr. S.R. Bansal of HAU Hisar, Dr. D.B. Sarode of Nagpur Veterinary College, Dr. A. Chakrabarti of Veterinary College, Calcutta and Dr. T. Ganesh of Bangalore Veterinary College, were chosen as the Regional Secretaries. The 'Office bearers' of the newly created society were also entrusted with the responsibility of bringing out a research journal exclusively devoted to Veterinary Medicine. Subsequent meeting of this committee took place on 29/12/1980 in the Department of Medicine of PAU, Ludhiana and a draft constitution of the society was prepared and approved. The committee also elected Dr. P. Rai of Veterinary College Mathura as the Vice-President of the Society and Dr. B.B. Verma of Ranchi Veterinary College as the Chief Editor of the proposed research journal christened as Indian Journal of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. S.K. Ray of College of Veterinary Science, Bhubaneswar, Dr. S. Dhar of College of Veterinary Science, Hisar and Dr. P.A. Balu of Madras Veterinary College were to act as Editors of journal. In addition to the four regional secretaries already nominated, names of Dr. N.N. Pandey of IVRI and Dr. S.N. Das of Maiduguri (Nigeria) were included as regional secretaries central region and abroad, respectively, by the committee.

In less than 6 months, the idea of creating a platform for the 'people devoted to the cause of animal health' flourished and The Indian Society for Veterinary Medicine was registered on 27.1.1860 with the Register, Firms and Society, Punjab under the Society Act XXI of 1860 as amended by Punjab Amendment Act, 1957. Subsequently the office bearers of the society mailed letters to the Departments of Medicine of different veterinary colleges and research institutions inviting suggestions for the betterment of the society. The credit of preparing the insignia of the society goes to Dr. Jagdip Singh Lotey, a first years year student of B.V.Sc & A.H. at Veterinary college, PAU, Ludhiana.

The newly founded society achieved a significant milestone in its progress when the inaugural issue of the Indian Journal of Veterinary Medicine was published in December 1981. It was a great achievement by all standards because in addition to sound financial position, regular availability of standard research, clinical and review articles is an essential prerequisite for bringing out an internationally acceptable periodical. The first issue itself contained one review article on 'The role of rumen microbes in ruminant digestion' written by the noted rumen microbiologist Prof. R.E. Hungate of the University of California, Davis, USA. There were 16 full length papers including clinical articles, and one short communication in the issue. This issue of the journal also contained message from the union Minister of Agriculture, Rural Reconstruction, Irrigation, Government of India and the Director General ICAR cum secretary, DARE besides letter to the editor and tips to vets. The total expenditure incurred on the publication of the issue was Rs.6,000 out of which Rs.2,500 were collected advertisement tariff. The journal was registered as a biannual publication at the press Branch of the Home Department, Government of Punjab with the Regd.No. 1/114/18642 dated 13.11.81.

During the subsequent years, the society blossomed into a successful and active organization providing a scientific platform to the veterinary professionals, in general and Veterinary Medicine specialists in particular. The editorial in June 1982 issue of IJVM emphasizing the demand of NPA for veterinarians and that in December 1982 for revising curricula of B. V.Sc. & A.H., holding of National symposia on the topics relevant to the animal health problems in the country, and institution of various kinds of appreciation awards are some of the notable examples which signify concern of the society in this direction. It is also not out of place to mention that the journal of the ISVM is regular in its publication and bears an ISSN number. The society has so far organized 26 National Symposia during the 26 years of its existence. The Silver jubilee Convention of ISVM was held at College of Veterinary and Animal science, Pantnagar in February 2007. The number of life members has risen to over 1250 and the financial position of the society is very sound. There are thirteen awards given under aegis of the society to the researchers and academicians in the discipline of veterinary medicine for their overall contributions in

different sub disciplines such as Indigenous medicine, canine medicine, bovine medicine, poultry medicine, etc. On the occasion of Silver jubilee convention, Society has decided to start a Scholarship Programme for P.G. Students in Veterinary Medicine. The society has associated itself with international forum- The world Association of Buiatrics. The Indian Society for Veterinary Medicine is on the forefront of the scientific organizations not only in India but abroad also.

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