

Editorial news and events

Concluding remarks and closing

of the International Symposium “Nutritional and Hormonal Factors
in Regulation of Growth, Development
and Productivity of Animals”
hold 21-22 June, 2005 in Serock, Poland

Dear Director, Professor Jacek Skomial,
Dear Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Professor Teresa Żebrowska,
Dear members of the Organizing Committee and Secretariate,
Dear colleagues and friends,
Dear participants,

It is a big honour and a great pleasure to have been asked to close this symposium: The 34th International Symposium with the title: “Nutritional and hormonal factors in regulation of growth, development and productivity of animals”.

However, first let me dwell a little bit at the reason for this symposium: The 50th anniversary of the Kielanowski Institute of Animal Physiology and Nutrition, Polish Academy of Sciences, Jabłonna.

In 1965 I was in the last year of my M.Sc. studies, when my professor in pig breeding and nutrition, prof. dr. Hjalmar Clausen, sent me to various institutes in Poland and especially to Jabłonna to meet with Professor Kielanowski and his staff. Professor Kielanowski was a close friend of Professor Clausen and many Polish scientists visited us in Copenhagen at the National Institute of Animal Science and *vice versa*. At that time Professor Kielanowski's work on slaughter experiments, nutritional effects on the composition of the carcass and its quality was highly esteemed in all the world. I was very impressed by Professor Kielanowski as a person and as a scientist.

¹ Materials of the Symposium published in Journal of Animal and Feed Sciences Vol. 14, Supplement 1 (581 pp.) - invited and offered short papers are available

Over the years a deep friendship has developed between our institutes. I am sure that this is the case with many of the participants here. What has been special about this symposium is indeed that most foreign guests are old friends. I have always felt that one of your mottoes in the Kielanowski Institute is: Our friends are your friends! And that is one reason why we all feel like one big family! This is also the main reason, why the symposia arranged by you are always special: They are held in a phantastic friendly atmosphere with a cordial concern about every one, and of course always with a high scientific standard. - And you have done it again! This symposium has been outstanding, and the 50 years of experience have certainly been put into the efforts to give us all, not only scientific inputs, but also talks and much motivation to carry on.

In our country it is said at the 50 years anniversary of a person: You are now entering the adulthood! It means that you are still a young Institute, but you are expected to have much experience and can take over high responsibilities. It also means that you have the necessary background to fight problems and challenges ahead. I would like to mention one area where you do not have exactly 50 years of experience. That is the edition of Journal of Animal and Feed Sciences, at least not in the English version I congratulate Jan Kowalczyk to this excellent work, and thanks a lot for having managed to publish all the papers, a total 581, pages in time.

I think that all institutes in Europe within animal nutrition and physiology are facing problems and challenges. We are all standing at a cross-way facing old and new topics. For many years, efficiency of production and yields of production have been the goal, resulting in fewer and bigger farms with bigger herds, and technical tools easing the daily work. Fewer people in the countryside have resulted in fewer students choosing agricultural studies. The to-day and future production - be it conventional, be it organic - furthermore requires attention to safety of the production and products, concern to animal health and welfare, of human health and welfare and concern to environmental pollution with nutrients, gases and odour i.e. sustainability to all aspects of production!

We are facing a rapid development within biotechnology - genomics, proteomics, metabonomics, nutrigenomics and other-omics technologies that requires new expensive equipment and development of bioinformatics. So the holistic approach - studies in and on the whole animal-together with investigations at the organ, tissue, cellular, subcellular and gene level will have to go hand in hand to create the tiger jump forward within nutrition and physiology - in health and disease.

This symposium has focused on all these aspects and the regulatory factors. We also have experienced that the rat is still a favourite as a model animal. The pig should perhaps be considered a better model. Now about 50% of the porcine genome has been gene mapped.

Much work is being done and still has to be done on evaluating the feed value, effects of nutrients and energy in the organism, the composition of the carcass, milk and eggs, productivity and effect of feed additives on performance and diarrhoea, the health promoting effects of feed and food for animals and humans.

Dr. Flachowsky clearly demonstrated that both the classical and new methodologies to assess the feed value and safety of genetically modified plants and plant components are necessary to use, and that new rather complicated approaches must be included for future measurements.

Dr. Metges proposed the foetal nutrition affecting prenatal growth and health and disease in adult life to be a hot topic for the next 10 years. I fully agree. This epoch has started already - programming of metabolism is another word for it.

Functional feed - functional food is another hot topic presented by dr. Pisulewski with PUFA and CLA as examples, and also many posters are dealing with this topic.

Dr. Sawosz and Dr. Madej have focused on stress-related changes in the organism and the effects of antioxidants on these parameters, topics which are not new, but still need more detailed investigations.

Very exciting studies on the nutritional and hormonal regulation of gut mucosa and pancreas secretion were presented by dr. Zabielski, dr. Guilloteau and dr. Pierzynowski. Much expectation to solve these complex problems is given from us all. We hope that you one day have the key to create a strong, robust GIT with no or a minimum of diseases such as diarrhoea.

Today Dr. Jouany presented exciting insight into a hot topic mycotoxins, substances that intimidate feed and thereby food safety. Thank you for reminding us that the results obtained *in vitro* should be validated *in vivo* before putting too much attention and expectation to the results.

Dr. Huhtanen picked up a traditional area within nutrition. The feed evaluation systems. We learnt that there are critical drawbacks still with the systems used in different countries. One thing which I have never understood - at least not from a scientific point of view - is: Why must each country have at least one system? Why can we not have the same system? - This is not a subject of discussion now!

Dr. Skiba and on Monday Dr. Fandrejewski focused on some new aspects of what I would like to call an elegant continuation of the slaughter experiments carried out at the time of Professor Kielanowski. Investigations on protein, fat and energy deposition and utilization in the pig. I think you are the first to have proven through your systematic studies that compensatory growth does occur in the pig. Congratulation to this achievement.

As pointed out during the discussions by Dr. Snochowski: We shall not forget the microflora!

And so we have through lectures and poster showings been taken on a thorough and exciting sightseeing over these 3 days on nutritional and hormonal factors in regulation of growth, development and productivity of animals as was promised by the title of the symposium.

We have now come to the end of this symposium. I kindly ask all participants to stand up and together with me express our sincere thanks to the organizing committee and the secretariate for an excellent symposium, well-arranged, with love and affection. Thank you so much.

I hereby close this symposium!

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