

## **Editorial**

The creation of the International Society of Camelid Research and Development (ISOCARD) during the 2006 Al-Ain camel conference in UAE was a milestone and an important step for all scientists from all over the world working on Camelid. At the same time, the first elected members of the ISOCARD Executive Council decided to establish the *Journal of Camelid Sciences* as the official journal for the society to promote and disseminate new knowledge on Camelid through a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Three previous issues were published in 2008, 2009 and 2010. The publication of the fourth issue (2011) of the journal coincides with organization of the third ISOCARD conference 2012 in Muscat, Oman. This demonstrates that the international network of Camelid scientists is now well planted in the landscape of Camelid research worldwide.

The editorial board of the journal faced many challenges in all journal issues published since 2008. Many of the manuscripts submitted for publication required major revision, responses from the authors and reviewers were very slow and lack of secretarial support for the Editor-in-Chief were some of the challenges that resulted in delayed publication of most issues. Producing a high quality scientific journal requires a collective effort from authors, external reviewers and members of the editorial boards. There is no doubt that the *Journal of Camelid Sciences* will be more attractive in the future for Camelid researchers to communicate the result of their research to a wider scientific community because the journal is published and governed by an international society that is committed to serve Camelid.

Sustaining publication of the *Journal of Camelid Sciences* is certainly one of ISOCARD Executive Council's achievements. Other achievements include the launch of an online encyclopedia on Camelid (*Camelpedia*), supporting the creation of different national camel associations, an active website that posts all the main events related to Camelid, and a database on the Camelid scientists (who's who in Camelid sciences). Members of the executive council also participated in several national and international events regarding small and large Camelid and, more generally, have facilitated contacts between scientists from different countries. ISOCARD also contributed to international debates and sent press releases, notably regarding the proposal by Australian authorities to cull wild camels in order to limit global warming.

Yet, those efforts are not sufficient to ensure the continuation of an effective society. ISOCARD must establish a strong financial foundation by diversifying funding resources such as collecting membership fees, establishing endowed chairs, and soliciting research funds to support young scientists. The success and the sustainability of ISOCARD is the responsibility of all Camelid scientists from all over the world.

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