

IVAS Congress in Brazil:

I am very grateful to the ABVA members who sent me to IVAS congress in Brazil as your representative. The congress was so warmly hosted by the Brazilians in an outstanding environment; they definitely get credit for creating an atmosphere of international comraderie. The program was so well balanced with excellent material from all the keynote speakers. It was a real privilege to take part.

In the HOD (House of Delegates) meeting I was asked to explain the situation that led to the independent formation of our current ABVA veterinary acupuncture course. When I feared there might still be a hostile reaction to this, I was floored by the positive responses and the interest to use our example to further evaluate the current IVAS course. There was a wish expressed to reach an accomodating position of IVAS approval of the ABVA course with a potential for IVAS certification of our students. This does still require a good deal of work from their Education Committee (of which I am also still a member) to make a final determination; at present I can only say that there is a genuine spirit of cooperation at play between IVAS and ABVA. The changes in the IVAS collective attitude and determination to be a truly international body was very welcomed. IVAS also has thrown their basic course requirements up for thorough review and debate in order to enhance its standing.

At the end of the meeting I was proposed and seconded to be voted onto the IVAS Board of Directors. They either liked what we are about or its a clever ploy to wear me out with extra work until I can't put up any more resistance! The resistance I have been putting up is to force CHANGE! That is the key to survival in any organization, and it requires motivated members. IVAS is now actually responsive to the motivated members from many countries and is becoming a worthwhile organization. I was one of its biggest critics, but I also made constructive criticism. I can now assure you it is a worthwhile organization to be part of and to contribute to. I encourage you to take out the supplemental IVAS affiliated membership and to make plans for the next Congress - on our doorstep in Ostende, Belgium. And I also want to see more ABVA members take a proactive role within the ABVA, express an interest to work on the committee and be a future delegate to IVAS HOD. If you wish to increase the accessibilty of acupuncture to our animal friends then you need to support a collective effort through your participation in ABVA.

Our course is proving to be a success as judged by the current students. We will be looking to extend the education opportunities in advanced acupuncture courses. We will be working towards recognition from the RVC and the veterinary colleges. We are working towards extending the availability of acupuncture to all. If you want to play a role in helping us achieve these things - please let one of us know!

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