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## Foreword

In 2103, the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation. Over the last 50 years, the WAAVP has done much to accomplish its original aims; to encourage research in veterinary parasitology and promote the application of that research to the field of animal health. There is, of course, still much more to be done. The challenges that lie ahead are immense. The world must feed a rapidly growing population with dwindling arable land and water resources; new parasitic diseases of people and domestic animals are emerging as global trade expands and people move into new environments; there is an accelerating rate of wildlife extinctions, which in many cases involve parasitic diseases; and our options for parasite control are threatened by the widespread development of resistance to antiparasitic drugs. All of this against a backdrop of environmental degradation on both a local scale, for example through habitat loss and point source pollution, and a global scale, through anthropogenic climate change.

This volume brings together plenary papers presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the WAAVP, held in Perth, Western Australia, from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, and hosted by the Australian Society for Parasitology. The papers deal with many of these challenges that are confronting veterinary parasitologists. They cover topics such as animal production and food security, companion animals and vector-borne diseases, zoonotic transmission of parasites, and new approaches to parasite prophylactics and therapeutics. Woven through these papers is the concept of one world health or one health; the inherent relatedness of the health of people, other animals and the environment, and hence the need to integrate medical, veterinary and environmental science. This was the overarching theme of the conference and, we believe, will continue to be a major unifying concept for veterinary parasitology and veterinary parasitologists through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

We would like to thank the scientific program committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the WAAVP, the Australian Society for Parasitology, our sponsoring organisations and our plenary speakers for helping to put together the diverse and stimulating array of topics which are presented in the following papers.

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