Preface

In July 2000, the 14th International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR) was held in Stockholm, Sweden. The preparation for the congress was initiated more than 6 years earlier. In February 1994, representatives of the Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish sections of the Nordic Societies of Theriogenology met in Uppsala, and a decision was taken to prepare a joint invitation to host the first ICAR congress in the new millennium. The site for the congress was decided to be Stockholm International Fairs, a modern congress centre in the southern part of Stockholm. With great help and financial support from our congress bureau, CONGREX Sweden, a bid was prepared and presented to the members of the Standing and Executive Committees of ICAR. At the 13th ICAR in Sydney in 1996, the Nordic countries and Stockholm got the majority of votes and were elected hosts and site for the 14th ICAR in the year 2000.

A historical connection makes it all the more special for Sweden and Stockholm to be the site for the Congress. The late Nils Lagerlöf, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Royal Veterinary College, Stockholm, was one of the proponents behind the first ICAR, which was held in Milan, Italy, in 1948. Professor Lagerlöf was appointed President of the International Standing Committee of ICAR upon its founding. He held this position from 1948 until 1961. Ever since the start, the attendance from the Nordic countries has been high.

It is a great responsibility to be the host for ICAR, and organising a congress of this size must be a teamwork. Therefore, a Nordic Committee was formed, comprising representatives of the host countries under the chairmanship of Stig Einarsson, former Secretary General of the ICAR Executive Committee. Scientists from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and from agricultural organisations in Sweden were recruited to form a Local Organising Committee with the task to practically organise the congress.

The very important task of working out the scientific programme was given to the Scientific Programme Committee, comprised of scientists from the host countries. Acting on the advice of numerous international scientists, speakers who are internationally recognised in their fields were chosen by the Scientific Programme Committee. Different topics including in vitro gamete and embryo technology, gamete preservation, semen sexing, life quality of the offspring, reproductive health, along with areas of applied reproductive biology, were addressed. Reproduction under tropical conditions was highlighted, as well as recent trends in reproduction of domestic animals. A variety
of species including arctic animals, buffaloes, birds and fish were included in the programme.

This book, containing the 59 plenary and symposia papers presented, is the final proof of efforts made by a large group of people. On behalf of the Local Organising Committee, I wish to express sincere thanks to the members of the scientific committee: Erik Ropstad, Terttu Katila, Torben Greve, and chaired by Hans Kindahl. A special thank goes to Mats Forsberg for taking the main responsibility for the editing process and the delivery of all manuscripts for printing in accordance with our timetable.

A scientific programme is dependent on individual contributions from scientists. Hence, I express my sincere appreciation to all the lecturers for their enthusiastic acknowledgement of the invitation and for preparing their manuscripts, although after some reminders, in time.

On behalf of the Guest Editors, I acknowledge with sincere gratitude the invaluable help from numerous persons all over the world for refereeing of the manuscripts. A full list of the reviewers appears below.

The congress would not have been possible without a generous financial sponsorship. We are in particular indebted to the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and the Swedish Dairy Association, providing support both in the form of personal working hours and money. We heartily acknowledge great financial support from the Swedish Ministry of Agriculture, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and De Laval.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the support of all people, too numerous to mention individually, who contributed to the success of the ICAR 2000 in Stockholm.

H. Gustafsson

Local Organising Committee,
ICAR 2000,
Sweden
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