Foreword

Since the publication of ‘The Semen of Animals and its Use for Artificial Insemination’ (Anderson, 1945), and subsequent appearance of ‘The Semen of Animals and Artificial Insemination’ which was edited by J.P. Maule (1962), a great amount of research and development has been accumulated on semen storage. The aim of this publication is to give an account of the current knowledge, new findings and techniques on storage of semen and to identify areas requiring further research.

Storage of semen can be regarded as a special branch of applied reproductive biology. Its successful application requires both basic and practical knowledge. In the present publication, the intention has been to keep a balance between the fundamental details, serving as a compass, and useful practical information. A logical sequence has been retained within the chapters, which have been compiled by several specialist contributors, and any overlap between chapters serves only to reinforce the attention on the importance of the subject. We, as editors, kept our interference within the limits of usefulness, without overstepping our role, and we express our thanks to the contributors for their collaboration when asked for clarification, improvement and amendment.

The omission of a chapter on the horse may raise strong criticism. Regretfully, all our efforts to commission a chapter on this subject have been fruitless, as none of the acknowledged equine specialists responded positively to our invitations. It is possible that the horse is now considered only as a sporting or companion species. It is gratifying to be able to include chapters on the new and old world camelids, and on certain breeds of deer; which nowadays can be regarded as farm animals. For the benefit of readers, in addition to storage of semen of camelids, deer, goats and buffalos, some information has also been included on their reproductive biology, and on the collection and characteristics of their semen.

Regarding the reference lists for each chapter, the general trend has been to provide selected articles and reviews to enable the reader to follow the developments and consult the literature. Due to the limits on length of each chapter, some questions probably remain unanswered. In this case, a search of the literature may help the reader to obtain the answer.
Grateful tribute is due to Margaret Byrne for the painstaking work in preparation of this manuscript.

S. Salamon
C. Maxwell
The University of Sydney,
Dept. of Animal Science,
Sydney NSW 2006, Australia
E-mail address: chism@vetsci.usyd.edu.au
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* Corresponding author. Tel.: +61-29-351-4864; fax: +61-29-351-3957.