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RECIPIENT OF THE 2003 PIONEER AWARD KEITH J. BETTERIDGE, B.V.Sc., M.V.Sc., Ph.D.

By

Torben Greve

Keith Betteridge received his B.V.Sc. from the University of Bristol in 1959, his M.V.Sc. from the University of Toronto in 1961 and his Ph.D. from the University of Reading in 1966. In 1967, Dr. Betteridge joined Agriculture Canada as head of the Physiology Section at the Animal Diseases Research Institute, Ottawa where he worked for 13 years. In 1980, he became Director of the Centre de Recherche en Reproduction Animale (CRRA) of the Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire, Université de Montréal. From 1986 until his becoming University Professor Emeritus in 1996, He held the first NSERC-Semex (Smiley-Reeds-McDonald) Research Chair in Animal Biotechnology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Ontario Veterinary College, at the University of Guelph. Dr. Keith Betteridge is a founder member of the IETS, was president for the Society 1996–1997 and has chaired the Pioneer Award Committee for a number of years. Dr. Betteridge has made a significant contribution to the field of domestic animal embryo transfer documented by more than hundred research papers, book chapters, abstracts and participation in international meetings. The team of which he was part made the first transatlantic shipment of pig embryos in 1970 [14], produced Canada's first calf resulting from embryo transfer in 1972 [1] and the first sexed calf in 1975, presented at the International Congress on Animal Reproduction and AI in Krakow in 1976 [9] and in *Theriogenology* [6]. He and his colleagues have since then conducted research aimed at understanding and manipulating the development of mammalian embryos in ways that will advance the commercial use of embryo transfer in the domestic species, especially cattle and horses. To mention a few: production of sexed calves from frozen embryos [11], in vitro production of cattle embryos [13], embryo metabolism [12], production of embryos by blastomere separation [7] and finally cloning using oögonia [8]. His interest in embryo transfer in horses and in equine reproduction in general is legendary. When at CRRA, he and his team produced Quebec's first embryo transfer foal and the equine conceptus received great attention in a publication from 1982 [2]. His contribution to the description of the equine capsule is highly unique [3,10] and the horse work is still predominant indicated by presentation of a number of papers and abstracts at equine reproduction meetings [4]. Recently, Dr. Betteridge wrote the Foreword to the Eighth International Symposium on Equine Reproduction held in Fort Collins, Colorado [5]. In 1995, he was elected to the International Equine Reproduction

Symposia Committee for an 8-year term, in 2000 became Chairman of the Committee, and in 2002 was re-elected to that position. Dr. Betteridge has given invited lectures at numerous occasions and he really is a gifted and unique lecturer. He is disciplined and prepared in great detail. No excess slides or overheads and the time kept! This has been witnessed by many of us also at the IETS meetings. He has supervised a large number of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the field of embryos transfer and his laboratories have been visited by a large number of international scientists. Dr. Betteridge received the Award for Excellence from the Equine Research Centre, University of Guelph in 1993; the same year he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Dr. Keith Betteridge is a worthy recipient of the 2003 IETS Pioneer Award through his unique contribution to embryo transfer and advanced embryo-technologies in domestic animals.

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