

# 2011 RECIPIENT

## IETS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



The recipient of the IETS Distinguished Service Award is a person who is expected to have made many contributions over a number of years to areas that are fundamental to our society. These areas can be described in different ways, but one good place to look is the IETS by-laws under the heading “Purposes.” There it reads, “The Society shall further the science of embryo production, development and transfer,” and then a number of specific points are mentioned. There are many ways to fulfill these purposes, and Torben Greve, who is the recipient of this year’s Distinguished Service Award, has found his way of doing it. This is why we will honor him today. Greve is from Denmark, and he has been an IETS member almost since the society’s start in 1974. He has attended almost every annual conference since then. Furthermore, Greve has been a board member of the IETS and served as president from 1983 to 1984. Through the years Greve has added to the value of the IETS in several of the ways mentioned as the society’s purposes. A few of them will be mentioned now. Superovulation,

embryo handling, and embryo transfer in cattle was a focus area of Greve’s research from his early years at the veterinary university in Copenhagen. Practical problems and considerations were key issues, and Greve’s experiments were performed in close collaboration with practice. Greve created a fundament for the introduction and further development of embryo technologies in cattle and other farm animals over the next 20 years. In such a broad field, covering several technologies and most farm animal species, some areas or disciplines become favorites, and for Greve it has always been the clinical and the surgical part and having hands and eyes on the embryos. Practical application and promoting the effective research has thus been a natural part of Greve’s focus. A significant part of Greve’s work has been to provide scientific and educational information. Greve has contributed to more than 200 articles and book chapters in the scientific literature and to many scientific conferences and meetings where he has been an invited speaker, session chairman, or active participant. Education of veterinary students and veterinary colleagues as well as making more general information available to the public has also taken a fair part of Greve’s time. The extent of these activities, in Denmark, the Nordic countries, the European Union, and internationally, reflects both the high level of Greve’s scientific knowledge and his high standards in the way he passes on his messages. In all contexts, Greve is respected for his scientific knowledge and for his positive attitude and willingness to discuss difficult issues, such as ethical aspects of the controversy in handling mammalian embryos. Another important aspect of Greve’s work has been his involvement in the work of many research students, PhDs, postdocs, or other colleagues who have spent time at the university in Copenhagen under Greve’s supervision and guidance. Many used that time to establish their own careers in research—several of you are here today. The fact that Denmark has been so well represented at many of the IETS conferences over the last 20 years can also be credited to Greve. He has encouraged his students to come, has given priority to the necessary funding for their travels, and has offered his students important first contacts with his scientific colleagues and friends around the world—a kick-start for a young student and something never to forget. This is a prime example of Greve’s high standards of education. Many people have found Copenhagen and Greve’s laboratory to be pleasant places to visit and work, filled with good research and a good atmosphere. The most serious research work can be very well combined with a good laugh. Over the years Greve has received much recognition for his scientific achievements, and he has also been awarded several academic honors, as well as several research prizes. Today, it is my pleasure and honor to add to these achievements on behalf of the IETS. Torben Greve is a true scientist who has made many contributions over the last 20 to 25 years in the areas that are fundamental to our society and that are recognized worldwide. Through his work and way of working, he has committed himself to IETS goals and objectives throughout the years. As such, Torben Greve is a most worthy recipient of the 2011 IETS Distinguished Service Award.