

Affiliate Society Committee Meeting
Monday, January 21
New Orleans, Louisiana
Grand Couteau

Attending: Richard Fayrer-Hosken, Chair Affiliate Committee; Barbara Durrant, Affiliate Committee; Gabriel Bo, (SATE); Marcelo Seneda,(SBTE); Jeremy Thompson, Affiliate Committee; Matt Wheeler, Affiliate Committee; Daniel Salamone, President IETS; Matt Iager, (AETA); Matt Dorshorst, (AETA); Louis Picard, (CETA); Yutaka Hashiyada, (EJETS); Jo Leroy, (AETE); Anna Lezama, (META); Salvador Romo, (META); Flavio Meirelles, (SBTE); Frans Jooste, (SAVSEG); Davide Bolognini, (SIET); Charles Rosenkrans, IETS; Dimitrios Rizos, IETS; Katrin Hinrichs, IETS; Pablo Ross, IETS; Cindy Tian, IETS; and Pascale Chavatte-Palmer, IETS

After introductions, Richard Fayrer-Hosken opened the meeting and reported that the affiliate committee had worked on two international meetings, Columbia and the latest being the meeting in Peru. He encouraged everyone to submit their ideas for the RETAs, and then the committee will meet on Tuesday morning and set up a plan to utilize the submitted ideas.

What do the affiliates expect to receive from an IETS conference and what can IETS do to make the conference more attractive to the affiliate members?

Gabriel feels that the affiliate societies want to have a good relationship with IETS. Most of the affiliate society members are practitioners, and they want to learn the best practices and technology. In South America, the time of the meeting is a problem, as it is summer time in South America and they are on vacation. The attendee will look at the program, but they will also look at the location, to see if they can bring their family and if it is a place where they want to vacation and if there is easy access to the location. Attractiveness of the location is more important than cost of the travel. IETS has also taken in account a good place to take students, places that are affordable.

AETA reported that they had a record meeting in Orland, Florida last year. AETA meets with CETA in the US every two years and then in Canada. This year, they voted that every six years, they would meet in Madison, Wisconsin, on the tail end of the World Dairy Expo. Maybe, IETS should think about meeting every six years in Orlando. It was a record meeting and had great attendance. By setting up revolving years at the same venue, you can get better deals for room rates and on AV and F&B.

The Board of Governors knows the importance of practitioners attending the conference and for 2020 has set up a special presentation session and abstract format just for them. The session is titled, case reports and field data.

The affiliate have requested more concurrent sessions and oral presentations in the program. It is very important to include the practitioners. Having more practitioners also increases exhibitors and sponsorships. The Board may also look at including translators for the meeting, example, Spanish and Portuguese.

It was also stated that sometimes people would not submit an abstract or a poster, because of the language problem, that they are not fluent in English. IETS could have some members who would work with the presenter on their abstract and poster to bring it up to standards for publication.

Richard Fayrer-Hosken stated after Edwin Mellisho reported on the meeting in Peru, this is an IETS supported meeting. IETS members were speakers and IETS help fund the meeting. There were over 300 attendees, and it was very well planned and had a much-defined budget. An excellent example of affiliate working together to promote embryo technology. What can we do in your environment and put on courses or enhance your courses?

It is up to the societies themselves to determine how they can expand the educational capacity of their society working with the affiliate societies.

IETS needs to have clarification of what they want to do with the Affiliate Society Committee and what does IETS receive from the program.

Have the committee, reach out to the societies with a letter and ask what IETS can do to help you, with limited resources, and then send responses to the committee. The committee ask that the IETS Board look over the proposal with an open view and respond in ways to help and promote the program.

Richard Fayrer-Hosken asked about expanding in to Japan or Asia.

Money is not a problem for the people of China to come to the meetings; they prefer to go to the European meetings instead of the US. Neither China nor India submit reports on data.

One factor for the outreach is if it is harder for attendees to get in to the United States, due to visas and other government problems, this is an excellent way to reach them by going to their countries and supporting them.

Richard closed the meeting, by giving all of the affiliates an assignment. Go back and see what the IETS Affiliate Society Committee can do for you or people you know or in people in the next country, that we can have more efforts to assist and spread the wonderment of embryo technology. Send us your ideas, no matter how they sound.

Action item: Send out letter to all affiliates highlighting the meeting and requesting ideas.

IETS Affiliate Society Committee (ASC) will develop Regional Embryo Technology Alliances (RETAs). RETA will seek to assimilate as many local embryo technology associations or embryo transfer professionals as possible into the local affiliate society (AS). RETAs will assist in the development of and sponsorship of educational, and basic and cutting edge technology courses involving embryo technologies, to meet the needs and demands of the AS community.

The first region is to be South America and Central America. The core premises for all outreach programs will be:

1. RETA outreach courses, when offered in different locations, must be delivered in the indigenous language(s) for lecture presentations, lecture slides, discussions and notes.
2. With consideration of local economic pressures, the RETA outreach courses will be priced at reasonable **local** market prices.
3. Local practitioners that join their local RETA will thus be associate members of IETS. For this interaction, we hope local practitioners will be able to download the IETS Manual in the language of their choice.
4. Consider translation for local attendees at foreign meetings.
5. Consider allowing affiliate society practitioners to be able to register for the IETS annual meeting as an IETS member.