

2007 Recipient IETS Distinguished Service Award

David Stringfellow



Award Presentation: Tuesday, January 9 at 11:00

Most members of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) have met with, talked to, or heard about Professor David Stringfellow because of the excellence of his research as applied to embryo transfer and because of his exceptional commitment to the IETS.

Professor D. A. Stringfellow, DVM, MS, started his career as a veterinary practitioner in Pennsylvania (USA), where he experienced food animal practice and gained an appreciation for the support practitioners needed from the academic world, something he never forgot.

Stringfellow worked several years with the United States Department of Agriculture before he took a position at Auburn University (AL), where he has applied his expertise in epidemiology, microbiology, cattle production and embryo transfer during lectures at the veterinary college. In the early 1980s, he began to generate original research on embryo-pathogen interactions, first with bacteria such as *Brucella* and then with mycoplasmas and viruses such as Herpes- or Pestiviruses. Stringfellow published dozens of papers on this topic and became a world leader in the area.

Very early in the development of his research, Stringfellow was aware of the importance of healthy, pathogen-free embryos for use in the transfer industry. As early as in 1984, together with other friends from North America and Europe, he became a member of the newly formed IETS Import/Export Committee, now known as the Health and Safety Advisory Committee (HASAC). He very rapidly took a preponderant place in the Research Subcommittee of which he became the chair close to ten years ago. For the last decade, he has monitored with extreme efficiency the IETS/HASAC, embryo-pathogen research data base (the Research Update) which is the most comprehensive source of information worldwide on this topic and is easily accessible by IETS members (www.iets.org).

For over two decades, not only did Dr. Stringfellow publish and present many key papers, including those at IETS conferences, but he also made great contributions to three consecutive revisions of the IETS Manual. He and S. M. Seidel edited the third edition, which was released in 1998. Dr. Stringfellow reviewed all technical components of the manual with the greatest care! He has also used his expertise to advise many North American and other practitioners to help the embryo transfer industry become the safest way to exchange genes.

The whole embryo transfer industry and particularly members of the IETS owe him a great deal of gratitude, which is why Professor D. A. Stringfellow is being presented with the 2007 IETS Distinguished award.