

*April 2015*

I have great pleasure in inviting you to attend the Spring meeting of the Pig Veterinary Society. I would like to thank Boehringer Ingelheim for their generous sponsorship of what promises to be an interesting and enjoyable meeting.

Jill Thomson and Mick Hazzledine have organised a varied and engaging programme with an impressive line up of speakers. On the first day we will be revisiting topical (and worrying) diseases with updates on both PEDv and PRRS. The second day focusses on nutrition and the environment.

As my year as PVS President comes to an end I look forward to handing over the Presidency to Mandy Nevel. It has been a busy time for all the executive and the sub groups as there has been a real need for PVS to be a visible (and vocal) presence in a number of important and ongoing issues. How we are permitted to use medication with the real threat of restriction and the dark shadow of antimicrobial resistance has taken centre stage – our presence in this debate is vital for the welfare and productivity of the pig industry.

As you will be aware, there is a requirement for all Red Tractor units to provide an annual collation of antibiotic use, this will be audited from October 2015. We have been working closely with the NPA and feed companies to create a sensible method of collating reports for in feed use which is scheduled to be in place from July 2015. As practitioners, we will also have to be ready to provide our clients with this information for antibiotics provided through our practices.

Disease surveillance, welfare and education are also subjects in which we have participated within the wider industry and veterinary context.

There is much still to do – if you have considered or are considering becoming more involved in industry or Society matters then please let us know. Engagement from all members is welcomed but particularly from practitioners.

I look forward to welcoming you to the East Midlands Hilton in May.

*Annie Davis*

*The Pig Veterinary Society is a specialist division of the British Veterinary Association. The Pig Veterinary Society exists to assist its members to care for pigs, through dissemination of knowledge about health, disease, the pig's welfare and its management. PVS, as a society, is a champion for pig welfare while maintaining balance with the need to maintain viability.*