

## Editorials

international example is illustrated in the organization of the forthcoming First World Waterfowl Conference (1–4 December 1999) to be held in Taichung, Taiwan. This brings together the Taiwan branch and the Waterfowl Working Group (8) of the WPSA European Federation. For contact details see the Calendar on page 417.

Chris Hann  
Pete Lewis



## A profile of Jim McNab

A glance at Jim McNab's curriculum vitae reveals that the new editor of the *World's Poultry Science Journal* brings with him a remarkable range of experience – experience that is matched by many endearing qualities evident to those who have come to know him. How far his eminently balanced and sensible approach to life and his work stems from the fact that psychology was one of the subsidiary subjects featuring in his original (1962) Edinburgh University degree in Chemistry, one can but surmise. His subsequent PhD thesis at Edinburgh focused on the structure of plant gums, with special reference to mannose-containing polysaccharides. This led in 1965 to an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Biochemistry Department of the University of Colorado, working on a programme investigating the biochemistry of the interaction between pathogens and plants.

After one year back at the University of Edinburgh (1967–68) working on the properties and structure of polysaccharides and plant pectins, Jim joined what was then known as the Poultry Research Centre, Edinburgh – and his long involvement in poultry research had begun. This has included many aspects of poultry nutrition covering the digestion of carbohydrate and protein and including assay methods for feedstuffs evaluation, feed quality enhancement, assessments of non-traditional feeds and the chemistry of anti-nutritive factors.

Over the past 15 years or so the original Poultry Research Centre has undergone several upheavals within the wider framework of the re-structuring of UK agricultural research. Jim McNab has been successively leader of the Feedstuffs Research Group of the newly formed Pig and Poultry Division of the Institute of Grassland and Animal Production, head of a new Avian Biotechnology Department in the Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics Research and, since 1993, head of the Environment and Welfare Division at the Roslin Institute. Currently he co-ordinates the work of 13 project leaders and 30 support staff as well as leading a personal research programme focused on the mechanisms underlying food/enzyme interactions. Jim's other activities have included responsibility for many national and some international collaborative projects, the graduation of six PhD students and refereeing papers for a number of scientific journals, including the *WPSJ*. For over 10 years he has been Co-editor of *British Poultry Science*, a position he plans to relinquish next year.

Jim is very much a family man with two, now grown up, sons. His spare time interests include gardening – particularly the growing of vegetables – bridge and collecting stamps. Both he and his wife enjoy travelling.

Chris Hann