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**Proceedings of the 29th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Embryo Technology Society (SBTE); Gramado, RS, Brazil, August 20th to 23rd, 2015, and 31st Meeting of the European Embryo Transfer Association (AETE); Ghent, Belgium, September 11th and 12th, 2015**

Letter from the President of the AETE to introduce the 31st Scientific Meeting in Ghent, Belgium 2015

Dear Colleagues, dear friends

This is to invite you to participate in the 31st Annual Scientific Meeting of the AETE (ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DE TRANSFERT EMBRYONNAIRE), which will be held in Ghent, Belgium on the 11th and 12th of September 2015.

The main objectives of the AETE are to facilitate the diffusion of knowledge and the implementation of new methods in the field of embryo transfer and associated techniques. This is achieved through scientific, technical and practical European forum exchanges and the organisation of an annual meeting which gathers both academic and scientific representatives as well as technicians, veterinary practitioners and students.

The AETE aims to create a European scientific and practical pole dedicated to international exchange concerning mammalian embryos by creating working groups which will generate information/issues susceptible to be used by the European commission in the fields of agriculture and/or by veterinary medicine.

The AETE gathers the best European experts in the fields of animal reproduction and embryo biotechnologies. And this year - the European ET-family is assembled here in Ghent. However, for the first time in our history we are connected virtually and we are unified in spirit with our Brazilian colleagues from the SBTE. We will now collaborate with the Brazilian Society of Embryo Transfer to have our proceedings published in a joined special issue of Animal Reproduction. Many thanks to Jo Leroy, Roberto Sartori and to the Editorial Board of Animal Reproduction.

The SBTE meeting takes place at the end of August while the meeting of the AETE is scheduled at the second week of September. This is very close however the distance is more than 10.000 km between both venues. The joint publication will help to create strong bridges between both organizations. It is an extra boost for the journal as now much more people in Europe will also read it. The AETE has now the possibility to get access to a respected journal. The collaboration between SBTE and AETE will be furthermore strengthened, sharing knowledge as well as scientific and practical methods. It is furthermore great to see that both SBTE and AETE give the practitioners a center stage place in their society. I am convinced that we will open a new chapter of collaboration and we are already very enthusiastic about it.

The 2015 program of the AETE is very promising and inspiring. We will have four invited lectures framed by 15 short oral communications, the long-established student competition and two workshops. One workshop will be led by Katrin Hinrichs from the States to continue the suspense moment from the new established preconference to our regular meeting. Besides we will have an interesting and very practical related workshop chaired by Martin Gehring from Germany about the evaluation of bovine embryos. For the first time we incorporated a new Preconference Workshop into our program. The focus is on equine reproduction and is titled "A week of life of an equine embryo" and is moderated by Ann van Soom from Belgium. The other exciting news is that we installed the STUDENT's Breakfast within our AETE Meeting. We want to strengthen the togetherness of the students and our organization. A special honor and pleasure for me will be to overhand our 2015 AETE medal to the "grandfather" of the AETE - Michel Thibier. We are curious to follow his lecture.

In general we believe we have an outstanding program for 2015 designed to meet everyone's interest and needs as well as connected in spirit with our Brazilian colleagues.

Kind regards

**Frank Becker**  
President AETE



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