

## EDITORIAL

Veterinary specialization was first recognized in Israel in 1996 when the Minister of Agriculture published regulations governing specialization. In 2007 these regulations were reformed. Since then, many veterinarians in Israel have met the requirements in order to be recognized as specialists in the different domains of specialization listed in the regulations. The foundation for the rules and regulations laid down have generally run parallel to those of the medical profession. Prof. Pipano has played a vital role in revising these regulations, and his role in this process must be recognized and admired. The success of the process can be seen in the increasing number of applications for specialization submitted to the Higher Committee on Specialization in Israel of the Israel Veterinary Association.

The specialization procedure in Israel although defined by law lacks some essential elements such as adequate numbers of specialists in key areas and the lack of well defined syllabi for the residents to follow and fulfill. With this in mind the Scientific Council of the Israel Veterinary Association has introduced committees (equivalent to Colleges) for different specialties in Israel. These committees are composed of a number of leading specialists whose task is to define the syllabus for their subject of specialization, to supervise and evaluate the training of residents and so make the training of a new generation of specialists more proficient.

The two documents published in this volume of the Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine (Laboratory Animal Medicine-in ENGLISH and Bovine Medicine in HEBREW) represent the birth of the first two committees (colleges) to be formed in Israel. Both colleges have already published their regulations for specialization and residents have been registered in to these programs. These directives have been created within the framework of the current law in Israel which defines the fundamentals of the specialization process. The directives will in the long run aid the prospective resident in his/her studies and in all will upgrade the level of specialization in Israel.

The two colleges are the Israel College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, Chaired by Dr. R. Kalman and the College of Bovine Medicine, Chaired by Prof. N. Shpigel. Both these colleges have been formed out of a real need for specialists in the respective fields. This is a welcome trend that is spreading to other fields which are at present in the process of defining their requirements and syllabi to meet the specific needs of their respective specializations and improve the standard of veterinary specialization in Israel.

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