

## Guest Editorial

This supplementary issue of the South African Journal of Animal Science (SAJAS) presents selected keynote lectures and papers from the 45<sup>th</sup> South African Society for Animal Science (SASAS) congress which was held at the International Convention Centre in East London from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2012. The theme of the congress attended by more than 237 delegates from South Africa and overseas was “Animal science in a continuous state of change”. The relevance of this theme is evidenced by the pressure being exerted on animal production by the continuously changing world in which we live. These pressures create novel socio-ecological environments which may have negative effects on sustainable animal production.

Continuous changes in the environment and the economy on a national, regional and global scale and an escalating global population requires us to, much like nature, adapt to the changing conditions in order for animal production to remain sustainable. There is also an increasing need for research to generate accurate information on the potentially negative effects that animal production may have on the environment such as pollution, greenhouse gas emission and rangeland degradation (Webb, 2013).

The key notes by the invited speakers and theatre and the poster presentations by the delegates tackled issues concerning climate change and animal science, meat science, animal breeding and genetics, developing agriculture, reproduction, ruminant nutrition, monogastric nutrition and animal welfare and health. The presentations provided insights on these issues from a South African perspective (Naudé, 2012) and presented novel approaches that our seasoned and upcoming African animal science researchers are developing to potentially provide solutions to challenges in animal production.

The congress was an insightful and memorable event and recognition for a commendable job goes out to the organising committee: Alan Grenfell, Voster Muchenje, Jean Rust, Patrick Masika, Tina Rust, Ntosh Faku, Nandipha Ndudane-Tyumra, Robin Meeske, Dorothy Kingman and Akho Skenjana.

Many thanks are extended to the sub-editors and reviewers, who I cannot mention for professional reasons, for the hard-work and efforts which contributed to the compilation of this special issue and the congress scientific programme.

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