

# Welcome message

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## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM CHAIR: ORGANISING COMMITTEE

5<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SPECIALISTS, 4-7 July 2005, University of Pretoria, Academic Information Service, Onderstepoort  
<http://www.ais.up.ac.za/vet/icahis>

On behalf of the Conference Organising Committee of 5ICAHIS it gives me much pleasure to welcome you to Onderstepoort.

The previous conferences were held in Reading, UK (1992), Copenhagen (1997), London (2000) and Budapest (2003) so we are very pleased to be hosting the first one to be held in Africa.

These conferences are mainly for veterinary librarians, but others working in the animal health or related information fields also attend.

We are a small specialised group of information specialists serving mainly veterinary schools and research institutions. There is only one veterinary faculty in South Africa, for instance, and one veterinary research institute, the USA has 27 veterinary schools and the UK has 6. But we are an active and enthusiastic group and rely heavily on international cooperation and networking.

As this conference is being held in Africa, we have encouraged our colleagues in other African countries to participate and we are most grateful to the CTA in Wageningen, The Netherlands for sponsoring them. There will be 7 coming from Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Altogether there will be 30 veterinary faculty libraries or veterinary institutions represented worldwide at this conference: 12 Africa, 10 USA, 4 Europe, 3 UK, and 1 Australia.

We would encourage all participants to make the most of this knowledge-sharing and networking opportunity for the benefit of animal health worldwide

Erica van der Westhuizen  
CHAIR: ORGANISING COMMITTEE 5 ICAHIS