

Chairman's Message

*By Manfred Grundt,
INSCA Chairman*

The theme of my Chairmanship for the coming year will be, "The INSCA Board will go with INSCA's members together into a better future...Take our hand and go with INSCA. We will go with you."

In the six weeks since the conclusion of our Annual Meeting in Berlin, INSCA leadership has been very busy charting a course of action for the Association. Congratulations are in order for Mr. Mounir Shehfe and Mr. Christian Billon on their election to the Board of Directors. Mr. Billon will serve ably as the Chairman of the Government Committee, and Mr. Shehfe has accepted the role of Vice Chairman of INSCA. Mr. Shehfe will represent the Chairman, along with Mr. Philippe Leymonie and Past Chairman Mr. Richard Theise, as INSCA's delegates to the Scientific Working Group. Also, congratulations to Mr. Michael Mayo on his re-election to the Board for a second term. Mr. Mayo will continue to serve INSCA as Treasurer.

Mr. Peter Gelhard was appointed to the open Vice President's seat, vacated by Mr. Shehfe. He joins existing Vice Presidents Mr. Jose Maria Barea of Spain, Mr. Sergey Ivanenko of Russia, Mr. Li Xizhong of China, Mr. Allen Ross of the U.S.A. (also serving as Vice Treasurer), and Mr. Elliot Simon of the Netherlands. With the Board elections and appointments completed, the re-establishment of the committees was the next item on the agenda. Please refer to the following committee roster:

By-Laws Committee:

Chairman Leow Then Loy, Jan Roelsgaard, Shirley Coffield.

Convention Committee:

Chairman Rick Theise, Jose Maria Barea, Stan Gillett, Sergey Ivanenko, and Yozo Kawamura.

Government Committee:

Chairman Christian Billon, Shirley Coffield, Franz Kienast, Elliot Simon and Li Xizhong.

Headquarters Committee:

Chairman Manfred Grundt, Shirley Coffield, Michael Koss, and Richard Theise.

**INSCA, and organizations
such as ENSCA, NANCA,
and the regional
associations around the
globe, have many talented
people working closely
toward a common goal...
the very preservation of
our natural casing
industry.**

Membership Committee:

Chairman Manfred Grundt, Peter Gelhard, and Allen Ross.

Nominating Committee:

Chairman Michael Mayo, Leow Then Loy, Heike Molkenthin, and Sergey Ivanenko.

Reorganization Committee:

Chairman (coming from ENSCA) Jan Roelsgaard, advisor Manfred Grundt, Richard Theise, Yozo Kawamura, Franz Kienast and Michael Mayo.

Scientific Working Group:

Representing the INSCA Chairman, Mounir Shehfe, and delegates Richard Theise and Philippe Leymonie.

After the committee appointments were completed in the first week of my Chairmanship, it was time to meet face to face with several industry leaders to pay respects. The following is a short briefing on my travels and meetings as INSCA Chairman since the Berlin convention:

(Listed in chronological order):

- Peter Gelhard, INSCA Vice President and ENSCA's SWG delegate, on SWG and INSCA affairs (in Ransbach-Baumbach)
- Lex van Hessen, INSCA's former SWG delegate, and Elliot Simon, INSCA Vice President, on SWG and INSCA affairs (in The Netherlands)
- Lindy Munkholm, ENSCA President, on INSCA / ENSCA Reorganization (in Hamburg)
- Interviews with 4 management companies and FBC, together with INSCA's Counsel Shirley Coffield (in Washington, DC)
- Jan Roelsgaard, INSCA Director and ENSCA's Reorganization Committee delegate (Chairman), on INSCA / ENSCA Reorganization (in Copenhagen)
- Lindy Munkholm, ENSCA President, on INSCA / ENSCA Reorganization and SWG issues (in Copenhagen)
- Mounir Shehfe, INSCA Vice Chairman, to draw up INSCA's Action Plan for the next 12 months (in Alexandria) and to visit potential convention hotels (in Cairo)

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Executive Secretary's Report

Next Stop, Palm Beach!

*By Joshua Hull,
INSCA Executive Secretary*

Even though the eventful Berlin convention ended only six weeks ago, it is time to turn our attention to the Semi-Annual Meeting to be held October 22-25, 2003 at the Ritz-Carlton in Palm Beach, Florida. The hotel is located at 100 South Ocean Boulevard, Manalapan, Florida, 33462. The phone and fax numbers are (561) 533-6000 and (561) 588-4202. Full registration and hotel information will be mailed to the membership and posted to the INSCA website in early August. We hope that you will make the INSCA Semi-Annual meeting a priority in your business plans!

By now you should have received a copy of the minutes from the Board Meeting in Berlin, committee rosters and descriptions. A 24-point action-plan co-authored by Chairman Manfred Grundt and Vice-Chairman Mounir Shehfe during meetings in early July in Egypt has been emailed to the membership, and an additional copy is enclosed with this newsletter. This action plan charts a course for INSCA for the next twelve months, and enumerates individual and team assignments for INSCA projects and programs.

Thanks to the good work being done by the Government Committee, INSCA recommends the following websites for reference and informational purposes:

EU Press Releases: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh>

Food Safety: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sfp/sfp_index_en.html

Rapid Alert Infos: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sfp/ras_index_en.html

Any information INSCA members have regarding potential regulations or governmental actions should be forwarded to INSCA Headquarters for distribution to the Government Committee. The INSCA members must serve as the "ears" for the various committee members!

Please continue to update the INSCA office with any changes to your contact information. The next updated version of the Membership Directory will be distributed in October at the Palm Beach meeting; if you are anticipating changes in your contact information please send them to INSCA headquarters as soon as possible.

The membership will also be receiving a Membership Survey in mid-August with questions regarding important matters facing the Association including reorganization and future management. The Board is depending on your input to guide them in this decision-making process. Please take time to complete and return the survey to INSCA headquarters upon receipt.

If for any reason you need a copy of these important documents, please contact the Executive Secretary at insca@aol.com, and a copy can be mailed, faxed or emailed to you.

Scientific Working Group Report

*By Dr. Gisela Panzer,
SWG Secretary*

As the draft minutes of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting in Berlin were previously sent out containing all information of ongoing activities, there is only a very small range to report additionally.

Residues in Casings

No further contacts have taken place with the authorities (AQUIS) in Beijing, China and representatives of the Task forces, as a decision was made at the last SWG meeting to stop all activities regarding the establishment of laboratories in China. This decision was backed by the SWG and the involved associations ENSCA, INSCA and NANCA. On special request of the Chinese Natural Sausage Casing Association (CNSCA), a comprehensive set of all relevant legal requirements defining the obligations of countries intending to export to the E.U. goods of animal origin including casings has been sent to the CNSCA on 13.6.2003.

CNSCA President, Mr. Li Xizhong, has explained that in China there are activities in place to adjust the Chinese standards for casings to world standards. SWG has asked to see the Chinese standards which have to be adjusted, as they are not known or available here.

At the same time, the casing group of the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Foodstuffs Native Produce and Animal By-products (CFNA) has sent a nearly identical request to the German Zentralverband via a member company which probably may handle the issue by themselves. These activities show hopeful signs that in China now efforts may start to

introduce a functioning system of “risk management.”

As Prof. Fink-Gremmels outlined during the meeting on 27.5.03 in Berlin on the list of priorities of the newly established European Food Safety Agency, there is a new risk evaluation procedure. This may result in a guide to a new assessment or evaluation of at least Nitrofurans. The new approach is based on a report, “The Future of Risk Assessment in the European Union,” already agreed on in the former Scientific Steering Committee in April 2003 (See http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/ssc/out355_en.pdf for more info).

The residue problem is not only a Chinese one; it is and may become more and more a world wide issue.

As one of the new approaches for risk evaluation is the quantitative evaluation of the risk for human health, the casing industry has to provide data on consumption of sausages and the respective amount of casings. The continuation of the studies, which have been performed already on a small scale in 2001, will continue and all countries involved in the casing business will be integrated to provide their data. We shall try to demonstrate that as casings are only a very small part in total sausage consumption, they have to be regarded with a much lower risk factor than directly consumed food. This must be scientifically documented, not only for E.U. authorities, but also for other authorities in the world as the residue problem is not only a Chinese one. It

is and may become more and more a world wide issue.

Also the risk management at the level of premises is a strong demand which has to be reconsidered by the casing industry. The HACCP Concept of 1997 will be reviewed to determine if residue monitoring for incoming raw material should be integrated. As the work of the European Food Safety Agency and the working groups as f.i. “Contaminants” have just started, it may take a longer time to achieve changes in the actual legal situation as we wait for the outcome of these negotiations. In order to support lobbying activities for special requirements for casings, even for the time being, a scientific paper which integrates already available scientific and practical evidence of the specific lower risk situation for casings is annexed below and should be used by the involved associations to achieve quick solutions.

Annex : Nitrofurane residues in natural casing, BSE and sheep casings.

The study of University Utrecht/P. Koolmees on “Histological Research on the Efficacy of Mechanically Versus Manually Deslimed Sheep Intestines” is not yet finalized. It is expected daily. The SWG will then evaluate it before sending it to the newly established European Food Safety Agency, GD SANCO and via the Associations and/or members to national authorities worldwide. The Commission/GD SANCO/J.Maher seems to be very interested as he has asked in July about the date for getting the study. The official publication of the E.U. decision defining the ileum of small ruminants as risk material is pending, but it will come in any case as there was no opposition to this item during the negotiations at the WTO. A very

Government Report

*By Shirley Coffield,
INSCA Trade Counsel*

In the six weeks since the INSCA Annual Meeting, the Government Committee has been organizing, while at the same time a number of important issues have affected our industry. We have been following several issues and will keep members and leadership informed as these issues develop.

Certificate Requirements

There have been several instances of new certificate requirement by major trading countries. Many of these have been as a result of the case of BSE found in one cow in Canada.

Japan:

Japan is now requiring that casings be certified as not being of Canadian origin animals, both beef and sheep. In addition, casings coming from the U.S., whether originating or exported from the U.S., must have a certification that the ileum has been removed. This requirement is now approved by U.S. authorities for beef and there is language being negotiated for sheep casings. As a result, we are also speaking with Australian and New Zealand authorities in connection with casings that might be transshipped from those countries and may need some certification even though they are from BSE free areas. We will keep the membership informed as these requirements are finalized. We note that South Korea is finalizing similar requirement.

Turkey:

Turkey has been notifying importers of potential new certificate requirements. INSCA members have been talking with the Government officials and now those officials have indicated they will not require new language on the certificate, but will require that the certification language be in Turkish. Please let us know if we can be of assistance on this requirement.

There is also a SWG study now in progress on the efficacy of mechanically versus manually deslimed sheep intestines, which is important for this issue of infectivity.

Other requirements:

Many countries are now requiring that there be a certification that the casing is not origin of Canada and has not been in Canada. Currently most of these requirements cover beef casings, but some are also including sheep casings. (See *Japan* above). Please inform the office if you have any information as to new certification requirements, as we are trying to put together an updated list.

BSE/TSE Issues:

Sheep Ileum removal required in E.U.:

The E.U. has now published its regulation adding the sheep ileum to the SRM list and requiring that it be removed from all but list I countries. That requirement will go into effect on October 1, 2003. Third countries will have to certify that an imported

product does not contain or is not derived from SRM produced after March 31, 2001. (See Commission Regulation (EC) No 1139/2003, of 27 June, 2003).

As noted, several countries are now requiring new or amended certifications on casing imports, primarily due to BSE issues, but also because of FMD. Many countries are including sheep casings on their list of BSE risk material and some are looking into the issue of limiting the risk material to the ileum or distal ileum. One important issue is how the ileum or distal ileum is defined and the SWG is working on having a sound basis for encouraging countries to have a common definition so as to limit the confusion in the trade. We are preparing an updated BSE status list for major trading countries, and hope to have it completed before the end of the summer. Many regulations are changing or have already changed in the past few months, which makes this project both more important and also more difficult.

The U.K. Association, with financial support from INSCA, prepared a video showing that the distal ileum is removed from sheep in the course of machine cleaning. There is also a SWG study now in progress on the efficacy of mechanically versus manually deslimed sheep intestines, which is important for this issue of infectivity. We are also looking into other studies that have a bearing on the removal of the ileum during the pulling process. We have had direct requests from the U.S., Australian and Canadian governments for more information on the subject of ileum removal and definition of the distal ileum.

Trade Retaliation Issues

E.U.-U.S. Retaliation:

The E.U. has now finalized its list of products that it has threatened to retaliate on if the U.S. does not change its Foreign Sales Credit tax system in a way that is consistent with the WTO. Casings are on the list. However, at this time, both sides are trying to resolve the issue and the U.S. Congress is now working on legislation to change the system. The E.U. has announced that it will not retaliate until the end of the year, and we are hopeful that the issue will be resolved before that time. However, we are keeping a close watch on this issue and will be taking some action in the fall to try again to have our product removed if necessary.

U.S.-E.U. Retaliation:

The US continues its 100% duty on casings from France and Germany. This issue is now caught up in the politics of several related agriculture and trade issues. We will be visiting the U.S. Congress, including staff of the Congressional Agriculture Committees, along with NANCA President Negrón, in late July when the American Meat Institute's "Hot Dog" lunch for the U.S. Congress is held in late July, and will once again try to find an acceptable way to have our product removed from this retaliation.

Other Issues:

Morocco Selection Facilities:

As a part of Africa, many countries consider Morocco to be on the banned list for swine products because of African Swine Fever. However, Moroccan officials are working with the OIE and also with the U.S. government to get that problem resolved, since they have no pig slaughter and no AFW in Morocco. In the meantime, however, swine product processed in Morocco has been denied entry into the U.S. and may have similar

problems in other countries.

Currently there are no restrictions on lamb/sheep casings. We are following this closely and working to see if this issue can be resolved quickly.

FMD:

There have been several new outbreaks of FMD in North Africa (Libya), and in South America, (Paraguay) as well as continuing cases in Bolivia and elsewhere in South America. In addition the OIE has now announced that Argentina, north of the 42nd parallel is "free from FMD, with vaccination" as of July 7, 2003. South Korea has been declared free of FMD without vaccination and countries are beginning to lift restrictions on that country. We will continue to monitor the FMD issues as they affect our industry trade.

**The Fourth Quarter
Edition of the
Natural Link Newsletter
will feature
Full and Half Page
Advertisements!**

**Contact the
INSCA Headquarters for
Technical Specifications
and Rates.**

**Inquiries should be
made to insca@aol.com**

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Regional Report

INSCA Chairman Manfred Grundt and Executive Secretary Joshua Hull met with a Leadership Delegation of the Japan Sheep Casing Importers Association in an effort to improve communication between the two associations at the Berlin convention in May. Although the Japanese Association was formed in 1963, this was the first formal trip to the INSCA Annual Meeting by the Japanese Association. President Yozo Kawamura, Managing Director Shigeyoshi Hosogai, and Advisor Osamu Wada represented the Japanese Association. Member companies Kawamura & Co., Ltd., Matsunaga Corporation, and Toto Trading Co., Ltd. were represented by Mr. Yukihiro Okada, Mr. Takamasa Kokubo, and Ms. Sayuri Nakahara, respectively. The Japanese Association counts 32 companies as members.

The INSCA plays a pivotal role in the casing trade in Japan. All

animal casings coming from the countries designated by Japanese governmental authority have to go through disinfection treatment at the time of their entry by official veterinary inspectors under the Domestic Animal Infections Disease Control law. The task of disinfection treatment was entrusted to the Japanese Association by the Animal Quarantine Office, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. After disinfection, random inspection of three hanks per barrel is conducted in regards to calibration, length, pinholes, number of ends per hank, and freshness characteristics.

There are two Disinfection and Inspection facilities that the committee oversees. They are located in the bonded area of Yokohama Port and at Narita Airport. The two facilities employ 40 people, and capacity is now around 30,000 hanks per day. The committee also conducts random bacterial inspection on

casings to ensure uniform hygiene and sanitary standards.

INSCA's Market Research Committee conducts market studies of main supply sources and helps identify the natural casings most suitable for the Japanese market. The Public Relations Committee promotes the production and sales of sausage to expand the market share of natural casings through advertisements, the INSCA website and joint efforts with The Japan Ham and Sausage Processors Co-operative Associations.

If you would like to learn more about the Japan Sheep Casing Importers Association, contact Mr. Hosogai at info@jnsca.or.jp or visit their website at www.jnsca.or.jp. This report was produced in part by materials supplied to INSCA at the meeting in Berlin.

Palm Beach Information

INSCA will hold its 2003 Semi-Annual Meeting at the beautiful Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach. INSCA members should plan on being in sunny Florida, October 22-25, 2003. Registration materials will be sent in the coming weeks, and the registration information will also be available at www.insca.org. Richard Theise and the members of the Convention Committee are working very hard to ensure that this will be a fantastic event! They are continuing the fine work begun by former Convention Committee Chairwoman Martha Feinstein.

The hotel boasts four first-class restaurants. The Grill at the Ritz-Carlton and Soleil are considered two of the best dining options in Palm Beach. Soleil offers delightful oceanfront vistas for its guests. The Ocean Café and The Lobby Lounge offer a more relaxed atmosphere in which to meet with colleagues and friends. More information on INSCA social activities will be available soon!

Located on Palm Beach Island, the luxury Ritz-Carlton Resort is a beautiful property complete with spa, outdoor pool, exceptional dining and seven acres of ocean front beach. The

hotel is located just eight miles from Palm Beach International Airport.

With an annual average temperature of 78° F, Palm Beach is a great place to enjoy outdoor activities. With more than 150 golf courses, Palm Beach is Florida's Golf Capital. More than 40 cultural venues, 2,000 restaurants, and an array of nightlife make Palm Beach a top entertainment destination. Shopping is at a world-class level with options ranging from historical shopping districts to large indoor malls.

SWG Report

From page 3

interesting paper, the title of which is "Report on the Monitoring and Testing of Ruminants for the Presence of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) in 2002," is available at http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/bse/testing/annual_%20report_2002_en.pdf on the Web.

Investigations on the usability of casings after treatments to influence the ph-value.

The paper of Dr. Houben on "Residues of Curing Agents in Natural Sausage Casings Previously Subjected to Anti-Viral Treatments" is on its way to the Magazine *Fleischwirtschaft* for publication. As decided during the last meeting of the SWG, the paper of TNO/Verkleij on "Effects of Different curing Treatments on the Usability of Beef, Hog, and Sheep Casings" together with the publication of the Houben paper in *Fleischwirtschaft* will then be distributed worldwide to Veterinary authorities.

Ozone treatment as possible mean to inactivate FMD virus in casings

The intended feasibility study on Ozone treatment and its influence on casing usability after treatment in the filling process is under negotiations by NANCA, which is searching for a University or Scientific Institute to perform the intended studies.

Later this year the planned study on "Alkaline Treatment for Inactivation of FMD Virus" will start at the Insel Riems/Dr. Haas/Bundesanstalt für Viruserkrankungen der Tiere.

The Ozone treatments integration now depends on the outcome of the planned feasibility of studies in the U.S.A.

Chairman's Message

From page 1

- Associations and scientist meeting on CAP and Nitrofurane (in Berlin)
- Dr. Gisela Panzer, SWG Secretary, on SWG issues (in Hamburg)

In the coming months INSCA will make a renewed effort seek to bring back members that have left the Association, as well as making strides to welcome new members. If you are aware of a colleague or firm with interest in becoming a member, please alert the INSCA office. INSCA staff will promptly follow up on the lead, and coordinate with the Membership Committee regarding the potential membership. The loss of members over the last few years has diminished INSCA's power and influence. Make it a priority to refer a potential member for INSCA to headquarters in the next month!

In addition to seeking out new members, I have commissioned a membership survey to gauge the membership's attitudes toward reorganization and the future location of management headquarters for the Association. Please take the time to thoughtfully complete this survey when you receive it later this summer. The Board needs to hear from the membership's many voices during this process in order to make decisions reflecting the wishes of the membership.

It has been proposed that INSCA accept advertising in an effort to offset costs related to the publishing of the fourth quarter newsletter. Full and half-page advertisements in the *Natural Link* will be available. Please contact the INSCA headquarters for technical specifications if you are interested in the placement of an advertisement.

INSCA needs you! INSCA relies on the generous contribution of time and effort from its volunteers on the

Board of Directors. If you have a nomination for a candidate for elective office, please forward your nomination to the Executive Secretary at INSCA headquarters and it will be distributed to the Nominating Committee for consideration. At the Annual Meeting in 2004, there will be one seat vacated in the Asia, Australia and New Zealand Region, as Mr. Leow Then Loy's second term will be completed. In the North and South American Region, Past Chairman Richard Theise's second term will expire in May 2004; Mr. Franz Kienast's term will also expire, although he is eligible to run for a second term. In all, three seats in those two regions will be up for election.

It was announced at the INSCA General Session in Berlin, that Dr. Panzer will be retiring as Secretary of the Scientific Working Group at the end of the calendar year. Dr. Panzer has worked tirelessly for INSCA and the natural casing industry, and the Association owes her a debt of gratitude. On behalf of the Vice Chairman, the Board of Directors and Officers and the membership at large; Thank You, Dr. Panzer!

As you can see, INSCA, and organizations such as ENSCA, NANCA and the regional associations around the globe, have many talented people working closely toward a common goal...the very preservation of our natural casing industry. So let's go work hard together for our wonderful Association, INSCA!

Visa Information

Nonimmigrant visas are for people with permanent residence outside the U.S. but who wish to go to the U.S. on a temporary basis – for tourism, medical treatment, business, temporary work, or study. U.S. law requires that people who apply for nonimmigrant visas provide evidence that they don't intend to immigrate to the United States. It's up to consular officers at U.S. embassies and consulates to determine eligibility on an individual basis on the merits of each case.

Providing requested documents does not guarantee that you will receive a visa. There is no entitlement to a visa.

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) enables citizens of certain countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. Not all countries participate in the VWP. Some restrictions apply to this program.

Currently, 27 countries participate in the Visa Waiver Program: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

As soon as you contemplate travel to the United States, and after identifying that a visa is needed, you should contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for information about current visa processing time estimates and processes.

You can contact the embassy or consulate via the U.S. Department of State internet site at www.state.gov/links.html. Look for posted timeframes on the internet or call the embassy/consulate to hear recorded information about visa requirements.

Processing times are difficult to predict for an individual applicant. For many applicants, a personal appearance interview is required as a standard part of visa processing. For travelers, the need for an interview will mean additional coordination with the embassy or consulate, is required to schedule an interview appointment. If additional processing is needed, visa applicants are informed at the time they submit their applications. While most additional processing takes 30 days or less, a small percentage may take considerably longer.

Advance planning is a key ingredient for successfully having your visa when you want it. If you wish to visit the U.S., plan to submit your visa application well in advance of your departure date.

The website <http://www.travel.state.gov/> will be very helpful in planning your trip. If you require a letter of invitation from the INSCA office as part of your application for a visa, please contact Executive Secretary Joshua Hull at the INSCA office as soon as possible via insca@aol.com. Due to increased security, processing of visa requests can take more time presently than in years past.

This information was taken from <http://travel.state.gov>, the U.S. Department of State website. Other websites of interest when planning your trip are <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/> (Centers for Disease Control) and <http://www.who.int/ith/> (World Health Organization).

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