



## Message from the new President of IFNS

As a global organization, IFNS has the mission to: (1) plan, facilitate and promote International Congresses of Nematology, (2) foster global awareness of Nematology as a science, (3) facilitate and improve communication between nematologists and the different Nematological Societies, and (4) serve as a worldwide platform for exchange of information, and increased visibility through stimulating education, research and outreach.

I wondered as did many of you, how can we realize our goals in a current period of crises –financial crisis, food crisis, global environmental change— and a global scientific community of different means: the North, the surging South and the stagnant South. How can we turn a down period into a period of challenge, how can we find a driving force?

The organization of the International Congress of Nematology is a very important task of IFNS since the Congress not only serves as an interface for nematology societies but also for exchange of ideas on research in the different fields. A dream would be for the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress to provide an equal opportunity for attendance to any nematologist, no matter where he/she comes from.

For the 5th International Congress of Nematology, Brisbane, Julie Nicol and Haddish Melakeberhan, together with the organizers showed us the way with the great initiative of a *Developing Nations Sponsorship Committee*, an initiative for which we sincerely thank them. IFNS will certainly continue with this initiative. As an additional way to raise financial support, the IFNS board of councilors and officers agreed at their meeting to introduce “**Sustaining membership of IFNS**”. The sole purpose of a sustaining member is to financially support Developing Nations so that more nematologists from these Nations can attend the meeting. What do you get in return? You get an increased chance to meet them personally at the congress and work out future collaborations. More information as well as an account number will soon be available on the IFNS website.

If we look into the future for Nematology, we can let us be guided by the ABC of success:

- A. *Stands for Awareness*. We all agree that we should increase Nematology awareness e.g. by a more holistic approach of seeing nematodes as part of a whole ecosystem and by working in relationship with other more powerful scientific disciplines when it comes to convincing policy makers and obtaining funding.
- B. *Stands for Belief*. We all believe in the importance of Nematology. With its complexity and great diversity, we can have a large impact both in the applied and fundamental fields. The question of the sustainability of Nematology will fade

away. With environmental change, the current food crisis and reduction of chemicals, Nematology has a bright future ahead but we must let the world know that we are there to help solve these and other problems.

- C. *Stands for Commitment.* Judging by the scientific contributions at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Nematology Congress at Brisbane, the interesting results, many of a high standard, and the enthusiasm of the contributors, there seems to be no problem here.

So as you see, we have all the elements for Nematology to be and remain a very successful discipline.

If we can dream of an active, fruitful Federation of Nematology Societies, we can realize one. However, the IFNS can not do it alone. We need your support, we need you to support the representative councilor of your society in IFNS, and to provide him/her with ideas and contribute in the realization of our goals.

For more information on the view points for IFNS presented by the new Vice-President Rosa Manzanilla-Lopez and myself, we invite you to read the **Minutes of the Brisbane IFNS meeting**.

*Where will be the 6th International Congress of Nematology?* At present, we are at the stage of collecting bids. So far, four nematological societies expressed their interest for organizing the 6<sup>th</sup> congress (in alphabetic order): ESAN (Egyptian Society of Agricultural Nematology), CSPN (Chinese Society of Plant Nematologists), JNS (Japanese Nematology Society) and NSI (Nematological Society of India).

We have placed the **Site Selection Guidelines** on the website for your information. If other societies are interested, we hope to hear from them as soon as possible; the latest by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

I am convinced that IFNS will continue to be a successful Federation as it was under the guidance of the former President David Chitwood and Vice-President Aurelio Ciancio. Rosa and I are looking forward to having active future collaborations with you.

**Wilfrida Decraemer**  
President, IFNS