



## Editorial

### *Why a new journal on animal science*

The introduction of a new scientific journal on the wide range of topics in animal production is a great responsibility, but it is reassuring that the new publication *Italian Journal of Animal Science* is endowed with a rich heritage and thus serenely prepares to welcome worldwide scientific contributions, providing a new focus on the evolution of animal science and combining continuity (for the journals replaced) to new vision.

Subjects and ideas in animal science are expanding rapidly and it is becoming increasingly difficult for researchers to keep track of developments outside their own specialized fields. The *Italian Journal of Animal Science* is being launched to try to help with this task and to provide an opportunity for disseminating Italian research findings in animal science, integrated with the expected contribution of colleagues from other countries.

In fact, the range of topics covered will be both wide and integrated, because science is not a mere collection of facts, as expressed by Poincaré, as a house is not a heap of stones. However, for every house a first stone has to be laid, and this issue is the first for *Italian Journal of Animal Science*. The production of the first number has been particularly difficult as Authors had few guidelines to follow. This situation should be rectified with the publication of this issue which shows the desired style of presentation and which includes a Guide for Authors. The papers necessitated an inordinate amount of editorial work and consequently delayed publication of this issue. Such delay should be avoided in the future, as rapid publication, commensurate with adequate refereeing, is a major objective, especially in view of indexing issues. A rigid policy of refereeing has been established and, in addition to being of a high scientific standard, works must be presented in an acceptable form. However, rigid limitations to length of acceptable contributions will not be applied; in the case of very long articles, Authors should consider the possibility of presenting their work for synopsis plus miniprint publication.

The journal will include two sections: papers and short communications; the Editorial Board will welcome clearly written reviews (then included in papers) of topics within the scope of the journal, but authors of such reviews should contact the Editor at an early stage in their preparation. This is also a journal for members of ASPA, so reports of meeting, notices and other relevant material will be included. Finally, *Italian Journal of Animal Science* is happy to publish Opinion Papers by members of our Advisory Board.

I would like to thank the Italian Scientific Association of Animal Production for the faith shown to me and to express my gratitude to all members of the Editorial Board, who reflect the speciality areas of the journal, for accepting the responsibility associated with such membership with friendly disposal. Moreover, during the planning stages I was blessed with the support and encouragement of some friends and colleagues, who gave me the benefit of their advice. To all I offer my sincere thanks.

In order to establish and maintain a creditable scientific journal two resources are required: namely good papers and good reviewers. I am indebted to the authors for submitting their precious manuscripts to an as yet unindexed (because new) journal, and I am equally indebted to those who have been called upon to act as referees of papers for the first issue and who have taken this task so conscientiously as to establish the standard of *Italian Journal of Animal Science*. A list of the reviewers' names and affiliation will appear at the end of each volume. Many thanks also to the scientific leaders who have accepted to be members of the Advisory Board.

**Rosanna Scipioni**  
*Editor-in-Chief*