We are delighted that the International Pig Veterinary Society Congress 2004, decided to select South Africa as the host country for the 20th IPVS Congress. The Pig Veterinarians of South Africa will ensure that this congress lives up to the best traditions of previous congresses; incorporating an interesting and topical scientific programme, fascinating accompanying persons tours and an excellent social programme, allowing delegates the opportunity to network with their overseas colleagues.

This, the first IPVS congress on the African continent, will undoubtedly be of enormous benefit in generating solutions to the emerging pig veterinary challenges, especially those related to exotic and changing viral diseases, decreased use of antimicrobials and nutritional advances. The congress is important to further pig veterinary science in South Africa, to encourage younger veterinarians to join the pig industry, as a vehicle to generate funds for research and to improve the pig industry in Southern Africa.

South Africa is a magnificent and beautiful country, and offers tourists value for money. Thus, pre and post congress tours will be a major attraction for delegates to come to South Africa. Durban, in KwaZulu Natal, is a vibrant multi-cultured city with magnificent beaches, easily accessible game parks, theme villages and a moderate winter climate making it an ideal tourist destination. We urge our colleagues throughout the world to use this opportunity to get a glimpse of the continent’s rich and fascinating wonders and to enjoy the hospitality of their African friends.

Dr Peter Evans
Chairman: Local Organising Committee: IPVS 2008
EVALUATION OF CLINICAL EFFICACY OF BANAMINE® S IN THE US

C Zhou, R Fleck
Schering-Plough Animal Health, TRUMBULL, United States of America

Introduction
Banamine® S is a newly approved presentation of flunixin meglumine for the control of fever in swine due to respiratory disease. Flunixin meglumine is a potent nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) and has both analgesic and antipyretic properties. It is approved for use in cattle and horses and is the only approved form for use in swine in the United States. In this study, the efficacy of Banamine® S was characterized in the face of severe respiratory disease, a live Actinobacillus pleuropneumonia (APP) challenge.

Materials and Methods
Commercial pigs were commingled with APP infected seeder pigs. The rectal temperatures and clinical scores were observed daily on the day of and for five days after challenge. Pigs that achieved a rectal temperature of over 104.5 °F and had evidence of dyspnea were enrolled in the study. One hundred pigs were enrolled and received one dose of a long acting tetracycline. In addition to the antibiotic, fifty were treated Banamine® S at the labelled dose and fifty received only physiological saline. A pig was designated a treatment success was if the rectal temperature dropped below 104 °F and one of the clinical variables (dyspnea, cough, depression) was scored as normal. A pig was designated as a treatment non-success if the rectal temperatures remained at or over 104 °F and two of three of the respiratory variables were scored as abnormal.

Results
Within 12 hours of injection with Banamine® S, the percent pigs with a rectal temperature of 104 °F and above had been significantly (p<0.05) reduced (Figure 1).

Discussion
Banamine® S significantly improved clinical variables in pigs that had received a dose of long acting tetracycline. Banamine® S is a potent suppressor of the cyclooxygenase in the arachidonic cascade, which, in the pig, results in depression of 15-ketodihydro-prostaglandin F₂α (1). These results indicate that, in swine respiratory disease caused by gram-negative bacteria, inflammatory products are a significant player in clinical presentation and lung pathology. Treatment with Banamine® S serves as important adjunct therapy in swine respiratory disease.

References
1. Odensvik et al. Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapy (12) 307-311