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
PORCINE CIRCOVIRUS TYPE 2 ANTIBODY DETECTION IN BACKYARD PIGS FROM MEXICO CITY

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Introduction
Porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2) is an agent that infects domestic swine and wild boar, and has been demonstrated as the infectious cause of postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS) (1).

PCV2 antibodies have been found in pigs from all continents, with usual high seroprevalence (1). This result has been mainly obtained from domestic swine reared under intensive conditions, and almost no data is concerning domestic pigs under extensive production conditions.

Mexico City, with more than 20 million people, has two main areas: the urban area and the rural area. The pig production in the rural area is familiar, with two to five pigs behind the house. When the backyard is big enough, the family has more than ten pigs. Taking into account this unique form of rearing pigs, it was decided to determine the presence of antibodies to PCV2 in backyard pigs of the rural area of Mexico City.

Materials and Methods
A total of 695 serum samples of backyard pigs from 108 families belonging to seven municipal areas in the rural area of México City were used. The seven municipal area were Azcapotzalco, Coyoacán, Iztapalapa, Milpa Alta, Tláhuac, Tlalpan and Xochimilco.

PCV2 antibodies were detected by an immunoperoxidase monolayer assay (IPMA) technique (2), using serial two-fold dilution (from 1:20 to 120 480). Serological results were grouped as negative or positive with a low titre (1:20 to 1:80), intermediate titre (1:320 to 1:1280), and high titre (1:5120 to 20 480 or higher)

Results
Serological prevalence per municipal area and titration group is summarized in table 1.

One hundred thirty six out of 695 (19.56%) tested sera were had low titre. Two hundred sixty four (37.98 %) tested sera were with a intermediate titre. Two hundred forty eight (35.68%) had antibodies to PCV2 with high titre. Finally, only fifty three samples (7.6%) were seronegative. No apparent differences in antibody titre groups were observed among backyard pigs of the different municipal areas.

Discussion
The obtained results indicated that PCV2 is totally widespread among backyard pigs in Mexico City. Taking into account that familiar pig production in Mexico City has peculiar characteristics such as small number of animals, different ages and backyard production, we expected a lower PCV2 serological prevalence. It is currently unknown if PMWS does occur in those backyard pigs.

Serological prevalences obtained in this study were similar to the ones obtained in other countries such as Canada, United States, Spain and the United Kingdom (1) using pigs reared under intensive production systems.

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One hundred six out of 108 families with backyard pigs had at least one positive sample, indicating a farm prevalence of 98.14%.

Table 1 Number of serum samples with different serological titres in each Municipal Area of Mexico City.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Interm</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Neg.*</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Azcapotzalco</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyoacán</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iztapalapa</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>20</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>109</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tláhuac</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tlalpan</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>219</td>
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<td>Xochimilco</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>123</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>695</td>
</tr>
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References