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.

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Chairman: Local Organising Committee: IPVS 2008
SEROLOGICAL RESPONSE COMPARISON BETWEEN 2 BIVALENT INFLUENZA (SIV) VACCINES TO CONTROL A SIV REPRODUCTIVE DISEASE IN MEXICO

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Introduction
H3N2 SIV has been implicated as a cause of reproductive problems since its first detection in USA. In Mexico, it is also a common subtype detected in herds with reproductive problems. In the last few years, active circulation of H3N2 SIV in the sow herd has produced an acute reproductive syndrome¹ similar to PRRS infection. This effect is primarily observed when SIV infected replacement gilts enter the herd and shed virus. The use of SIV vaccines to control infection has become a routine practice in order to stabilize the sow herd and reduce the virus excretion². The objective of this trial was to demonstrate the serological response to two commercial vaccines containing H1N1 and H3N2 antigens, to evaluate titer decay in vaccinated sows that had experienced a previous H3N2 SIV infection and to monitor the effect of SIV vaccination on sow herd performance.

Materials and Methods
A PRRS negative farm was selected. A positive diagnosis of SIV in the sows was made by an ELISA test to the H3N2 antigen. Two groups of 65 sows were vaccinated with different bivalent SIV vaccines. Treatment group A received Flu Sure© (Pfizer Laboratories) and group B received Maxi Vac Excell© (Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation). Vaccine application was two weeks after mating using two (2.0) mLs per injection, repeating 14 days later. Serum samples from each group were taken at 2, 4, 6, 8, 12 an 16 weeks of gestation. All sera was analyzed by the IDEXX Herd Check© SIV H1N1 and H3N2 ELISA test using an S/P ratio ≥ 0.4 as a positive sample. All samples were analyzed at the end of the study at the same time. Data were analyzed by an ANOVA test using SAS software.

Results
After vaccination, titers to both antigens were detected in both groups of sows, with a clear difference in titers: H3N2 was higher than H1N1 (Average S/P ratio; 1.13 for H3N2 vs. 0.43 for H1N1). There were no significant differences between the two groups for the H3N2 response, however, the difference was significant for H1N1 response. Only MaxiVac Excell could stimulate a positive titer response ≥ 12 weeks after the first injection (Figures 1 and 2).

Discussion
The sows vaccinated with Maxi Vac Excell© demonstrated significantly higher antibody response to H1N1 compare to Flu Sure©. The sows in both vaccinated groups showed increased antibody response to H3N2 following vaccination and the response between vaccines was not significantly different. This may most likely due to previous exposure to the herd to live virus. Live virus exposure in addition to vaccination will produce higher titers than vaccination alone.

Figures 1, 2 ELISA S/P titers titers during the gestation period after SIV vaccination

Figure 3 Total born piglets before and after start of SIV vaccination in Feb. 05

References