

# Preface

As I was contemplating what to write for the preface it struck me that I have been the program chair of the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS) for the last 10 years; so, I looked back at what I wrote in 2006 and decided that what was written then is still applicable today. So, with a few minor updates, here is today's version of the 2006 preface.

This issue of *Advances in Dairy Technology* contains the text of papers presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> WCDS, which was held in Red Deer, Alberta, March 8–11, 2016. The theme of this year's conference is "Issues. Analysis. Solutions," featuring many new aspects of dairy research from around the world.

The key to the success of the WCDS is the high calibre of our speakers who are recognized nationally and internationally in their area of expertise. We are most grateful to these very busy people for devoting so much of their time and energy in making the WCDS an outstanding success. We thank them for helping make the WCDS one of the premier dairy seminars in the world.

Special thanks to our sponsors for their continued financial support. This support is essential to maintaining a quality seminar as it allows us to invite the best speakers while still maintaining a reasonable registration fee.

An important part of the success of the WCDS over the years has been the guidance and support of the advisory committee. This committee includes representation from academia, government, milk producer organizations, the AB Veterinary Medical Association, the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada, equipment manufacturers, financial institutions, and pharmaceutical companies. Many thanks are extended to the advisory committee for their hard work, and to Kate Davies, who is our new seminar coordinator.

The mission of the WCDS is to contribute to the development of the dairy industry by providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to keep abreast of the latest developments in research, technology and policy that influence production efficiency, milk quality, and animal care. Delegates come from a broad cross section of the dairy industry, and we are pleased that the seminar continues to attract the industry innovators and leaders. We have no doubt that this has a significant multiplier effect in terms of impact on the efficiency and sustainability of the dairy industry.

Happy reading!

Lorraine Doepel  
WCDS Program Director