



DR. LUIS ZARCO

Veterinary educator who has devoted an important portion of his energy and of his professional life to promote positive changes in veterinary education. His work in this area has had a significant impact both in Mexico and in International Organizations. Dr. Zarco is a veterinary graduate (1981) from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a postgraduate (Ph.D. in Endocrinology) from the University of California, Davis (1985). He is a Professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine of UNAM, where he teaches animal reproduction and research methodology to veterinary students, and endocrinology and physiology of reproduction to post-graduate students. He carries out basic and applied research on reproductive endocrinology, and has published more than 80 scientific papers on reproductive physiology of several animal species. He is a member of the Mexican Academy of Sciences and of the Mexican Veterinary Academy, and is a former President of the Mexican Research Academy on Reproductive Biology.

Dr. Zarco was Dean of the Veterinary College of UNAM from 1997 to 2005, but his interest and passion for veterinary education has transcended his institution and his country. He was President of the Mexican Association of Veterinary Medical Schools and of the Pan-American Federation of Veterinary Schools, which affiliates National Associations of veterinary schools

from Latin-American countries. As Dean of UNAM's Veterinary College, Dr. Zarco called in the year 2003 to the "First World Meeting of Leaders in Veterinary Education" which was organized by UNAM and attended by Deans of veterinary schools from North America, South America, Europe and some Asian countries. The meeting was also attended by representatives from WHO, PAHO and FAO, by presidents of National Veterinary Associations (including AVMA and CVMA), and by the Presidents of PANVET, WVA and the European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education. That meeting was the first gathering of such high level aimed specifically at discussing and understanding the complex challenges of veterinary education in different regions of the world, as well as the international implications of the diversity in veterinary education. In a way, the communication and inter-regional exchange of ideas started on that meeting paved the way for future interactions that culminated on the World Conferences on Veterinary Education that have been organized in recent years by the OIE, and that led to the definition of the essential requirements for veterinary educational programs.

Dr. Zarco is a former President of the Mexican Council on Veterinary Education (CONEVET), which is the organism in charge of accreditation of Mexican veterinary colleges, and he is a former Coordinator of the Accreditation Committee of the Pan-American Council of Veterinary Education, which gathers information about veterinary accreditation systems in the Americas and sends observers to accreditation site visits in Latin American countries. Dr. Zarco himself has participated as part of site-visit teams in Mexico and Costa Rica, and as an observer in a COE site visit in the United States. He has attended and participated as speaker in a large number of Pan-American and World meetings on veterinary education, and has published several papers on veterinary education in the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education and on OIE's Scientific and Technical Review, with special emphasis on understanding similarities and differences between systems of veterinary college accreditation in different countries and regions.

At the personal level, the strong commitment of Dr. Zarco to quality veterinary education was recognized in Mexico when he was awarded in 2008 the "National University Award" for best teaching in Natural Sciences, and his efforts to improve the links between veterinary educators and the organized profession in Mexico were recognized with the "National Veterinary Award" from the Mexican Veterinary Medical Association (FedMVZ) and with the "Veterinary of the Year Award" from the Mexican Association of Bovine Practitioners. Also, and in large part due to his commitment in favor of quality higher education, Dr. Zarco was, for 9 years, a member of UNAM's Board of Governors, which is the body in charge of selecting and appointing not only the President, but also the Deans of every School and Research Institute of the National University of Mexico.