

# Interbull Centre

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Interbull is a sub-committee of the  
International Committee for Animal Recording  
(ICAR)  
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## 2009 INTERBULL MEETING

**AUGUST 21 - 24, 2009**

**BARCELONA, SPAIN**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Interbull meeting was well attended with 151 registered participants from 32 countries.
2. Operational issues
  - a. Discussion on the new IB evaluation schedule has been finalised and leads to 3 release dates for routine runs per year (August, December and April). The new schedule becomes effective in December 2010, since for August 2010 the release date will stay on third Tuesday in August, having the submission of data been set to July 27 in order to accommodate the involvement of Interbull and the national evaluation centers staff in the WCGALP in Leipzig, Germany. The new schedule (release dates) from December 2010 is, i.e.
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in December
    - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in April
    - iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in August
  - b. A new schedule for test runs has been decided (effective from January 2011)
    - i. 3 weeks after August release; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in January

3. Modification of current procedures for conventional genetic international evaluations:
  - a. Research run for male/female pedigree in MACE is planned for second half of 2009, which will be followed by a possible approval during the Paris meeting in March 2010 and, if approved, used for the test run in May 2010.
  - b. Streamlining of MACE procedures will be used effectively from the September 2009 test run onwards and from the January 2010 routine run onwards.
  - c. Implementation of minimum number of daughters/minimum EDC during the September 2009 test run
  - d. Implementation of Interbull database for both pedigree and EBV exchanges during the May 2010 test run.
4. Incorporation of genomics
  - a. Task Force:

Considering the numerous issues that still require special advice from specialists, the SC decided to extend the mandate of the genomics Task Force until the next annual meeting, to be held in Riga, Latvia, from May 31 to June 4, 2010.
  - b. Validation:

This issue received high priority, and the IB Technical Committee, under assistance of the IB genomic Task Force, will finalise a validation test for GEBV's (a method III-G) in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009. The SC will then evaluate the proposal and eventually approve this validation test method. The SC will then recommend the proposed validation procedure to ICAR for approval. Evaluation systems for genomic EBVs that pass this test should be considered valid within the EC.
  - c. GMACE:

Likely in November or December 2009 a first research run for GMACE will be conducted by Interbull under guidance of the IB genomics Task Force. The results will be reviewed by the Task Force and the IB Technical Committee. Results will be discussed during a workshop in March 2010
  - d. Conversion factors:

The use of conventional conversion equations from one country scale to another were tested by the Interbull Centre by running genetic correlations between countries including GEBVs from one country at a time. Although correlations varied within the range usually observed in Interbull runs, both ITC and SC considered inappropriate to apply any form of conversion before a methodology to validate GEBVs is in place.
  - e. Brown Swiss Genomics:

A research project to create a common reference population for the Brown Swiss breed at the Interbull Centre has been approved by the SC and was presented at the business meeting. SNP prediction equations will be calculated in each country scale at the Interbull Centre. The project is

funded by the European Brown Swiss Federation, European Commission and SLU. Other Brown Swiss populations are welcome to join the project.

5. Workshop of Genomics
  - a. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Interbull workshop on genomics will be held in Paris, France, from March 4-5 2010.
6. The 2<sup>nd</sup> industry meeting with Interbull will be held also in France after the genomics workshop on March 5, 2010.
7. New SC members
  - a. The Interbull business meeting endorsed the proposal of Dr. Bevin Harris as successor of Mr. Bill Montgomery from New Zealand and of Dr. Marj Faust as successor of Dr. Paul VanRaden from the United States of America.
  - b. The ICAR board will receive the nominations and most likely appoint these two individuals for a four years term.
8. New member of the Technical Committee
  - a. The Interbull Steering Committee appointed Dr. Paul VanRaden as new member of the Interbull TC.
9. Interbull strategic plan
  - a. The strategic plan prepared in January 2009 was reviewed by the Steering Committee and presented in the business meeting.
  - b. A more detailed version of the plan will be sent to the members for comments and suggestions in October 2009, and the final version should be approved in March 2010, at the Paris workshop.
10. Interbeef
  - a. The working group had a strategic planning session to prepare the transition between research and service.
  - b. The Scientific Advisory Committee for Beef Cattle was formed and had its first meeting with the working group. The members of the SAC-Beef are Dr. Dorian Garrick, from Iowa State University, and Dr. Roel Veerkamp, from Wageningen University.