

**Report on the WPSA Working Group 6 (Incubation & Fertility Research Group)
Meeting: 24th-25th July 2007 at Surgeon's Hall, Edinburgh, UK**

In July 2007 the 32nd meeting of the Incubation & Fertility Research Group (WPSA Working Group 6) was held at the Surgeon's Hall complex, Edinburgh, Scotland. This year there was a departure from our usual pattern of a September annual meeting; instead the group met in conjunction with the WPSA 29th Poultry Science Symposium 'Biology of Breeding Poultry'. The first day of the meeting comprised Sessions 4 to 7 of the Symposium, which included invited contributions from long-term IFRG members Dr Graham Wishart, Dr Nick French and Dr Charles Deeming. Nearly all of the thirty-odd delegates attended both days, with a few delegates from the Symposium signing up for the second day during the Symposium sessions. Participants from eight different countries (from as far a field as Jordan, Italy and a large contingent from the Netherlands), attended this enjoyable and successful meeting. As always there was a wide-ranging programme held over the two days. The second day consisted of twelve presentations covering a wide range of topics from "Sex determination in *Gallus gallus* x *Phasianus colchicus* hybrids" to "Data collection for a hatchery monitoring system" to chick corneal development. Also, there were posters presented by delegates covering again a diversity of topics.

Highlights of the meeting included the presentations from the three invited speakers. Annet Velthuis of the University of Wageningen, on her first visit to the IFRG, gave a presentation on "Epidemiological field study on Dutch hatchery data" and Professor Pat Monaghan of Glasgow University summarised some of her group's research on "Incubation and life history trade-offs" which contained thought-provoking implications for poultry incubation. Last, we were fortunate to obtain Dr Barbara Tzschentke, Humboldt-University of Berlin, as a last minute replacement for Amos Ar, who was unable to attend. Dr Tzschentke supplied a comprehensive review of her work on "Incubation temperature and embryonic metabolism".

With the usual mix of researchers and commercial participants there were some lively discussions over refreshments and during the Symposium dinner held on the evening of the 24th July. The participants at the business meeting decided that the 2008 meeting would be held in central England, possibly Cambridge, in the first week of September. Dr Victoria Maltby of Bernard Matthews Ltd, this year's able organiser of the complex arrangements (due to the 'hybrid' nature of the meeting) agreed to organise again. Full details of the 2008 meeting, and a report of the 2007 programme, will be posted at www.ifrg.org.