

Dear ILS Delegates,

You are cordially invited to 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Leptospirosis Society (ILS) in the City of Palmerston North, New Zealand, from 07-Nov to 01-Dec 2017. Post conference workshops will be offered Sun 03-Dec to Tue 05-Dec. November weather is advanced spring season with long days, green trees and flowers all out – day temperatures around 18-25dC/ 64-77F.

The Theme for the 10<sup>th</sup> ILS is *Science for People*.

Our world is changing. Human population growth is predicted to increase nearly 50% to 11 billion by 2050, and climate change and changing land use will have an impact on local and global food systems, interactions among humans, wildlife and domestic animals, as well as local, regional, and global public health alerts. The impact of leptospirosis on people and animals depends on all of these factors. How can we reduce the risk, how can we communicate with communities, media and politicians to achieve more effective disease control at the frontline? These are questions that will be addressed at the conference in specific sessions about one-health, extension at the front-line and population health.

For the first time, ILS will be offering practical 3-day workshops to delegates which are designed to provide training and hands-on experience in the epidemiology, microbiology and genomics of leptospirosis research.

We want the 10<sup>th</sup> ILS to be a forum for delegates in academia, public services, and private sectors to create a vision for the future of leptospirosis control at local, regional, and international levels. We will invite keynote speakers to share their vision and innovative ideas on diagnosis, treatment, environmental health, technological developments, research, extension, and public policy of our future. At the same time, we welcome the opportunity to share experiences and know-how led by ILS delegates all over the world, alone or in collaboration with other professionals in the health and social sciences.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the 10<sup>th</sup> ILS in the City of Palmerston North, New Zealand, in November 2017. We know that you, your family, and friends will enjoy New Zealand's people, culture, food, and many other attractions offered by this hospitable city and surrounding areas.

Sincerely,

Prof. Cord Heuer  
Organising Committee Chairman