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Preface

This issue gathers the contributions of the invited speakers of the 19th International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR), a world class event that takes place every four years. ICAR showcases the latest progress on every aspect of animal reproduction, including physiology, pathology and reproductive technologies.

The Congress was to be held in Bologna, Italy, from June 28th to July 2nd, 2020; however, due to the Coronavirus outbreak that has paralyzed the scientific community (and not only) worldwide, it has been moved to June 27th to July 1st, 2021. Nonetheless, we have unanimously decided to publish this year's reviews, respecting the original date, to recognize the efforts of the speakers and to showcase the level and the breadth of what would have been the 19th ICAR. We look forward to meeting all together again in one year's time, with renewed enthusiasm, to share our passion for science and the pleasure of true international cooperation and reciprocal support.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who worked enthusiastically to achieve the present volume as well as towards making this year's Congress a success, certain that their contribution will come to light next year. A special thanks to the Editorial Board of *Theriogenology*, as well as a personal thanks to Professor Fulvio Gandolfi, for the great efforts invested in the realization of this special issue; and also, thanks to the Elsevier staff, without whose help this publication could not have come to light.

In addition, I obviously really appreciate the availability of all Authors and the crucial help of the Reviewers.

This issue makes the valuable contributions of speakers of the 19th ICAR available, an important event in the life of specialists working on animal reproduction worldwide.

The scientific program, that is confirmed for 2021, will consist of five Plenary Sessions and 12 Symposia; a keynote speaker will introduce the latest developments of a particular field to the audience, and will be followed by three to four invited lectures.

I would also like to sincerely thank all the Colleagues of the Local Organizing and Scientific Program Committees as well as of the International Advisory Board, who actively contributed to the realization of the 19th ICAR and to the publication of this special issue, among them a particular thanks to Diego Bucci, Giovanna Galeati and Marcella Spinaci, Members of the local Organizing Committee of the Bologna meeting and of the Guest Editorial Board.

Carlo Tamanini, Guest editor
*Department of Veterinary Medical Sciences, Alma Mater Studiorum,
University of Bologna, Italy*