The international veterinary immunology symposia offer special opportunities to meet researchers with similar or closely related research projects. Because the common theme is “veterinary immunology” a broad range of topics and species need to be covered that all face the same need for cooperation in the development and approval of tools to study immune reactivity in veterinary species. This includes the validation of reagents and techniques, confirming their relevance in various experimental set ups. I have had the opportunity to follow this development through the years from the very first meeting in Guelph, 1986 and it therefore had a special value to be able to attend the symposium 30 years later and to notice how far veterinary immunology has proceeded through these years. It was also a great pleasure to note that the improvements within this research area and its importance for the global health has been recognized in the society, as substantiated by the Workshop: “Bill and Melinda Gates Grand Challenge”.

The round table discussion regarding needs for improved veterinary vaccines is closely related to my special area of research and thus most valuable for me to attend. Furthermore, many presentations were directly or indirectly related to immune modulation and excellent plenary sessions gave up-dates on e.g. antigen presenting cells, ways of antigen preparation and novel adjuvant formulations. Not least important was the opportunity to meet “old” and new friends, opening up for future collaboration with exchange of reagents, techniques and knowledge. International collaboration will keep veterinary immunology prospering, not at least in the area of “One Health”, emphasising the importance of healthy animals for food production with low use of antibiotics and reduced risks for zoonotic diseases.

Caroline Fossum, Uppsala, Sweden