

## Remembering our confrère, Dr René Carlson



It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our confrère, Dr René Carlson from the United States of America (USA).

The OIE is privileged to have worked closely with Dr Carlson and has benefited from her steadfast leadership and enthusiastic dedication to animal health professionals worldwide, most notably in promoting veterinary education and ensuring the well-being of veterinarians. We are truly grateful for her valuable support of the Organisation over the years and her active participation at annual OIE General Sessions. Dr Carlson ensured that the veterinary profession's voice was clearly heard in an international setting.

*"If veterinarians aren't there, making policy and being vocal, then someone else makes those decisions."*

In 2014, Dr Carlson was elected president of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), an internationally recognised federation of global veterinary medicine representing approximately 90 national veterinary medical associations and 500,000 veterinarians; and a collaborative partner of the OIE since 2002. In her capacity as WVA President from 2014 to 2017, Dr Carlson played an active role in the World Veterinary Day Awards held at OIE General Sessions. In 2015, she served as a member of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education, describing the creation of the WVA Global Online Continuing



OIE Director General Monique Éloit and OIE President Botlhe Michael Modisane with WVA President René Carlson during the World Veterinary Day Award ceremony, OIE 84th General Session, May 2016.

Education Portal in partnership with the World Continuing Education Alliance, thus confirming her commitment to the continuing professional development that veterinarians require in order to meet OIE standards for veterinary service delivery in countries throughout the world.

From July 2011 to August 2012, Dr Carlson was president of the American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA), the USA's premier veterinary professional association, representing 82% of all veterinarians in the United States. She also served as Director of the Association's Committee on International Veterinary Affairs.

Dr Carlson will be remembered for her enthusiasm, positivity and ability to exert influence in ensuring that veterinary professionals are key players in the global decision-making process in public and animal health. She will be greatly missed by her confrères here at the OIE.