



Global Poultry Summit discusses Causes and Economic Impact of Immunosuppression Issues in Chicken Flocks

- Preceding Global IPPE Avian Trade Show in Atlanta, Ga -

Atlanta, Ga – January 30th, 2017 – Merial, now part of Boehringer Ingelheim, hosted a full-day meeting in Atlanta with many of the biggest poultry producers in Latin America and several global thought leaders in poultry disease prevention. Leading up to the International Production & Processing Expo in Atlanta, the largest annual poultry trade show in the world, the company gathered customers and industry experts for a full-day discussion on IBD (Infectious Bursal Disease) in poultry. IBD - also known as Gumboro disease - is one of the most common, contagious and significant immunosuppressive viral diseases in poultry and can significantly compromise the economic productivity of commercial poultry flocks.

In light of the growing need for protein in the world, industry collaboration on poultry disease prevention and production efficiency practices is critical. By 2020, chicken is expected to overtake pork as the global animal protein of choice.¹

“We are proud to bring together many experts in poultry health to discuss the critical importance of immunosuppression in birds,” stated Jérôme Baudon, Global Head of the Avian Business at Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health. In addition to providing vaccines and technologies, our goal is to support poultry farmers by sharing expertise and information so they can raise and care for their animals in a healthy and financially viable way.”

In the opening session of the IBD Summit II (*), Rabobank Animal Protein Senior Analyst Nan-Dirk Mulder discussed the global and Latin American poultry outlook – and the importance of production efficiency advances in light of the increasing challenges of animal disease, supply and distribution, food safety, animal welfare and environmental sustainability. Other expert sessions and workshops focused on the use of recombinant vaccines; understanding the IBD virus and how it interacts with other diseases and impacts the immune system of chickens; the importance of a healthy immune system; the latest studies and field experiences in IBD control; and the economic impact of immunosuppression control in commercial poultry production.

“Uniting the strengths of two leading players in animal health has created a broader portfolio, increased expertise and resources, and an expanded geographic presence. Through invigorating dialogue on topics like IBD prevention, the newly combined Boehringer Ingelheim and Merial teams are demonstrating our commitment to help poultry farmers improve high-performance production.”

(*) The Merial IBD Summit II is a recognized technical seminar by the American Colleague Poultry Veterinarian (ACPV).

About Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health

On January 1st, 2017, Merial became part of the Boehringer Ingelheim group. As the second largest animal health business in the world, Boehringer Ingelheim is committed to making the industry even better at improving animal health. With more than 10,000 employees worldwide, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health has products available in more than 150 markets and a global presence in 99 countries. For more information about Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, [click here](#).



About Boehringer Ingelheim

Boehringer Ingelheim is one of the world's 20 leading pharmaceutical companies. Headquartered in Ingelheim, Germany, Boehringer Ingelheim operates presently with a total of some 50,000 employees worldwide. The focus of the family-owned company, founded in 1885, is on researching, developing, manufacturing and marketing new medications of high therapeutic value for human and veterinary medicine. In 2015, Boehringer Ingelheim achieved net sales of about 14.8 billion euros. R&D expenditure corresponds to 20.3 per cent of net sales. For more information, please visit www.boehringer-ingelheim.com

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