Sabine E. Hammer, MS, PhD—Molecular Geneticist

Sabine Hammer studied biochemistry and molecular genetics at the Vienna University (Austria) and finished her doctoral thesis in 2001. Her theses' projects focused on molecular variability and differentiation among chamois (genus *Rupicapra*, Artiodactyla, Bovidae) and the molecular phylogeny of pteriomorph Bivalvia (Mollusca), respectively. Postdoctoral research projects continued the inference of the evolutionary history of chamois, together with mapping homologs of *Drosophila* DNA transposons in mammalian genomes.

Since 2006, Hammer has taught and researched in molecular immunology and immunogenetics at the Institute of Immunology at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna (Vetmeduni Vienna). One of her main interests focuses on the application of PCR-based MHC typing techniques in various pig lines. As a member of the SLA Nomenclature Committee (formed in 2002 as a joint ISAG/IUIS-VIC committee) she validates newly identified swine leukocyte antigen (SLA) sequences according to the guidelines established for maintaining high standards of quality for the accepted sequences. Hammer is a founding member of the European Canine Lymphoma Network (ECLN), which was jointly launched by research groups at the Vetmeduni Vienna and the University of Milan in June 2009, to harmonize analytical protocols and research strategies in canine hematopoietic tumors. In this context, her research projects have contributed to the establishment of molecular tools for tumor diagnostics in companion animals at the Vetmeduni Vienna.

In 2008, Hammer joined ISAG and attended her first society meeting, in Amsterdam, presenting her first poster on the MHC background of commercial pig lines. She very much appreciates the stimulating interdisciplinary and interspecies network that ISAG provides. In 2016, at the 35th ISAG meeting, in Salt Lake City, UT, Hammer became a member of the Genetics of Immune Response Committee. At this year's meeting, she is chairing the Comparative MHC Workshop and will run the business meeting for the Comparative MHC Committee.

To date, her research projects have included species ranging from wildlife, such as mountain ungulates, to companion and farm animals. Application of state-of-the-art molecular biology techniques is mandatory for answering late-breaking scientific questions in the areas of comparative genetics and genomics and veterinary immunology.

As a member of the Executive Committee, Hammer will be happy to share her multispecies expertise and her methodical flexibility with the ISAG community. Furthermore, she strongly believes that her professional connection with the veterinary field offers many potential benefits for the society's future prospects.