

**Dr Harpreet Kochhar**



Dr. Kochhar received his PhD in reproductive biotechnology from the University of Guelph, Canada in 1999, complementing a Masters in Theriogenology and a DVM. He gained hands-on experience while working in a mixed animal practice in South western Ontario, Canada, before returning to academia as Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences in Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph. His sphere of influence shifted when he joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as Senior Animal Biotechnology Policy Specialist, and later as Senior Advisor for Animal Research. With an extensive policy development experience and strong science background, he is asked to provide expert opinions in international forums discussing animal health and food safety as they relate to biotechnology. Keeping up his other interests, he is Chairman, Food Safety Committee of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS), former chairperson, Canadian Federal Inter-departmental Animal Biotechnology working group as well as a key member of the OIE ad-hoc working group on assisted reproductive technologies. Over the past few years he has lectured extensively in symposiums on gene-based technologies for the FAO/IAEA, participated in Codex Alimentarius meetings and delivered invited lectures and keynote addresses in international meetings regarding regulatory and scientific issues related to animal biotechnology. These activities do not slow his writing: he has published extensively and recently served as Guest editor for the journal 'Theriogenology'. Dr. Kochhar's principal interests are cloning and transgenic technologies for animals, and the associated issues of animal health and food safety. Currently, he is the Director of Program Delivery Division of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and actively engaged in traceability files for the Agency.