

Dear NOW Community,

time flies, the summer has passed very quickly and here we are, counting year two of the pandemic.

Sad news arrived in September -- Hans de Bruijn, a founding member and the general coordinator of small mammals, passed away. Hans set up the structure for treatment of small mammals in NOW and remained with NOW throughout. The operating principles of NOW today, emphasizing consistency, largely owe to the firm example of treatment of small mammals.

I did not know Hans in person until I first met him this spring, about twenty minutes before the start of the NOW Award meeting online. We chatted while other participants slowly gathered and it was real talk in a few minutes and there was a lot of implicit trust in us, to move onwards and do things right.

Many colleagues recall Hans' tireless devotion to rodent study which resulted in field campaigns everywhere, from Spain to Greece and Turkey and many, many papers. His work in small mammals is monumental. Many of the NOW participants have been touched by Hans. On behalf of the NOW community, eternal memory.

The NOW book is coming together well, the editors say. Almost all the corrected chapters are in, so now is time to write the prologue, introduction and index, plus check the style of all the book. The expectation is to have this finished by early 2022, then the book can be go to production, it would be available by autumn 2022, perhaps earlier.

It's still hard to say anything firm about the NOW anniversary meeting in Barcelona. For now a tentative plan is late 2022 at the earliest, COVID permitting, but it's still very uncertain. The real anniversary is in two months, NOW turns 25 in December 2021. Happy anniversary!

Take care,
Indrè

General Coordinator of NOW