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EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues!

Time moves fast and so does our College ...

Realising that my two-year term as President will come to end in October this year, it is time for me to reflect on the past and future of our College and also about my own contribution.

I hope that many colleagues will agree that we have further improved our procedures. What I think is really important is that we are moving in the right direction. The ratio between the number of Diplomates accredited according to the procedures for De Facto membership and those that were successfully examined is one example. The last round of applications for De Facto membership was in 2005 bringing the number of Diplomates to 262 in 2006. It was the maximum number we reached. In 2005 the first two candidates for the PM speciality were successfully examined according to the interim procedures, one of them being currently our Junior Vice President, and two other Diplomates that passed the exam in 2006 are now Members of the Council. Today our college counts 161 active Diplomates, which means that the number is lower than in 2006, but on the other hand we have 77 residents (53 for the Population Medicine and 24 for the Food Science) who are supervised by the Specialists of our College and we received 21 new applications in 2014. This ever increasing number of residents is also translated into an increasing number of diplomates that were successfully examined. This clearly shows that our college is realising its principal goal of training and education.

However, we do also receive critical feedback from time to time. I have always urged the Council to follow-up very seriously any critical comment in order to challenge our own position and procedures. One common issue is an apparent disagreement about the minimum level of active involvement in college affairs required for active



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diplomats. In fact, these rules are fixed by EBVS and there is very little space for case-by-case considerations. My recommendation to both “elder” diplomates (including colleagues belonging to the “de-facto cohort”) and new diplomates is to take these requirements of active involvement seriously as it constitutes the basis for a thriving college. De Facto specialists have joined the College because they were proud to be recognized as European specialists and they thought that the title received by an international accreditation body could be useful for their professional career.

However, the diploma awarded by the EU Colleges does not have full legal recognition and only in some countries are the national specialist qualifications being phased out by the EBVS specialist qualifications. There are many pertinent specialists who are not registered as diplomates and in some countries an academic title is required to obtain jobs in public veterinary services. Apart from this, the lack of legal recognition is not an issue for our professional work if the high quality of the EBVS specialist qualification is recognized. We have to work to keep high qualitative standards.

With this aim our curriculum was recently updated and we trust that flexible training opportunities will become increasingly available which will also improve the necessary interaction between our sub specialities.

We should be aware that cooperation and commitment is required for the mutual benefit of the Diplomates. Our mission includes research, education, and outreach health service for human and animal populations. To accomplish this a professional network was developed, but we have to cooperate.

We should be available to participate to the activities of the College, including the annual meetings and their organization. It is a duty of the Council to develop an effective communication with the Diplomates, but their interaction is the best way to improve the overall functioning of the College.

Marcello Trevisani
President ECVPH

March 2015

Annual Meeting 2014: Copenhagen

The annual meeting of the ECVPH was successfully held from October 6th – 8th 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Attracting nearly **140 participants** being diplomats and a considerable number of attending residents of the ECVPH the conference followed once more the earlier adopted format headed under the scope of “Evidence-informed decision-making within Veterinary Public Health.”



The “Roberto Chizzolini Memorial Poster Prize” was awarded to the Resident **Riikka Laukkanen-Ninios**, for her poster on “Epidemiology and control of enteropathogenic Yersinia in the pork production chain – a literature review”

The Council gratefully acknowledge everyone involved in the successful organization.

The draft-minutes of the AGM are posted on the ECVPH website for consideration by members and residents of the ECVPH.

Marcello Trevisani, *President &*
Andreas Wunsch, *Documenting Secretary*

Annual Meeting 2015: Belgrade – Serbia October 7th – 9th October 2015

As earlier announced this year next Annual Conference will be held under the scope of “**The Challenges of Cross-Border Trade of Food, Feed and Animals**” at Belgrade, Serbia, October 7th – 9th October 2015.



This Conference will give us the opportunity to interact with Experts working for the EU Commission and International Organization and have an insight in the policies and the strategies that are used to control the hazards, but also to overcome the conflicts and obstacles that create barriers to the trades.

The draft Programme and Registration will be made available from April 2015 on. Details to be posted on the College website.

Diplomates are also reminded and should note that attendance of the AGM at least once in 3 (!) consecutive years is compulsory. The status of Diplomates not complying with this requirement will be set to “non-practicing”/inactive.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you in Belgrade!

Marcello Trevisani, *President*
Bojan Blagojevic, *AGM 2015 Organising Committee*

Nominations of candidates for Elections to the ECVPH Council

Due to the change of Office nominations are required for the following post in the Council in 2015:

- **Junior Vice President** (term of office 2 years – automatically moving to the President position)

The Council is proposing that candidates who “went to the entire ECVPH education path of the ECVPH” should be favourite for nominations.

Due to the current composition of the council, new female diplomates are especially encouraged to stand for nomination and election. A call for nominations will be timely made in spring; the deadline may be set for early summer 2015. Thanks for keeping that in mind.

Please note that only active Members in good standing can be nominated.

Marcello Trevisani, *President*
Frans Van Knapen, *Chair Nomination Committee*

Educational issues - Residencies and Exams

The NEW ECVPH Curriculum

A review of the ECVPH Curriculum was launched in 2013 using a participatory approach with an online questionnaire and a working group open to all Diplomats of the College, resulting in an updated Curriculum being now valid since December 2014. The new ECVPH Curriculum and further detailed information is available at our website <http://www.ecvph.org/residency-and-training>.

Transition rules:

Residents are not required to alter their approved training programme in light of this Curriculum update. All examinations up to and including those taking place in 2016 will be based on the old curriculum. However, the updated Curriculum and in particular the keywords found therein will provide some useful guide for Residents examined under the old Curriculum.

From December 2014 onwards, new residency applications must refer to the new Curriculum.

From January 2017 onwards, all examinations (except resits of exams first taken before 2017) will be based on the new curriculum, regardless of the date of commencement of the residency programme.

Residencies

The education committee (10 members) has again had another busy year:

- Between October 2013 and October 2014 we approved 18 new residency programs (4 FS and 14 PM) of which 5 are alternative and one is a generic



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residency program. At the same time 39 annual progress reports have been received and assessed.

- At this stage we have a total of 72 approved ongoing residency programs (24 FS and 48 PM) and we anticipate to have 3 residents that will take the exam either in May or July 2015.

- 21 (9 FS and 12 PM) new residency program applications and 26 annual progress reports have been submitted at the last deadline 1st of December 2014 and are currently being assessed.

- The next deadline for submission of new residency programs and annual progress reports is the 1st of June 2015.

Eleni Iossifidou, *Council member & Chair of the Education Committee*

Examinations

The residents Thimo Albert (FS), Marnie Brennan (PM), Ana Belen Garcia (PM), Christina Nathues (PM), Katharina Riehn (FS), Franziska Wohlfender (PM) successfully completed the residency programme by passing the Qualifying Examination in the year 2014 – Congratulations!

The **exam dates for 2015** have been fixed for both written (13. May and 23. September 2015) and oral (7th July and 17. November 2015).

Candidates for the **2nd term** have to apply/submit their credentials until **1st of June 2015** latest!

Ed van Klink, *Chair of the Exam Committee*

Recent ECVPH residents' activities

Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance, 9-10 October 2014, Copenhagen

A 1.5 day workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance was organized in Copenhagen following the Annual General Meeting, and 28 residents participated. This workshop covered the use of source attribution methods for typing of antibiotic resistant bacteria and outbreak modelling, diagnostic test evaluations with and without reference standards, and monitoring and control programs for the use of antimicrobials in livestock in Europe. The residents would like to thank

all the organizers and instructors involved in this workshop. The residents would also like to thank Dr. Anna Fahrion for organizing a tour to the United Nations building on Wednesday 8th October.



Workshop on Veterinary Ethics and Animal Welfare Risk Assessment, 12th- 16th of January 2015, Hannover

A 5-day workshop on Veterinary Ethics and Animal Welfare Risk Assessment was organized by Dr. Sonja Hartnack, with the participation of guest speakers Prof. Peter Kunzmann and Dr. Christine Müller-Graf. This workshop was attended by 16 residents and 1 external participant, and included several discussions on ethical frameworks that can be applied to animal welfare, different welfare definitions and interpretations, and the use of risk assessment in animal welfare.

Attending residents would like to thank all the organizers and instructors, and particularly Dr. Amely Campe for her excellent organizational work.

Future workshops, residents meeting and training activities

A) Resident Workshop on Animal Health Surveillance

This workshop will be held at the University of Bern between the **27th and 29th of May 2015**. Course



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instructors include Dr. John Berezowski and Dr. Flavie Vial, with other invited guest speakers, and the course shall cover Surveillance Design, Implementation and Evaluation. This course is open to residents from the ECVPH, ECBHM and ECPHM, and the registration dead-line is 31st March 2015. For more information, please contact Laura Falzon: laura.falzon@vestuisse.unibe.ch or Isabel Lechner: Isabel.lechner@vetsuisse.unibe.ch

B) Resident Workshop on Effective and Sustainable use of antimicrobials in pork production chain: rules, necessities and concerns.

The Portuguese residents of the ECVPH are organizing a pre-conference workshop during the next **Safepork Conference**, which will be held in Porto (7-10 September 2015). More information can be found here: <http://www.safepork2015.com/>
Or <http://www.safepork2015.com/pdfs/workshop3.pdf>

C) The next Resident Meeting will be held during the ECVPH AGM in Belgrade, and is scheduled for **Thursday 8th October, between 17:00-18:00**. More details will be provided in due course.

D) Other training activities that might be of interest for residents:

i) A **Graduate Summer School on Epidemiology and Biostatistics** is being organized at the University of Bern between the 22nd of June and 3rd of July. For more information, please visit the website: http://www.vetsuisse.unibe.ch/vphi/content/aus__und_weiterbildung/courses/index_eng.html

ii) The Laboratory for Food Microbiology at Wageningen University has established the **"Distance Learning Programme on Food Safety Management"**. For more information, visit the website:

<http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups/Agrotechnology-and-Food-Sciences/Laboratory-of-Food-Microbiology/Education/Courses/Distance-Learning-Courses.htm>

• **Joint Residency Project**

Currently, 15 residents and 1 diplomat are working together on a systematic review looking at the quantitative benefit of using a One Health approach. This project was presented at the last AGM in

Copenhagen, and an abstract has been accepted for an oral presentation at the upcoming International One Health Conference, which will be held in Amsterdam between the 15th and 18th of March 2015.

"Other issues"

• **ECVPH list-serve**

A list-serve for ECVPH residents has been created to facilitate dissemination of information (e.g. upcoming courses etc.) among residents. Any residents whose program has been approved by the Education Committee, and are not yet on the list-serve, please contact Isabel Lechner: Isabel.lechner@vetsuisse.unibe.ch

Please note that this is an internal list among residents, and we therefore cannot guarantee for its completeness. Official announcements and/or communications should still be distributed via the Documenting Secretary Andreas Wunsch.

• **Dropbox folder**

A Dropbox folder has been created to facilitate sharing of relevant information (e.g. exam material, literature, etc.) among residents. Any residents who do not have access to this Dropbox folder are invited to contact Lucie Collineau: lucie.collineau@safoso.ch

• **Note regarding the ECVPH AGM & Conference**

For this year's annual meeting and Conference in Belgrade, no residents workshop is planned in conjunction with the meeting.

• **Financial support from the College for Residents to attend the ECVPH AGM & Conference**

Residents will need to pay a reduced registration fee of 150 EUR for attending the next meeting in Belgrade. The College has granted a total of 2'500 EUR to support the attendance of residents. Thus, residents will be able to claim back part of the registration fee after the meeting. The actual amount of possible financial support will be allocated in function of the final number of residents attending the meeting.

• **Where do Residents find the expense claim?**

Login on the ECVPH webpage and follow this path: "Members Area" >> "Downloads" >> "Residency and Training" @ "Documents".



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Submission/Deadline for proposals of Residents Workshops in 2016

In relation to the proper evaluation and financing of Residents workshops, **proposals for Workshops to be held in 2016 should be submitted to the Council by October 1st, 2015.**

The submitted proposals will be evaluated by the Council and the possible financial support will be allocated in function of the number of proposal and the available budget.

To submit proposals for Residents Workshops, a new form will be uploaded on the ECVPH webpage and circulated among residents by email.

Laura Falzon and Marilena Filippitzi, *Residents speakers*
Annette Nigsch, *Residents Liaison Person*

Diplomates due for re-evaluation in 2015 & compulsory submission of Exam questions

Re-evaluation is compulsory for all Diplomats who received their diploma in **2004** and **2009**. A total of 33 active Diplomates are affected. The re-evaluation will be based on the self-declaration of activities during the past 5 years. Activities are classified into six categories and credit points can be collected for specified activities. A total of 100 credit points needs to be reached. The status of Diplomates who do not achieve this target, who do not apply for re-evaluation, or who submit incomplete or delayed files will be set to "non-practising". As such, they will still have to pay the annual fees, but will not be allowed to vote, hold office nor use their title as Diplomate. The college reserves the right to intervene against unwarranted use of the specialist Diplomate title. The **deadline for the submission of documents will be April 1, 2015.** Detailed bylaws on the re-evaluation process, the necessary form and a template for an according Log-Book are available for download on the College website

In addition concerned members might get reminded that Diplomates are **required to submit exam questions** before being eligible for re-evaluation. Each Diplomate is required to submit five multiple choice

questions, one short answer question and one problem solving question. Without these, the Diplomate will NOT be considered for re-evaluation. Exam questions must of course be adapted in order to take into consideration the New Curriculum!

Since it is compulsory to submit the re-evaluation form before the first of April 2015, Diplomates must make sure that the questions that are required to be submitted, are in well before that date. Members concerned are therefore urged to submit exam questions before the 20th of March 2015.

Tim Parkin, *Secretary*
Ed van Klink, *Chair of the Credentials Committee*

Payment of Fees

For any payment on behalf of ECVPH please notice the below account details:

Account holder: Kurt HOUF, European College of Veterinary Public Health

Name of the bank: BELFIUS
IBAN: BE24 0635 3494 5638
BIC/SWIFT code: GKCCBEBB

For further payment instructions please see our website at <http://www.ecvph.org/payments>

How to CONTACT the College

<http://www.ecvph.org>

All correspondence with the College is directed via the Secretary: Tim.Parkin@glasgow.ac.uk
To contact the Documenting Secretariat please mail to: Andreas.Wunsch@bgld.gv.at

In order to secure the proper and timely submission of messages please get reminded to notify and update ECVPH with any changes in your affiliation/contact details !