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Editorial - Message from the president

Dear Diplomates of the ECVPH,

The year 2010 is going to be important for ECVPH. The definitive recognition by EBVS is at hand. The huge amount of work to write and collect all the documents necessary for such happening was done by Jeroen Dewulf and Ed van Klink. After an informal reaction of EBVS representatives upon the first issue the definitive version was sent in at October 2009. Please cross fingers that we will achieve the formal status of recognized and established European College.

The first Council meeting was held already in February in Brussels. As usual a major subject of discussion was the forthcoming annual meeting in Nottwil Switzerland, next October. Sonja Hartnack and Marcus Doherr have set up the basis for our next meeting at the countryside of Switzerland: peaceful, quiet, beautiful, and no place to go other than the conference facilities. We are underway of inviting the guest speakers and finding appropriate funding to keep our costs within limits. The social programme is something that you shouldn't miss either. We wish the organisers success, wisdom and persistency in their efforts.

We are already looking forward for a venue in 2011. Please consider to be our host for the AGM. Of course I have contacted our colleague Iva Steinhauserova who was so kind to offer such consideration at the Leipzig meeting, but nothing has been laid down so far. The Council would be pleased to offer a choice at the next AGM, but also to have potential candidates for the near future.

We look forward to at least three examination candidates this year. ECVPH is eager to have and welcome young Diplomates after a successful residence programme. It is at least the wishful thinking of your president that discussion with EBVS Board may lead to a bit more liberal point of view with regards to the permit for examination at ECVPH. There may be excellent candidates who for whatever reason did not follow the exact prescription of a residency but are scientifically, technically and by experience show sufficiently seniority to start examination. Of course this can only be awarded after scrutiny and judgement of our own Examination Committee and according to the rules laid down by EBVS. ECVPH should foster every young potential diplomate otherwise we will grow older altogether, and that is not what an active European college should want. The increasing number of applicants to the Qualifying Exam at the same time creates the urgent need for more exam questions. I would therefore like to encourage you all to contribute to the further enlargement of our "Exam-question-database"!

Concern exists on Diplomates who are not willing to fulfil their duties according to our Constitution. This may be financial duties, attending AGM meetings every now and then, or filling in professional activities in the past five years to be judged by the Credentials committee for re-evaluation. Some of our colleagues have reached the position by their own deficit of action that the Council will decide to expel them. Please do not force the Council to act in this way!

At the next FVE meeting in Basel (June 2010) hopefully ECVPH will be represented by a representation of the residencies and the President. This is to show the European veterinary world that 'veterinary public health' is a lively, active and prominent way of performing veterinary medicine. One world, one health idealism is only one of the perspectives that we have to discuss at that meeting. Furthermore it would be an excellent opportunity to let Veterinary Food Hygienists (an active blood group within FVE) know more about ECVPH. The interaction between food hygienists and our College will also be an item at our next conference in Nottwil. We keep you informed!

Best regards,

Frans van Knapen, March 2010

*Prof. F. van Knapen DVM, PhD, DIPL. ECVPH
President ECVPH*





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Annual General Meeting and Conference 2009: Leipzig, October 8-9, 2009

The annual meeting of the ECVPH was successfully held in Leipzig's Pentahotel from October 8-9, 2009. The conference followed once again the format adopted in 2007 and attracted a total number of 90 participants. The theme itself "***Veterinary Contributions to Public Health: Expectations, Opportunities and Implementations***" has offered a good basis for challenging discussions between representatives from food industry, academic institutions as well as governmental bodies emphasizing that the general need for specialists in VPH must be supported by competence economical expertise and communication skills.



Addressing a special tribute to Peggy Braun and Martina Ludewig for her marvellous efforts having contributed to the success of the Conference, the organisers were satisfied with positive reactions obtained directly from the audience as well as the results from the analysed feedback-forms. Details as to this feedback will as usual be taken into account for the planning of next year's conference and will be published later.



Preceding and following the Conference 2 workshops had been organised for the residents: a half-day workshop on "Animal welfare and zoonoses" was held and organised by the Veterinary Faculty followed by a

one and a half day workshop, self-designed by the residents and mainly dedicated to the preparation of the "Joint Residents Project" described below.



The "Roberto Chizzolini Memorial Poster Prize" was awarded to the Resident **Silvia Alonso** for her poster on "First steps into Lyme disease investigation: countrywide sampling strategy and development of diagnostic tool"

The draft-minutes of the AGM will be posted on the ECVPH website in due course.

Andy Paterson ✉
Andreas Wunsch, *e-Newsletter Editors*

Annual Meeting 2010: Nottwil, Switzerland October 7-8, 2010

The next annual meeting will be held at **Nottwil, Switzerland**, from October 7-8, 2009. The local organizer are Marcus Doherr and Sonja Hartnack.

Please mark this date in your calendar! The format of the conference will be adjusted according to the feedback received from members this year. The draft Programme will be available shortly, details to be posted on the College web site www.ecvph.org.

Diplomates should also note that **attendance of the AGM at least once in 4 consecutive years is compulsory**. The status of Diplomats not complying with this requirement will be set to "inactive".

Frans van Knapen, *President* ✉
Marcus Doherr, *Local Organiser*

Educational issues: Residencies and Exams

The education committee has had a busy year:

- In the last months we approved 7 new individual residency programs (3 FS and 4 PM) and 2 were asked to provide some additional information before final approval.
- At the same time 2 generic residency programs (RVC London and Utrecht University) were approved and 2 others are currently under evaluation.



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- At this stage we have at total of 38 approved residency programs and we anticipate to have no less than six residents that will take the exam either in June or October 2010.

- The exam dates for 2010 are 15^o June and 6^o of October 2010. Candidates for the October date have to apply/submit their credentials until 1st of June 2010 latest!

- Given the high number of exams we are in desperate need of more exam questions. Therefore all diplomates are once again encouraged to submit as many questions as possible. These can be submitted by mail to t.parkin@vet.gla.ac.uk – Thanks again for your help!

Jeroen Dewulf, *Council member & Chair of the Education Committee*

Diplomates due for re-evaluation in 2010

Re-evaluation is compulsory for all Diplomats who received their diploma in 2004 or before. A total of 49 Diplomates are affected (in addition 18 are still open from the past 3 years!).

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 "inactive". As such, they will still have to pay the annual fees, but will not be allowed to vote, hold office nor use their title of Specialist. They will no longer be allowed to use their specialist title.

The deadline for the submission of documents will be **April 1, 2010**. detailed bylaws on the re-evaluation process are available for download on the College website.

Andy Paterson, *Secretary*

Ed van Klink, *Chair of the Credentials Committee*

Call for Nominations

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

- Secretary (term of office 5 years)

Due to the current composition of the council, new members from the Food Science sub-specialty are especially welcome. Deadline for nominations is **June 30,**

2010. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the ECVPH web site www.ecvph.org

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

Riitta Maijala

Chair Nomination Committee

Exploring professional challenges and opportunities of the ECVPH Diploma - A joint Residents Project (jRP)

At the last ECVPH AGM in Leipzig it was made clear the crucial need for identifying professional opportunities for VPH experts and, more specifically, for junior diplomats of the College. Representatives from industry, government and academia met at the Conference to discuss the value of the ECVPH expertise in their respective fields. The ECVPH Residents followed up on this discussion during their two days workshop following the AGM and decided to set up a joint project to investigate professional challenges and opportunities for new ECVPH residents and future Diplomats.

With this aim, a group of Residents have started the development of the joint Residents Project (jRP) with the following objectives:

- To promote the status of the ECVPH and its Residents and Diplomats enhancing its visibility and contributing to the wider recognition of the training/expertise.
- To initiate a dialogue with potential employers and help find out their expectations and needs from VPH experts.

The participating residents represent a wide range of European and extra European countries. In each of the participating countries a number of institutions representing Government, Academia and Industry will be targeted to explore their needs and expectation in regards to VPH expertise. This will be done via an online questionnaire developed by the Residents that will allow collection of standardized information across Europe on attitudes and recruitment practices of organizations that currently employ staff with a natural science background. The questionnaire has been approved by the ECVPH Council and the survey is expected to begin in March 2010.

At a later stage, interested residents will gather during a one week workshop where the collected data will be analysed. They will look at various outcomes such as the extent to which the Resident training programme



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matches the needs of potential future employers. The results of this project are expected to be presented at the next ECVPH AGM in Switzerland in October 2010 and in a scientific journal.

This project is proof of the will of ECVPH residents to participate in common initiatives and to engage on activities to promote the College. The Residents appreciate the support expressed by Diplomats. For further information please contact Salome (salome.duerr@vphi.unibe.ch) or Silvia (salonso@rvc.ac.uk).

Silvia Alonso & Salome Dürr, *Residents Speakers*

Lost ECVPH members !

Unfortunately we lost contact with the following members of the College listed below. If you should have any information on their current details and affiliation please let us know!

- Christine Buerk
- Marie Louise Danielsson-Tham
- Raul Mainar-Jaime
- Johanna Takkinen

Andreas Wunsch, *Documenting Secretary*

ANNOUNCING

Welfare of production animals: assessment and management of risks

Wageningen Academic Publishers recently published the 5th volume in the 'Food Safety Assurance and Veterinary Public Health' series. This publication, 'Welfare of production animals: assessment and management of risks', edited by Frans J.M. Smulders and Bo Algers, was published last month. As an ECVPH-diplomat, you will receive a 10% discount on the regular retail price (98 euro plus VAT and shipping). Wageningen Academic Publishers also offer you the opportunity to buy the other books in this series at the same 10% discount rate. When you place an order, please mention that you are a member of ECVPH.

Welfare of production animals: assessment and management of risks has been conceived by a total of 33 internationally recognised experts from 11 different countries in Europe and from the USA, Canada and Australia, with backgrounds ranging from veterinary medicine, animal science, biology and microbiology to psychology, philosophy and ethics. It provides an up-to-date overview of the science of animal welfare and its assessment, of options for the assessment and management of risks for

the welfare of production animals, and of the ramifications these may have for the safety of foods of animal origin. This volume is targeted at veterinary practitioners, official veterinarians in a control function, animal and food scientists, welfare scientists, students in animal welfare, auditing and inspection officials and risk managers at all levels of animal production.

Other publications in the Food Safety Assurance and Veterinary Public Health series are:

- * Volume 1. Food safety assurance in the pre-harvest phase
 - * Volume 2. Safety assurance during food processing
 - * Volume 3. Risk management strategies: monitoring and surveillance
 - * Volume 4. Towards a risk-based chain control
- More information about the book and the series can be found on the publishers website www.wageningenacademic.com/safety5. You can order the book through the website, per email or fax.!

ir. A.F.M. (Mike) Jacobs
Wageningen Academic Publishers

ECVPH's 10th Annual Conference & AGM Nottwil, Switzerland October 7-8, 2010-



How to CONTACT the College

<http://www.ecvph.org>

All correspondence with the College is directed via the Secretary: andy.paterson@defra.gsi.gov.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 !