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Edition 11/2010-2

Editorial - Message from the president

Dear Diplomates and residents of the ECVPH, dear colleagues

As expected 2010 is becoming a momentous year. We were all looking forward to the EBVS meeting in Brussels where our College was to be judged for full recognition after 10 years of hard working and grinding our rules. Finally the end report to be delivered was well prepared by Jeroen Dewulf and Ed van Klink, sent in before the deadline and then the waiting started.

The first signals of reluctance of the EBVS Board and scrutinizers arrived informally just before the Brussels happening. Katharina and I were present to inform the meeting about possible questions and then we were, according to the rules, sent out of the meeting room. They disputed almost half an hour before we were called back and had to absorb the message that a few minor points had to be adapted and a few essential points (e.g. Constitution) had to be changed. Without mentioning all points I just pick out a few:

- *Our educational (residency) programme should include 1-2 years internship or comparable education period in the field of epidemiology or food science, before the actual residency programme starts! This means that at least 4 years of education in total precedes the examination.*
- *The College has acted unsatisfactory with regard to Diplomates in arrear or those who did not attend AGM's regularly. The time to send letters of warning is over! We will have to put a number of colleagues back to non-practising with all the consequences. We will inform you in more detail at the next AGM in Nottwil Switzerland, October 6-8.*

A small group of Board members is going over all the detailed remarks that we obtained in the meantime from EBVS. They also appointed prof. Michael Doherty as the liaison officer between ECVPH and EBVS.



It is actually much nicer to ask your attention for the next coming Nottwil meeting in Switzerland. The organisers are almost at the edge of providing you all with the information on the venue, the programme and the AGM. Marcus Doherr and his team have done all their best to make the conference successful and keep the costs as low as possible. It would be great to see you all in October. Maybe you should reconsider if you were not planning to come, because according to strict EBVS rules we are changing our Constitution also on this point:

every third year you should join the AGM if you cannot be there every year. "Noblesse oblige!" Please don't forget.

Together with two residents from Switzerland, Anna Fahrion and Myriam Harisberger I joined the FVE annual meeting in Basel. We obtained an invitation of the FVE to present an invited lecture on "one health - one medicine" followed by a short presentation of ECVPH and our residency programme. Particularly coming forward with "the youth" of VPH was welcomed by the audience of more than 150 veterinarians of different kinds and backgrounds but on average above 50 years old. Even the past-president of EBVS was very pleased to see how we presented our College and indicated that other Colleges should undertake similar activities to present themselves. They may not be pleased if this turns up to be an EBVS request in the future.



Last but not least I wish you a nice, pleasant and recuperating summer holiday.

Best regards,

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



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Annual General Meeting and Conference 2010: “VPH on the move – at the interface between human and animal health”

As earlier announced this year's conference will take place at Seminarhotel Sempachersee in **Nottwil, Switzerland from October 6-8, 2010.**



Detailed information as well as the registration/reservation forms are available at our website: <http://www.ecvph.org>. – see uploaded detailed “Conference Information”

We are again planning to host a **poster exhibition**. Posters will be invited on scientific topics from Residents and Diplomates. Residents' posters will be eligible for the poster prize. In addition, the best Residents' posters will be selected for oral presentations.

Important dates

- Deadline poster submissions 1. September 2010
- End early bird registration 10. September 2010
- Special room rates deadline 10. September 2010

Registration fees*

- Early bird registration € 270,00
- Registration after 10.09.2010 € 320,00

*Registration fee includes participation in the programme and workshop, coffee-tea for Thursday and Friday, Thursday and Friday lunch, Thursday dinner



The success of a conference is determined by a number of well thought-out choices:

the venue should be convenient and professional, the programme should be attractive, with plenty of time to interact with colleagues - attractive not only for residents but also for Diplomates who will join the AGM - and finally, the costs should be kept as low as possible.

This challenge was very well dealt with by the organisers of the Nottwil 2010 conference. Come and see for yourself what fantastic venue in the beautiful Swiss countryside was chosen. Good residence, good food, good facilities. The only you have to take with you is a good mood. Then we can look forward to a fruitful meeting both socially as well scientifically.

Please get reminded again that Diplomates should be able to prove **attendance at the AGM at least once in 4** (for the time being !) **consecutive years**. The status of Diplomats not complying with this requirement will be set to “inactive”.

We very much look forward to welcoming and meeting you in Nottwil in October!

Frans van Knapen, *President* &
Marcus Doherr, *Conference & Meeting Organizer 2010*

Call for proposals for upcoming Conference venues

A proposal for the year **2011** having been received for **Brno** (Czech Republic) as meeting place and organiser, upcoming venues for the Conference in 2012 and later have not been determined yet – the ECVPH council launches/opens a Call for proposals for holding its annual Conference and annual General Meeting from 2012 and the following years. The meeting should be scheduled for early autumn preferably in the first part of October - concrete proposals and offers are very welcome!

Andreas Wunsch, Documenting Secretary

Full recognition of the ECVPH: chapter 2

The ECVPH applied for full recognition by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) this



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year. This is a formal step that all Colleges have to complete, normally within 10 years after their provisional recognition by EBVS. Our application was considered at the annual meeting in April.



There were quite a few questions and a lengthy discussion of our application.

The key points of concern were that we do not have a requirement for an internship and that our examination has a format that is not normally used by other Colleges. Also, EBVS was concerned by the lack of engagement and active contribution from a significant part of our membership as demonstrated by low attendance of our annual meetings.

As a consequence of these issues, our application was not granted. While this is disappointing, we need to get these remaining points sorted so we can have a successful outcome next year. The Council is currently considering the necessary changes. There will be a need for a change in our Constitution which we will propose to the Members at the next AGM.

We count on all Members to be present at the AGM to discuss and vote on these changes!

Katharina Stärk, Senior Vice-President

ECVPH shows presence at FVE General Assembly

The College lately showed presence to Europe's Veterinarians on the occasion of the biannual General Assembly of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE). The meeting was held on June 11th -12th in Basel, Switzerland. Delegates from many FVE member organizations generally attend these meetings, where policies are drawn up and decisions taken.



ECVPH president Frans van Knapen was invited to give a talk on "One Health" and additionally introduced the

College to the audience in the well attended Saturday morning session. His talk was followed by a short introduction to the ECVPH residency curriculum, given by Anna Fahrion and Myriam Harisberger (2nd year residents, VPH Institute, Vetsuisse Faculty Bern, Switzerland). The ECVPH contributions were well received and followed by some interesting discussions with international attendees. A remarkable number of ECVPH flyers were distributed as additional information material. Summarizing, the "mission was successful" and may well have added to the College's publicity among veterinarians in Europe.

Anna Sophie Fahrion, Resident ECVPH

Follow up of the joint Residents Project (jRP)

In the last ECVPH newsletter the idea of the jRP was described, which focused on the promotion of the College and the initiation of a dialogue with potential employers of VPH specialists (see newsletter 2010-1).

After approval of the questionnaire by the Ethics and Welfare Committee of the RVC an online questionnaire was sent out to identified institutions between April and May 2010. Finally, 14 European countries and Australia and New Zealand participated at the survey. The number of questionnaires (n = 4 – 212) and the response rate (3% - 75%) varied strongly between the different countries, what will be a challenge for the evaluation of the responses. Participating residents will meet in London at the end of July during a workshop to analyze the collected data, prepare a report and discuss appropriate ways to (and find an appropriate way to publish and) communicate the outcomes. This workshop will be generously co-funded by the College.

Despite the questionnaires' outcomes, the participation of 16 countries and the quite high response rate in some countries reveal the interest among residents and diplomats of working together in this joint project and the interest of potential employers on the VPH specialty.

Salome Dürr & Silvia Alonso, Residents Speakers

2010 ECVPH Residents workshop

This year's ECVPH Residents workshop will take place in London, from 26 to 30 July. The workshop, hosted by



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the Royal Veterinary College, is an extraordinary opportunity for residents to meet with other colleagues from across Europe providing a forum for discussion of common issues relevant to the Residency.

Moreover, this year the workshop will include a series of training activities in topics such as antimicrobial resistance, food science and food safety and prevention and control of infectious diseases. Two days will be also dedicated to working on the joint Residents Project (JRP, see previous section in this newsletter). To date twelve residents have confirmed attendance. They represent a range of countries including the UK, Switzerland, Germany, Serbia and the Netherlands. Participants will be financially supported by the ECVPH.

We encourage all residents to consider taking part in this unique opportunity. If you would like more information please contact Silvia (salonso@rvc.ac.uk) or Salome (salome.duerr@vphi.unibe.ch).

Salome Dürr & Silvia Alonso, Residents Speakers

ECVPH on LinkedIn®

LinkedIn is a business-oriented social networking site. Founded in December 2002 and launched in May 2003, it is mainly used for professional networking. As of 15 June 2010, LinkedIn had more than 67 million registered users, spanning more than 200 countries and territories worldwide (Wikipedia).

Recently an ECVPH **LinkedIn** group has been created to connect ECVPH diplomates and residents. All residents and diplomates are welcomed to become a member of this **LinkedIn** group which will be an additional channel to connect and communicate among each other.

To become a member of this group just go to linked-In, select "groups" and then fill in ECVPH in the search field. If you do not have a linked-In account you first need to make an account for yourself. This only takes 2 minutes www.linkedin.com. Having this new platform for exchange, we would consider closing the ECVPH blog spaces hosted by Google.

Jeroen Dewulf, Chair Education Committee & Ordinary Council Member

...still lost ECVPH members !?!

Unfortunately we are still looking for 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
- Richard Eicher

Andreas Wunsch, *Documenting Secretary*

"VPH on the move – at the interface between human and animal health"
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ECVPH Annual General Meeting & Annual Conference 2010
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Notwil/CH, October 6-8, 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 !