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EDITORIAL

The future of veterinary medicine will turn more and more towards veterinary public health. Our professional responsibility to the society at large is subject of debate in many European countries: animal (zoonotic) disease prevention, development of antibiotic resistance in animal pathogens that have negative health consequences if resistant genes are transferred to human flora, environment hygiene, waste disposal and today in the Netherlands: living in the neighbourhood of large (industrialised) animal farmhouses is very bad for your health.

Politicians, consumers, anxious citizens, animal right groups, welfare and protection organisations all start debating the primary production process of a number of agro products. As soon as the medical profession blames the veterinary sector for their rapidly increasing problem of antibiotic resistance, as a consequence of which patients may die in the hospital the chaotic discussions become complete. Why is there so few of us to join the discussion? Why is there so much distance between what people think and the reality of animal production? Veterinarians serving animal production are scoundrels, and the vet school is a breeding place for even more scoundrels. This may be more so in countries with large exporting agro industry than countries with traditional farming. Industrialised meat production is requesting adapted quality control programming along the production line. (farm to fork principle).

It is obvious that modern veterinary medicine should be able to cope with modern problems in society, even if the problems perceived are irrelevant. Risk perception of the public should also be part of our concern. Public health and human welfare are more important today as compared to the origin of veterinary medicine. In those days in the 18th century it was about food security, transport and tractive power. In the 21st century we in Europe foresee a public that probably accepts to buy food if the producers have fulfilled all secondary wishes in the field of: organic production, animal welfare, environment protection, health promoting products (vitamins, anti oxidants, extra calcium, pre- and probiotics etc. etc.) tasty and preferably affordable. As a consequence veterinarians face different tasks and require adapted education. Both graduate and post-graduate courses in veterinary public health are scrutinised in many places in Europe.

education will meet in Leipzig to discuss the above. The same is true for training our residents in food science as well as in epidemiology. "VPH on the move" was the intriguing title of our annual meeting, last October in Nottwil Switzerland. This very successful meeting both scientifically as from the social point of view may have been a breaking point in our thinking. We will always be on the move, but 21st century thinking and training of veterinarians will rapidly move towards public health in a broad perspective. Will you please consider suggestions for speakers during the Brno meeting in October?

It is good that we are looking forward to the formal EBVS recognition of our College. We have, with great respect to Jeroen Dewulf and Katharina Stärk, renewed our Constitution where it was necessary and sharpened our examinations. This time in 15-16 April we must succeed! We will keep you informed.

Best regards,

Frans van Knapen

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

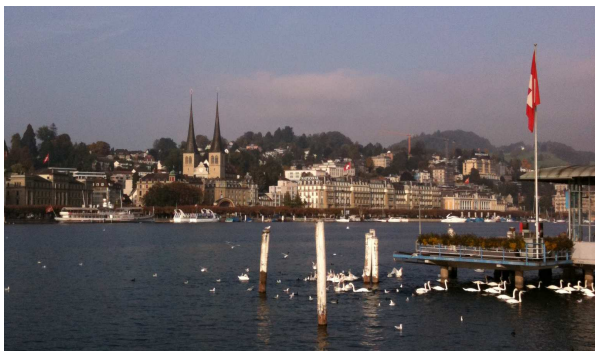
March 2011

Annual General Meeting and Conference 2010: Nottwil, October 6-8, 2010

The annual meeting of the ECVPH was successfully held from October 6-8, 2010 in the Seminarhotel Sempachersee in Nottwil, Canton Luzern, Switzerland. The conference followed the format adopted in 2007, was organized by the Veterinary Public Health Institute, Vetsuisse Bern, and attracted almost 100 participants.



Within the theme **“VPH on the move – at the interface between human and animal health”**, two plenary presentations (Claudia Stein, WHO Geneva, “Global burden of disease, foodborne diseases and zoonoses”; Peter Deplaces, Vetsuisse Zürich: “Echinococcosis control in Switzerland”), three workshops and three challenge sessions as well as short residency presentations and 32 posters generated a very interesting and diverse scientific content. This was complemented by the friendly but professional atmosphere of the Seminarhotel and its staff, the good food, and the opportunity for continued intellectual exchange in the evenings, at the conference dinner as well as during the excursion to the city of Luzern.



As from participants attending, 55 had returned their feedback opinion form. The Conference received an excellent evaluation as to the venue and organisation and very good/good feedback as to the content and the format.



The “Roberto Chizzolini Memorial Poster Prize 2010” was awarded to the Resident **Anna Fahrion** for her poster on “Risk assessment in the pork meat chain in 2 districts of Vietnam”

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

Marcus Doherr, *Local Organiser* &
Andreas Wunsch, *e-Newsletter Editor*

Annual Meeting 2011: Brno, Czech Republic October 5-7, 2011

The next annual meeting will be held at **Brno, Czech Republic October 5-7, 2011**. The local organizer is Iva Steinhauserova.



Please mark this date in your calendar! The format of the conference will be adjusted according to the detailed feedback received from members the past year. The draft Programme may be available in April 2011, details to be posted on the College web site <http://www.ecvph.org/meeting/details/7-ecvph-agm-a-annual-scientific-conference-2011> ONLINE-registration will be available from June 2011 latest.

Prior to the Conference a Residents-workshop will be organised at the Faculty of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno.

Diplomates should also note that – according to the approved constitutional change in October 2010- **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.

Frans van Knapen, *President* &
Iva Steinhauserova, *Local Organiser*

Educational issues: Residencies and Exam

The education committee has had another busy year:

- between September 2010 and March 2011 we approved 9 new individual residency programs (3 FS and 6 PM) of which one is an alternative residency program (PM).
- At this stage we have a total of 45 approved residency programs and we anticipate to have no less than six residents that will take the exam either in June or October 2011.
- 5 residents have entirely completed their training programs, 3 of them have successfully passed the qualifying exam last year.
- The exam dates for 2011 are 22nd of June and 5th of October 2011. Candidates for the October date



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have to apply/submit their credentials until 1st of June 2011 latest!

- Given the high number of exams we are anticipating 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 lisa.boden@glasgow.ac.uk

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

Diplomates due for re-evaluation in 2011 & compulsory submission of Exam questions

Re-evaluation is compulsory for all Diplomats who received their diploma in 2005 or before. A total of 49 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-active". 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 Diplomat. The college reserves the right to intervene against unwarranted use of the specialist Diplomat title.

The deadline for the submission of documents will be **April 1, 2011**. detailed bylaws on the re-evaluation process are available for download on the College website.

In addition concerned members might get alerted, that during the last Annual General Meeting, held in Notwill in Switzerland on October 7th 2010, it was decided that as of this year, Diplomates are **required to submit exam questions before being eligible for re-evaluation**. Each Diplomat is required to submit five multiple choice questions, one short answer question and one problem solving question. Without these, the Diplomat will **NOT** be considered for re-evaluation. Since it is compulsory to submit the re-evaluation form

before the first of April 2011, 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 to 1st of April 2011** (extended deadline!)

Tim Parkin, *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:

- Junior Vice President (term of office 2 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, 2011**. 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

Third ECVPH residents' workshop: 26th to 30th July at the RVC (Royal Veterinary College) in London

The third ECVPH residents' workshop took place from 26th to 30th July at the RVC (Royal Veterinary College) in London. The workshop was perfectly organized by some of the residents of the RVC and high quality speakers were invited to give talks and facilitate interactive discussions during the first part of the workshop. Javier Dominguez from The FSA (Food Standards Agency), Rebeca Garcia from DEFRA, Louise Abayomi and Linda Nicolaidis from the Natural Resource Institute, University of Greenwich, led two full days of training with topics mainly focused on various aspects of food science. Andy Paterson and Richard Hopley from DEFRA came for half a day to discuss with us the pros and cons of eradication of infectious diseases. All speakers gave excellent talks and run interactive sessions, all of it without charge to



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the residents or the College, testimony of their great effort and interest to learn more about the ECVPH. We thank them for providing excellent training for 15(!) residents from England, Germany, Denmark and Switzerland during this first part (2.5 days) of the workshop.

The second part of the week focused in activities related to the jRP (joint residents' project). Five residents attended this part to discuss the data collected, ways of presenting the outcomes and distributed the tasks to be done in the following months. The results of the jRP were presented at the AGM in Nottwil last October.



During the week a formal residents meeting was organized where different actualities concerning the College and the residency were discussed among the present residents: the likely changes to the resident programme according to the requirements set by the EBVS, the best ways to organize future residents' workshops and the process to elect new residents' representatives.

The workshop was co-sponsored by the ECPVH, the Department of Veterinary Clinical Science (RVC) and the Veterinary Public Health Association, all of which we thank enormously. We are looking forward to the next residents' workshop which will hopefully take place sometime this year.

Salome Dürr & Silvia Alonso, *Residents*

ECVPH website - www.ecvph.org

After the complete relaunch of the ECVPH website in October 2010 we are continuously working on the improvement of our presence on the world wide web.

All members and residents of the ECVPH who have so far been registered, have been notified their new login-details and are able to access the entire content except documents restricted to the Council and Committees of the College only.

ECVPH's new internet presence has been developed and improved in terms of information quality and service to College members. The most recent innovation is a "**new-password creator**" tool, the **ONLINE-registration** is ready for registration to our Annual Conference for the first time in June this year.

We would be grateful for any feedback that you have on the new site and do not hesitate to send us information to be posted on www.ecvph.org !

Andreas Wunsch, *Webmaster*

UPCOMING

**ECVPH's 11th Annual Conference & AGM
Brno, Czech Republic October 5-7, 2011**



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@bglld.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 !