



## e - NEWSLETTER

Edition 9/2009-1

### Editorial

*Dear Diplomates of the ECVPH,*

*As always, a huge amount of preparation has been going on behind the scenes to ensure that we have a successful 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Leipzig. The format of this conference is based on the challenging reflections in your feedback from the last Conference held in Thessaloniki in December; and has made use of the output resulting from the survey we asked you to complete recently. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who participated in this survey, as the views expressed have been very useful.*

*Post-graduate education and training in veterinary public health is the key mission of the College, and this edition focuses on several educational issues highlighted by the members of the Education Committee. These issues are important and will help to improve the development, performance and administration of Residency programs, both for Residents and their supervisors; additionally these will contribute to the foundation that is essential for full recognition of the ECVPH by the European Board of Veterinary Specialists.*

*We would once more like to remind you that the role of this Newsletter is to keep you updated about the activities of the College; and that in addition the Newsletter is open to Residents and Diplomates to publicise VPH relevant events or activities to the Membership. The College will also accept advertisements for open Residency positions. As always, if you have suggestions as to how the newsletter may be improved, we would be very grateful to hear from you.*

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

*May 2009*

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

Titled **“Veterinary Contributions to Public Health: Expectations, Opportunities and Implementation”**, this years conference will take place at the pentahotel **Leipzig**, Germany from **October 8-9 2009**.



In order to tackle the future challenges of veterinary public health, veterinary public health specialists require specific skills. The ECVPH responds to this by organising a **“challenge session** “How can vets maximise their contribution to public health?” with

stakeholders, policy people and representatives of the food industry. In addition, there will be two keynote speakers, addressing the issues of economics and social impact of veterinary public health incidents.

We are also 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.

Following on the success of last year’s conferences, we also offer parallel workshops.

Finally, there will be a new **“Workshop”** organised by the Veterinary Faculty of Leipzig, Center of Veterinary Public Health on Wednesday (Oct 7<sup>th</sup>; 3-5 p.m) for Residents and interested Diplomates to meet and discuss specific issues of veterinary public health (e.g. animal welfare in turkeys).

**Detailed information, the draft programme** as well as the **registration/reservation forms** are available at our website: <http://www.ecvph.org>.

#### **Important dates**

- |                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| - Call for posters              | 15.May 2009    |
| - Deadline poster submissions   | 15 July 2009   |
| - End early bird registration   | 28 august 2009 |
| - End student rate registration | 28 August 2009 |



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- Special room rates deadline 28 August 2009

### Registration fees\*

- Early bird registration € 230,00
- Registration after 28.08.09 € 280,00
- Student registration € 100,00

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



### Accommodation

Rooms are reserved at special rates in the [pentahotel Leipzig (single room 115€, double room 133 €; keyword: **vetmed**; up to 28<sup>th</sup> of august 2009)]

*Katharina Stärk, President*

*Peggy Braun, Conference & Meeting Organizer 2009*

### Call for Meeting venue, Conference 2010

A venue for the Conference in **2010** has not been determined yet – the ECVPH council has launched a **Call for proposals** for holding its annual Conference and annual General Meeting in the year 2010. The meeting should be scheduled for early autumn preferably in the first part of October - concrete proposals and offers are very welcome!



NEWS

The following key outcomes are drawn to your attention:

- "Double Diplomates" - Some of you reading this newsletter have achieved the distinction of being

Diplomates in two EBVS Colleges. We are aware of some of you, but the current registration procedure with EBVS does not automatically notify us. We would be grateful if you could contact the Documenting Secretary before 30 June 2009 and notify the ECVPH if you are a Diplomate of more than one European College. It is important to note that EBVS regulations allow membership of more than one College, but do not permit Diplomates to designate themselves as "Specialists" in more than discipline. It is important that you make a decision as to which Discipline you which to be considered a specialist and notify BOTH relevant Colleges of your decision (before 30 June 2009).

- Various Residency issues were discussed at the EBVS Board meeting and a number of important pointed were clarified:

- .) Residents must pass all the required examinations in full within a maximum of eight years of the date of finishing their Residency.
- .) During this period, the examination can be re-sat a maximum of three times.

*Katharina Stärk, President*

*Andy Paterson, Secretary*

### Results of the ECVPH survey-questionnaire!

Recently the ECVPH issued a questionnaire on the training of VPH residents and on the annual meetings of the ECVPH. Ninety residents (38 FS and 52 PM) answered the questionnaire.

Of the respondents 16 (18%) are involved in a **residency training program** either as a director or supervisor (3 FS and 13 PM). The majority of the existing residency programs are designed in a network setting in collaboration with different organizations. Most of the residents are funded through a PhD or other research funding system. Some universities or governments have also a specific funding program for residents. Finally some residency programs are self funded or funded through a combination of resources. For those diplomates that do not supervise any residency training the majority argues that this is due to a lack of funding possibilities. Other frequently mentioned reasons were: no time, no interest from residents and training facilities. Promising is that 45% of those that are not involved in any residency training program at this moment plan to become involved within the coming 5 years. Twenty % of the respondents asked for more information concerning possibilities and organization of the training



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programs. This has already partially been solved by issuing a new and updated version of the ECVPH information brochure (see further).

Concerning the **annual ECVPH meetings**, the majority of the respondents attended one meeting (50%) or more. Only 12 respondents never had attended any meeting. Fifty-eight % of the respondents did attend one or both of the last two meetings (Finland, Greece). According to the respondents the primary reason to attend the meetings is for networking, on the second place comes the obligation to attend at least once every 4 years, Third is the need for information on the working of ECVPH and last is to learn from posters and presentations. When asking about what is the most important aspect of an ECVPH annual meeting again the networking comes out first followed by the need for a good scientific program. This leads to the conclusion that although the scientific program is not the primary aim to attend the meetings the respondents do feel that the meetings should be of high scientific standard. On top of the described results the respondents made use of this questionnaire to give feedback and comments on a large number of issues concerning training and annual meetings.

The results of this questionnaire have been discussed in the council meeting and will be used in future to help the council in meeting up with the expectations of the diplomates.

Jeroen Dewulf

*Survey coordinator & Ordinary Member - ECVPH Council*

### **Educational issues, Residencies and Exams**

- **Generic Residency Programs** Continuous Residency programmes ("Generic residency Programmes") are in principle no different from the individual programmes but are meant to be sustained for multiple residents.

Applications for Generic Residency Programmes (GRP) can be made with the intention to maintain the programme for future residents. Such programmes will contribute importantly to the training portfolio of the College and are therefore encouraged by the College. GRPs will usually require close collaborations of Diplomates from more than one institution in form of a consortium. The advantage for the applicant will be a simplified application procedure for individual residents. The evaluation of a GRP will first of all focus on whether all Curriculum items for the respective subspeciality as described in the ECVPH Information Brochure are covered. For this assessment the same criteria apply as for Individual Residency Programmes (IRP). In both

cases, approval by the College may not to be interpreted as liability of the College for the actual content or quality of the residency programme. The College follows the principle of output oriented quality control by examination of the Residents.

The main difference between assessment of IRPs and GRPs is that the latter involves a two-step procedure: a) the assessment of the GRP as such and then b) an assessment of individual credentials for each enrolled candidate. Step b) includes also the proposed research topic as Part IV of the curriculum and indications of any deviations from the approved GRP curriculum. Steps a) and b) can also be combined for the first candidates enrolled in the GRP. In this case, the intention of establishing a GRP should be clearly indicated in the application.

GRPs should be sustainable but no firm rules exist on how to substantiate such claims. The application for GRP approval should contain a letter of intent from all parties/institutions contributing to the Programme about their commitment to the future sustainability of the Programme.

In the case that you see any possibility of your institution or network to install such a programme, we would be very grateful and offer all possible support in the application procedure. We may therefore ask you kindly to let us know by the 1st of June 2009 whether you may intend to submit a Generic Residency Programme. If you do, we shall be in touch and advice you on the necessary steps. The submission deadline for the programme description is the 1st of August 2009.

A GRP in Food Science will further advance the objectives of the College.

Matthias Greiner and Ivar Vagsholm

*Education Committee*

### **- Changes of application modalities and deadlines – NEW information brochure!**

A **new version** of the ECVPH **information brochure** has recently been launched. This information brochure is a thorough update of the previous brochure describing in detail all there is to know on residency training programmes.

The information brochure handles about the objectives and the curriculum of the training, the role of the diplomates in a training program, information on how and when to submit a residency program (including new and extended deadlines for submission) and finally how



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and when to apply for the exam. The new information brochure can be found at the ECVPH website <http://www.ecvph.org/View.aspx?i=10>

Jeroen Dewulf  
*Education Committee*

### - Residents Workshop & summer school 2009

#### Residents Workshop

During the residents' lunch at the AGM in Thessaloniki 2008 the idea arose to organize a workshop for ECVPH residents. The aim of this workshop is to strengthen the personal contacts between residents and to promote networking. We want to create, for the first time, a platform for an exchange about difficulties, but also about chances and opportunities during an ECVPH residency. We intend to focus on some criticism (e.g. communication with the College) and frequently asked questions. The aim is to find out the "typical" problems faced and to develop potential methods of solutions. The election of a residents' speaker or representative will also be an issue.

The ECVPH Council decided during the last meeting to support this workshop financially. A maximum sum of 3000 EU is allocated intended to be paid directly to the residents (maximum 300 EU per Person, not for residents in Switzerland). Residents should apply individually at Marcello Trevisani (email: [marcello.trevisani@unibo.it](mailto:marcello.trevisani@unibo.it)) and Sonja Hartnack (email: [Sonja.Hartnack@itn.unibe.ch](mailto:Sonja.Hartnack@itn.unibe.ch)) and need to explain shortly why they need the money for their travel expenses and accommodation.

#### Summer school 2009

In an interdisciplinary approach, we want to organize an Ethics Summer School (EthicSC) with veterinarians and an ethicist, Prof. Peter Kunzmann. Aim of the EthicSC is to, together with the participants, identify and discuss ethically relevant questions in animal-human relationships, relevant in the context of veterinary public health.

We (Sonja Hartnack and Marcus Doherr, Vetsuisse Faculty, Univ. Bern), already got to know Peter Kunzmann during several workshops focused on mass culling during animal disease control and the role of veterinarians in charge of decision and implementation of control measures. We highly appreciate his capacity of developing ethical thinking in the (our) veterinary field.

Since there are very few occasions for residents to learn ethical thinking in the context of VPH we, given enough interest, intend to run this Ethics Summer School especially for ECVPH residents. The number of

participants is limited to approx. 20; remaining slots will be opened to veterinary professionals with relevant professional expertise and demonstrated interest. For further information, please contact [Sonja.Hartnack@itn.unibe.ch](mailto:Sonja.Hartnack@itn.unibe.ch)

### Call for Nominations

Due to the change of Offices and due to the regular end of term of one Officer, nominations are required for the following posts in the Council:

- Junior vice-President (term of office 2 years)
- Ordinary Council Member (term of office 3 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, 2009**. The call incl. Nomination forms has recently been issued and can also be downloaded from the ECVPH web site [www.ecvph.org](http://www.ecvph.org)

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

Stuart Reid  
*Chair Nomination Committee*

### 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 Bürk
- Angeliki Tsigouri
- Jan Uradzinski
- Bert-Andree Zucker

Andreas Wunsch, *Documenting Secretary*

### 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](mailto:andy.paterson@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK)

To contact the Documenting Secretariat please mail to: [Andreas.Wunsch@bgld.gv.at](mailto: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 !