

# Newsletter

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# 2 ECVS



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## From the President's pen



Dear Colleagues

That exam – you will undoubtedly remember it. We all sat it. Every one of us, and it wasn't much fun. I wonder how you felt afterwards, when the results came through?

Did you feel part of a College, part of a team? Possibly not. I don't think I did, at least not straight away. I was just relieved to have passed and to be able to put the books away and get on with life. Passing the exam to become an ECVS diplomate had been my only goal - it was a qualification that I needed to progress in my career. I had little thought for the College itself at this stage, and hadn't really considered the role that it played beyond approving the residency programmes and delivering the examination. I had no idea how the ECVS was structured or how it had come about in the first place. I certainly had absolutely no idea of the amount of work that was quietly going on behind the scenes. Work that was essential to the very existence of the College and which was done almost entirely by volunteers. If you haven't already read Joerg's excel-

lent article in *Veterinary Surgery* (2011;40:647-657) I would strongly encourage you to do so as it provides an understanding of who and what we are.

It has always bothered me that other newly qualified diplomates might feel the same lack of understanding of the ECVS as I did after the exam. In addition, I'm sure that some even feel a degree of animosity toward the College. I can say this with some certainty as I was on the receiving end of some rather animated feedback from some of the candidates whilst on the examination committee! I was to some extent sympathetic to their point of view as, after all, the credential requirements are very strict and the exam is really tough, and I'd been through the same process. The problem here is

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that any disillusionment, combined with the pressing needs of a busy job might lead to a lack of engagement with the ECVS. This is not an easy problem to counter. What we absolutely cannot do is to lower our standards – we have earned our reputation by accepting nothing less than the highest level of standards in all areas of the college. In addition, this is what attracts the volunteers who work so tirelessly for the College - people with good skills and dedication don't commit to projects that don't match their own values. What we can do though, is to make sure that our members, particularly the new ones, understand their college and the opportunities that it provides and that they share in the challenges that it faces.

Of course the primary role of the ECVS is to be responsible for the appropriate training and examination of specialist veterinary surgeons in Europe. But we do a lot more than that, we are not just a certifying body. We also have a responsibility for providing the public face of the ECVS, for representing our members at the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation, for organising our international scientific congress each year, for recertification, for public relations, for hearing appeals, for managing the financial affairs of the college, for maintaining the database of members and for responding to the mass of correspondence that is received by the College. This is why we need our Board of Regents, the Credentials Committee, the Examination Committee, the Programme Committee, the Appeals Committee and of course the Office staff.

There is another vital role that we all share: we are the guardians of the ECVS reputation. This responsibility rests on the shoulders of every diplomate, not just the ECVS elected officers. By working to the highest clinical and ethical standards, undertaking research, publishing and lecturing, submitting good examination questions and so forth, we can all promote the reputation of the ECVS. It is in our own interests to do so, for reasons of personal recognition and employment, and also for the benefit of our patients as we can drive up the standards of care that they receive.

There are those like myself who are fortunate to work in an environment where the ECVS qualification is unquestioningly accepted as conferring European Specialist status. But there are others who struggle to get the recognition that they deserve due to the restrictions imposed by their governments or regulatory bodies. The more we join together to promote the "badge" the more pressure that can be applied in these regions to help our colleagues. At this time of economic challenge we should not be protectionist but should welcome our new diplomates and encourage and assist our residents and peers rather than seeing them as competition. Our competition is not from within, but rather from those who purport to offer specialist surgery without justification. By growing our college and engaging those within it, and by promoting its standards and reputation we all stand to benefit.

Merry Christmas

Richard Whitelock

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## Research Grants

The Committee awarded a grant in November 2011 to Dr. Ellen Singer from the School for Veterinary Medicine, University of Liverpool for a project titled: An Anatomic study of the proximal and distal manica flexoria of the equine digital flexor tendon sheath.

The Board of Regents recently discussed the low application rate for these research grants and concluded they should be for clinical research projects written and submitted by residents, not for basic science research by professional researchers.

In future, there will be two grants of 7500 euros available each year, one for a large animal project and one for a small animal grant. It is hoped the increased value of these grants will encourage additional applications.

## From the Chair's corner



Dear  
Colleagues

The Ghent Congress was a great success. A big thank you to all the local organizers, to the scientific programme coordinators and of course to all of the speakers. ECVS

is well known for having great locations and impressive social events at their annual meeting but we should not forget our scientific programme. I am proud to say that our lectures are of a very high standard and that ECVS hosts a meeting where opinions are made and controversial discussions are held.

Peter Clegg and Stephen Baines are the senior people in the programme committee, and as editors of the abstracts they do a tremendous job. I am sure that Ann Martens, Astrid Rijkenhuizen and Christoph Lischer from the current Board of Regents will produce an excellent large animal programme for next year's Barcelona Meeting and certainly Gilles Dupré and Martin Unger will bring new ideas to the small animal programme. I would like to thank all of them for their ongoing work.

Ghent was some sort of a turning point for ECVS. We had the honour to officially say goodbye to Jörg Auer who retired from his duties in ECVS. We all know that one cannot retire a family member and certainly not the grandfather of a family!! The newly introduced "Jörg Auer Lecture" is a perfect way to honour Jörg's achievements for ECVS and I hope that he will take up our invitation as a special guest at our future meetings. The new generation on the other hand is well represented in the current board. Our new president Richard Whitelock is the first president who went through a formal ECVS residency programme. I wish him all the best for his presidential year.

We are getting into the second generation of active Diplomates in ECVS and we are successfully growing. Looking around the European college community, we must remember it is coordinated by EBVS, the European Board of Veterinary Specialization. While some younger colleges may have a hard time to fulfill their goals and struggle with standard operating procedures, I am very happy to tell you that Stephen May, our representative in this organization, assures us that EBVS includes the high standards and goals of ECVS as part of their fundamental ethos. The individual surgeon might not see a need for this organization or the involvement that ECVS has within it. But hopefully everybody will agree with me that it is essential for a specialist in practice to work in an environment of equal rights and opportunities. We need an organization that sets comparable minimal standards for all specialists and represents our common goals in the European political and social systems.

One word regarding the work of the Board of Regents. We meet 3 times per year and discuss all different matters of ECVS. Some problems are relevant to the whole college, like, for example, our relationship to the American and Australian surgical specialists. The latest development on this matter is that we will have Australian observers at one of the next exams. Other items are important to just a selected group like the rules and regulations regarding resident supervision by non ECVS Professors, or matters that concern just one person - such as an appeal against a decision of the examination or credentials committee. The discussions in these meetings are very profound and fruitful. The composition of the board reflects the diversity of our membership. We have members from practice, from academia and from different European countries. Almost all members of the board have extensive experience of college business before joining the board. Be assured that none of the decisions are taken lightly. Some problems are very difficult to solve. An example is the non-ECVS full professor rule regarding resident supervision. The board's decision has to embrace the EBVS point of view indicating that it is still a necessity to have full professors as supervisors, especially in countries that do not have diplomates. It also has to

take into consideration our relationship to ACVS that does not have the equivalent of the non-Diplomate full professor rule. In addition to having to reach a compromise between these two conflicting positions, the board has to take into account the difficulty in deciding what the definition of a full professor in surgery actually is, the European diversity of professorship and the political implications of any decisions taken. We currently have a very strong Board of Regents. All

members are actively involved in the discussions and all have their special area of expertise. It is an honour to work in this group and a pleasure to see that ECVS is progressing in the right direction.

To finish this column I would like to wish you all a calm and nice Christmas time and I look forward to meeting you in Barcelona next year.

David Spreng

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## Examination committee report



The examination committees have begun the preparation of the examination papers for February 2012. This year the large animal (LA) examination committee comprises Anton Fürst (Chair), Tijn Spoormakers and Peter Clegg. The small animal (SA) examination committee comprises Ulli Reif (Chair), Jackie Demetriou and Peter Boettcher. As in previous years the outgoing chair persons, Jane Boswell (LA) and Prue Neath (SA), are assisting the examination committees to ensure that there is consistency in the standard and content of the examination between successive years. Preparation of the examination is being overseen by two liaison officers from the Board of Regents, Roger Smith (LA) and Davina Anderson (SA). Caroline Tessier (LA) and Guillaume Chanoit (SA) have been invited to join the large and small animal examination committees respectively as observers and will join the examination committees for one of the preparation meetings and for the examination in Zurich in February 2012.

The examination will take place in Zurich on the 7th and 8th February 2012. The case-based part of the examination will be held on the morning of Tuesday

February 7th and the practical part on the Tuesday afternoon. The written part of the examination (multiple choice questions) will take place in two sessions of four hours each on the morning and afternoon of Wednesday 8th. As in the last two years, the "written part" of the examination (multiple choice questions) will be conducted electronically. This system has been well received by the candidates and is helpful to the examination committees in that it allows rapid marking of the examination and facilitates ready statistical analysis of the data. The candidates will be given ample time to familiarise themselves with the computers and the examination format in an introductory meeting. There is also a link on the ECVS website to assist candidates in familiarising themselves with the system. There will be no specific changes to the formats of the practical and case-based parts of the examination this coming year. Examples of multiple choice, practical and case based questions are available on the ECVS website.

We would like to thank all diplomates who have already submitted multiple choice questions. This is an enormous help for us and we sincerely appreciate this valuable contribution. We would encourage those of you who have not already done so to submit questions. By submitting questions, you will gain points towards recertification and, more importantly, this gives you the opportunity to provide relevant and pertinent questions and contribute towards the examination. This year we have revised the guidelines for writing questions.

We hope that this will help to ensure that all MCQ questions are clinically relevant. Each year there are criticisms about this part of the examination by candidates and yet this is the part of the examination that is largely written by the diplomates. So please take time to consider your questions carefully and help us with this part of the examination.

We would like to remind LA diplomates that we only accept questions that can be referenced to the text books on the reading list or papers from journals listed on the reading list between 2007 and 2011 for equine questions and questions from papers from 2002 to 2011 for food animal questions. Please don't forget that questions about llamas may also be included. SA diplomates should note the change in the reading list this year and that questions should either be referenced to text books in the reading list or to papers

from January 2008 to December 2011.

All MCQs that are submitted are revised by the examination committee members and stored in an electronic database. Revision of the questions is based on the content, structure of the question/answers and relevance of the question. Unless you receive an email from the ECVS Office or exam committee stating otherwise, all submitted questions may be used for your recertification requirements.

We wish all the candidates well in their preparation for the examination. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions regarding this year's examination.

Anton Fürst and Ulli Reif

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## Report from the Credentials Committee



The Credentials Committee met from September 5th – 7th in Zurich, with the Small Animal group needing the full three days although the Large Animal group can

still fit their work into two days. This was my last meeting with the Credentials Committee, as I have finished my term (or perhaps that should be I have served my time...?) with the Committee. I would like to say a huge thank you not only to the hard working individuals in the ECVS Office, but also to all those who I have worked with on the Credentials Committee; your enthusiasm, hard work, support, humour and good company have made my time on the Credentials Committee a very rewarding experience. At the time of writing we have not yet finalised the new Small Animal member of the Committee, who will join in February 2012.

### Credentials applications

This year we reviewed 46 credentials applications, of which 26 were small animal and 20 large animal candidates. Of these, 10 were rejected and 36 accepted. It is worth noting that of those that were rejected, the most common reason was that one or both publications had not yet been fully accepted for publication. In several cases the manuscripts had only been submitted a very short period of time before the deadline, in some cases only days/weeks so there was really no possibility that they would have full acceptance in time. It is very important to ensure that sufficient time is allowed for papers to go through the review process – this is frequently longer than anticipated! Residents with little past experience of the publishing process may not realise how slow the process can be, so all Supervisors should ensure that they make their residents aware of the likely timescale for publication. There also seems to be some confusion amongst Residents regarding the criteria for the second publication. The Training Brochure states that:

*“The second publication may be a first authored or a second authored major publication... or a first authored case report.”*

Please, can we ask all Supervisors to ensure that you have advised your Residents of the difference between the terms ‘second author’ and ‘junior co-author’? A second authored publication means one where the Resident is the second named author, as opposed to simply junior co-author which covers second, third, fourth, fifth (or further) named author. There were also several Short Communications and review articles submitted again this year towards the publications requirement, despite the fact that it has been very clearly stated in recent years that Short Communications and review articles will not be accepted.

These publication-related issues are all avoidable pitfalls, provided both Residents and Supervisors read the information provided by the Credentials Committee through the Training Brochure, Newsletters and information sessions at the Annual Scientific Meetings!

### **Annual Reports**

Overall, the Credentials Committee was in agreement that the standard and accuracy of the annual reports was much improved this year. This is reflected in the fact that only a relatively small number of files were returned for correction although there are a few cases where we have requested that the individuals involved submit more detailed information and/or records before the Credentials Committee can reach a final decision regarding the past year of training. There are a few common errors that persist, which we would like to draw to your attention once more.

We notice that quite a few of you are still using the old reporting forms, but please be aware that these will no longer be accepted and you must download and use the updated versions available on the website.

Your Presentation Log should contain only those presentations that you personally have given, and which comply with the criteria in the Training Brochure.

Please add up all of the columns in the Log Summary! If the Excel spread sheet fails to do this automatically, then please do the maths yourself and fill in the numbers. For each of you, this task only has to be done once. For the Credentials Committee, it may have to be done a hundred times or more which becomes very tiresome.

Having brought these points to your attention, however, I also want to thank you all for your on-going efforts to comply with our stipulations for the annual reports; the improvement in standard makes a big difference to the workload of the Credentials Committee when reading so many submissions, and helps to ensure that everyone is being assessed and judged in a manner that is both fair and equal.

### **New applications**

Eight new large animal applications were reviewed, of which 6 were for Standard track programmes and 2 were for Alternate track programmes. Of these, one of the Alternate track applicants was rejected as not meeting the criteria specified in the Training Brochure, and one Standard Track programme application was declined due to lack of an ECVS Diplomate to oversee training; the others were accepted.

Twenty-four new small animal applications were received. One new resident application was declined as the centre in question had only one board-certified specialist in place, one was declined as there were insufficient Diplomates in place to supervise the proposed number of residents, and three were referred to the BOR as they involved applications from people applying to supervise under the ‘Full Professor’ rule. A decision was postponed on two cases pending receipt of more information and the remaining seventeen applications were accepted.

### **Updated Training Brochure:**

The updated and revised version of the Training Brochure will shortly be available, and once on the website this will replace the previous versions. Native English speakers as well as those for whom English is not their first language have tested this update for clarity so we hope this will remove previous areas of ambiguity as far as possible. Several sections have been expanded based on what seem to be common misunderstandings and what we have seen as recurrent problems in recent years. We hope that this will make the new version as ‘user friendly’ as possible while fully accepting that we can’t please all of the people all of the time!

Kathryn Pratschke

# News from the ECVS office



This is my first contribution to the newsletter as Executive Secretary and an opportunity to thank all of those who voted for me to fill some very large boots vacated by Joerg.

I was going to say that the Office “team” of Monika, Eva-Linda, Judith and Miriam remains unchanged and they are delighted with their new working environment. Joerg’s old office at the University now boasts four work stations and no longer do our valuable secretaries and Operations Manager have to work in cramped conditions. However, Judith has very recently tendered her resignation due to family circumstances. We wish her good luck and will begin the process of identifying her replacement.

As a major step towards addressing this workload the Board of Regents recently agreed that we should investigate how the web-site might be used to improve efficiency, how its content might be expanded, how to make changes to reduce the need for time consuming checking of submitted material and how it might be developed to improve the overall service to College members. With the current explosion of mobile devices and smart phones, we also need to investigate the use of web conferencing, webinars and video conferencing and how to disseminate new information on the web. But as a first step, we must investigate ways of allowing members to self-manage their profiles, memberships and subscriptions. There will be major financial considerations as we develop the web-site and I will undoubtedly be writing again on this subject in the future.

## **New logo**

Further to discussion at the Annual Business Meeting, the Board of Regents considered the design of a new College logo but decided that rather than focusing on a

new logo alone, the Board would investigate rebranding the College on a larger scale in conjunction with the proposed new website. We do not wish to stifle enthusiasm and would be designers can still submit their suggestions to me at [john.houlton@btinternet.com](mailto:john.houlton@btinternet.com)

## ***Board eligible or Board certified?***

Google eligible and you will find the following: “*The terms “board eligible” and “board certified” generally describe professionals who are seeking or have attained recognition of their advanced skill and competency within professions that offer structured certification programmes under the auspices of authoritative boards. Although certification opportunities are available in a variety of professions, board eligibility and board certification are most often associated with the reputed expertise of physicians within a specific medical specialty*”.

But there is a significant difference between certified and eligible. To be certified one must have successfully completed a period of specialty training through an accredited residency programme and have passed the specialty-specific board examination. In doing so, one achieves diplomate status.

Board eligibility merely denotes the successful completion of specialty training through an accredited residency programme enabling the individual to take the specialty-specific board examination. It follows that the term eligible may be appropriate when a clinic is advertising a position or a job vacancy but it should not be used on practice notepaper, business cards or other promotional material since it is potentially misleading.

***There is only one ECVS qualification and that is diplomate status.***

## **The worst part of the job so far?**

One of the functions of the Executive Secretary is to receive and process appeals by Residents contesting the decisions of the Credentials Committee. On a personal level, it is always distressing to see a Resident deprived of the opportunity to sit the certifying exami-

nation when they believe they are eligible, but the Credentials Committee give strict guidelines to all Residents and in order to be fair to those that respect them, the regulations must be rigorously applied. This year, as in previous years, there are appeals relating to publication deadlines. One of the extenuating circumstances oft cited is an unduly lengthy review process. As Associate Editor of Veterinary Surgery I have additional insight into this "problem", and I want to reassure readers that every effort is made to facilitate the

prompt passage of Residents' manuscripts. However, if everyone leaves their submission until the last minute, it creates a "bulge" in the number of papers in the review process and some will fail to beat the deadline. The solution is clear, but equally clear is the Board's attitude – extended publication deadlines will not be accepted.

John Houlton

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## What is the EBVS ?!

*by Stephen May, ECVS Representative and EBVS Secretary; EBVS representative on ECCVT and at EAEVE*

The European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) was established in 1993/1994 by an original group of five specialist Colleges, including ECVS, that emerged in the early 1990's to set common standards and training systems for veterinary specialists, within individual disciplines, across Europe. As an umbrella organisation that acts as a forum for discussion of best practice and comparability of standards between disciplines, it has much in common with the American Board of Veterinary Specialties and the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists, that quality assure specialist training and assessment in North America and Australasia respectively. However, critically, the EBVS currently has no recognition in EU law. An Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training (ACVT) was set up by the European Commission (EC) in 1978, and it recommended in 1992 (the year after ECVS was established), the creation of an official Board of Veterinary Specialisation. Unfortunately, the EC did not follow this up, and ultimately disbanded the ACVT, so it was left to the Colleges to drive this forward independently. The 1990s saw rapid growth in European Specialty Colleges that had to prove their own credentials by being granted provisional recognition on initial registration with EBVS, followed by full recognition (ECVS

was the first College to gain this) once their residency programmes and examination systems had been established and passed appropriate quality checks. However, this is not an end in itself! The fully-recognised Colleges undergo a major review every five years to ensure that they continue to function effectively, and have to submit annual reports for monitoring by their peers.

There are now 23 Colleges spanning a range of disciplines and species interests: 17 with full recognition and six that are provisionally recognised (see list at end). The Board has an Executive Committee that coordinates its activities and meets in full once a year (one representative and one observer from each College), in April, in Brussels. Much of the business continues to focus on the original aims of quality assurance and sharing of best practice, and maintaining the up-to-date list of active specialists, but, in addition, EBVS is one of the groups, with the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE,) representing the primary clinical qualification, and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, representing the profession, that makes up the European Coordinating Committee for Veterinary Education (ECCVT). This Committee acts as a focus, for the key groups interested in veterinary education, at all levels, to discuss strategic approaches both to the structures for veterinary training and qualifications, and their greater

recognition by the European Commission and individual states in Europe. The current review of the relevant European Directorate (2005/36/EC) has allowed the discussion of enforceable European standards for the primary qualification and specialist qualifications to be discussed with the Commission. Unfortunately for the EBVS, but understandably in the difficult political arena that is Europe, FVE and EAEVE have decided to prioritise enforceable standards for training for the primary clinical qualification in this round of revisions. It is hoped, if this is achieved, specialisation can come next in 5-7 years' time!

A key issue raised in recent years by various veterinary lobby groups has been the subject of an intermediate level of expertise between new graduate and specialist, variously referred to as "acknowledged" or "advanced" practitioner. A number of advanced qualifications at national level may correspond to this (for instance, in the UK, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Certificates) and for the benefit of the public and their animals (as well as the profession) it is important that the relationship between this intermediate level and the other two levels is clarified. EBVS has therefore joined with its two ECCVT partners, EAEVE and FVE, and two other partners, the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners and the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations, to form a European Board for Veterinary Professional Development. This will initially survey and discuss with individual states their national qualifications, with a view to encouraging and accrediting certificates of equivalent standard across European states. This initiative parallels discussions already proceeding within some countries (for instance, the Specialisation Consultation in the UK led by the RCVS). The clarification of the nature of "the three tiers" will hopefully ensure greater acceptance of the specialist level by "advanced practitioners" and national statutory bodies and associations. This should strengthen the position of EBVS in its work, independently and collaboratively through ECCVT, to promote the recognition of European Specialty Colleges in Brussels and individual states.

### **Key Facts:**

#### **Executive Committee 2011-2012**

President:	Neil Forbes	(ECZM)
Vice-President:	Peter O'Brien	(ECVCP)
Past President:	Stefano Romagnoli	(ECAR)
Treasurer:	Thomas Blaha	(ECPHM)
Secretary:	Stephen May	(ECVS)
Co-opted:	Frank Gasthuys	(ECVAA)
Co-opted:	Kathy Clarke	(ECVAA)

#### **Fully Recognised Colleges**

Animal Reproduction	2004
Bovine Health Management	2010
Equine Internal Medicine	2010
Laboratory Animal Medicine (Recognised in European legislation)	2008
Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia	2003
Veterinary Comparative Nutrition	2009
Veterinary Clinical Pathology	2007
Veterinary Dermatology	2006
Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	2002
Veterinary Internal Medicine (Canine)	2002
Veterinary Neurology	2002
Veterinary Ophthalmology	2003
Veterinary Pathologists	2007
Veterinary Public Health	2011
Veterinary Surgeons	2000
Veterinary Dentistry	2009
Zoological Medicine	2005

#### **Provisionally Recognised Colleges**

	<b>Started</b>
Porcine Health Management	2004
Poultry Veterinary Science	2008
Small Ruminant Health Management	2008
Veterinary Behavioural Medicine – Canine	2003
Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics	1997
Veterinary Parasitology	2003

# Ghent 2011

## Brief Impression

Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ECVS, made this year's Annual Meeting held in Ghent a rather special one for most of us. Both the outstanding location and the programme of events met with the expectations promised in the Helsinki ECVS Meeting last year. Travelling was made easy with efficient transport connections and the pleasant short walk from the hotels to the brand new University Forum building enabled us to contemplate the historical, picturesque city of Ghent. The impressive "State of the Art lecture" on severe musculoskeletal trauma in humans presented by Dr. P. Broos was followed by an extremely interesting and enjoyable scientific programme with high standard faculty presentations. The Resident Forum presented some outstanding cases based on daily clinical practice and the winners were: Large animal: Andrew Fiske-Jackson, and Small animal: Graham Hayes. The Short Communications were brief and agile and the Interactive Case Discussions with the unquestion-

able utility of the Audience Response System (ARS), together with the exhibition of posters, were highly appreciated and, without doubt, proved to be beneficial to the assistants.

Although there was some overbooking at lunch and dinner times, we were compensated for this with good food, especially the desserts and the well known Belgian chocolate! Added to the excellent organization of this event, we were delighted with the boat trip and the show in the medieval castle exhibiting the fascinating eagle and the owl, which really impressed us and led us to believe that the falling rain formed part of the scenery.

We wish to thank the Belgian organizers and all the people involved in the preparation of this important Meeting for their kind hospitality and, above all, value the enormous task carried out by them in order to make this 20th Annual Meeting a memorable one.

Townsend Thais Ribera



Dear Colleagues,

It is with a lot of pleasure that I look back at the past ECVS meeting in my home-country and town, Ghent, and now has come the time to thank so many people who have contributed to this great event.

In the first place, a great THANKS goes to all of you: diplomates, residents and other ECVS-minded people who have attended our meeting! You were a fantastic group of 502 people (178 large animal, 324 small animal) invading Ghent and the UFO ...which did not go unnoticed. Thanks for the warm atmosphere during the meeting and for the joy and ambience in the Castle, the Pand and the Old fishmine. Hope you have enjoyed medieval Ghent with its little secrets, the Belgian sun (and rain), the beer, chocolate and Belgian fries. ... Thanks to all the invited speakers for their interesting contribution! It was also a great pleasure to see that so many diplomates and residents have done the effort to submit interesting abstracts and to present the results of their scientific work to all of us. This keeps the scientific standard of our organization high and is very much appreciated! Congratulations also to all residents who might have stood in front of an ECVS audience for the first time in their life: you've done a great job! For those who have missed the banquet, these are the winners and runner-ups of the ECVS resident awards for this year:

*Large animal resident forum:*

Winner: Andrew Fiske-Jackson, Royal Veterinary College, UK (Evaluation of pre-operative diagnostic methods for digital sheath pathology)

Runner-up: Tim Barnett, Edinburgh, UK (Dynamic video-endoscopic assessment of the upper airway following laryngoplasty)

*Small animal resident forum:*

Winner: Graham Hayes, Cambridge UK (Distribution and persistence of topical clotrimazole for canine sinonasal aspergillosis)

Runner-up: Nikola Medl, Germany (Intraoperative contamination of the suction tip in clean orthopedic surgeries in dogs and cats)

*Poster session:*

*Large animal:* Céline. Mespoulhès, Maison Alfort, FR (equine laryngeal neurostimulator: development and implantation technique)

*Small animal:* Ben Walton, Liverpool, UK ( Owner based metrology instruments for conditions of canine chronic

mobility impairment - construct and criterion validity of LOAD, HCPI and CBPI.)

A big Thanks also goes to all sponsors for their financial support and for the 21 companies being present at the commercial exhibition: this meeting would never be possible without their important contribution!

This meeting was also a bit special, not only because it was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ECVS but also because of the official retirement of an ECVS founding member and icon: Jörg Auer. He was honored and celebrated in our closing session in the presence of a whole row of former ECVS presidents. His important contribution to veterinary medicine and to our organization will from now on be remembered by renaming the closing state of the art lecture as "Jörg Auer lecture". Thanks for everything you have done for ECVS !



Finally I would personally like to thank everyone who was involved in the organization of the Ghent meeting: the ECVS office, the program committees and all my dearest friends of the local organizing team: Frederik Pille, Lieven Vlamincq, Hilde De Rooster, Denis Verwilghen, Peter Vandekerckhove, Jeroen Declercq, Bart Van Goethem, Hans Wilderjans, Bernard Boussauw, and all our helping Interns and residents. It was a great experience! See you all in Barcelona!

Ann Martens

# Barcelona July 5–7, 2012

Barcelona is the second largest city in Spain, but it is the number one tourist venue attracting visitors from all around the world. Barcelona has the dynamic and open personality so typical of Mediterranean cities. It is the perfect city to relax in, to stroll around and to enjoy its ambience. It has its own way of life which makes it unique. The cradle of many cultures, and a witness to major transformations, Barcelona has a fascinating history and amazing cuisine, together with a sparkling night-life.

Getting to Barcelona is very easy! Barcelona Airport, El Prat, is located just 16 km outside the city. Girona Airport, north of the city, and Reus, to the south, are a little over an hour away. Lleida Airport, to the west, is just over two hours away. By train, Barcelona has direct connections with many parts of Europe and throughout Spain, as well as a comprehensive regional and suburban rail network. You could even arrive by boat, since Barcelona is the Mediterranean's leading cruise harbour with nine passenger terminals, seven for cruises and four for ferries.

The meeting hotel will be the impressive 5\* Rey Don Juan Carlos I with the adjacent Palau de Congressos de Catalunya, a state of the art complex just 20 minutes from the center of the city and 15 minutes away from Barcelona International Airport, El Prat. Palau de Congressos is a 10.000 m<sup>2</sup> modern building, with 38 different rooms and capacity for 2.500 people. Hotel Rey Don Juan Carlos combines business and pleasure with beautiful gardens, restaurants and 432 luxury rooms.



The scientific programme will feature the following main topics for the small and large animal part

- Resident forum
- Open communications
- Poster presentation

### *Large animal programme*

- Meet the expert sessions at noon: "mortality and morbidity rounds": interactive discussion
- In depth sessions:
  - new approaches in the diagnosis and treatment of upper respiratory pathology
  - update on the management of tendon and ligament injuries
  - advances in arthroscopy: fetlock, carpus, stifle
  - what's new in tenoscopy and bursoscopy

### *Small animal programme*

In depth sessions:

- Soft tissues
  - Intra-hepatic Shunts
  - Ectopic ureters
  - New developments in ear surgery
- Orthopaedics
  - Tendon disease
  - Stifle joint disease in the cat
  - New implants and future ideas
- VSSO and Vet Endoscopic society





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## **T**houghts of a former resident

In recent years an increasing number of ECVS large animal standard residency programmes have been established at equine hospitals of the veterinary faculties in Germany (Hannover, Leipzig, Berlin). I got the opportunity to be trained during the challenging early phase of the programme in Hannover. Having passed the board examination in February 2011 I feel much obliged to my supervisor and to all the people in our clinic who contributed to the programme. At the same time I would like to underline the benefits of the external rotations I went through and I am grateful to those colleagues representing the disciplines of anaesthesia, diagnostic imaging, internal medicine and pathology who supported our training – both in other European countries and the USA. In the name of all candidates with (small) children I say thank you to our wives and partners as well as to our children for their support and patience. At this point I would like to encourage every candidate who has to train and study under somewhat difficult or demanding circumstances to continue. Undoubtedly, it was a new experience to take part in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the ECVS in Ghent without the pressure of an upcoming board exam! The atmosphere of the city of Ghent was impressive: only few European cities still have a comparable medieval city centre with such a high number of well conserved

historic buildings. Some of us even had the chance to experience sleeping at night like a monk in an authentic monastery (Hotel “Monasterium Poortackere”). For sure, everybody enjoyed the welcome cocktail in the historic setting of the “Castle of the Counts”, although the falcon did not seem to have too much respect for our heads.

The perfectly organized anniversary congress fortunately did not – as previously suspected – take place in an Unidentified Flying Object but in the recently built and centrally located University Forum of Ghent. The congress started with interesting and recent scientific results presented in the residents’ forum. This was followed by numerous well prepared oral presentations that kept us alert during multiple sessions with orthopaedic and soft tissue streams. These alternated with state-of-the art lectures covering surgical day-to-day challenges. Without doubt, the interactive surgical case discussion with televoting was one of the highlights of the congress. It encouraged younger and more experienced surgeons from both sides to exchange their knowledge. I am looking forward to the next annual meeting in Barcelona in 2012.

Florian Geburek

## Chicago; ACVS Surgical Summit 2011



The 2011 ACVS Veterinary Symposium was held in Chicago at the Hyatt Regency. This great meeting included lectures from 200 speakers, 16 advanced laboratories and a scientific poster session. In the exhibition hall an expanded trade show was present ranging from surgical equipment and books to the latest biological treatments and diagnostic tools. A handy ACVS mobile App was available providing the complete programme, times, maps, exhibition information and updates throughout the meeting. Following the laboratories the day before, the symposium kicked off with the Mark W. Allam Lecture & Awards Ceremony. This lecture was given by John H. Healey, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Cornell University who is involved in research understanding the complex sarcoma biology, developing new ways to deliver chemotherapy to tumors and improving durability and function of joint replacements. An intensive 3 day programme followed with multiple parallel sessions ranging from cutting edge orthopedic and soft tissue surgery to regenerative medicine. The problem in some instances

was to choose between different interesting sessions. For the die-hards there were several in depth breakfast and lunch sessions available.

On Thursday morning - between 7 and 9 am – members of the ECVS were invited to the College's traditional get-together. For the second year now, it was a breakfast meeting since this has proved to be the most convenient moment during the symposium to address most of the ECVS diplomates and residents participating at the ACVS event

On Thursday evening a cheese and wine reception was held in the exhibition hall with the Scientific Poster Presentations. Friday night the yearly ACVS Foundation Benefit "Celebrate Chicago" took place with a silent auction and entertainment with a chance to meet many colleagues. Looking back, this was a great meeting which was very well worth the trip to the USA. Hope to see a good European delegation visiting the ACVS Surgical Summit 2012!.

Frerik ter Braake

# Important dates and deadlines for 2012

## February 7 & 8 2012

- Board Examination in Zürich

## February 9 & 10 2012

- Board of Regents meeting in Zürich, Switzerland

## July 5 – 7, 2012

- 21 year Scientific Meeting, Barcelona, Spain

## July 31, 2012

- Credentials & annual reports submission
- Payment of annual report evaluation fee/ credentials fee

## September 2012

- Credentials– & Exam Committee meeting, Zürich, Switzerland
- Board of Regents meeting, Zürich, Switzerland

## November 1, 2012

- Recertification submission deadline for Diplomates who were recertified the first time in 2008 and for Diplomates having passed their examination in July 2007

## November 15, 2012

- Abstract submission for Annual Meeting 2013


# Continuing education courses 2012

## DIAGNOSTIC AND SURGICAL ARTHROSCOPY IN THE HORSE

### 2012 COURSES

COURSE	VENUE	DATES	DETAILS AND REGISTRATION
	<b>EUROPE</b>		
Advanced Techniques*	Newmarket Equine Hospital, UK	27 – 28 April	Louise.harbidge@neh.uk.com
Basic Techniques+	Newmarket Equine Hospital, UK	5 – 6 October	Louise.harbidge@neh.uk.com

[www.newmarketequinehospital.co.uk](http://www.newmarketequinehospital.co.uk)

Sponsored by:  KARL STORZ – ENDOSKOPIE

### USA

Tenoscopy & bursoscopy°	Cornell University, USA	31 August - 1 September	amm36@cornell.edu
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<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/events/index.cfm>

Sponsored by: 

Wayne McIlwraith \*\*°

Alan Nixon \*\*°

Ian Wright \*\*°

David Frisbie\*

Matthew Smith \*\*

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# Continuing education courses 2012

## Upcoming AOVET courses

### Small animal

January	22.-27.	France	advanced	French
February	10.-12.	Germany	principles	German
March	12.-14.	China	principles	English/Mandarin
March	21.-23.	Sweden	principles	English
April	19.-21.	Austria	advanced	German
April	23.-26.	Israel	principles	English
April	26.-29.	Ohio USA	principles	English
April	26.-29.	Ohio USA	advanced	English
April	28.-29.	Austria	student workshop	German
May/June	31.-02.	Japan	principles	English/Japanese
May/June	31.-02.	Japan	advanced	English/Japanese
June	14.-17.	Spain	principles	Spanish
June	27.-29.	Germany	student workshop	German
July	20.-22.	Brazil	principles	Portugese/English
July	24.-27.	Brazil	principles	Portugese/English
July	24.-27.	Brazil	advanced	Portugese/English
August	08.-10.	Australia	advanced	English
August	17.-19.	India	principles	English
September	25.-28.	South Africa	principles	English
September	27.-30.	USA	principles	English
September	27.-30.	USA	advanced	English
October	13.-14.	UK	advanced	English
October	14.-16.	UK	principles	English
October	15.-17.	Italy	master	English
October	17.-20.	Italy	principles	Italian
November	09.-11.	Taiwan	principles	English/Taiwanese
December	01.-06.	Davos, Switzerland	advanced	English
December	01.-06.	Davos, Switzerland	master	English

### Equine

April	26.-29.	Ohio, USA	advanced	English
June	14.-16.	Italy	principles	English/Italian
July	20.-22.	Brazil	principles	Portugese/English
September	28.-29.	USA	master	English

for more information visit:

[www.aovet.org](http://www.aovet.org)

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