

Newsletter

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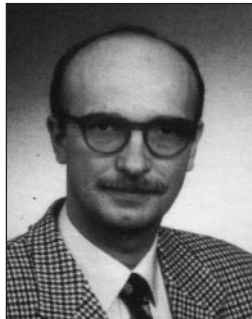
ECVS



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From the Presidents pen



Dear fellow diplomates,
dear residents,

It is a special pleasure to address not only the diplomates but also our residents in the ECVS newsletter for the first time. From this issue on, all residency pro-

gramme directors will receive extra copies for distribution to their residents. With this innovation, the Board follows a highly appreciated suggestion to inform all colleagues still enrolled in residency programmes about their future surgical homeland earlier and more efficiently.

I want to congratulate the 24 new diplomates, who successfully sat their exams in Vienna. Additionally 2 ACVS diplomates were granted ECVS diplomate status. A warm welcome also to them!

This impressive number of new diplomates is the direct offspring of our growing number of residents and examinees. The most professional handling of a rapidly growing workload by the Credentials and the Examination Committees cannot be appreciated highly enough. The members and chairs deserve our

respect for enabling our College to grow whilst maintaining standards we can all be proud of.

My cordial thanks are directed to Gert Niebauer and his most effective co-worker, Dr. Ursula Deimel, for their successful organisation of our Annual Meeting in Vienna. This small team, supported by Monika Gutscher, Swiss LA diplomates and a few enthusiastic local helpers, managed to create a very special event. The impressive ambience and great facilities of the new University of Veterinary Medicine, outstanding speakers, the cordial hospitality at the university campus, the perfectly chosen locations for the social events and a well-equipped commercial exhibition justified the remarkable number of registrants. On top of that all, bright summer weather

In this issue

From the Presidents pen	page 1
From the chair's corner	page 2
News from the Office	page 4
News from the Credentials Committee	page 4
News from the 2002 Examination	page 6
Evaluation of the Vienna meeting 2002	page 7
Miscellanies from the PR Committee	page 8

helped to create a genuine ECVS atmosphere. Even when a thunderstorm suddenly started up, threatening to ruin the marvellous garden party in the Schwarzenberg Palais, a sensibly chosen tent proved to be spacious enough to save a relaxed evening from disaster. Again many thanks to all who invested so much time and labour to make this all happen and to give us so many good memories of this Annual Meeting.

Planning of the 2003 meeting in Glasgow is already well underway. Malcolm Ness and a group of renowned local committee members are going to offer us a most attractive scientific programme as well as excellent scenery to exchange thoughts with old and new friends from inside and outside our ECVS community. Amongst the plans for Glasgow will be a new attempt to create a forum as a source of income for our College. In contrast to the more specialised Velbert forum, this projected "mini-forum" will be strictly directed towards practitioners. ECVS Diplomates will be invited to share their knowledge in continuing education sessions and to contribute by these means not only to the reputation of our College, but also to its financial soundness.

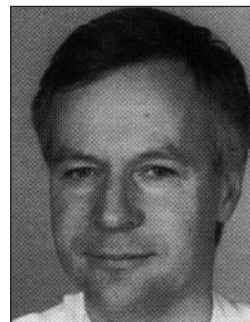
When I - a practitioner - finally accepted the invitation to run for presidency of our College, I knew perfectly well that this position would drive me into extreme time pressure quite frequently and I had to overcome considerable doubts. On the other hand, especially due to my time on the Board of Regents a couple of years ago, I was aware that many excellent surgeons work enthusiastically for the development of the ECVS, most of the time behind the scenes and only briefly thanked just now and then. They are doing it because they believe in the importance of our College for the flourishing of veterinary surgery, not only in Europe but all over the world. They all have my recognition and sincere thanks and they truly deserve our support. This is why I want to close my letter by encouraging you to keep on participating actively: by attending the meetings, submitting exam questions or scien-

tific abstracts, training residents or working in one of the committees or offices.

I wish you a good and peaceful end of this year. Don't forget to reserve the second weekend in July 2003 for Glasgow. I am looking forward to meeting you there!

Günther Schwarz, President of the ECVS

From the chair's corner



Dear fellow Diplomates

Looking at the monthly number of cases it is clear that the relative "winter rest" in the clinic has begun. It is probably not only the autumn effect; gradual-

ly "the public" begins to recognize that there are not only good Diplomates working at the university but that they can be found in private practice too. The number of places where excellent quality of surgery is being offered is increasing. The drawback is that universities have a harder time trying to provide the residents with a sufficient case log. Real cooperation with private practices could provide the solution. We need creative solutions in which all three parties, resident, private practitioner and university, can benefit.

The advantage of the "winter rest" is that we have a little more time to work on articles and educational material.

During the annual business meeting the point was raised that the EBVS (European Board of Veterinary Specialization) wishes to know the standpoint of all the colleges regarding the desirability of species based colleges. Following the discussion during the annual business meeting and the discussion during the board

meeting, the ECVS has decided to defend the following position: the denomination European College should be reserved for the specialist level of expertise only and not for the intermediate level. We have to take into account that species oriented degrees are already a fact in many European countries (e.g. certificates in the UK and the Netherlands, Fachtierarzt in Germany). The ECVS feels that no extra level of expertise should be created. It is the role of the FVE, and not of the EBVS, to coordinate the level of species orientation between different European countries to achieve uniformity.

A possibility would be to start a European organisation of veterinary practitioners, where species orientated groups could form a subspecialty. This would include an overall general constitution and an outline of a training procedure for all species oriented groups. It should be clear that people certified in an animal species cannot call themselves specialists. The term specialist should be reserved for the true discipline specialized persons.

Another important point that has been raised by the EBVS is that the training of residents by non-Diplomates would only be allowed as a temporary procedure or if at least a part of the training is carried out under the supervision of a Diplomat. EBVS policy does not allow non-Diplomates to become resident supervisors and this policy will be imposed more strictly in the near future. The ECVS defends the position that we are not in the position to give up on the provision that full Professors are still entitled to supervise residents, as many European countries are still without Diplomates.

The recertification procedure makes the following choice necessary: non-Diplomates will no longer be allowed to supervise residents after July 2006 or non-Diplomate that supervise Residents would have to be subjected to the same recertification procedure as the Diplomates before July 2006.

The Board feels that the ECVS deserves more time and flexibility regarding this issue, as it is the only College that has not granted foundation Diplomat status without examination.

We are glad that the relationship with the Credential Committee has been repaired thanks to constructive proposals from both sides. You will find these proposals in this newsletter. We would like to thank all the members of the Credential Committee and especially the former chair of the credential committee, David Spreng, for all the work they have done. David has had a very difficult year and we wish him a lot of strength in coping with the loss of his wife.

The next meeting in Glasgow is coming closer. Malcolm Ness, Stuart Carmichael, Sorrel Langley-Hobbs, Henry Tremaine and Michael Schramme are working hard to put a great program together. We will have to judge the quality of the abstracts critically. A good structure with a well-defined hypothesis and clear statistics is obligatory.

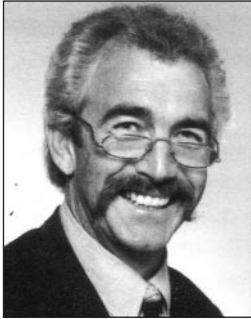
As Chair, I want to thank again our outgoing board members, Marc Balligand and Steven May. We owe very much to them, thanks for their time and input. I would like to welcome the new members: John Walmsley and John Houlton. We are very glad that Chris Bellenger remains in the board, currently as president elect.

I wish you all a good end of the year. You will hear again from us in the spring Newsletter.

Kind regards,

Wim Klein, Chair of the Board of Regents

News from the Office



Time flies - we are already in the middle of preparations for the next meeting. The office is piled up to the ceiling with applications for the examination and the annual reports of our Residents and Trainees.

The programme committee has been very active and has prepared a good meeting. The programme will be discussed at the Board Meeting in early January. It looks like we are on track.

During the last business meeting the re-certification process was discussed again and the question about Non-Diplomate supervisors came up. All ECVS Diplomates who wish to act as supervisors of residents are required to acquire re-certification after five years. Do you think that this demand should be extended to the Non-Diplomates as well or do you think Non-Diplomates should no longer be allowed to supervise Residents after July 2006? A third option would be to allow them to continue as up to now, because we cannot force them to do anything like that.

**Please forward your opinion on paper or by E-Mail to the ECVS Office by December 15 on the following subject -
Do you think that:**

1. *Non-Diplomates should no longer be allowed to supervise Residents after July 2006.*

OR

2. *Non-Diplomates supervising Residents should be subjected to the same re-certification process as the Diplomates by July 2006.*

OR

3. *We should allow Non-Diplomate supervisors to continue as until now with no additional demands.*

The board will discuss this item at its January 2003 meeting and desperately needs your input. It would be great to have > 75% return rate of responses on this, which would give the Board a true mandate! So let's be active and participate. Thanks a lot.

Have a great finale to the year 2002

Joerg Auer, Executive Secretary ECVS

News from the Credentials Committee

The composition of the CC has changed. Lennart Sjöström has taken over the chair of the committee. Tim Greet has replaced John Walmsley, who has been elected as a regent. John will become the liaison officer between the Board and the CC. Daniel Brockman will take the position vacated David Spreng.

During the annual ECVS meeting in Vienna 2002 the Credentials Committee and the Board of Regents met to discuss several items concerning the evaluation procedure and guidelines for training programs.

The submission procedures for credentials evaluation and yearly reports have been changed from this year. October 1st remains the final date of submission of documents. Credentials files submitted later will not be evaluated and will be returned to the candidate.

Candidates applying for final credentials evaluation will be notified about their provisional acceptance to sit the exam by the CC in the week after the CC meeting. This will usually be in the first or second week of December. Candidates that have been rejected have the opportunity to ask for a review of their submitted material within 10 days (date on CC letter). Final acceptances and decisions on reviews of rejected candidates will be made by

the Board in early January. All candidates will receive written notification of the final decision made by the Board

Reasons for review may include problems with evaluation of publication requirements and rotations in pathology, diagnostic imaging and anaesthesiology. Review and change of adverse decisions because of insufficient practical experience or length of training are highly unlikely to be successful, but reviews will be done for a transitional time until clear guidelines concerning the required amount and type of surgery (as mentioned in the next paragraph) have been accepted by the Board of Regents. Rejection because of incomplete files will not be a reason for a review.

Proposed changes to the training program and definitions have been discussed. **ECVS diplomates have the opportunity to give their comments and suggestions to the following proposals by e-mail until December 15 to the ECVS office:**

ecvs@vetclinics.unizh.ch

Minimal number of cases of different categories:

To be sure that a candidate receives a balanced surgical education a list of surgeries including the minimal amount to be performed will be defined. At this time the CC proposes the following case distributions:

Category	Total Number required	Number as primary surgeon
Small animals:		
Soft tissue surgery	150	60
Gastro-intestinal Surgery	40	15
Urogenital Surgery	40	15
Thoracic Surgery	15	6
Upper Respiratory Surgery	20	8
Wounds, Reconstructions, Debridements	35	12
Other soft tissue procedures		
Orthopedic / neurosurgery	150	60
Fracture Fixation	40	16
Surgical Treatment of Angular Limb Deformities	15	6
Joint Surgery	65	26
Neurosurgery	30	12
Minimum of additional surgical procedures of any type	100	40
Total surgical procedures, small animals	400	160

Suggested definition of **direct supervision**:

The surgery is considered as a directly supervised surgery when the supervising diplomate is scrubbing in with the trainee as primary or assistant surgeon. In a residency program at least 40% of the minimal amount of surgical procedures (200 LA / 400 SA) should be directly supervised over a three year period. In an alternate program at least 25% of the required amount of surgical procedures (200 LA/ 400 SA) should be supervised procedures over a period of at least four years.

Suggested definition of surgical procedures performed as a **primary surgeon**:

The trainee is responsible for the *decision* to operate, , the trainee *plans and performs* the essential parts of the surgery. Large animal candidates are required to have at least 60 cases as primary surgeon and small animal candidates at least 160 cases as primary surgeons.

Category	Total Number required	Number as primary surgeon
Large animals:		
Abdominal Surgery	35	15
Urogenital Surgery	10	4
Wounds, Reconstructions and Debridements	17	10
Fracture Fixation	5	2
Tendon Injuries and Deformities	7	4
Surgical Treatment of Angular Limb Deformities	2	1
Surgery of the Foot	6	3
Ophthalmic Surgery		2
Upper Respiratory Surgery	20	8
Arthroscopic surgery	30	5
Subtotal of specified procedures	134	60
Minimum of additional surgical procedures of any type	66	
Total surgical procedures, large animals	200	60

The CC and the Board of Regents will review your e-mail comments and decide on a well balanced surgical catalogue that reflects the need and the clinical reality of our profession.

— Lennart Sjöström, chair of the CC

News from the 2002 Examination:

This year the Credentials Committee approved 32 candidates to sit the 2002 ECVS qualifying examination. 24 candidates passed this exam which is a requirement to be accepted as a diplomate by the Board of Regents. The ECVS gained 11 new member large animal surgeons and 13 new member small animal surgeons coming from countries all over Europe (8 from Britain, 4 from Switzerland, 3 from Germany, 2 from France, 2 from the Netherlands, 1 from Belgium, 1 from Ireland, 1 from Italy and 1 from Scotland) and one from the USA. The new diplomates are:

Stephen Baines, (SA), Great Britain

Walter Brehm, (LA), Switzerland

Cedric Chi-Ho Chan, (LA), Great Britain

Neil Alexander Connery, (SA), Ireland

Erwin Deiss, (LA), Switzerland

Jackie Demetriou, (SA), Great Britain

Ehud Eliashar, (LA), Great Britain

Olivier Geffroy, (LA), France

Carsten Grussendorf, (SA), Germany

David Jacques, (SA), France

Jessica Kidd, (LA), Scotland

Urs Koller, (LA), Switzerland

Jane Ladlow, (SA), Great Britain

David Lidbetter, (SA), USA

Victoria Lipscomb, (SA), Great Britain

Ann Martens, (LA), Belgium

Andrea Martina Maute, (SA), Germany

Michaela Messmer, (SA), Germany

Andrew Robinson, (SA), Great Britain

Urs Röthlisberger, (LA), Switzerland

Frerik ter Braake, (LA), Netherlands

Gert Ter Haar, (SA), Netherlands

Jane Tomlin, (SA), Great Britain

Fabio Torre, (LA), Italy

All these new Diplomates are wholeheartedly congratulated on their achievements.

Two ACVS members were accepted as ECVS diplomates: Lisa Ann Beluche (LA) Germany and Christine C. Warzee (SA) Illinois, USA. Welcome to the ECVS! The proud number of 26 new members means an increase in membership of over 10%!

Evaluation of the Vienna meeting 2002

The office recorded a total of 324 registrants to the meeting. 273 attendants were fee paying and 51 were invited and did not pay for the meeting. There were 123 Diplomates, 93 non-Diplomates and 108 students/residents/trainees in Vienna. 106 people returned the evaluation form (1/3 !). Not all questions were answered by each respondent, so there can be less than 106 answers to each individual question. Here are the results:

- 1.Private practitioners: 51 (50%);
Faculty members: 50 (49%),
Industrial scientists: 1 (1%)

Comment : The question did not ask for respondents to indicate if they were residents, students or trainees; some of them will be faculty members, others may be in practice.

- 2.ECVS Diplomates: 33 (31%);
Non-Diplomates 72 (69%)
- 3.National veterinary specialist: 45 (52%) ;
Not a specialist: 42 (48%)
- 4.Large animal: 46 (43%),
Small animal: 60 (57%)
- 5.Registrants (ECVS and non-ECVS) learned about the meeting via:
- Journals: 5 (5%), Colleagues: 21 (20%),
ECVS mailing: 72 (69%), other: 5 (5%)
- For ECVS members this was: 3%, 3%, 91% and 3% respectively.
- For non-ECVS this was: 6%, 28%, 61% and 6% respectively.

Comment: Non-ECVS participants depended more on journals and on colleagues. So please spread the word!

The following are subjective scores on five related aspects of the meeting. Scoring was from 1 (excellent) to 5 (very bad). This means an interpretation of the figures as follows: 1: excellent, 2: good, 3: satisfactory, 4: mediocre,

5: poor. The number of scores is given followed by the mean score and the standard deviation between brackets as an indication of the degree of (dis)agreement: n / X (sd).

The Meeting Organisation was:

106 / 1.85 (0.69)

The Quality of the Proceedings Book was:

105 / 1.95 (0.90)

The Location of the Meeting was:

106 / 1.63 (0.90)

The Hotel Facilities were:

88 / 1.93 (1.05)

The Social Events (cocktail, banquet) were:

98 / 1.75 (0.85)

The following scores concerns the quality of the meeting itself, using the same scoring:

The overall quality of the meeting was:

95 / 2.56 (0.89)

Combined State of the Art- Ophthalmology:

69 / 2.40 (0.92)

Large Animal Sessions:

Resident Forum 46 / 2.83 (0.90)

In depth Head and Dental Sx
43 / 2.53 (0.97)

In depth Equine Lameness
43 / 3.07 (1.03)

Physiotherapy, Alternative Tx
40 / 3.55 (1.22)

Short Communications, General topics
32 / 2.41 (0.84)

Short Communications, Orthopaedics
40 / 1.83 (0.96)

The weighted average score for the Large Animal Sessions is: 2.72

Small Animal Sessions:

Resident Forum	52 / 3.10 (0.87)
In depth Pediatric Sx, Congenital Abn.	52 / 2.95 (1.04)
In depth Hip Joint Dysplasia	52 / 2.14 (0.95)
In depth Physiotherapy	37 / 2.12 (1.04)
Complications in Orthopaedic Sx	54 / 2.29 (0.97)
Short Communications, General Topics	52 / 2.08 (0.79)
Short Communications, Orthopaedics	54 / 2.13 (0.73)
The weighted average score for the Small Animal Sessions is:	2.41

Comments:

The mean of both weighted averages is 2.56 which is exactly the same as the score for the overall quality of the meeting (see above). Excellence, which is the aim of the ECVS meetings, requires a score of less than 2. The Small Animal Sessions scored slightly better than the Large Animal Sessions. Only the LA session **Short Communications, Orthopaedics** scored better than 2. Remarkably the **Short Communications** sessions (screened and selected papers) scored better than the **In Depth** sessions (invited speakers). Attendees may have expected more from invited speakers. The scores may also be an indirect indication of the increased quality (higher demands) of the surgeons attending the meeting. The Residents Forum did not score very well. The relative inexperience of residents should be taken into account. However, the supervisors should take full responsibility for the content of the presentations of their residents.

Dirk Riemersma, PR Committee

Miscellanies from the PR Committee

After completion of a three-year term, three members have left the committee. Friedrich Röcken had to leave the PRC because of several professional activities, which keep him busy. He promised to use his position in the board of the small animal veterinary association in Germany to promote and support the ECVS as he did in the past. Miguel Valdez became member of the Exam Ctt. and could therefore not prolong his membership of the PRC; Martha Prades will take over the PR activities in Spain and Portugal. Eric Strand expressed his wish rather not to continue as a member of the PRC for Scandinavia and his position will be taken over by Riitta Tulamo. All three members leaving the committee deserve our respect for the work they have done. Thank you for offering your time for the promotion of the ECVS. To the new members: welcome aboard.

Dirk Riemersma, Chair of the PRC