

Newsletter

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ECVS



European College of Veterinary Surgeons

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From the President's Pen



Dear Diplomate
Colleagues and
Residents,

I am writing this 10,000
metres above Prague
while returning from a
visiting Fellowship at
Melbourne University.

This has taught me
much about the running of University Clinics.
It isn't easy! It has given me a better understanding of what is involved with organising residency programmes in Universities which at present are the backbone of the education of surgeons for our College. An aerial view of Prague revives good memories of a most enjoyable Congress and turns my attention to the impending meeting in Lyon. A state of the art lecture on "Tissue and Organ Transplantation" by Dr Cochat opens the Congress at the Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Lyon, Marcy L'Etoile on Thursday evening. Residents presenting in the Residents' Forum will be glad to hear that the Forum will be held after the opening lecture so their anxieties will be over on that same evening and they can relax with the rest of us at a Garden Party immediately afterwards. Royal Canin are generously sponsoring free registration for Residents and you can find

details of this in the Congress programme on the website. We are also offering residents a seminar to be held during the Annual Business Meeting. We have a Residents-friendly programme committee! There is a good range of ECVS and ACVS speakers in both large and small animal programmes which are now posted on the website. The meeting concludes with a lecture by Jacques Marescaux on "The Information Age and Surgery: from Virtual Reality to Remote Surgery." Dr Marescaux, who is a senior surgeon at Strasbourg, is a pioneer in robot-assisted surgery and performed the first robot-assisted laparoscopic cholecystectomy between New York and Strasbourg. This promises to be a fascinating

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lecture. As usual the Diploma examinations will be held prior to the Congress and I wish the very best to all the residents who will be sitting the examination.

Following review by the Surgeon in Training Grant Committee, David Argüelles has been awarded a grant for the research project he and his colleagues from Barcelona submitted on "Peritoneal fluid levels of TGF- β_1 and TGF- β_3 in horses with acute abdominal disease" for which they are to be congratulated. The College looks forward to the results of the project and ultimately its publication. I hope this marks the beginning of a profitable use of the fund by others. Properly submitted research project proposals are always welcome for review.

My Australian visit has also reminded me of the value of achieving equivalence in specialist qualifications throughout the world. The freer exchange of personnel and ideas must benefit the standards of our profession. Your response to the questionnaire concerning ACVS reciprocity was reassuring. Of 142 who replied

134 were in favour of pursuing the matter. Eighty-eight believed that the standards of training were similar and therefore reciprocity should be offered to ECVS by ACVS; 66 commented that free exchange of surgeons would be valuable and 36 felt that it would improve exchange of ideas and expertise and be a benefit to educational and surgical standards. The Board has thus been encouraged to continue dialogue with ACVS and has written to suggest an initial move to allow ECVS Diplomates to work in North American Universities that have ACVS training programmes. The process may take several years but the Board will keep you informed.

I look forward to seeing you and your colleagues at Lyon.

With best wishes to all,

John Walmsley

From the Chair's Corner



Dear ECVS Diplomates and Residents

I am writing this to you from Sydney, Australia where I now reside. Rather than early signs of spring we have just turned our clocks back and are

preparing for autumn although the day temperatures are still around 20C.

Specialist veterinary surgeons in Australia (and I also have an Australian specialist qualification) are grappling with many of the same issues that concern us, especially about how to provide top grade residency training programs. They have the same problem with only

limited opportunities for training in some of the Veterinary Schools. Increasingly larger, mainly small animal, specialist practices have as many or more specialist staff than the University Clinic in the same city. This throws up many problems and not just for training of specialists but also for the future of undergraduate clinical veterinary education. For ECVS the greatest problems relate to the new EU accession countries, as we have not yet realised adequate training places for new residents from those countries.

As usual great effort has been put into the program for our upcoming annual meeting by both a very hard working local organising committee and an equally hard working secretariat and Board. We meet in Lyon

July 7-10 and I trust you are already working on your travel plans, as this will be a meeting we long remember. Remember that this year the scientific meeting begins at 1700h on Thursday 7 July so plan to arrive early enough for the start. And note that the meeting concludes with the Banquet on the evening of Saturday 9 July. I will be travelling from Sydney so no one will be able to complain about the distance they have come! Also as usual the Board will meet the day before the scientific meeting begins and the examinations will be concluded at that time. We hope to make progress on possible substantial use of electronic media for examination preparation and data storage while in Lyon and we will also reconsider the link between the examinations and the annual meeting. Further work will be done on the issues around reciprocity with ACVS, details of resident training programs and ECVS finances, especially sponsorship matters.

You will note that there is only one nomination this year for each of the LA and SA Regent positions. Normally the Board has presented a minimum of two names in the Spring Newsletter so that the membership of the College has a real choice each time. The

reason for the change of approach is that Eric Strand has only completed two years as LA Regent, as he was elected to fill a gap created when John Walmsley became President-elect while still a Regent. The Board considered that the College would be best served by providing an opportunity for Eric to serve a longer term and that it would be unreasonable to propose any other name at the same time. In a parallel way the only nomination for SA Regent is David Spreng.

For 2006 the Board has agreed the following new arrangement. The Autumn Newsletter will include a call for nominations. This will permit all Diplomates to be involved in the nominating process if they wish. The list of nominations and CVs will be published in the Spring Newsletter and a postal ballot conducted with the results being announced at the Annual Business Meeting.

Speaking personally I am looking forward to seeing nominations arise out of our experience of what I am sure will be a memorable meeting in Lyon.

Cordially yours,

Chris Bellenger

Nominations for Office

The following members have accepted their nominations for the election for positions in the Board of regents of ECVS. Their respective curriculum vitae have been included for your convenience:



**Nominee for
President Elect**

John E F Houlton,

qualified from
the University of
Cambridge in 1970

having gained a 1st Class Natural Science Degree in 1967. After 6 years in initially mixed and then small animal practice, he returned to Cambridge as University Assistant Surgeon to the late Colonel John Hickman. In 1980 he became University Surgeon, remaining in that post until 1997. At that time he joined the Veterinary Defence Society as a Claims Consultant and became a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Davies White, now Davies Veterinary Specialists, a small animal referral practice. He also became an Associate Lecturer at the University of Cambridge.

He is a Past Chairman of the British Veterinary Orthopaedic Association, Senior Vice President of the European Society of Veterinary Orthopaedics & Traumatology and a Past President of AO/Vet. He is an RCVS Diplomate in Veterinary Radiology and in Small Animal Orthopaedics and a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Surgery. He has been an RCVS Specialist in Small Animal Orthopaedics since 1992 and was awarded the BSAVA Simon Award in 1985.

He has been an external examiner at the London, Liverpool and Dublin Veterinary Schools and has examined RCVS Certificate, Diploma and Fellowship candidates in small animal and equine orthopaedics. He has also been Senior Examiner for the RCVS Membership Examination and was an Examiner for the ECVS for four years, being Chairman in 2000.

He has been a Board Member of the ECVS since 2002, a member of the BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Panel since 1992, and is currently Chief Scrutineer of the BVA/KC Hip & Elbow Dysplasia Schemes.

He has taught on over 80 National and International Surgery Courses and is author or co-author of 50 peer reviewed papers and fifteen book chapters. He has co-edited four books, including AO Principles of Fracture Management in Dogs and Cats, due to be published this spring. He has also given over 200 presentations to National and International audiences.

In his spare time he is a keen supporter of village life and is an avid fan of working Labradors.

Nominee for Small Animal Regent

David Spreng PD Dr.med.vet. DECVS, DACVECC



David Spreng graduated from the University of Bern Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Switzerland in 1988. He completed his surgical training at the small animal clinic of the University of Bern from 1989 to 1993. He then

continued his education with a research fellowship and clinical training in emergency surgery and critical care at the Animal Emergency Centre in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA from 1993 to 1995. He then returned as an assistant professor in small animal surgery to Europe to the University of Bern and helped to start one of the first ECVS recognized surgical residency programs in Europe. In 2002 he was promoted to associate professor in small animal surgery at the Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine, Division of Small Animal Surgery of the University of Bern.

Dr. Spreng received his European College of Veterinary Surgery Diploma in 1995 and the Diploma of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care in 2001. His main clinical interests are in traumatology and emergency surgery, he is a well known international speaker in this field. His research interests are in canine osteoarthritis and nitric oxide metabolism. He has written several publications including his "habilitation thesis" on the role of nitric oxide in canine cranial cruciate ligament rupture. He has served ECVS in the credentials committee from 1997 until 2001.

Nominee for Large Animal Regent

Eric Strand, Norway, DVM, MSc ACVS/ECVS



Graduated DVM
Tufts University,
Massachusetts
May 1989
Internships (Large
Animal): Virginia
Tech, USA (5 months)
& Ontario Veterinary
College, University of
Guelph, Canada

(1 year) 1990-91

Equine Residency, Louisiana State University
(LSU) 1991-94

Master's Degree, LSU 1994 Thesis title:

Intra-articular Pressure, Elastance, and Range
of Motion in Flexion of the Equine Meta-car-
pophalangeal Joint in Health and Disease

Employed as Staff Surgeon at Ontario
Veterinary College, Kansas State Univ, Oregon
State Univ. period 1994 -1996.

Diplomate ACVS and ECVS 1997

Associate Professor of Equine Surgery,
Norwegian Veterinary College - 1996 to
present.

Surgical interests: Arthroscopy; Upper respira-
tory tract; general surgery

Past and present areas of research: Synovial
joint physiology, Clinical aspects of
Equine joint disease; Statistical models of
Thoroughbred racing performance, Equine
upper respiratory tract abnormalities;
Antibiotic resistance

ECVS / ACVS Diplomate Activities:

Scandinavian (District) PR representative for
ECVS (1999 - 2002).

Speaker ECVS annual Scientific meetings:
1997; 1999; 2001; 2003; 2004.

Speaker ACVS annual Scientific meeting 1994.

Attendance at annual business meeting of
ECVS : 1998 - 2004, except 2002.

Attendance at annual business meeting of
ACVS: 1998; 2000.

Submitted Examination questions for:

1999, 2001- 2005 European Board

Certifying Examination in Surgery (ECVS).

1999 American Board Certifying

Examination in Surgery (ACVS).

Seminar Chair, ECVS Scientific Meeting, Bern,
Switzerland July 2000.

Establishing 1st ECVS residency in Norway
Starting autumn 2005.

Member Board of Regents 2 year period (July
2003 ==>).

News from the office

Recertification:

Dear Colleagues



Just to remind you
that all Diplomates
who were accepted
before and in July 2000
need to submit their
Recertification docu-
ments by November
1st, 2005 to be recerti-
fied by January 2006.

Those who do not fulfil the credit point

requirements but who wish to register for the
2006 examination should also submit their
recertification documents.

Diplomates who passed their examination
in 2000 may count the points for attending
the ECVS Annual Meeting starting only from
2001. So please mark clearly the years you are
reporting. Those who were accepted in the
nineties should preferably report their last 5
years. If you do not comply with this request,

at least the years you are reporting on must be consecutive.

All the files which were checked last winter have the bonus of an additional year's recertification as they were all due by this fall - however you will note that the first lot evaluated at the end of 2003 are due again for recertification in 2008.

We are looking forward to receiving ALL correctly completed and documented files by the set date.

Thank you.

Joerg Auer

Congratulations:

The recertification of the following diplomates were granted:

Name		Country		granted in the year	recertification due in the year:
Auer	Jörg	Switzerland	granted	2004	2008
Bellenger	Christopher R.	Australia	granted	2004	2008
Desbrosse	Francis	France	granted	2004	2008
Forterre	Franck	Switzerland	granted	2004	2008
Moissonnier	Pierre	France	granted	2004	2008
Perrin	Roland	France	granted	2004	2008
Schmoekel	Hugo	Switzerland	granted	2004	2008
Schwarz	Günter	Austria	granted	2004	2008
Verstraete	Frank J.M.	USA	granted	2004	2008
Autefage	André	France	granted	2006	2010
Balligand	Marc	Belgium	granted	2006	2010
Barr	Alistair	Great Britain	granted	2006	2010
Bouvy	Bernard	France	granted	2006	2010
Cruz	Antonio M.	Canada	granted	2006	2010
Duhautois	Bruno	France	granted	2006	2010
Ezquerria Calvo	Luis Javier	Spain	granted	2006	2010
Grevel	Vera	Germany	granted	2006	2010
Grevemeyer	Bernard	West Indies	granted	2006	2010
Jeffery	Nicholas	Great Britain	granted	2006	2010
Klein	Willem R.	Netherlands	granted	2006	2010
Lambrechts	Nicolaas	South Africa	granted	2006	2010
Liebich	Wolfgang	Austria	granted	2006	2010
Lorinson	Dragan	Austria	granted	2006	2010
Matis	Ulrike	Germany	granted	2006	2010
May	Stephen A.	Great Britain	granted	2006	2010
Prades Robles	Marta	Spain	granted	2006	2010
Riemersma	Dirk J.	Germany	granted	2006	2010
Rytz	Ulrich	Switzerland	granted	2006	2010
Sharp	Nicholas J.	Canada	granted	2006	2010
Steenhaut	Michel	Belgium	granted	2006	2010
Strand	Eric	Norway	granted	2006	2010
van Sluijs	Frederik J.	Netherlands	granted	2006	2010
von Rechenberg	Brigitte	Switzerland	granted	2006	2010

Report from the Credentials Committee



The Credentials Committee had its autumn meeting in Zurich November 18-19, 2004. All in all, 181 files from trainees and applicants were evaluated. The CC noticed with satisfaction that the overall quality of

the reports have improved tremendously over the last years. A new web-based computer programme is now in use to keep track of the status of all trainees and programmes, and of all correspondence between the CC and trainees and supervisors

A total of 131 Residents and alternate trainees (77 SA, 54 LA) are presently enrolled in ECVS training programmes, including new trainees, excluding trainees accepted to sit the examination in 2005.

The credentials of 41 candidates (26 SA, 15 LA) to sit the ECVS examination were evaluated. 16 candidates were accepted, 23 candidates were requested to submit proof of submission of publications or had an extended deadline to comply with additional requests. Subsequently, until early April, 7 out of the 23 candidates have been accepted to sit the examination. Two candidates were rejected, one for not completing the surgical training, one for not fulfilling the publication requirements.

One hundred and seven annual reports, 28 applications for new trainees in previously approved programmes, and 6 applications for approval of new programmes were also evaluated.

Over the years, the CC noticed a few problems in ECVS training programmes that have a tendency to recur.

1. Supervision of trainees

A marginal or low level of direct supervision of surgical procedures is one of the most common complaints when the CC evaluates annual reports and applications to sit the examination. Most Diplomates who act as supervisors have several other assignments in life than practical surgical activity - it may be teaching, research or administration. Therefore it may be physically impossible to spend enough hands-on time together with several Residents. In a few programmes it seems that the Residents are used mainly to staff the hospital, while education and supervision is an after-thought. To minimize these problems, which mainly occur in programmes with several trainees per supervisor, the Board of Regents, on a suggestion from the CC, decided to change the requirements in the Training Brochure so that the maximum number of trainees per supervisor is reduced from three to two. The last part of the text for Training Element 1 is now as follows:

“It is essential that the programme supervisor actively participates in the residents training. Therefore, an individual can normally supervise no more than two residents at a time. If the supervisor already has the maximum number of trainees and wants to recruit a new trainee, one of the present trainees must have completed all requirements except the publication requirement. If a supervisor has special reasons to have a third trainee, an application must be submitted to the Credentials Committee and accepted before a third trainee is recruited. Approval of a third trainee is at the discretion of the Credentials Committee.”

2. Surgical case load

In some LA programmes, it is obvious that the numbers of surgical cases in the institution are not enough to support several trainees, who have to struggle for each single case in their case log. With the Curriculum specifying types and numbers of procedures necessary in each category it has become even more difficult to fulfil the requirements when the total surgical caseload is low or marginal. In some programmes the number of trainees will have to be reduced in the near future.

The CC noticed a new phenomenon in the last years. As a reflection of the struggle to collect enough cases in the case log, three surgeons, of which two were Residents, were reported in some LA programmes in routine procedures like arthroscopies. Three surgeons may be motivated in complex procedures, but all surgeons participating in a procedure must have a role in performing the procedure.

3. Publications

It has become increasingly common to publish in local veterinary journals, which are C journals according to the definition in the TB. It is obvious that some of these journals accept papers that do not contain any new information and that would not have been accepted for publication in an A journal. The CC had to reject a number of such papers because they did not fulfil the quality criteria. We encourage supervisors and residents to publish in A journals. Papers published in B and C journals run the risk of being turned down.

The next Credentials Committee meeting will be at the ECVS meeting in Lyon.
Lennart Sjöström

From the Exam Committee



The members of the small animal exam committee, Ursel Wiegand (Germany), Sorrel Langley Hobbs (England), Paolo Buracco (Italy) and John Houlton (England) as liaison to the board, had their

preparation meeting in England and were hosted and spoilt by John - thank you! The large animal examination part was prepared by Christoph Lischer (Switzerland), Miguel Valdez (Spain), Roger Smith (England) at the University in Zürich. Present as liaison to the board was Wim Back, Netherlands.

This year the ECVS exam committee will



be again assisted by two colleagues from the ACVS: Ryland B. Edwards III from Madison, Wisconsin, US will assist the LA Exam group and David Fowler from Calgary, Canada will help in the SA Exam group.

Karl Nuss, Germany/Switzerland will be the large animal- and Luc Janssens, Belgium the small animal observer.

Return rate of the "call for questions" was low to moderate; about 30 % of the diplomates turned in their questions. All questions were evaluated and the ones that could not be

included for various reasons were sent back to the diplomates in order to comply with the request of the membership for a feed-back after submission of questions.

At the time of editing the newsletter there were 27 applicants for the small animal

examination and 14 applicants for the large animal examination, however this is not the final count.

For the exam committee
Ursel Wiegand and Christoph Lischer



LYON 14th ECVS Annual Scientific Meeting & French speaking Forum



FUN SCIENTIFIC TIME

In the November ECVS newsletter we invited you to attend the 2005 ECVS meeting that will be divided in a French speaking FORUM (July 6th) and a SCIENTIFIC MEETING (July 7-9th) and held at the Lyon School of Veterinary Medicine (France). The School is located at Marcy l'Etoile, about 11 km west of downtown Lyon. We imagine that everyone out there has already registered and what follows is simply some last minute details!!.

Pre-congress courses have been organised all on Thursday, July 7, 2005 before the

beginning of the scientific meeting at 17.00:

- Arthroscopy of the knee - SA
- Laparoscopy and thoracoscopy - SA
- How to improve teaching surgery with new Technologies (ICTE) for Education - SA & LA
- Interventional imaging in equine surgery - LA.
- An update on guttural pouch mycosis (balloon catheter and embolisation techniques) - LA

Along with the Poster Session, there will be a panorama focusing on the city of Lyon that will deal with the evolution of veterinary sciences and the city itself.

In addition to the scientific programme we have an extensive social and accompanying persons programme.



FUN TIME

On Thursday after the Resident Forum, ECVS and Vetoquinol have arranged an informal get together and buffet in the gardens of the Lacroix-Laval Renaissance-era castle located in an extensive 115 ha park adjacent to the campus. For your pleasure a surprise has also been planned. On Friday evening, we are invited by the Conseil Général du Rhône to a civic reception at the Prefecture (a magnificent historical monument from the 19th century) located in the centre of Lyon. Afterwards, the evening

is free to explore the restaurants, night life and beauty of this UNESCO World Heritage city. Saturday evening is set aside for our annual banquet, to be held this year at the Veterinary School in a baroque atmosphere. After dinner we hope to see everybody for lively dancing until the wee hours of the morning.

FUN RUN

An informal group run is scheduled for 9.00 on Sunday, July 10th. A 10 km loop in the wonderful Lacroix-Laval Park will be run. We will meet at the main entrance of the Veterinary School at 8.45 am, and Guillaume Chanoit will lead the run.

Feel free to bring spouses, partners and families with you to this ECVS summer event as we have taken great care to organise an interesting programme of half day excursions for accompanying persons. You will find all details on the ECVS (www.ecvs.org) or the ENVL (www.vet-lyon.fr) websites.

Looking forward to seeing you in Lyon,

Olivier M. Lepage,
On behalf of the local organisation committee



Your Opinion Please

This is a short survey intended only for those who actually practice small animal orthopaedic surgery.

If you do, please be so kind and answer the following four questions. It should take you only minutes! The aim is to present a "consensus" lecture in Lyon during the French mini-forum of the annual ECVS Meeting. I thank you for your time and consideration and hope to meet you in our future meeting(s).

Please send (e-mail) the answers of the following questionnaire to:

bbouvy@regis.com

I thank all of you for your cooperation,
Bernard Bouvy

1) Do you give credit to the biomechanical theory that links the caudodistal SLOPE of the canine tibial plateau with cranial tibial THRUST during stance and subsequent STRESS in the cranial cruciate LIGAMENT?

NO YES

2) Do you practice any type of tibial plateau leveling procedure?

NO YES if yes, WHICH:

3) In what indication(s) do you recommend leveling osteotomy?

INDICATIONS:

4) Did you stop recommending TPLO's and for what reason?

NO YES if yes, REASON:

Comments if any:

NAME OF RESPONDER:

Equine Arthroscopy Course Announcement

A practical and theoretical one-day course entitled "An Introduction to equine arthroscopy" is being held at the University of Bristol, Langford on Thursday 21st July 2005. The course will cover arthroscopic surgical principles, and the technique for arthroscopic surgery of the fetlock, carpal, tarsal and coffin joints. The emphasis will be on practical sessions with cadavers.

The course Instructors include Alistair Barr, Tim Greet, Henry Tremaine and John Walmsley.

For further information please contact:
Langford Continuing Education Unit,
School of Veterinary Science, Langford House
Langford, North Somerset BS40 5DU,
Tel: 0117 9289502 Fax: 01934 852170,
www.vetschool.bris.ac.uk/newsandevents/

2nd Nordic AO Vet Course

Principles of fracture treatment. Theoretical and practical course.

Skokloster, Sweden, September 29 - October 1, 2005

Aim of the course: To give basic knowledge on bone healing and fundamentals on fracture treatment. How to use instruments and implants in relation to different fracture types.

Chairmen and local faculty: Ole Frykman, Sweden; Lennart Sjöström, Sweden; Fredrik Danielsson, Sweden, International faculty: Stuart Carmichael, UK

The course is planned for 40 participants from the Nordic countries. The registration form with the final announcement will be available in March 2005. Registration dead line May 31 2005.

For more information please contact:

Svenska Djursjukhusföreningen Utbildning AB, Barbara Hallström.

Herrskogsvägen 2, S-730 40 Kolbäck, Sweden.

Tel. +46 (0)220 291 30, Fax +46 (0)220 291 31

E-mail: info@djursjukhusforeningen.com

Ao Vet Courses

For further information please contact:

AO Vet Center, Vetsuisse-Faculty, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstrasse 260, CH-8057 Zurich, Switzerland

Tel: +41-44-313 0383, Fax: +41-44-3130384, e-mail: aovet@vetclinics.unizh.ch

AO ASIF courses 2005

Equine principles August 29-31	Synthes Oberdorf, Switzerland	English
Small animal advanced September 7-9	De Vere Belton Woods Hotel Grantham, Lincolnshire UK	English
Small animal basic September 29 – October 1	Skokloster, Sweden	English
Small animal basic October 10-14	Centro Studi SCIVAC Cremona, Italy	Italian
Small animal advanced December 3-8	Kongresshaus Davos Switzerland	English