

Newsletter

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ECVS



From the President's pen



Dear Diplomate
Colleagues and Residents

Who could organise a Congress dinner in a bull ring other than the Spanish! It was a truly memorable occasion and a fitting conclusion to a great meeting in Seville.

Thank you to Miguel and his team.

And what of 2007?

Dublin promises to have an outstanding scientific programme with subjects such as maxillo-facial surgery, endocrine surgery, the canine knee, and more to wet the appetite. The programme committee is determined to make 2007 very special. For the social programme, we could hardly avoid offering Dublin's very special brew. Indeed we have booked an evening at the Guinness Storehouse so that delegates can sample its qualities in plenty. We have also booked the Burlington Hotel which will allow all of us to be under one roof in the heart of this magnificent city. It is the largest Congress Centre in the city and will facilitate integration of the scientific sessions, the coffee breaks and the exhibition area. Additionally it is within easy walking distance of the city centre.

I attended the American College of Veterinary

Surgeon's meeting in Washington on your behalf and have to report mixed news on the subject of reciprocity. The Board of the ACVS conducted a survey on whether there should be reciprocity between the two Colleges and from a 38% response, 52% were in favour. When the views of those in academia were analysed, 56% were in favour. However, the Board concluded that as it was a survey and not a poll, they could interpret the result as a mandate for maintaining the status quo. Clearly this is disappointing and to some it will appear undemocratic. It seems there are those in academia who fear ECVS Diplomates would accept lower salaries, thereby weakening their bargaining position. Others argue strongly in favour of encouraging ECVS Diplomates to join their Schools in order to fill the current shortfall of staff. Thus the current situation is that ECVS Diplomates are only able to supervise the 31 weeks of non-supervised training in an ACVS Residency programme. This topic will be discussed by your Board in Lenzberg in January

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and I would be pleased to receive any comments. For convenience, please email them to Monika at the above address.

An encouraging aspect of the College is the number of Residents wishing to sit the examination. Indeed, this has prompted the thought that the examination should be at a different location and time to the Annual meeting in June/July. Clearly, this has major implications for Residency programmes, particularly their start and finish dates, and the subject will

require much careful thought before conclusions are reached. Again, if anyone has ideas or comments on this topic, please email Monika. We would like to hear from you.

I look forward to seeing you and your colleagues in Dublin.

With best wishes to you all

John Houlton

From the Chair's corner



From the Chair's Corner

Dear Diplomat colleagues and Residents,

Looking back at our conference in Seville, I am sure we all agree that it was a great success, with a record attendance of

over 400 registered colleagues. Heartfelt thanks go out again to all those who participated as organizers or speakers. Of course, special thanks are extended to Miguel Valdés and his family; with their Andalusian flair, they made the conference an unforgettable experience.

The preparations for Dublin are already in full swing. Thanks to Jolle Kirpensteijn, we already have the outline of the scientific program. Like a burr under the saddle, he has been relentless in making sure that those responsible do the job in time. Jolle, thank you so much! Hopefully, we will also be able to optimize the budget for the conference. Suggested cities for future conferences after Dublin are Basel 2008, Copenhagen 2009 and Berlin 2010.

Roland Perrin and Eric Viguier were wel-

comed as new Board Members at the last Board Meeting in Seville. Wim Back took over as President Elect of the ECVS. Thankfully, Jörg Auer has agreed to be Executive Secretary for another three years. Dirk Riemersma has asked to be released from his position as Chair of the PR Committee. We know that it is not easy for dedicated surgeons to spend time at the desk, and therefore we appreciate Dirk's effort all the more. Roland Perrin will take over this task.

Dick White has also decided to resign from his position as European Associate Editor of Veterinary Surgery because of new commitments. Dick has served many functions and has accomplished much as Assistant Editor, for which we are very grateful. Filling the gap that he is leaving behind has been the topic of many discussions. Thankfully, John Houlton has agreed to assume this challenging position. Most Board Members felt that the ECVS needed to maintain a strong foothold in the editorial office of Veterinary Surgery, especially now during discussions of mutual recognition of Diplomates from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. John Houlton was confirmed in his new job at the ACVS congress in Washington. Best wishes, John!

The long-debated goal of Reciprocity, of course, sparked discussion in Seville, and we can assume that it will remain a hot topic. For the time being, the ECVS Board has reached the conclusion that there is no other way than to run both Colleges as organizations in their own right with their own rules and standards. With respect to the mutual recognition of the Diplomate status between the ECVS and the ACVS, first and foremost we have to abide by the rules of the EBVS.

Now that Riitta Tulamo has been elected vice president of the EBVS, we are also very well represented in Brussels. Together with Eric Strand, Riitta will update the Board about recent developments at the EBVS at our next meeting in January.

Recertification had a positive outcome for most of the applicants; only a few colleagues did not fulfil the requirements. Without recertification, a Diplomate loses his/her status of ECVS resident supervisor; he/she can continue to supervise current residents, but cannot accept new ones. The requirements for recertification are described in detail on the homepage.

Six large and 13 small animal candidates successfully passed the examination in Seville. Thus, the Board admitted 19 new Diplomates

to the College. As we have stated before, the excellent work done by the Credentials and Exam Committees cannot be valued enough; one also has to consider that the number of applicants and examinees has increased substantially. It was, therefore, unanimously agreed by the Board that two additional examiners be added to the Exam Committee. We are also investigating the possibility of separating the examination from the annual conference but a solution has not been found yet. It is planned that two ECVS observers participate in the next ACVS oral examination, so that as with the ACVS, this part of the examination for the ECVS might also be replaced with a written case-oriented exam. We will keep you updated on this possibility when more information is available. We also plan to make life easier for Residents and the Credentials Committee alike by allowing on-line submission of data.

I am at the end of my report and on behalf of all of us I wish to thank my predecessor, John Walmsley, for all his work for the ECVS. To fill his shoes will be difficult, and not only because we are different in size.

Best personal wishes for 2007.

Yours sincerely
Uli Matis

News from the office



Seville 2006

We still look back on a wonderful and scientifically excellent annual meeting in Seville.

Again we like to thank all the organisers for their great work and the participants of the meeting for com-

ing. It was great to see some Diplomates of the "early hours" of ECVS showing up on this meeting and chat with them during the welcome cocktail near the swimming pool - what a super start. The high quality scientific meetings and wet labs were well attended and some of the Master classes early in the morning over booked. The banquet in the beautiful finca was definitely a highlight and a classy setting for honouring the different awardees. Job well done Miguel.

Dublin 2007

We are already in the midst of organizing our next adventure – Dublin. Monika and Jolle revisited Dublin and were able to get some great deals for us. A large number of rooms could be reserved in the Burlington Hotel for a price of € 125.- per night. This is less than half the price they originally asked. However this price is only guaranteed until January 31 2007. Therefore we advise you to 1. Decide early whether you want to come to Dublin and 2. Make your reservation before January 31. 2007. We soon will send you a preliminary programme for the meeting and all the extracurricular activities together with the data needed for the hotel reservation. Do not blame us if you miss the great rates!

Make ECVS yours

This brings us to next request. We are always looking for Diplomates who want to help shape our great organisation. Unfortunately often we have to take the initiative ourselves to motivate potential candidates for certain offices. Please keep in mind that serving on committees is a lot of work but that it gives you also the satisfaction of having contributed to our joint cause and to improve our organisation. We need you! It is important to read our newsletter and other mailings to stay abreast with the new development, Also check out our web site regularly, because it is periodically updated. Make ECVS your organisation and involve yourself.

Processing fee for Resident reports as of

1.1.2007

I would like direct your attention to one decision, which was accepted 2 years ago at the Annual Business Meeting in Prague 2004, but not implemented until now. As of January 1. 2007 all reports sent to the credentials committee should be accompanied by payment of € 100.-. If that amount is not paid, the reports will not be processed. This yearly fee is necessary because of the enormous amount of work associated with reviewing and processing more than 170 reports per year. Please inform your

residents about this change. We are also looking at limiting the number of years a resident can spend acquiring the credentials needed for sitting the boards. We have residents that are 7 years in training and still not finished. Such procedures require a lot of work and eventually these residents leave the programme without ever taking the examination. Charging a processing fee will help to shorten these excessively long residencies.

E-mail

We are planning to send many mailings by E-mail to save costs. To implement this, it is necessary that all Diplomates and residents have their own E-mail address. Unfortunately, there are still some Diplomates that do NOT have one YET! This quick and economic mail system will save us thousands of € every year. That money we can use for other activities. We hope that you welcome this change as well.

Directory

It was decided at the last Board Meeting that the Diplomat Directory will not be distributed as printed version anymore. All information can be found on the website. Please check your data on the “member only” page and send us your update. Some members have no photograph at all, some of them are out dated and a few of them of very bad quality – we would therefore very much appreciate to receive a high resolution picture of yours sent by email. In a first stage we will put a pdf directory on the website to be downloaded.

Payments

From 2007 on we need very specific bank details for all money transfers. To process any payment it will be mandatory to provide the full bank address and branch, IBAN (international bank account number) and a SWIFT /BIC of the bank. Invited speakers and committee members getting travel- or other expenses reimbursed should provide these details with the claim form. In the future we will have to change the cash payment to direct bank transfer payment. ECVS bank details will be men-

tioned in the address block on the last page.

ECVS Diplomates In the News

For this part in the newsletter we need your input. Let us know if you received an award, had a baby or both, we will mention these facts

in the next newsletter.

With best wishes for a prosperous 2007

Joerg Auer

Exam committee report



Dear colleagues

The small animal (SA) committee members (Paolo Buracco as SA chairman, Luc Janssens, Davina Anderson and Daniel Damur as observer) and the large animal (LA) committee members (Miguel Valdés as chairman, Roger Smith, Karl Nuss and Ann Martens as observer) are organizing the preparation meetings for the 2007 exam. We have proposed to the Board of Regents an addition to the committee composition and a change in the exam schedule:

The outgoing SA and LA chairs will stay one more year as "advisors", assisting during the preparation meetings and the administration of the exam. We believe that this addition would increase the continuity of the exam process, and would add more experience to the committee. We would like to thank Sorrel Langley-Hobbs and Christoph Lischer for agreeing to give us guidance and advice for one more year.

The exam schedule will change this year to make the administration and the marking of the questions easier for the committee. The exam scheme will be as follows: Monday morn-

ing, June 25th, practical examination, Monday afternoon and Tuesday written part. Finally on Wednesday June 27th the oral examination will take place.

Another possible change is the separation of the exam from the Annual Meetings; it will need much further discussion among the credentials committee, exam committee, ECVS Office, and Board of Regents. The initial idea is to have the exam every year in the same location and several months separated from the Annual Meeting. We strongly believe that this radical change would benefit the candidates and the administration of the exam.

All of you should have received the request for written questions. We believe it is crucial that the Diplomates are involved in preparing the certifying examination. Thanks to all of you who have submitted questions already, and please, be diligent in the process if you are aiming to send questions. Remember that it is an easy way to earn 5 points/question for re-certification.

We wish all candidates and supervisors a well organized and fruitful exam preparation process. Do not hesitate to contact us should any question arise.

All the best
Sincerely!

Paolo Buracco (paolo.buracco@unito.it)
Miguel Valdés (miguel@laequina.com)

Report from the Credentials Committee



The Credentials Committee had their autumn meeting in Zurich on November 9th and 10th 2006. The overall quality of the materials submitted to the committee this year was very good. The

Credentials Committee

wishes to thank all residents and supervisors for their attention to detail when preparing credentials submissions and annual reports. Again, we are indebted to Miriam and Monika for keeping the material on the web page up to date and for helping the Credentials Committee meeting run smoothly.

Overall, the annual reports and new applications from 141 trainees (91 SA and 50 LA) and the credentials of 40 candidates (20 SA and 20 LA) were evaluated.

Nineteen candidates were accepted to sit the examination in 2006, 9 candidates were provisionally accepted pending final acceptance of publications or submission missing documentation of training. Seven large animal candidates and seven small animal candidates were rejected. Reasons for rejection were all related to publications:

1. Publication not submitted by the deadline.
2. Second paper (case report with candidate as second author) not acceptable.
3. Both publications (case report and first authored publication) submitted in the two or three days leading up to the deadline with no realistic chance of being accepted in time.

Three candidates failed to meet the extended deadline set in 2005 and did not submit paperwork for November 2006.

Twenty six applications from new trainees were evaluated and accepted. Three applications for

new SA VSRP programmes were accepted and three applications for SA VSRP programmes were denied. Reasons for denial were: lack of a second full-time specialist within the centre making the application, and lack of diplomate supervision. Two applications for a SA alternate VSTP programme were denied because either the proposed candidate was not sufficiently experienced to be considered for a VSTP or the proposed supervisor was not a diplomate ECVS. One LA VSRP application was denied because of the lack of a second full-time specialist within the centre making the application.

Of the remainder, 75 yearly reports were accepted without comment, three were provisionally accepted, pending completion of the report. Eleven yearly reports were acceptable but the reports were incomplete and required additional information before they could be fully accepted. Five reports raised serious concerns regarding the supervision of training, case numbers, case log balance or number of cases as primary surgeon, for which the Credentials Committee requested, in writing, more detail regarding how the supervisors plan to improve the situation; and that improvement be demonstrated for the following year, before accepting the year of training '05-'06.

Credentials Committee Chairmans comments:

Electronic submissions:

The web-based computer programme that we use to manipulate this years electronic submissions stood up to the task admirably. Members of the Credentials Committee were very pleased with how this system functioned. Monika and Miriam also found the electronic submissions easier to deal with. We were also pleased that so many of you chose to submit in this manner. We will require that all submissions to the Credentials Committee be in this format by

2008 and would encourage you all to do this in 2007. Please check the website if you are uncertain about how to do this.

Cost of administration:

Several years ago, the Board of Regents agreed and at the Business meeting in Prague (2004) the membership accepted that there should be a €100 handling fee for yearly submissions (page 34 of the current training brochure). This fee was never implemented, ironically, because of lack of human resources. We are now in a position to fairly implement this fee for 2006/7. Again, please refer to the website for additional information/details.

Publications:

Failure to meet publication requirements remains the most common reason for a candidate to fail to get his or her credentials accepted. It is clear that, in some programmes, the publications are left until the last possible minute. Commonly, it is not clear that the publications were submitted in time (Oct 1st) and often they are not accepted in time. Dealing with such incomplete files by extending deadlines has been considered fair and reasonable but creates a lot of additional work for the Credentials Committee.

“Letters from the journal to prove that the papers were finally accepted for publication must be included in the Credentials file. Also, reprints or, if a paper is not yet printed, manuscripts of the papers must be included.

*If papers are not finally accepted for publication at the time of the deadline, an extended deadline to wait for final acceptance of papers may be granted, **at the discretion of the Credentials Committee**. A prerequisite for having an extended deadline is that the Credentials file contains a letter from the journal to prove that the paper was submitted in time before the deadline of October 1st. Without such letters in the file the application to sit the examination will be rejected, and a new application will have to be submitted next year.”*

As mentioned before, extended deadlines are at the discretion of the Credentials Committee and are generally given if the manuscript has been through the first review process and is pending decision of reviewers following revision. The Credentials Committee will continue to refuse extended deadlines for any papers not submitted by Oct 1st. We would also like to remind residents and supervisors that many journals may not be able to turn around manuscripts that require revision, in order for them to meet the extended deadline of March 1st. The board of regents is currently discussing separating the examination from the annual scientific meeting, making the examination earlier in the year. If this plan is executed, extended deadlines will be impossible in the future.

Case load and case supervision:

Unfortunately, there are still residents that are not given adequate supervision. The Committee expects the level of direct supervision, as defined in the training brochure, to be between 40-60% depending on the experience of the trainee. Inadequate supervision of residents has been a recurrent theme, although there appears to have been significant improvement in several programmes in 2006. Again, the number of residents at a training centre should be tailored to the ability of the supervising diplomates (or full Professors) to adequately supervise all elements of the training. In order to be a supervisor, a diplomate (or full Professor) must be “clinically active”. The Credentials Committee has to take what is reported to them on trust but it remains clear that several training centres continue to operate with “marginal” supervision.

It is also common for residents to report minor procedures on their surgery log. Often this is a tactic to increase total numbers in order to achieve the minimum recommended numbers. The Credentials Committee understands that one of the most crucial aspects of being a good surgeon is knowing when surgical therapy is appropriate. The Credentials Committee also understands the value of, for example,

small animal lameness examinations, biopsy procedures and thoracocentesis but these cannot be included as a "surgical procedure" in the surgical log. It should be impossible for a well supervised resident with a "balanced" case log to avoid the critical philosophical debate regarding the appropriateness, or otherwise, of surgical therapy and such "minor" procedures. So, these items remain implicit in the current small animal reporting system. In 2006, we were asked to consider: PDA coiling, PS ballooning, serial wound debridements (as a separate operation each), dental extraction, cast application, thoracocentesis, thoracostomy tube placement, seroma drainage. Please do not include these in your surgery logs in future submissions.

Journals:

The Credentials Committee is constantly re-evaluating whether Journals belong in the "A" list or the "B" list etc. Please check the website regularly for changes to this.

Finally, the number of agenda items submitted

for the summer Credentials Committee meeting is growing, and our 2006 summer meeting became very difficult to manage because requests were made to consider some big issues or programmes, literally only two days beforehand. It is clear that we must run the summer meeting in the same manner that we run our autumn meeting and set a deadline for submission of programmes and training centre applications, along with other items. This will allow the Credentials Committee time to consider the associated paperwork prior to the meeting. **We would request, therefore, that agenda items are with us by May 20, 2007. If you submit items later than this time, it is possible that they will not be included on the agenda and will have to wait until the following November meeting.**

We wish you all a successful 2007.

Dan Brockman

From Seville....

Sevilla, Spain, June 29 – July 1, 2006

Thank you all for coming to Seville!

We look back to a great and successful meeting

- thanks to all our loyal delegates, who follow us every year to another destination;
- thanks to all the faculty who made the scientific part so interesting;
- thanks to all the sponsors and exhibitors who supported us financially but also with their presence during the congress breaks and last but not least,
- thank you Miguel and Maria Angeles for the local organisation of the meeting and all the unforgettable social events.



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Thank you **DATAMARS SA**

for supporting our Sangria Party at
the Annual Scientific Meeting!

....to Dublin

for the

16th Annual Scientific Meeting – June 28 - 30, 2007

Dear Colleagues

Included you will find the second announcement of our ECVS Congress 2007 in Dublin. We have decided to make a poster again so that everybody can see how beautiful Dublin is and how eager we are for you to join us. Please hang it up on a spot so everyone can see.

This year is going to be exciting, not only because of the Guinness, but also because of another excellent scientific programme. . Additionally there will be a large exhibition floor.

The preliminary programme will be on the website shortly

Please note that our official hotel is

The Burlington

http://www.jurys-dublin-hotels.com/theburlington_dublin

We made a special deal with the Burlington: If you book before Jan 31st, you will get a extremely discounted rate. The later you book, the more expensive it will get of course. So make up your mind now and join us this summer in Dublin!

Jolle Kirpensteijn



Programme highlights:

short communications, poster presentations and resident forum

Large animal:

pre congress workshops

- sinus and dental surgery- lateral buccotomy and facial flaps
- keratectomy, conjunctival and corneal grafts
- LCP

Main topics for Scientific meeting:

- urogenital surgery
- lameness
- results of arthroscopic management
- broodmare surgery
- colic patient

Small animal:

pre congress workshops

- LCP, TTA and TTO

Main topics for Scientific meeting:

- surgery of the brain
- GI surgery
- the canine knee
- Maxillofacial surgery

The earlier the better.....

make your hotel booking at the Burlington now - you may profit of the following special rates:

Booked prior to:

31st January

- classic single room € 125.-
- classic double room € 145.-

31st March

- classic single room € 145.-
- classic double room € 165.-

31st May

- classic single room € 155.-
- classic double room € 175.-

Shortly the official hotel booking form as "pdf" will be available on the web site - register directly with the Burlington please.



Important deadlines for 2007

- **March 31**
 - Payment of annual dues
 - Contribution for the spring newsletter
- **May 20**
 - Agenda items for Credentials Committee and Board Meeting Dublin
- **September 1**
 - Resident in training grant application
- **October 1**
 - Credentials/ annual reports submission
 - Contributions for the autumn newsletter
- **November 1**
 - Recertification file submission for diplomates of the year 2002
- **November 15**
 - Abstract submission for annual meeting 2008

Continuing education courses 2007

AOVET courses: 2007

Giessen, Germany	February 16-18	Small animal principles	German
Brides-les-Bains, France	March 4-9	Small animal principles	French
Columbus, OH, USA	April 26-29	Small animal principles / advanced	English
		Equine advanced	English
Sydney, Australia	May 8-11	Small animal principles	English
Madrid, Spain	July 2-4	Equine principles	Spanish
	July 5-8	Small animal principles	Spanish
Carthagena, Colombia	Aug 29-Sept 1	Small animal principles	Spanish
Cremona, Italy	October 18-20	Small animal advanced	Italian
	October 29-31	Equine principles	Italian
Davos, Switzerland	December 1-6	Small animal principles / advanced	English

for more information please contact AOVET Centre Zurich
email: aovet@vetclinics.unizh.ch / phone: +41-44-635 8408

Equine Arthroscopy course in Telgte, Germany

Basic course June 15 & 16,
Advanced course October 5 & 6

for more information please contact: Anne Richter at: richter@tierklinik-telgte.com
phone +49-2504 933212 or make your registration online under: www.tierklinik-telgte.com/telgte-ce

ACVS Veterinary Symposium 2007

Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Chicago, IL, USA

October 17 pre-symposium laboratories
October 18-21 symposium seminars and scientific abstracts

for additional information visit : www.acvs.org or contact
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