

# Newsletter

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# 1 ECVS



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## From the President's pen



Dear  
Colleagues  
and Friends

A few months ago, I lectured in a European country at a weekend course for the local national small animal practitioners

association. The subject was on emergency surgical procedures. This country went through difficult political and economical periods in the last two decades and the congress organizers were able to put together a fine program with the financial help of the WASVA. The meeting was a success, everybody was happy! One of the local vets showed me around and we visited one of the local practices. He told me that this was an average type of practice and that he wanted me to show the real world!

I found a waiting area, an exam space, office structures, a separate surgical room, a library

and a room with an x-ray and an ultrasound machine – and ? so what ?

The whole thing was in a two story practice with a total of 7x4 meters space !!! The waiting room was a chair separated by a thin wooden wall from the exam room, the office was a wall mounted computer and the library consisted of two small shelves of books including Slatter!!!. Surgery was in a corner separated by another thin wall offering the option of gas anaesthesia. Down a small spiral staircase the diagnostic imaging corner was located with a x-ray table that would not

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quite fit a 30 kg dog. – I was fascinated – how could you imagine working like that. It crossed my mind that we just had a hospital board meeting two days ago where we discussed buying a new MRI and a second dialysis machine.

I then felt humbled. This vet asked me what he had to do, to become a better surgeon and if he could come and spend some time in our clinic.

I thought about this visit for a long time including the day before starting to write the president's column for the next newsletter with the subject of what had ECVS done in the last 20 years to educate young talented vets to become surgeons. This veterinarian had all it takes to become a good surgeon. I am not talking about his miniature practice but about his will to do what is necessary. I admire him for this. ECVS needs to find and train more people like this. ECVS has made an evolution from a mere certifying body to an organization that wants to set standards, that wants to help young individuals to succeed and to progress on a scientific level in surgery. We have made good progress growing from the stepchild image of ACVS to a independent well organized college. I remember my first appointments in the credential committee where the decisions were made in, let's say, unorthodox ways and today the credential committee and the exam committee are trying to be as fair as possible in helping every single candidate to pass the hurdles. We do not stand still; we recertify our residency programs and ourselves and look for new collaborations. And we try to find educational opportunities for potential residency candidates from countries without diplomates.

It is always a challenge to integrate a new resident that comes from another country

into a clinic. Differences in cultures, language and habits can be immense. But it is most rewarding seeing such a person developing and bringing knowledge to others in their respective countries. We have made that experience several times in our clinic and are proud of this.

There are still many regions in Europe that would profit from a better coverage with well-educated surgeons. As a result ECVS still has a great deal to accomplish and it should feel a certain responsibility in doing so. In a first step we have to make Diplomates aware of this fact. We have to show different training options. Starting a project to find money for an educational grant for residency candidates coming from non-diplomate countries would also be a great accomplishment and there is still so much more.

Some will say: But what's in it for us? The board of regents was asked that question frequently. What's in for us when we try to collaborate with other institutions? What's in for us when we educate new residents from "nowhere land". The answer is simple: You will not find more money in your pockets but you will help to improve the education of surgeons resulting in a better surgical care of their patients and higher veterinary standards in these countries.

So getting back to my visit, when the vet asked me, what he had to do to become a better surgeon, I told him that he was at the right address with me, that I was a member of ECVS and that our organization is here to find ways to help him to achieve his goal !

David Spreng

## From the Chair's corner



Dear fellow  
Diplomates and  
residents,

Being the chair of  
the ECVS Board  
at a time when  
our College is  
getting ready to  
welcome all of you  
to its 20st Annual  
Scientific Meeting

in Ghent, Belgium, is a rare privilege for me. I think (and hope) that those of you who don't attend ECVS meetings on a yearly basis should strongly consider coming this time. Besides, they will have a chance to benefit from Belgian hospitality (of which I know some "little" things). Not only the general scientific programme is of great interest but also the closing session will put the history of ECVS into perspective in a lecture delivered by Joërg Auer. No doubt this will be a memorable meeting with exceptional social events.

In 20 years we have grown to the size of a 457 Diplomates College. Indeed during our last Board meeting (Zurich, February 3rd and 4th) we approved the report of the Examination Committee, adding 10 LA Diplomates and 22 SA Diplomates to the list of our members. The annual business meeting in Ghent will offer David Spreng the opportunity to welcome them under your applauses. I want to use these lines to specially thank all members of the Examination (EC) and Credential (CC) Committees who perform, for the Board, the difficult tasks of selecting and examining new members according to our specific standards. Having been part of the EC for several years and seeing the work of the CC from a Board member perspective, I know how much hard work is implied and I recognize how well it has been performed this year again!

Speaking of the missions of the EC and CC, besides selecting candidates they help the Board in reshaping the future of our organisation. In that perspective the EC has reported to the Board that, upon the suggestion of several examinees, it might be possible to deliver future examinations in a two-day instead of three-day format. No decision has been made but the Board asked the EC to build a structured proposal for consideration. As for the CC, it is currently finalizing on an updated version of the Training Brochure to formalize the changes adopted in the past months.

Two other ECVS groups I want to recognize are the Board itself and the Office people. Being the chair is merely being the person legally in charge but all the work is handled in a team manner in which each regent and officer takes an active part. Their support and actions throughout this past year have been immense and much appreciated.

Supervision of residents by Full Professors is another matter that needed clarification and discussion during our last Board meeting. There appeared to have been some misunderstanding on the current situation. The results of our debates, held in close relation with the CC, has been explained in details to the professors and supervisors associated with the training of ECVS residents. The conclusion is the following: Accordingly, Full Professors who still want to supervise are encouraged to send their applications to the Board of Regents for consideration. Each application will be carefully assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Finally, I want to extend the college gratitude to each and every Diplomate who is currently acting as supervisor of resident(s). One of their important tasks is to approve and sign the annual report sent by trainees to the CC.

The information contained in this report is crucial. I am therefore asking supervisors to ensure that each report is rigorous, complete, and accurate. I will address a personal letter to each supervisor to stress this point again before July's deadline.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Ghent where I'll be confidently handing the gavel out to David Spreng.

Bernard Bouvy  
Chairman of the Board

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## **E**exam committee report



The certifying examination was held at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Zurich between Monday 31 January and Wednesday 2 February 2011. The case-based and practical examinations ran smoothly, and the multiple-choice examination was entirely electronic for the second successive year. Each candidate had her/his own computer and the question order was randomised for each candidate. An 'on-site' information session the evening before the examination, and the availability of a mock electronic MCQ examination ensured the candidates were familiar with the system. Thanks to the ongoing technical support of

Daniel Erni and Rainer Egle, there were no technical difficulties during the examination.

The candidates received the examination results by email for the second successive year, avoiding a prolonged wait for results. Unfortunately some candidates did not succeed in passing all portions of the examination, and a more detailed letter with constructive suggestions was sent in the following weeks.

The 2011 examination has provided us with 32 new diplomates (10 LA and 22 SA) to welcome into the ECVS. The full list can be viewed on the ECVS website. We wish to congratulate the new diplomates and their supervisors on their accomplishment, and also wish to encourage those who did not pass this year to persist with their studies and take the examination again next year.

In the meantime the EC is beginning preparation of the 2012 examination. The large animal committee are Anton Fürst (Chair), Tijn Spoomakers, Peter Clegg, Jane Boswell (Advisor) and Caroline Tessier (observer). The small animal committee is Ulli Reif (Chair), Jackie Demetriou, Peter Böttcher, Prue Neath (Advisor) and Guillaume Chanoit (Observer). Many thanks are given to Ann Martens and Annick Hamaide who have left the committee after several years of hard work, and also to Daniel Damur, Davina Anderson and John Houlton who kindly assisted with the marking of the SA examination this year.

One important change in the preparation for the 2012 examination is the decision to reduce the journal reading list for the SA candidates to the last four years of the listed journals rather than the last five years. This decision was made based on concerns that the increasing number of articles published each year has led to an overwhelming volume of information. Key papers from earlier years may still be used during question preparation. The LA reading list will remain as before.

The EC and BOR are considering whether to reduce the MCQ sessions to two 4-hour

sessions rather than three 3.5 hour sessions. This is based on the electronically recorded times that the candidates leave the exam hall during each session, and due to concerns that extra time is being used inefficiently or to the detriment of the candidates' performance. It would also enable the examination to be held over 2 days rather than 2.5 days, reducing individual costs for the candidates as well as the running costs of the entire examination.

The call for questions will be sent to all diplomates by email in June/July, with a submission deadline at the end of August. We again urge you to take the time to write and submit questions for the examination. You will benefit not only by accumulating points towards re-certification, but also by having the opportunity to shape the examination process for your future colleagues – so please set aside an hour or two to help us with this important part of the examination.

Kind regards and we look forward to seeing you in Ghent!

Prue Neath and Jane Boswell

# Report from the Credentials Committee



The Credentials Committee met in Zurich from February 2-3 2011, so we overlapped with the Examination Committee

and the Board of Regents, as well the annual examination process. Although this makes quite a lot of work for everyone in the ECVS Office (thanks yet again to Monika, Eva-Linda, Judith and Miriam!) it does facilitate communication between the various groups. We also welcomed a new volunteer to the Committee, David Bolt from the RVC. David will be replacing Ellen Singer who steps down after the Annual Scientific Meeting in Ghent. Many thanks go from all of us to Ellen for both her hard work and her unfailing good cheer over the past few years!

As part of the agenda in February we looked at the revised documents requested after the September 2010 meeting. There has been a noticeable improvement in the standard and accuracy of reporting to the Credentials Committee, for which we are extremely grateful. We are aware that it has initially meant more work and probably been somewhat tiresome for everyone coping with our requests and our insistence that everyone adheres to a certain standard and format! With the workload the Credentials Committee now deals with however it makes an enormous difference to reviewing the information, and ultimately this helps ensure that the high standards the ECVS aspires to are being upheld. We are working towards

the goal of enabling on-line electronic submission of annual reports, similar to the system for on-line manuscript submission to journals. Not only will this make the entire process quicker, more efficient and more streamlined, it should also allow an inbuilt system of checks that all elements are included and correctly formatted before the final package can be submitted. Keep an eye out for further information in the (hopefully) near future about this development.

We reviewed five applications to start new candidates into existing SA Standard training Programmes, and two into existing LA programmes, all of which were accepted. However an application received for an Alternate track programme was rejected as the candidate did not meet the criteria for entry as an Alternate trainee. Over the past few years the CC has received many applications for Alternate track programmes, and many more informal inquiries, the majority of which cannot be accepted as the individual simply does not meet the criteria for an Alternate track trainee. We would like to encourage anyone who is considering applying for acceptance as an Alternate trainee, or any Supervisor who is considering supporting such an application, to contact the Credentials Committee informally in the first instance. This way we can provide advice at an early stage regarding whether the application is likely to be accepted, and identify the problems before a large amount of time and effort is spent on putting together a programme application.

We finished revising the Training Brochure at our meeting in February, and it has gone to some 'volunteer' reviewers from the Board of

Regents (thank you, Richard and Dan), and we hope to have this in place for general use by the Autumn. The revised Training Brochure will contain full information about all changes and updates that have come into place in the past 2 years, and we have also made every effort to write the information in as clear and unambiguous a manner as possible.

We would like to draw everyone's attention to a change in the programme requirements, which have been made at the request of the Board of Regents and which will take effect as of July 31st this year. From now on all Residents/Trainees will be required to attend the ECVS Annual Scientific Meeting at least once in the course of their training programme. Of course, it would be great to see as many Residents as possible aiming to have either a Poster or Resident session presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting at least once in the course of their training.

Finally, we hope to see many of you at the Annual Scientific meeting in Ghent, not least because it is home territory for two of our Committee – Bernard and Frederik – who have promised an outstanding location and Meeting!

Kathryn Pratschke

## **New feature starting this summer – online submission of annual reports and credentials files.**

Within the coming weeks you will receive email notification of your access to an electronic security code.

# Ghent 2011



Besides an interesting scientific programme the Belgian organisers came up with a very nice partners programme – just to give you an idea what will be offered.

### ***Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of July, morning:***

- Visit to Augustinian monastery + Ghent City Brewery Gruut

### ***Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of July, afternoon:***

- Guided cultural citytour + visit to “The adoration of the Mystic Lamb” by Van Eyck

### ***Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of July, morning:***

- Visit to stained-glass studio “Mestdagh”

If you already want to register for one or more of these visits, you can do so by emailing to: [ECVS.partners@gmail.com](mailto:ECVS.partners@gmail.com). Onsite registration is also possible at the partners programme

information desk in the UFO congress centre or at the start of each social event in the entrance hall of the Mariott Hotel.

An, Natalie and Bart are ready to welcome you!



## WELCOME and congratulations to our new diplomates

We would like to congratulate our new diplomates on their achievement and extend a warm welcome into the College.

Andreoni	Angelo Alessandro	Switzerland	small animal surgery
Benzioni	Hadas	Israel	small animal surgery
Bokemeyer	Jan	Germany	small animal surgery
Chase	Damian	United Kingdom	small animal surgery
Crowe	Oliver Michael	United Kingdom	large animal surgery
Declercq	Jeroen	Belgium	large animal surgery
Etchepareborde	Sébastien	Belgium	small animal surgery
Geburek	Florian	Germany	large animal surgery
Gradner	Gabriele	Austria	small animal surgery
Hawkes	Claire	Ireland	large animal surgery (equine)
Higgins	Brent Michael	New Zealand	small animal surgery
Jardel	Nicolas	France	small animal surgery
Jimenez Pelaez	Manuel	United Kingdom	small animal surgery
Kearney	Clodagh	Ireland	large animal surgery
Kristoffersen	Mads	Sweden	large animal surgery
Lamas	Luis	United Kingdom	large animal surgery
Maitre	Pierre	France	small animal surgery
McAlinden	Aidan Brian	Ireland	small animal surgery
Mölsä	Sari Helena	Finland	small animal surgery
Monteiro	Susana	France	large animal surgery
Nicholson	Ian	United Kingdom	small animal surgery
Parsons	Kevin John	United Kingdom	small animal surgery
Perry	Karen Lisette	United Kingdom	small animal surgery
Post	Constantin	Germany	small animal surgery
Schaaf	Olaf	Australia	small animal surgery
Schmid	Tanja	Switzerland	large animal surgery
Sheahan	Donald	United Kingdom	small animal surgery
Shipov	Anna	Israel	small animal surgery
Smith	Lewis	Australia	large animal surgery (equine)
Von Doernberg	Marie-Cécile	Netherlands	small animal surgery
Winkels	Philipp	Germany	small animal surgery
Zulauf	Daniel	Switzerland	small animal surgery

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# Congratulations for passing the American Boards

We congratulate

- Guillaume Chanoit Small animal, Bristol University United Kingdom, and
- Michael Schramme, Large animal, North Carolina State University, USA

for passing the board examination of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in February 2011.

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## Important dates and deadlines for 2011 / 2012

### *July 6 & 7, 2011*

- Board of Regents meeting, Ghent, Belgium
- Credentials Committee meeting, Ghent, Belgium

### *July 7 – 9, 2011*

- 20 year Jubilee Scientific Meeting, Ghent, Belgium

### *July 31, 2011*

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

### *end of August, 2011*

- Agenda items for September meetings

### *September 2011*

- Credentials– & Exam Committee meeting, Zürich, Switzerland
- 12 & 13 Board of Regents meeting, Zürich, Switzerland

### *November 1, 2011*

- Recertification submission deadline for Diplomates who were recertified the first time in 2007 and for Diplomates having passed their examination in July 2006

### *November 15, 2011*

- Abstract submission for Annual Meeting 2012

### *February 6 – 9, 2012*

- Board Examination in Zürich (exact dates t.b.d)
- Board of Regents meeting in Zürich, Switzerland

## News from the ECVS office



Dear Friends

At the end of January 2011, I retired as Director of the Equine Department and Professor of Surgery from the Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich in Switzerland. I was succeeded by Prof. Anton Fürst, in both positions. Toni a hearty congratulation to your election. At the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting of ECVS in Ghent, I will also retire as the acting Executive Secretary of ECVS after more than 20 years of involvement with ECVS. If you want to find out more about the history of ECVS, Veterinary Surgery will publish an article on this subject in July issue of 2011.

John Houlton has been nominated to succeed me as Executive Secretary. As most of you know, John has been involved with ECVS for many years and has served on several boards including the presidency of ECVS. We are totally convinced, that the transition be smooth and glitchless because John has been participating during the last year in the Board of Regents Meetings. John will also take over as Chair of the Recertification Committee.

### Recertification

The total number documents submitted by the deadline November 1 2010 was 127. All applicants were approved. Several Diplomates just listed 100 points or slightly more than that, which represents the minimum points to be recertified. 12 Diplomates elected not apply to recertification and did not submit the form. A total of 24 Diplomates failed to turn in their documents in time and had to be reminded, some of which several times. Among the late applicants were several members of an ECVS Board or Committee. Of these late applicants 14 responded to the reminder, turned in their documents and all of these could be recertified. Still 10 Applicants did still not respond and will not be recertified this year.

As the outgoing Chair of recertification Committee I would like to reiterate several important facts that have to be remembered by the future applicants for recertification:

1. The deadline must be met and applicants turning in their documents later than January 1 of the following year will not be evaluated any more for the running year. The consequences are: a.) their names will not be forwarded to the EBVS, which means that they will not be recognized as "European Specialist".; b.) Their documents will be evaluated the following year and these successful applicants will be only recertified for 4 years instead of 5 years.
2. All Diplomates needing to turn in their documents by November 1 will notified after the Annual Business Meeting, but no reminding letters will be sent out anymore to the Diplomates missing the deadline.

3. Members are required to register for at total of three ECVS or ACVS Annual Meetings within the 5-year period of evaluation. Proof thereof has to be provided. This rule will be enforced for the applicants of 2013.
4. Only the new recertification form (can be down loaded from the ECVS webpage) will be accepted for the applicants of 2012 and from then on.
5. It is not necessary to submit the entire publications, only the first page.
6. All submissions should be turned in online.
7. The applicants having enough credit points are encouraged to list at least 120 points and not to stop at 100 points, as the candidates with 100 to 110 points will be evaluated very closely for fulfillment of the requirements
8. By signing the recertification application the applicants are reminded that this signature verifies that all data submitted is true, a fact that is respected by the recertification Committee.

With the retirement as Executive Secretary of ECVS at the Annual Meeting 2011 my membership on the Recertification Committee will end as well.

### **AOVET opens Membership Programme for everybody**

As of April 2010, AOVET has opened the new membership drive. During the 2010 Board of Trustees Meeting of the AO Foundation, AOVET was elected as an equal Specialty next to AO TRAUMA, AOSPINE and AOCMF (craniomaxillofacial) – all specialties for human medicine surgeons. As a result of this election AOVET had to change many standard activities along the lines of the other specialties. One of which was membership. The new membership program is open to

everyone and contains 4 levels:

1. Affiliate Members share the vision of the AOVET specialty. There are no prerequisites except having an interest in orthopaedic veterinary science. Veterinarians, veterinary technicians, researchers and sales representatives of veterinary products are welcome alike. The yearly membership fee is CHF 75.-
2. Active Members engage in AOVET activities to further their knowledge and enhance their careers. Prerequisites include the completion of at least one AOVET course within 6 years. The yearly membership fee is CHF 100.-
3. Ambassador Members promote the AOVET philosophy through their contributions to the community. Prerequisites include being an AOVET member for at least 3 years and one of the following: a.) being an International Faculty member for 2-, a Regional Faculty member for 3- or a National Faculty member for 4 years; b.) Attendance of an AOVET Principles and an Advanced Techniques Course plus two positive letters of reference from existing Ambassador Members; c.) Attendance of an AOVET Principles and an Advanced Techniques Course plus 2 published per reviewed cases; d.) Active involvement in AOVET R&D (research and development) project(s) for a minimum of 2 years. The yearly membership fee is CHF 100.-
4. Acknowledged Members are recognized for their continuous dedication to the AOVET Community. Prerequisites include being a member of the AOVET Specialty Board, or being a former AOVET President, or Ambassador Members being honoured for special services rendered to the AOVET Community.

The vision of AOVET is to create a vital link for veterinary specialists across the globe. Presently two regions – Europe and North

America – are recognized. Latin America and Asia Pacific are in the process of getting organized.

Among the benefits, which are continuously expanded are: Access to the AOVET website 30% prize reduction on Veterinary Surgery, 57% prize reduction on VCOT, free online access to JBJS USA and UK, online access to Orthovetsupersite (a website dedicated to veterinary orthopedic surgeons), access to Vet-Med Resources, an online library, access to the AOVET teaching videos, etc.

As can be seen, the benefit outweighs the membership fee several fold, so an AOVET membership is a good investment aside from the fact that it strengthens friendships, which can be renewed during exclusive get togethers at the ACVS and ECVS meetings.

Come and join AOVET (online via [www.aovet.org](http://www.aovet.org) or through "membership@aovet.org")

Jörg Auer

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## Election 2011

The first trial with the electronic voting system has been successful so far and there are two more days to go until the voting system will close. So far we have had votes from about 200 Diplomates which is a good result compared to previous years. Thanks to all of you who have given their vote electronically so far.

For all those who have not been aware of this new feature should contact the ECVS office immediately. The mail was sent out by Judith Huettl beginning of June and the information mail was distributed by Monika at the same time.

Please let us have your feedback and comments.

Thank you.

Just to recall - here the Diplomates for the election

President elect

- Christoph Lischer LA, Germany

LA-Regent

- Ann Martens, Belgium

SA-Regent

- Annick Hamaide, Belgium
- Henry L'Eplattenier, UK

Executive Secretary

- John Houlton, SA, UK

Treasurer

- Michael Schramme, LA, USA

## Do you feel competent and able to act as a reviewer for Veterinary Surgery?

### Dr Pascoe is looking for additional reviewers in the fields of small animal orthopaedics, gait analysis and biomechanics.

Experience in the field(s) and a good understanding of English  
are pre-requisites.

If you are interested, please send your c.v. to Dr Pascoe  
(jrpascoe@ucdavis.edu)

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## ontinuing education courses 2011–2012

### AOVET courses: 2011

August	3–5	Sydney	Australia	Small animal principles	English
August	17–19	San Jose	Costa Rica	Small animal principles	Spanish/English
August	20	San Jose	Costa Rica	Equine workshop	English
September	16–18	Chennai	India	Small animal principles	English
Sept/Oct.	29–2	La Jolla	USA	Small animal principles	English
Sept/Oct.	29–2	La Jolla	USA	Small animal advanced	English
October	8–10	Leeds	UK	Small animal advanced	English
October	9–11	Leeds	UK	Small animal principles	English
November	11–13	Taipei	Taiwan	Small animal principles	Chinese
December	3–8	Davos	Switzerland	Small animal principles	English
December	3–8	Davos	Switzerland	Equine advanced	English

### AOVET courses: 2012

January	end	Les deux Alpes	France	Small animal	French
February	mid	Giessen	Germany	Small animal principles	German
April		Columbus	Ohio USA	Small animal principles	English
April		Columbus	Ohio USA	Small animal advanced	English
April		Columbus	Ohio USA	Equine advanced	English
December	first week	Davos	Switzerland	Small animal	English

for more information please contact AOVET Zurich

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## European College of Veterinary Surgeons

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