

# Newsletter

## Volume 7

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# ECVS



#### European College of Veterinary Surgeons

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## From the Presidents pen



Dear ECVS colleagues

All our annual meetings are flavoured by the character of our hosts and their country; Prague maintained this tradition in style.

We are very grateful to

Zdenek Zert and his team for their great efforts to ensure that our first visit to the Czech Republic was well organised and as a result we were able to enjoy some of the culture and hospitality for which the country is famous. The enthusiasm and commitment of the host team were exceptional and the conference venue functioned very well. Food was plentiful and delicious and we were treated to recitals by international musicians in prestigious settings, which gave the meeting a character all of its own. Many delegates also appreciated the opportunity to visit Prague's historic city centre.

The scientific programme was worthy of the ECVS and continues to improve steadily year by year. This is important for the reputation of the meeting and of the College and we are grateful to the programme committee and to all the speakers who contributed. The resi-

dents' forum represents the quality of our training programmes and there were some impressive presentations. However the standard of the residents' research programmes reflects the support of their supervisors and if this falls short it is manifested in the presentation.

Our sponsors provide a valuable financial contribution. We are grateful to Royal Canin, IAMS Company and Storz for their sponsorship and to the exhibitors Blue Blue Behmer, EMS, Gierth X-ray International, HMT, Thies and Vetoquinol for their support. We should not forget the continuing financial contribution of AO Vet/Synthes to the running of our

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office. This letter is an opportunity to show our appreciation to Monika Gutscher for her efforts on our behalf; those of us involved with other similar organisations will appreciate her commitment, her achievements and her understanding of the College. We all rely on her and we are very grateful to her.

The Credentials and the Examination Committees have dedicated themselves to maintaining the standard of our Diploma; the magnitude of the work undertaken may only be understood by those who have been involved. It is a commitment that makes enormous demands on the committee members' professional and private lives and I would like to thank them on behalf of the Board. This year the following Diplomates were admitted to the College by examination: Debra Archer, Carmen Arndt, Jean Phillipe Billet, Peter Böttcher, Guillaume Chanoit, Dylan Clements, Daniel Damur, Aymeric Deneuche, Renate Dennler, Ross Doust, Arthur House, Richard Mitchell, Turlough O'Neill, Justin Perkins, Patrick Pollock, Ingrid Schaeffer, Morgane Schambourg, Christoph Störk, Catherine Sturgeon, Aziz Tnibar, Katja Voss, Donald Yool and Sigal Yudelevitch. We welcome them all. From the ACVS we also welcome Fiona Harris, Sonia Le Jeune, Christian Bolliger, Emmanuel

Engeli. The eleven nationalities represented are an endorsement of our cosmopolitan ethic.

Next year we look forward to visiting Lyon where Olivier Lepage and his colleagues are developing the arrangements for our conference at their veterinary school. The scientific programme is nearly complete and a pre-conference French speaking seminar will also be held. The short communications are a valuable contribution to the scientific content of the meeting and can greatly enhance the overall quality. The Board urge you all to consider submitting a contribution to this session as it is an important opportunity for the exchange of up-to-date information. Where appropriate, statistical analysis of data will be expected, so seek help from a colleague with the necessary skills if you need assistance in this field. The timing of the conference will be slightly different. We intend to open the meeting on Thursday 7th July at 5.00 pm with a state of the art lecture on tissue transplantation; this will be followed by the residents' forum and then a garden party to conclude the evening. The annual banquet will be on Saturday night at the close of the meeting; it is hoped that this will overcome the perennial problem of a somnolent or even absent audience for the



*Delegates enjoying the ECVS lunch at the ACVS meeting in Denver*

first lectures on the morning after the banquet! This format should also maintain the momentum of the scientific programme to the end and avoid early departures that hitherto have been a feature of the Sunday sessions.

In October I attended the ACVS Annual Scientific Meeting as a guest of their College and addressed their Annual Business Meeting in Denver. A lunch was held by ECVS on the first day for all the delegates from ECVS. It was well attended and considered a worth-while venture so we plan to repeat this annually.

Finally, I would like to wish you all well for Christmas and 2005, and I look forward to seeing you in Lyon next July.

*John Walmsley, President*

The Board meeting held July 10, 2004 considered the reports of the Examination Committee and was delighted to invite a total of 23 new Diplomates (5 LA, 18 SA) into the ECVS. Congratulations and welcome to the new Diplomates. We Diplomates cannot underestimate the value of the work done by the Credentials and Examinations Committees. They maintain excellence in training and examination standards and they also enable residents to achieve their ambition to become a recognised specialist in veterinary surgery. Thank you CC and EC.

Meeting as it was in Prague the Board was concerned with ways to enable Eastern European colleagues to reach the necessarily high standards for entry. Given the small number of Diplomates in these countries it appears that some alternate training programmes should be devised for appropriate individuals. However the Board is also conscious of the need to comply with EBVS directives that non-standard programmes including programmes not supervised by Diplomates but by Professors of Veterinary Surgery should be phased out. Therefore the Board resolved that programmes supervised by non Diplomat Professors and alternate training programmes would be phased out at the same time. Such programmes will need to be coming to completion by 2009. Thus it appears that the last starting date will probably be 2006.

The administration of ECVS Recertification has been established and the first group of recertified Diplomates were identified by Jorg Auer at the recent Annual Meeting. Please note that all Diplomates who passed examinations in 2000 or earlier including all charter Diplomates are now required to complete the recertification process. A downloadable form is available at the ECVS website [www.ecvs.org/GenInfo](http://www.ecvs.org/GenInfo) This form should be completed and sent to the ECVS office by November 1st 2005 the latest.

Please note that the five year period of certification of a Diplomat begins at the Annual

## **F**rom the chair's corner



Dear Diplomates and Residents,

First congratulations to all involved with the scientific and social programmes and the administration of the July 2004 Annual

Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic. It was certainly a memorable success in every way, including the large number of 310 paying registrants

Meantime planning for the forthcoming meeting July 7-9, 2005 in Lyon is well advanced. The major topics are listed elsewhere in this Newsletter. Please note especially that the meeting science begins at 5pm on Thursday July 7, 2005 and make appropriate travel arrangements so that we begin well.

Business Meeting following approval by the Recertification Committee.

The Board has resolved that non-Diplomate supervisors should also be requested to undertake a certification process to indicate their continuing activity in Veterinary Surgery and the Board will give attention to the relevant procedures when it meets in January.

Best personal wishes for the remainder of 2004 and for 2005.

Yours sincerely,  
*Christopher R. Bellenger,*  
Chair of the Board of Regents

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## **F**rom the Office

After all these years, you know that I am not a person of big words and dramatic performances. However, Joerg is on his sabbatical and he has asked me to write this issue's "message from the office". I take this opportunity to thank you.

In Prague, you all - "ECVS" - have spoilt me again with a wonderful gift. Chris and Jan Bellenger had chosen a precious white gold ring with an opal in Australia. It fits me perfectly and I have worn it every day since -you see how much I love it. Thank you very much.

I am always embarrassed at the banquet (this is why I would rather stay at the hotel and have an early night) and honoured at the same time. Over the past years I have received so much from you all, but the most important thing for me is to have met so many wonderful persons like you, to have been able to work with you very closely over a certain period of time - and even sometimes to become friends.

It is a real pleasure to work for you, a challenge, and also a joy to accompany the resi-



dents and trainees until they have successfully passed their examination, and of course to see ECVS grow and become more and more important.

Thank you for all.

Monika

# The Prague Meeting in figures



The 13th Annual Scientific Meeting in Prague was attended by 375 registrants of whom 310 paid the congress fee.

104 Registrants returned the questionnaire about the meeting.

There were 41% practitioners, 35% faculty clinicians, 19% residents and 5% students. 47% were Diplomates and 50% of the participants declared themselves to be a specialist in their own country. The ratio of large animal veterinarians to small animal veterinarians was 1 to 2 (33% and 67% respectively).

The participants were attracted to the meeting mostly by ECVS mailings (78%) and through information from colleagues (10%). Other information sources were the ECVS website (6%) and advertisements (4%).

## The following figures are scores from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent):

The meeting organisation was	4.37
The quality of the Proceedings book:	4.04
The location of the meeting was:	4.02
The hotel facilities were:	3.61
Frequent remarks here were: long distance from airport and poor service of hotel crew	
The social events (welcome cocktail, banquet) were:	4.28
The overall quality of the meeting was:	4.04

## The following topics were subsequently scored:

Combined State of the Art - Cartilage Degeneration	3.78
Combined - Spine Surgery / Laryngeal Surgery in Man	3.98

## Large Animal topics average score: 3.76

■ Resident Forum	3.58
■ In Depth - upper airway surgery and diagnostics	4.12
■ In Depth - foal orthopaedics	3.86
■ In Depth - new treatment modalities in orthopaedics	3.73
■ in Depth - management of colic	3.41
■ Short Communications, general topics	3.86
■ Short Communications, orthopaedics	3.73

Most frequently mentioned as excellent speaker was Dr. N. Ducharme, followed by Dr. R. Moore.

## Small Animal topics average score: 3.92

■ Resident Forum	3.95
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- In Depth - portosystemic shunt update 4.32
- In Depth - arthrodesis and bone healing 4.01
- In Depth - endoscopic surgery 3.87
- In Depth - spinal surgery 3.74
- Short Communications, general topics 3.91
- Short Communications, orthopaedics 3.62

Most frequently mentioned as excellent speaker was Dr. G. Dupré, followed by Dr. J. Kirpensteijn and Dr. V. Szatmári

The most popular topics were obviously the Portosystemic Shunt Update from the small animal presentations and the Upper Airway Surgery and Diagnostics of the large animal presentations. This is also reflected in the most frequently mentioned excellent speakers.

The posters were graded 3.84 and most remarks supported the excellent location of the posters. These figures support the conclusion that the Prague meeting was a good one with minor complaints about the accessibility of the hotel and the service of the hotel personnel. The social events scored very well. The small animal presentations scored slightly better than the large animal presentations. The resident forum, especially in small animals, competed fairly well with other presentations.

*Dirk Riemersma*, PR committee



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# IAMS Award winners

Best presentation of the large animal resident forum was "*Cytokine gene expression in stimulated equine chondrocytes*" by Florent David. Runner-up here was Matthew Smith with the presentation "*Non-infected tenosynovitis of the digital flexor tendon sheath; a retrospective analysis of 70 cases*". As best presentation in the small animal resident forum was rewarded "*Investigation of elbow joint incongruence in dogs suffering coronoid disease using reconstructed computed tomography*" by Toby Gemmill. Runner-up was Cyrille Poncet with the presentation "*Digestive lesions in brachycephalic dogs with upper respiratory syndrome: prospective study in 73 cases (2000-2003)*".

Of course we thank the support of our sponsor IAMS for this competitive element of our prospective members.

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## Small Animal Examination Committee Report 2004



**Examination Committee:**

Henry L'Eplattenier (Chair)  
Ursel Wiegand  
Sorrel Langley-Hobbs

**Observer:**

Paolo Buracco

**External Examiners:**

David Fowler (ACVS)  
Jolle Kirpensteijn  
Bernard Bouvy  
Vera Grevel  
John Houlton  
Don Hulse  
Chris Bellenger  
Günter Schwarz  
Freek van Sluijs

The Examination Committee met in early January and then again in mid-April to set the examination. The format of the examination was identical to last year.

This year there was a total of 29 candidates. Nineteen candidates sat all three parts of the examination; all of these were sitting the examination for the first time. There were 10 candidates repeating examination. Five sat the written papers only, four sat the written and practical parts, three sat only the practical.

For five candidates it was the last opportunity to pass the examination before having to resubmit credentials. Five candidates were sitting the examination for the second time.

The venue for the examination was good, with sufficient space, good audiovisual aids and adequately darkened rooms. In order to ensure good visibility of the screens for all candidates during the practical

Number of candidates	Country
7	GB
6	CH
4	F
3	D
3	B
2	ISR
2	I
1	NL
1	A

exam, despite the large number of candidates, it was decided to provide projection on two different sets of screen and to divide the candidates into two groups. This proved to be a very satisfactory solution.

As last year, data analysis was provided by Jolle Kirpensteijn. This information and the resulting statistical analysis was invaluable to the examiners during the examination and greatly facilitated analysis of the questions and individual candidate performance.

#### **Multiple Choice Papers**

Fourty-two Small Animal Diplomates submitted MCQ questions. This is even less than last year (51 diplomates), despite the fact that the total number of diplomates increases each year. This means that the percentage of diplomates sending questions has markedly decreased to less than a third. This disappointing result meant that the committee had only few questions to choose from in each of the categories where questions needed to be changed. Luckily many of the submitted questions were of good quality and could be used without modification, however the committee nevertheless had to write new questions from scratch on a number of occasions.

Considering the reservations expressed by one diplomate during the Annual General Meeting (which may or may not represent a general feeling among diplomates), it may be worth

considering whether some form of feed-back should be given to diplomates who take the time to submit questions. This could be achieved by returning to each question sender an e-mail featuring short standard comments on the quality of the submitted question.

In the general written paper, 15 out of 42 questions were replaced.

In the two Small Animal multiple choice papers, 43 questions were replaced. This is significantly more than usual and is due to the fact that many questions based on the 2nd edition of Slatter had to be replaced.

#### **Practical Examination**

As in previous years, all questions in the practical exam were replaced by new questions. Due to the large number of candidates, a solution had to be found to ensure good view of the protection screen (see above). The use of digitalised images as last year has ensured an excellent quality of the projections thanks also to the excellent technical support provided by the hotel and the local organisers of the congress. It is also easy to archive the questions used, so that they may be re-used in the future, if required.

#### **Oral Examination**

There were 20 candidates for the oral examination. For the first time this year, parts of the

oral exam were held in two parallel sessions. This significantly shortened the time necessary to hold the exam and gave the examiners more time on Wednesday after-noon to perform the evaluation of the candidates and the setting of cut-off points. The fact that the first 6 candidates in the morning were examined in one single session with four examiners present in the room ensured sufficient standardisation of question asking and marking.

### Results

Eighteen small animal candidates successfully passed the exam and have therefore been

invited by the Board to become new diplomates. Their names are listed below. All repeaters but one passed. This candidate has one more opportunity to take the exam. Failing candidates will be given a detailed analysis of their performance.

The chair of next year's examination will be Ursel Wiegand.

Luc Janssens has agreed to join the examination committee and will be observer for the 2005 exam.

*Ursel Wiegand, exam committee*



### New Diplomates who passed the 2004 examination

Debra Archer	Great Britain	LA
Carmen Arndt	Germany	SA
Jean Philippe Billet	France	SA
Peter Böttcher	Germany	SA
Guillaume Chanoit	France	SA
Dylan Clements	Great Britain	SA
Daniel Damur	Switzerland	SA
Aymeric Deneuche	France	SA
Renate Dennler	Switzerland	SA
Ross Doust	Great Britain	SA

Arthur House	Great Britain	SA
Richard Mitchell	Australia	SA
Turlough O'Neill	Great Britain	SA
Justin Perkins	Great Britain	LA
Patrick Pollock	Ireland	LA
Ingrid Schaeffer	Netherlands	SA
Morgane Schambourg	Canada	LA
Christoph Störk	Great Britain	SA
Catherina Sturgeon	Great Britain	SA
Aziz Tnibar	France	LA
Katja Voss	Switzerland	SA
Donald Yool	Great Britain	SA
Sigal Yudelevitch	Israel	SA

#### New Diplomates from ACVS

Fiona Katherine Harriss	Canada (GB)	LA
Sonia Sarah le Jeune	USA (B)	LA
Christian Bolliger	Switzerland	SA
Emmanuel Engeli	Switzerland	LA

All of you, congratulations and welcome to our college.

## Lyon Meeting



Dear ECVS Diplomates and Residents,

On behalf of the local organisation committee for the **2005 ECVS scientific meeting**, I invite you to join us at this traditional summer meeting for some

outstanding education in veterinary surgery.

The meeting will be held at the **National Veterinary School of Lyon (France), July 7-9, 2005**. The city of Lyon is at the heart of major communication networks and there are many different and easy ways to get to the city. By air the Lyon-Saint Exupéry Airport is located 30 minutes from the city. Lyon is the centre of an extremely dense road network that could

take you after the meeting to towering Alpine peaks or to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea for some wonderful family holidays! Of course in France you can also take the high speed train, known as TGV, which makes Lyon only 2 hours away from Paris and less than 4 hours from Brussels.

Although the original buildings of the oldest Veterinary School in the world, founded the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1761 by Claude Bourgelat, are still present along the river Saône, in the middle of the city, the actual School is now located at Marcy l'Etoile, about 11 km west downtown of Lyon. An active team of people including students is working hard to give you a wonderful time during your stay. Workshops and scientific meetings will be held at the School. A list of local Hotels will be given to you and stu-

dent rooms on campus will be also available for attendees at a very low price. This should be an incentive to all residents and others to attend the meeting.

**'Enhancing Veterinary Surgery'** is our slogan for this meeting. The local organisation committee (Eric Viguier, Jean-Pierre Genevois, Eddy Cauvin and myself) and the ECVS scientific program committee are putting together a program that will include Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> workshops in small (coelio-thoracoscopy, arthroscopy of the knee...) and large (embolization techniques, ultrasonography and surgery...) animals and a workshop on Information and Communication Technologies in Education (ICTE). This workshop will be useful for all members of our College interested in veterinary teaching. The scientific meeting will start July 7<sup>th</sup> at 17.00 with a 'State of the art' lecture on "Tissue and organ transplantation: clinical and ethical considerations" followed by the LA and SA Resident forum. In depth seminars will cover many aspects of our professional interests including equine eye and reproductive tract, update in bovine

orthopaedic surgery and in clinical pathology, and update in ACL disease, oncology and respiratory surgery in small animals.

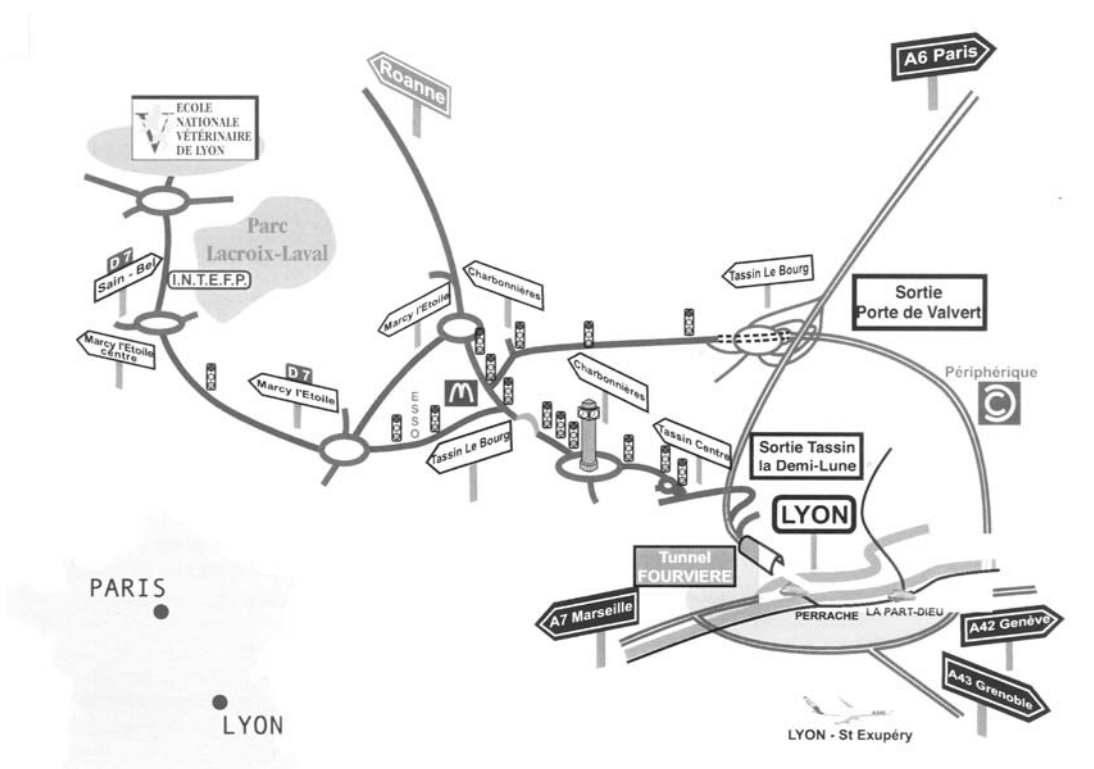
As you can see one of our goals this year is to attract a maximum of residents to the meeting with low cost rooms, an early resident forum to let them be more relaxed during the rest of the meeting and a special seminar for residents that will be given at the same time as the ECVS Diplomates business meeting. The examination will be held before the scientific meeting commences at the Park Inn Hotel, which is located 10 minutes by car from the Veterinary School.

To promote ECVS in France a LA and a SA mini-forum in French will be given July 6<sup>th</sup> by ECVS or ACVS French speaking diplomates.

We look forward to welcoming you to LYON 2005 to have an unforgettable experience.

Sincerely

*Olivier M. Lepage*, DMV, DECVS  
Local organisation committee



# A Address form



Please complete the following form and return it to ECVS office:

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University of Zurich

Winterthurerstrasse 260

CH-8057 Zurich

Switzerland

Fax: +41-44-3130384

e-mail: [ecvs@vetclinics.unizh.ch](mailto:ecvs@vetclinics.unizh.ch)

Name

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Title

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Address

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Zip / City

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Country

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Work phone

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Work fax

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e-mail

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Specialty:

LA

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LA (equine)

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LA (food animal)

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SA

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Home address and phone

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Nationality

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Date of birth

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Surgical emphasis

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Research interest

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