

Minutes of the ECVCP AGM, Milan, 18.00, Thurs 2nd October 2014

46 diplomates and the ECVCP administrative assistant were present. The meeting was chaired by the president, Cathy Trumel.

1. Approval of previous AGM minutes (Berlin 2013)

The minutes of the Berlin meeting were not presented due to a changeover of personnel last year but will be circulated with this year's AGM for approval.

2. Changes to the Board and committees

The new membership of committees were presented, as listed on the home page of the ECVCP website with a few amendments: Inger Lilliehöök is the Education Committee co-chair, Anne Geffré will be co-chair of the Exam Committee with Alessia Giordano (chair) and Francesco Cian is the new Website Editorial Board and Communication chair. Cathy Trumel and Francesco Cian have joined the Cytology Exam subcommittee, Anne Geffré the General Clin Path subcommittee and Fanny Granat the Haematology subcommittee.

3. President's report

The president gave a summary of 2014 activities:

- Working group on individual residency programmes: The remit of the working group was explained by the chair, Kostas Papasouliotis. This arose from the EBVS plan to produce guidelines to harmonise individual (formerly alternative) programmes. Alternative clinical pathology programmes are now classified as individual programmes in contrast to standard programmes which are the normal 3-year residencies based in either commercial or university laboratories. The ECVCP working group will have representatives from the Lab Standards, Education and Credentials Committees and the purpose is to make assessment of alternative programmes easier and fairer. This is work in progress with further updates next year.
- Task force on harmonisation with ASVCP: This was presented by Anne Provencher, ASVCP president. She explained the committee structure of the ASVCP. The working group on harmonisation of training consists of 3 ACVP board members and 3 ECVCP (Joy Archer, Barbara von Beust and Kathy Freeman, with Stefanie Klenner taking over from Kathy). Discussions have surrounded similarities and differences, and possibilities of cross-training. The ASVCP is now more aware of EBVS rules with which ECVCP has to comply e.g. number of 1st author publications required. However, ACVP is likely to be changing its exam structure, with a certifying exam likely after 2 years, so discussions on harmonisation are currently on hold until the outcome is clear.
- 2015 summer school: This is planned for the last week in July 2015 at the Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire in Toulouse, although the dates are yet to be confirmed. Topics requested by residents included exotics, equine, large animal and lab animal. Recent diplomates are being sought to help with organisation and Emma Hooijberg, Francesco Cian, Laetitia Jaillardon and Fanny Granat have already agreed.
- Registration of the ECVCP as a charity, adoption of the revised constitution: The president thanked Kathy Freeman for her hard work in developing the application to this stage. The final document will be sent to the UK Charities Commission in the next few weeks. They

require a few minor amendments to wording of the new constitution. These changes were viewed by those present and the changes accepted on a unanimous vote.

4. Treasurer's report

The report was presented by Natalie Bauer on behalf of Myriam Defontis. There are now 2 bank accounts, in the UK and France, the latter for small sums such as re-imbursement of expenses. The account in Germany is now closed. For the year to date, 57 diplomates have paid fees, with an additional €1800 from residency programme applications and €3750 from exam applications. Expenses include the website, the administrative assistant, PayPal transaction costs and re-imbursements of expenses. Overall the expenses were €9375 and income €13,590 with a healthy overall balance of ~€38,000 compared with ~€40,200 in 2013. The 2014 balance was approved by those present. In the near future, the accounts will be audited and the treasurer's signature will be added to the Lloyd's account.

E. Villiers asked whether annual fees could be paid by direct debit and K. Freeman said she would ask Lloyd's bank if this was possible. It might depend on whether the diplomate was based in the UK.

5. Committee reports

- Education (Barbara von Beust)
 - Activities in 2014 included reviewing training programme applications and renewals and participation in the task forces for harmonization of training with ASVCP and for individual programmes. Regarding the latter, the main issues are the lab standards required and who and where the supervisors are.
 - Elizabeth Villiers asked if internal medicine externships were required for credentials but there are no rules stating this is necessary other than the pre-training clinical experience required.
- Credentials (Peter Vajdovich)
 - Applications for registration as residents increased from 4 in 2013 to 11 in 2014 and 8 had credentials approved to sit the 2014 exam. Evaluation of individual residency programmes was sometimes difficult and the Credentials Committee wishes to avoid interference with the work of the Education committee in this regard.
 - In 2013/14, 9 diplomates were recertified but 23 are still pending from 2007-2011. It was noted that an updated diplomate list is required. Recertification applications should not include non-clinical pathology papers, or posters in which the applicant is a middle author. The Committee found a short description of major activities, changes in work etc. useful. A major issue in recertification has been the lack of exam questions but this is improving.
 - The Committee is taking steps to increase the speed of response to enquiries and applications.
- Lab Standards (Stefanie Klenner)
 - Proposals to change the requirements for re-accreditation were presented. There was some discussion of the proposed changes and it was agreed that the Lab Standards Committee would produce a draft to be discussed with the ECVCP Board.

- Examination (A Giordano)

- The exam took place in Toulouse from 20-21 Sept 2014 and will be held there in 2015. The exam was marked on site and the results were released to the candidates in 1 week. 8 candidates sat the exam (5 first attempt, 1 second attempt, 1 third attempt and 1 fourth attempt). The successful candidates were Eve Ramery (Belgium), Marta Dell'Orco (Italy/UK), Carola Campora (Italy/UK) and Fanny Granat (France). Three candidates failed all 4 parts on their first attempt and one failed one part on their third attempt. The pass rate of 50% is similar to the rate since 2011 and the same as the overall pass rate since 2004.
- The Exam Committee thanked the external reviewers, Leslie Sharkey, Steve Stockham and Anne Barger for their valuable work.
- Cathy Trumel and Alessia Giordano gave a presentation on exam SOPs at the EBVS training workshop for examiners in April 2014.

6. New diplomates

The new diplomates were congratulated on passing the examination and welcomed to the College.

7. Other business

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 20.35.

Addendum

The following report was not presented at the AGM due to lack of time:

Website report (Francesco Cian)

In the last year the website has been kept as updated as possible. These sections have been regularly updated:

- Open positions: including new residency and clinical pathologist positions
- Latest news: course announcements and various communications
- Info centre and documents: This section has been improved with new documents available for residents including exam reading list, approved residents and training programme lists. The new versions of the residency programme application form and resident enrolment form are now on the website.

The forum initially created on the website to improve the communication between residents has been replaced by a link to a Facebook page independently managed by residents.