

Minutes of the ECVCP AGM, Nantes, 12.30, Friday 21th October 2016

45 diplomates were present. The meeting was chaired by the president, Cathy Trumel (CT)
Approval of previous AGM minutes (Lisbon 2016): The minutes of the Lisbon meeting, which had been posted on the website in September, were unanimously approved by those present.

Changes to the Board: election results

The recent election results were as follows:

New president – Zoe Polizopoulou (ZP)

Vice-president – Ernst Leidinger

Secretary – Kostas Papasouliotis

Treasurer – Margarida Canelas Domingos (MCD)

Councillors: Alessia Giordano and Francesco Cian (FC)

It was noted that Myriam Defontis (MD) received most votes for the Treasurer position but had withdrawn for personal reasons.

President's report

Summary of 2016 activities

Alternative training program: The Working Group appointed at the 2015 AGM had produced their recommendations which have been posted on the website. The main points are that the residency must be a minimum of 48 months over a period of 6 consecutive years, at least 22 months must be spent in the primary training lab which must be ECVCP approved and have an ECVCP diplomate, at least 23 months must be spent in the secondary training lab which need not be ECVCP approved nor have a diplomate, plus 3 months externships. These changes are in line with EBVS rules.

Reaccreditation process: This will be required every 5 years. Two referees letters are also now required; these can be written by a diplomate of the ECVCP or another College or an academic/researcher who must be familiar with the applicant's work. These changes are in line with EBVS rules. Some diplomates present had not received this notification but it is on the website.

Constitution amendments: Changes had to be made to the exam appeal process as EBVS had sent a new template that must be used. The corrections were put to a vote with 35 in favour, 10 abstaining (mostly those who did not receive the email) and none against.

5 year report to EBVS: The report had been completed by CT and ZP and sent to EBVS. It will be evaluated by another College and presented to the EBVS AGM in March 2017.

Summer school: The next Summer school will be held in Toulouse from 17-21st July 2017. Residents were surveyed for topics and they identified pathophysiology and diagnosis of infectious diseases. A mock exam will be held on the last day. The trainers are being finalised in the next few weeks. The Summer school will be open to other residents e.g. those working for ACVP, if there are places available. Talks from previous Summer schools will be uploaded to the website so available for viewing.

Treasurer's report:

MCD gave the report on behalf of MD.

Total expenses for 2016 were 14,125€ and total income 16,729€ giving a balance of +2604€.

There is also 4779€ in the Paypal account and 36,488€ in the Lloyd's bank account so the ECVCP is in good financial health. The 2016 audit still needs to be performed in MD's absence.

Committee reports

Education (I Lilliehöök)

Five training programme applications were received in 2016 (1 new and 1 renewal) and so far 2 are approved and 3 pending.

There are 17 standard programmes widely distributed in Europe, plus one in South Africa.

Credentials (P Vajdovich)

Exam candidate applications: A few problems had been encountered including inappropriate case logs, unsuitable cases (sometimes with lack of clinical details and pathophysiological discussion) and a lack of externship time.

New residents: Since the last AGM, 7 new residents had started programmes and it was noted that 1 year rotating internship or 2 years in practice plus ESVCP membership were required before entering a programme.

Re-accreditation of diplomates: 15 re-accredited this year of which 10 were on time and 5 late. A further 10 are pending from 2015 and 13 from before then. The ways in which points can be accumulated for reaccreditation were discussed as there are now more options and no applicants had insufficient points.

Lab Standards (S Klenner)

Laboratory applications: There were 2 applications approved and a further 3 to evaluate in 2016, giving a total of 21 currently approved.

Co-chair: A co-chair is being sought and anyone interested should contact SK.

Examination (A Geffré)

Exam: The exam was held in October 2016 in Toulouse and 3 out of 6 candidates passed. The external reviewers were Melinda Camus, Christian Bedart, Steve Stockham and Kirstin Barnhart although Steve Stockham will retire this year. Diplomates were reminded that exam questions must be from the reading list on the website, 4 foils should be used and that pyramidal questions should be avoided. The reading list runs from 1st May 4 years before the exam year till 1st May in the exam year. For glass slides, at least 8 duplicates is recommended but smaller numbers are acceptable from good cases.

It was decided that there would be a survey on the General Clinical Pathology part of the exam, including whether it should be examined separately, 2 years into the residency.

The 2017 Exam Committee chair will be Laetitia Jaillardon and co-chair Eve Ramery.

Website (F Cian)

New developments: New exam information for residents, new re-accreditation information for diplomates and updated news sections are available.

Advertising positions: In 2016, 2 residency positions, 4 university clinical pathologists and 4 private lab clinical pathologists were advertised. As the number of adverts from private labs had fallen, it was agreed to stop charging them. The costs of the website are very low (540E in 2016 with 500E income from adverts) so not charging is still sustainable.

On-line elections: This worked well with 47% of diplomates registering votes.

Access to website: FC had surveyed use of the website. Most access to the ESVCP website was from the UK followed by France and Germany. This year it is planned to restrict access to the ESVCP website to fully paid members.

Other business

The new diplomates from this year and last were welcomed by those present and received their certificates. The new diplomates are Stratos Papakonstantinou, Ulrika Falkenö, Tim Williams, Francesca Pitorri, Eve Ramery, Antonio Melendez Lazo and Eleonora Piseddu.