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# ESVCP & ECVCP NEWSLETTER

European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathologists

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Winter 2009, Volume 9, No. 1

**The Official Combined Bulletin of the European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology and  
the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathologists**

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## Notes from the Editor

Dear colleagues:

I hope this newsletter finds us all recovered from the holiday season, and looking forward to longer daylight hours especially in the northern parts. Having said that, the winter blues can be far-reaching this winter where severe weather has hit far south into Europe. With some luck, thinking about the upcoming annual congress to be held this coming fall in a sunnier Thessaloniki, Greece, might cheer us up. Our local organiser, Zoe Polizopolou and the Science committee are already busy organising this for us. So please give serious thought to attending, as this will make this meeting the success it merits. Wishing you all the best for 2009!

Anne Lanevschi-Pietersma, [anne.pietersma@astrazeneca.com](mailto:anne.pietersma@astrazeneca.com); [annelanevschi@yahoo.ca](mailto:annelanevschi@yahoo.ca)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ESVCP PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

Dear ESVCP members,

I would like to focus this message on three important points:

1) The next ESVCP meeting will be held in Thessaloniki (Greece) over 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October 2009. The Scientific Committee is working hard to develop the scientific programme and this will appear on the ESVCP website in a few days. Please do not forget that the deadline for sending in clinical cases and scientific abstracts will be the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. I would like to thank all the members of the scientific committee and in particular Reinhard Mischke as a chair of this committee for his excellent work in preparing the scientific programme and also special thanks to Zoe Polizopoulou, and the rest of the local organizing committee for all their efforts.

2) Our new system of payment has been well received and we should recognize the great job that Mark Pinches has done. The new ESVCP executive also recognises that the presentation of a detailed annual economic report is one of the most important tasks that the Society has to undertake and we will ensure this is done for the AGM.

3) The new ESVCP executive also believe that all members should contribute with ideas and suggestions to help guide the society so that we can improve and better meet the needs of our membership. I would therefore encourage any member to contact me directly ([jjceron@um.es](mailto:jjceron@um.es)) with their ideas and comments.

I send you all my best wishes for this year and I hope we can meet in Thessaloniki. I am sure we will have a great time there!

Best regards

*Jose Ceron*

**11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ESVCP/ECVCP  
OCTOBER 7-9<sup>TH</sup> , THESSALONIKI, GREECE  
HOTEL ELECTRA PALACE**



Dear colleagues, members of the ESVCP and ECVCP diplomates

Our next annual meeting will take place from October 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> in Thessaloniki, Greece. Some preliminary information about our historic city can be found in our website [www.esvcp.org](http://www.esvcp.org) and will be updated within the next days with a link to the website of the congress and the preliminary programme. The 2009 meeting will be organized by the ESVCP, thus focusing exclusively on Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

As with previous meetings, there will be a whole pre-congress Continuing Education day (Wednesday 7/10) for residents and trainees. A lot of interesting topics on infectious diseases, hematology, immunocytology and toxicologic clinical pathology will be addressed in the main and parallel sessions during the next two days. Our congress venue is one of the most beautiful hotels and business centres, located in the heart of the city centre and facing the waterfront of Thermaikos gulf. The local organizing committee will also plan several social programme events, in addition to the traditional welcome reception and gala dinner.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of you in Thessaloniki!

On behalf of the local organizing committee  
Zoe Polizopoulou

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### Background on ESVCP

The European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ESVCP, <http://www.esvcp.org>) was formed in Sept 1998 for the promotion of this discipline, and out of the need for well-educated clinical pathologists with certified experience for leading positions in commercial laboratories, industry, and veterinary schools. The Society is open to everybody, veterinarians and non-veterinarians alike, interested in one of the many areas of interest of Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

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**ESVCP Website:** For information on constitution, membership, past and coming meetings, or to consult documents submitted to EBVS concerning application for specialty status and more, please visit <http://www.esvcp.org>, which will be the permanent domain name.

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### Interested in accessing a veterinary clinical pathology discussion forum?

This LISTSERV mailing list provides ASVCP and ESVCP members with access to over 500 colleagues interested in discussing and finding information on topics involving veterinary clinical pathology. To join the list, interested persons must request to be subscribed by writing an e-mail to John Hofmann [jhofmann@asvcp.org](mailto:jhofmann@asvcp.org) ; please include full name, e-mail address, and organization in the body of the message.

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## Letter from the ECVCP President

Dear Colleagues,

We wish that you had a happy and relaxing holiday season. As we said goodbye to 2008 we remembered the great time we had in Barcelona at the multiplex scientific meeting I am sure that all who were there enjoyed the visit to the Cava empire and the fantastic fish restaurant on the beach. All this thanks to Josep (Pastor) and Jose (Ceron ) our organizers. The 2009 meeting is already in advanced organization state and the preliminary views of Thessaloniki on our ECVCP/ESVCP website thanks to Zoe (Polizopoulou), our local organizer.

We had a good turnout for our liver day in ECVIM in Ghent last September. The ESVCP day for the upcoming ECVIM-CA meeting this coming September in Porto will include a programme on platelets and is now on the websites.

We are pleased to welcome 8 new members (who were successful in the September 2008 examination) and look forward to presenting them with their diplomas at the AGM in Thessaloniki, Greece, in October:

Nandor Balogh  
Martina Becker  
Maria Elena Gelain  
Gabriele Ghisleni  
Alexander Pankraz  
Claudio Petterino  
Sylvia Rossi  
Federico Sacchini

The credentials committee lead by Zoe is very busy with the first round of re-certifications. If you are one of the first members and if you have not yet completed yours, I urge you do so.

The executive and all the committee chairs are planning to meet in Cambridge at the end of March for the weekend to discuss the way forward on some important issues for the College.

A friendly reminder to all residency training programme directors that as agreed at the Barcelona AGM, these need to be approved by the education and lab standards committees and outstanding applications should be with the respective committees by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. We have approximately 20 persons in training and they met with Ilse (Schwendenwein) our new registrar and Education committee chair, in Barcelona. We hope to have some special sessions on training and exams both for trainees and trainers at the October meeting.

We held another successful annual self evaluation practice exam in Wetherby, UK, in December amidst snow, with many participants, despite the weather and the flu season. Thanks to Kathy (Freeman) and her many helpers, not the least of which, IDEXX, our sponsor.

Hoping that we can all look forward to spring and beyond the economic gloom.

With best wishes to you all,

*Joy (Archer)*

**ESVCP- Membership Dues Notice**  
**Membership Year: January 1- December 31, 2009**

Dear members,

I would like to begin by introducing myself to you as your new treasurer of the ESVCP. My name is Mark Pinches, and I currently work for AstraZeneca in drug development. I have been a member of the ESVCP since my days as a resident and it is great for me to be able to give something back to the society that has helped develop such a strong framework into which I have been able to place my career.

This year, to make the process of subscription payment easier and more convenient, I have worked hard to get the Paypal system up and running again.

This system provides the facility to pay by both credit card, and by traditional Paypal transfer and you may still pay by bank transfer, although please contact me first about this.

Do note however that the **deadline** for payment to guarantee an **uninterrupted journal** subscription is end of business day (GMT) **February 6th**.

So I would like to encourage all members to pay their subscriptions prior to that date if you have not already done so.

Finally, please take the opportunity to update your address details via the form that is linked from the website, and do note that an **up to date email address is needed** to ensure easy and convenient communication between the ESVCP executive and yourselves.

Very best wishes

Mark Pinches DipECVCP

**ECVCP- Call for Diplomate Fees for 2009**  
**Membership Year: January 1- December 31, 2009**

Dear Colleagues,

You are kindly requested to pay your diplomate fees for 2009 now.

If you have already paid your dues, please send me a short email and I will check if I have received the money. The fees are as follows:

- €100 ECVCP diplomates
- € 80 associate members ECVCP
- € 80 inactive members ECVCP

Payment has become more convenient as you just can use the “Buy now” button at our website (<http://www.esvcp.com/>) and pay via Paypal. This system provides the facility to pay by both credit card, and by traditional Paypal transfer.

For further payment options, please see below. If you have any queries regarding membership payments please contact the ECVCP Treasurer, Natali Bauer at [ecvcp\\_treasurer@gmx.de](mailto:ecvcp_treasurer@gmx.de).

Thank you very much in advance for paying your dues.

With best regards, Natali Bauer, Treasurer ECVCP

1. Diplomate Fee and Payment Methods

**International Funds Transfer**

**Bank details for Funds Transfer:**

Account name: European College for Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Bank: Lloyds TSB

Address: Aberfeldy Branch, Bank Street, Aberfeldy, Scotland, United Kingdom

Account No: 0511748

Sort code: 30 25 87

Swiftbank code (Bank Identification Code): TSBSGB21280

IBAN code: GB97TSBS30258700511748

This usually requires completion of a form at the bank.

**Please note that when using this method of payment it is essential that the member's name is given in the payment details.** A number of payments using this method have been received which cannot be traced because the member's name is not given on the transfer document. Please state this first in the payment details field of the form.

2. Making your Payment

**Using Paypal to pay Dues**

Go to Paypal on the Internet. Either follow the link below:

<https://www.paypal.com/uk/> or search for Paypal in your country of residence

Click on the **Send Money** Tab

Open a personal account if you do not already have one. Once this is open please enter the College's Paypal email and payment details as below

Recipient's Email: [ecvcp\\_treasurer@gmx.de](mailto:ecvcp_treasurer@gmx.de)

Amount: 100 Currency: Euros

Type: Service Subject: ECVCP Diplomate fee 2009

Notes: Please enter your name and the fact you wish to pay the diplomate fee

Click on the Send Money button

Paypal will email you confirmation that money has been sent.

# European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

## Annual General Meeting 2008

Auditorium of CosmoCaixa, Barcelona, Spain

Wednesday 1st October 2008,

Meeting Convened at 17:50

1. Sixty members of the society were present and the meeting was conducted according to the following agenda:

### **Matters Arising for the last AGM**

- The minutes of the last meeting Annual General Meeting were circulated in advance by e-mail to the membership.
- There was one action item in the 2007 AGM minutes for the board relating to considering whether the method of appointment and term of the Vice-President position should be altered. A possible constitutional change was circulated in advance as part of a proposed Agenda for the 2008 AGM. In the interim, the executive board determined that it was not appropriate to consider a constitutional change at this point in time and that there was significant value for the society in maintaining the *status quo*.
- No other matters from the minutes of the previous AGM were raised

### **Elections of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President**

Requests for nominations were circulated in advance of the meeting to the membership by e-mail. The following nominations were received:

Treasurer:	Mark Pinches (UK)
Secretary:	Peter Graham (UK)
Vice President:	Reinhard Mischke (DE)

No other nominations were received. There being no objections from the meeting, the three nominees were duly elected.

Outgoing Vice-President, Tibor Gaal, spoke on passing his responsibility to Reinhard Mischke. He thanked ESVCP for the opportunity to serve them as Vice-President and informed the meeting that he was retiring from his academic position in Hungary and would be moving to Perth Australia.

### **Treasurer's report**

Joy Archer confirmed that as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 the Society's two bank accounts had balances of £952 and €13500.

Following the meeting she will hand over the accounts to the new Treasurer, Mark Pinches.

There will be costs associated with the current meeting and ESVCP board has agreed to split the costs of the set-up and maintenance of the new joint ESVCP/ECVCP website. Maintenance costs for the website would alternate between the two organisations on a six-monthly basis.



The day meeting focussed on clinical pathology of the liver held in association with ECVIM during their Ghent meeting in September 2008 was very successful and on that basis it was Joy's view that the society maintain its association with ECVIM Congress (€12/member/year). Consequently, a 1-day continuing education day is planned for the ECVIM congress in Porto, Portugal.

Joy proposed that the society continue with the services of the current auditors based in Germany. No objections were raised.

There was a suggestion from the meeting that the Society consider collecting annual membership dues at the time it collects registration fees for its annual scientific meeting. There was some discussion concerning the timing of conferences (generally September) and the membership year (January-December) and the requirement to submit a list of paid members to the Journal of Veterinary Clinical Pathology before March each year. Peter Graham added that this would be very much worth exploring if it can be arranged that dues for the following membership year are collected at meeting registration.

Peter Graham relayed the views of Mark Pinches, that he would like to make changes to the dues payment system to make it easier for members. Ernst Leidinger commented that it would be difficult to set-up website based payment other than through PayPal and Joy Archer reminded members that unless they make alternative arrangements, the Society often has to pay their transaction fees.

Joy Archer raised the issue of an increase in Membership fees but there was no further discussion on this matter.

### **Future Meetings**

Unfortunately, it was not possible during the meeting to present further information concerning the proposed next meeting in Thessaloniki in October 2009 due to delegate illness.

### **Journal of Veterinary Clinical Pathology**

Mary Christopher reminded members of the transition to a new publisher (Wiley-Blackwell) and commented that it had gone well. The Journal now had a new appearance and the method of online access had been changed and would be in place for ESVCP members soon. More than 1,000 articles had been downloaded since the journal was made available this way.

It has been arranged that all Veterinary Clinical Pathology articles from the inception of the journal will be scanned into a digital format to make them available through the online service.

The change in publisher gives the Journal access to a professional marketing team to enhance awareness of the journal.

The publishers also operate manuscript processing through an online service "Manuscript Central" which will enhance speed and convenience of manuscript review and publication.

### **Trainee Advisor and Self-Evaluation Exam Report**

Ilse Schwendenwein informed the meeting that there were 29 registered resident trainees and emphasised the need for more training programs and centres to be registered.

During the current congress, Ilse hosted a resident trainees meeting which was well attended. The trainees were glad to have met on another and were now in a better position to arrange "resident exchanges". They were hopeful that a "Resident's Corner" could be developed on the society website.

Kathy Freeman informed the meeting that IDEXX Laboratories UK continues to host and support an annual "self-evaluation examination". Around 18 trainees had already signed up for the next one 6-7<sup>th</sup> December 2008. The organizers are investigating the use of computers and digital slide images to improve the quality of the experience.

It was felt that the self-evaluation exam help direct trainees to their areas of weakness. Trainees struggled particularly with writing in English and exam time management.

Harold Tvedten raised the question of whether clinical pathology trainees should be limited to Residents rather than other forms of Veterinary Graduate Students. Peter O'Brien reminded the meeting that the rules concerning the training and examination of clinical pathology was the responsibility of the ECVCP rather than the ESCVP and that there were also limitations placed on the ECVCP by the EBVS (European Board of Veterinary Specialisation).

## **Other Matters**

### **Website**

Ernst Leidinger spoke to update the position with regard to the Society Website. The content of the site has been updated and a demonstration with Matthew Green is to be held for members later in the evening 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008.

### **Awards**

The ESVCP award for Best Poster will be announced Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008. An award will also be made for Best Case.

### **Fund-raising**

Jose Ceron reminded the meeting of the need to create a fund raising committee.

Peter Graham added that it would be useful if Josep Pastor could transfer the details of funding contacts made during the organisation of the Barcelona meeting to Reinhard Mischke the new Vice-President.

Nick Carmichael offered to provide help fund raising and emphasised the need to provide a return, reward and acknowledgement to sponsoring companies.

One member representing a sponsoring organisation also emphasised the need for transparency in the funding of congresses. In particular those agreeing to provide funds to the Society need to be able to report back to their corporate organisations what exactly the sponsor got in return for its investment. Without such feedback it may be difficult to obtain funding in future.

### **AOB**

Reinhard Mischke took the opportunity to introduce himself as new Vice President to the meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned 18:40**

Meeting Minutes prepared by P. Graham, October 2008

Jose Ceron  
President

Peter Graham  
Secretary

# European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

## Annual General Meeting 2008

Auditorium of CosmoCaixa, Barcelona, Spain

Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

Meeting Convened at 8:40

Attendance roster: 34 signatures

Chair : Joy Archer president; recording secretary : Anne Lanevski -Pietersma

The minutes of the 2007 meeting were accepted.

1. Examination committee report presented by the chair David Ledieu  
Highlights were a committee meeting in May in Vienna to prepare the examination  
Thanks to Kathy Freeman and her colleagues in IDEXX, Wetherby, for the organization of the actual examination in September.  
10 candidates sat the examination.  
There was an appeal for diplomats to submit examination questions to the committee.  
Guidelines for preparation of questions will be available on the web site.  
If sending in questions with glass slides a minimum of 5 per case are required.  
Suggested by Stein (T) to publish examples of a good exam question in the newsletter; it is pointed out there are guidelines and examples on the website.  
Presentation of committee members in 2009, very low Question submissions by non examination committee members. The yearly passing rates (overall); <50% on average and breakdown per section (>50% on average); Plans for 2009 to revise SOPs, for this committee. There is a need for improved communication between Education and Credentials and Exam committees to be assisted by the exec with joint committee meetings.

2. Credentials committee report presented by the chair Zoe Polizopoulou.  
Zoe thanked her fellow committee members for their work during the past year.  
Activities of the committee are outlined – application for examination, recertification process and need for members to complete this process by end of the year  
Requirements for candidates – they must be in an approved training programme and lab (at least provisional); Application deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, this is to include 2 first author publications (with evidence of acceptance for publication by the journals). An up to date case log book signed by the supervisor, an annual progress report signed by the supervisor.

Acceptance of 1 FRCPath candidate as ECVCP diplomate by equivalency;

Peter O'Brien had a question around acceptance of candidates that may have resulted in a low pass rate; highlighted the need for an annual report - it is a requirement in the by-laws – and is a

valuable tool to assist the Education/Credentials committees in assisting supervisors with the success of their programmes and candidates' success in the examinations;

Recertification: there are 17 diplomates who should recertify in 2008. So far, 9 applications had been received. There was a reminder that diplomates need to attend 1 in 3 AGM and submit 5 examination questions in each of 4 of the 5 years prior to recertification (20 questions total). Urs (G) and Harold (T) suggested that it would be preferred if the Credentials committee sent out the request to recertification letter by email with confirmation request ; this suggestion is accepted by the Credentials committee as the procedure for 2009.

### 3. Lab standards Committee report presented by the chair Stein Thorensen

Outline of members; in 2007, 10 approved labs, 3 are provisionally approved; in 2008, 4 applications under review currently; approved labs are being contacted for re-approval. At the end of 2008, it is expected to have 14 approved labs.

### 4. Education Committee report presented by chair Ilse Schwendenwein

Ilse presents herself as the new chair and registrar for residents. She reported that the evening reception for residents sponsored by Novartis at the 2008 congress has been deemed successful with positive feedback from residents; She also reported on an afternoon meeting with trainees/residents with a question and answer session  
29 trainees were identified. There was a request to contact Ilse to register residents;

### 5. Treasurer's brief presented by Natalie Bauer (treasurer)

Balance 2008 ~ £ 17,000 ; donations (Pfizer, Idexx) : ~ £ 18,000  
22/61 members have not yet paid their dues for 2008.

Associate and non-active members are to pay 80 Euro; honorary members pay no fee.  
Lloyd's account will be turned into a Euro account. Reminder of requirement that payment has no fees subtracted so that full fee is paid!

Suggestion by Peter (O) that the new website be used by members to check whether they have paid. Ernst (Chair of communications committee) agrees this can be done.

### 6. Award of diploma to Vanessa Turinelli who passed the certifying examination in September 2007.

In the interest of time no verbal report was given by the chairs of the communications committee nor the science committee. Thanks by Joy to all committee members and the executive for their hard work during the year

### 7. Close of meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by Anne Lanevschi Pietersma, Secretary

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