
ESVCP & ECVCP NEWSLETTER

European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology



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

Highlights	Page
Message from the ESVCP President	1
Letter from the ECVCP President	2
Required exam questions & guidance by ECVCP diplomates	4
Membership updates ESVCP & ECVCP	5
2012 Annual meeting in Slovenia in July	6
Annual general meeting minutes ESVCP/ECVCP 2011	10
Composition of boards & committees ESVCP & ECVCP	22

Word from the Editor

Dear colleagues:

The annual congress of the ESVCP/ECVCP takes place in Slovenia this year, July 3-7, jointly with ISACP. The program is well underway with interesting sessions... in **17 topics** including wildlife, equine, ruminant metabolism, CNS biomarkers, and much, much more! Enclosed you will find congress information and the website link. We expect very high participation for this very exciting meeting. Make sure you read the very detailed minutes of the Society and College which include an overview of activities & finances.

On another important note, this is the **last** newsletter I am editing for the Society. We have grown tremendously and I'm persuaded we have some hidden talent that could make a very important contribution by engaging in this activity which is not all that time consuming but requires to ask different members from the College and Society for information & to package it for the membership prior to putting out a newsletter. It's a great way to be at the heart of the Society and know what is going on! Ideally we should have a quarterly newsletter to keep members abreast of activities throughout the year, but 2x yearly would be also acceptable. I have been doing this for over 10 years now in addition to my many other activities in the College and I have brought it down to this yearly newsletter. We've previously asked for help but perhaps the call wasn't strong enough. So as a different tactic, I'm announcing the vacancy of editor!

I especially want to appeal to **you**, more recent members of the Society, to become involved with the Society to make sure it remains a vibrant, growing and achieving community. The Society will become what you want it to be thanks to your involvement. For this, a 'roving reporter' would be a wonderful asset. Many of us have writing and editorial skills, so...time to step up to the plate! I'll be glad to help with the next newsletter to anyone volunteering.

Anne Lanevschi-Pietersma, alp@vetclinpath.com

MESSAGE FROM THE ESVCP CHAIR

Dear friends,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Our annual meeting in Dublin was a great success in term of participation and quality of presentations and allowed to strengthen our relationship with other EU societies (ACCP, AECCP) and our American sister society ASVCP. In particular, the joined workshop about “Where are we and where we are going?” put some milestones for future interventions and collaborations.

I wish to thank Peter O’Brien for the great effort in organizing and managing the meeting and ... also for being able to convince me to join to local Irish dancers during the Social dinner (probably the bravest result!!!)

More complete details about the Dublin meeting are available in the present newsletter.

Some actions were proposed in Dublin to increase visibility and spread of veterinary clinical pathology:

- firstly, the drafting of a new survey on VCP in Europe in order to get a snapshot of the actual situation, in terms of present and future positions and to identify the different needs of each country. This survey is now available following the link on our website and the preliminary collection of responses is very interesting. Definitive results will be presented in Ljubljana. Please do not forget to respond to the survey if not already done!!!

- secondly, the identification of possible local scientific societies also involved in Veterinary Clinical Pathology are to be contacted for possible cooperation, sponsorships or patronage. The survey will be useful also to achieve such an aim;

- thirdly, the necessity to enforce specific tools to encourage the development of VCP especially among young researchers. A small grant award for 2011 was already assigned in Dublin and a second call, particularly dedicated to residents and PhD students, has been already prepared for 2012 (deadline 1st May, 2012). Moreover, prizes for best poster and best presentation at the Dublin meeting were also given, allowed by the positive financial situation (thanks to Mark Pinches for his great work).

In 2012 annual meeting will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from July 3rd to 7th. It is a great opportunity to make contact with the current situation in European veterinary clinical pathology and to enhance our relationship with ISACP. I wish to personally thank the organizing committee headed by Martina Klinkon for their great work, done in cooperation with Peter (OB) on behalf of ESVCP.

Many different topics and great international speakers are expected and the social programme is particularly full of events, including also the awards for the 2012 Hall of Fame of Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

Finally, I remember all the absent-minded members who forgot to renew their annual fee to do it quickly in order to be able to receive the journal regularly and to contribute to the society’s activities. The regular payments of the society fees is mandatory in addition for ECVCP diplomates to maintain their status, and the Society and the College are now strictly collaborating to identify single irregular situations.

As in the past I encourage you to send me any comments or suggestions for future initiatives, and I wish to personally thank all the members who already contacted me to report problems and suggest solutions. I personally assure you that the executive takes this direct contact with the members in great consideration. You can directly contact me by e-mail (stefano.comazzi@unimi.it). Your involvement will contribute to improve the activities of ESVCP.

Have a nice 2012 and I look forward to seeing you in Ljubljana.

Stefano Comazzi

Word from the ECVCP President

Dear Colleagues,

As I mentioned in the newsletter released about one year ago, 2011 was a “transition year” toward a more efficient management of the College and of its different committees. The main “innovation” was the establishment of a secretariat to facilitate the communications between Board/committees and membership and residents and to keep records of any official document, request or response. The secretariat was initially managed by Sharon Green and it is now managed by Anne Lanevski. Any ECVCP member and Residents are thus asked to contact the Board or the Committees through the following email address: secretariat@ecvcp.org.

As announced in 2011, the committees have been renewed and enlarged to support the increased workload necessary to satisfy the growing amount of requests from membership (the composition of the committees is reported on the website). All the committees, including those that were quite “silent” in previous years, are now actively working. SOPs for each committee have been completed or are in preparation, the communication with ECVCP members or residents is now faster and more efficient than in the past and decisions or recommendations are released in a timely manner. I would personally thank all the committee members and especially the committee chairs (Barbara, Zoe, Alessia, Stein, Stefano) for their work.

The activity of the committees, as well as the approach to College activities for residents and members was facilitated by the availability of new guidelines that have been included in the information brochure (IB) published late 2010 to reinforce pre-existing (but poorly observed) rules. As for any “practical” document, the IB needs to be constantly updated to address the problems that are encountered in practice. A first update of the IB, with the inclusion of some clarification requested by the membership has been released in December 2011 and it is possible that further revisions will be released in 2012 and in the future. Your support in revising the IB is essential, so please report to the Board any part of the IB that you think needs to be revised for clarity. Moreover, before applying for accreditation of your lab or of your residency program, be sure to check and follow the guidelines of the latest version of the IB posted on the website.

Despite a large amount of work in the past year, many aspects of the College’s life still need to be improved. For example, although the coordination between different committees has notably improved, some further steps in this direction (e.g. a more clear definition of the flow of documents and information through the different committees) will facilitate the approach of members to the College activities. Similarly, the website Board is working to become “user friendly” with more immediate access to documents and forms. In addition, the College is now working to offer new educational opportunities to the residents (online courses, summer school, self-assessment exams): some of these activities will be likely run in autumn and information on these activities will be posted on the website.

Finally I would thank Peter O’Brien for the organization of the 2011 annual meeting in Dublin. The meeting was excellent from the scientific point of view and included two great opportunities of growth for the College. First, during the meeting the exam committee organized an examiners’ workshop that was particularly successful and that has been taken as a model from the EBVS for all the other colleges. Second, the participation of non-European clinical pathologists (especially from the U.S.) was an opportunity to improve the relationship with other clin path colleges or societies. This will allow us to move toward an international coalition of specialists, and hopefully toward a greater harmonization of rules and procedures, as recommended by the EBVS.

With my best wishes of a productive term, and looking forward to seeing you in Slovenia,
Saverio Paltrinieri

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.

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.

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 ; please include full name, e-mail address, and organization in the body of the message.

Examination ECVCP

The next ECVCP exam will be held in Toulouse, France, September 29-30, 2011.
For details on how to apply for future examinations please visit the ESVCP website.

**Call for questions for the ECVCP examination
& SUBMISSION FORMS**

Dear ECVCP member,

According to the ECVCP constitution and By-laws, all diplomates must submit five questions, along with their fully-referenced answers, each year (by June 30th) to the examination committee. Failure to submit questions for two consecutive years can cause suspension of approval of training programs. They are also a requirement for maintaining diplomate status.

Late submission of written questions results in inconvenience to the section leader and extra mailings of segments for review. The task of preparing all items for various sections is sizable. To meet deadlines, we ask that diplomates provide the highest quality items. We encourage everyone to start assembling materials as soon as possible to avoid last-minute rush preparations.

Please provide multiple choice question and essay questions to be chosen among the following: Biochemistry cases, cytology or haematology images or glass slides.

All the questions must have correct and incorrect options and include one or more references to support correct responses and provide explanations as to why the incorrect responses are incorrect. With an essay question, a written response worth 10 to 20 points must be included with suggestions on the breakdown for grading the different portions of the answer provided.

There is a guidance document for you to follow in preparing your questions. Please use this guide to ensure your questions can be accepted.

Access it online at: www.esvcp.org by logging in with your User ID and password and go to the "Members menu/Download section.

Please send the questions and materials to: alessia.giordano@unimi.it

Post glass slides carefully wrapped to:

Alessia Giordano
Dipartimento di Patologia Animale
Igiene e Sanita' Pubblica Veterinaria
Sezione di Patologia Generale e Parassitologia
Via Celoria, 10
20133 MILANO
ITALY

Written questions and cases might be sent by e-mail; cytology and haematology image files might be sent by e-mail in the case they do not exceed 10MB. Images exceeding the above mentioned size must be sent by CD-ROM. CD-ROMs and glass slides should be ideally sent by express courier. It is critical that exam security be maintained throughout the entire examination preparation and administration process. Therefore, at no time should you divulge to anyone, information that might be construed as "privileged communication" resulting from your participation in, and knowledge of, the examination process. There is no guarantee your questions will be used in the examination. Questions will be reviewed for acceptability.

Alessia Giordano,
Exam committee chair

2012 ESVCP Membership payments

Earlier this year an email invoice was sent to you outlining your membership fees for 2011 and the address to which the VCP journal will be mailed. – Please keep this for your records

To pay please visit www.esvcp.com and use the Paypal link on the home page:

http://www.esvcp.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=49&Itemid=59

If you wish to pay by bank transfer (€15 charge) please contact the treasurer by email

treasurer.esvcp@googlemail.com

New members

Please complete the registration form found under the ESVCP tab “How to join us” (or follow above link) section.

Residents please ask your supervisor to email the ESVCP treasurer with confirmation of your resident status.

Mark Pinches

BVSc MSc DipRCPPath DipECVCP

Treasurer of the ESVCP

treasurer.esvcp@googlemail.com

15th Biennial Congress of the International Society for Animal Clinical Pathology
 14th Conference of the European Society & College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

For full details, including registration and accommodations: <http://www2.vf.uni-lj.si/isacp-esvcp/>

3rd - 7th July

TUESDAY (3 rd July, 2012)			
19:30	Welcome reception		
WEDNESDAY (4 th July, 2012)			
	BLUE	VIOLET	SEMINAR
8:30 – 9:00	Plenary lecture: Strengthening global alliances in veterinary clinical pathology (<i>Mary Christopher, USA</i>)		
9:00 – 9:30	Sommer lecture: Contribution of the clinical biochemistry in cattle production (<i>Fernando Wittwer, Chile</i>)		
	CYTOLOGY – NON BLOOD FLUIDS & ONCOLOGY Chair: Leslie Sharkey, USA	RUMINANT CLIN PATH Chair: TBA	WORKSHOP: EDUCATION: Residency supervisor training Chairs: Inger Lilliehook, Ilse Schwendwein, Barbara von Beust, Peter O'Brien
9:30 – 10:15	Oncologic cytology of the canine liver and pancreas (<i>Leslie Sharkey, USA</i>)	Evaluation of metabolic and endocrine status in transition dairy cows in prediction and diagnosis of fatty liver syndrome (<i>Danijela Kirovski, Serbia</i>)	9:30 – 9:55: The Education Committees Vision – <i>Barbara von Beust, Switzerland</i> 9:55 – 10:20: The Exam Committee's Experience with Current Training Programs – <i>Alessia Giordano, Italy</i> 10:20 - 10:45: The Teaching Expert: <i>Ilse Schwendenwein, Austria</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Dog derived stem cells in veterinary medicine (<i>Gregor Majdič, Slovenia</i>)	Oral presentation	
10:30 – 10:45		Oral presentation	
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break, poster viewing, exhibition		
11:15 – 11:30	The role of COX2/PGE2 pathway in promoting cancerogenesis of canine and feline tumours (<i>Alessandro Poli, Italy</i>)	Oxidative stress and inflammatory response in reproductive and productive disorders of dairy cows (<i>Romana Turk, Croatia</i>)	11:15 – 11:40 - EBVS Survey of Policies and Procedures for Residencies in Veterinary Specialties – <i>Peter O'Brien, Ireland</i>
11:30 – 11:45			
11:45 – 12:00			
12:00 – 12:15	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	11:45: 12:35 – EBVS speaker to be confirmed
12:15 – 12:30	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	
12:30 – 12:45	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	
12:45 – 13:00	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	12:35 – 1:00 Panel Discussion - All
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break, poster viewing, exhibition		
	CYTOLOGY – ONCOLOGY Chair: Carlo Masserdotti, Italy	RUMINANT CLIN PATH Chair: Fernando Wittwer, Chile	
14:30 – 14:45	Diagnosis of mesenchymal tumours (<i>Carlo Masserdotti, Italy</i>)	Trace Minerals Deficiency Diagnosis in Ruminants (<i>Hugues Guyot, Belgium</i>)	What residents need know about QA / QC – <i>Lab Standards Committee</i>
14:45 – 15:00			
15:00 – 15:15	Non-hepatocytic liver cytology (<i>Carlo Masserdotti, Italy</i>)	Oral presentation	
15:15 – 15:30			
15:30 – 15:45	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	Successful Training in Clinical Chemistry – <i>Leslie Sharkey, USA</i>
15:45 – 16:00	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	
16:00 – 16:15	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	
16:15 – 16:30	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee break, poster viewing, exhibition		

Wednesday July 4, cont'd:

	CASE PRESENTATIONS Chair: Harold Tvedten, Sweden	ACUTE PHASE PROTEINS Chair: David Eckersall, UK	
17:00 – 17:15	CASE PRESENTATION	Comparison of acute phase in different species (<i>D. Eckersall, Scotland</i>) SAA as biomarker of subclinical infalimation in cattle (<i>Milica Kovačević Filipović, Serbia</i>) CRP and Haptoglobin for Lymphoma Diagnosis (<i>Brian Hett, Ireland</i>) Oral presentation Oral presentation	
17:15 – 17:30	CASE PRESENTATION		
17:30 – 17:45	CASE PRESENTATION		
17:45 – 18:00	CASE PRESENTATION		
18:00 – 18:15	CASE PRESENTATION		
18:15 – 18:30	CASE PRESENTATION		
18:30 – 18:45	CASE PRESENTATION		
18:45 – 19:00	CASE PRESENTATION		
ECVCP AGM – after the congress program		ISACP-Executive board business dinner	

THURSDAY (5th July 2012) Registration 8:00 – 14:00			
	BLUE	VIOLET	SEMINAR
	IMMUNOLOGY & INFECTIOUS DISEASES Chair: Regina Hoffman-Lehmann, Switzerland	TOXICOLOGY 1 Chairs: Lindsay Tomlinson, Barbara von Beust, Switzerland	WORKSHOP: HOW TO PUBLISH your scientific research Chairs: Mary Christopher, USA; Karen Young, USA
8:30 – 9:00	TBA (<i>Hoffman Lehmann, Switzerland</i>)	Role of the clinical pathologist in drug development <i>Lindsay Tomlinson</i>	Writing for publication in vet med: Keys to success <i>Mary Christopher, USA; Karen Young, USA</i>
9:00 – 9:15		Data analysis and interpretation <i>Barbara von Beust, Switzerland</i>	
9:15 – 9:30	Tick born diseases in dogs in Slovenia (<i>Nataša Tozon, Slovenia</i>)	Best practices in tox Clin Path <i>Lindsay Tomlinson</i>	
9:30 – 9:45		Non-routine tox clin path <i>Denise Bounous</i>	
10:00 – 10:15	Molecular diagnostic techniques of veterinary infectious diseases (<i>Matjaž Ocepek, Slovenia</i>)		
10:15 – 10:30			
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break, poster viewing, exhibition		
	CLINICAL PATHOLOGY AND STATISTICS Chair: Didier Concordet, France		FREE TOPICS
11:00 – 11:15	Reference intervals, (<i>Didier Concordet, France</i>)	Instrument and method validation <i>Barbara von Beust, Switzerland</i>	Oral presentation
11:15 – 11:30		Biomarker qualification <i>Denise Bounous</i>	Oral presentation
11:30 – 11:45	Dangers of Reference Interval Design from Wildlife Datasets (<i>Kendal Harr, USA</i>)	Oral presentation	Oral presentation
11:45 – 12:00		Oral presentation	Oral presentation
12:00 – 12:15		Oral presentation	Oral presentation
12:15 – 12:30		Oral presentation	Oral presentation
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break, poster viewing, exhibition		
14:00 – 21:30	SOCIAL HALF DAY: Lipica, Postojna cave, Dinner		



FRIDAY (6 th July, 2012), Registration 8:00 – 19:00			
	BLUE	VIOLET	SEMINAR
9:00 – 9:30	ESVCP Plenary lecture (TBA)		
	ENDOCRINOLOGY Chair: Čebulj Kadunc, Slovenia	EQUINE CLIN PATH Chair: Analisa Barrelet, UK	NOVEL DIAGNOSTICS Chair: Andre Almeida, Portugal
9:30 – 10:15	Adipokins in companion animals: an update (Jose Ceron, Spain)	Use of the clinical pathology laboratory in equine practice (Analisa Barrelet, UK)	Proteomics, electrophoresis and mass spectrometry; a tool in biomarker detection and a diagnosis (Andre Almeida, Portugal)
10:15 – 10:30	Oral presentation	Diagnostic cytology of the horse (Analisa Barrelet, UK)	Oral presentation
10:30 – 10:45	Oral presentation		Oral presentation
10:45 – 11:00	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	Oral presentation
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break, poster viewing, exhibition		
	ENDOCRINOLOGY Chair: Jose Ceron, Spain	HEMATOLOGY Chairs: John Harvey, USA; Kathy Trumel, France	LABORATORY MANAGEMENT (QA/QC) Chair: Kathy Freeman, UK
11:30 – 11:45	Leptin and reproduction in Lipizzaner mares (Nina Čebulj Kadunc, Slovenia)	Mammalian hematopoiesis (John Harvey, USA)	Total allowable error (Kathy Freeman, UK)
11:45 – 12:00	Oral presentation		How to do QC Validation (Ernst Leidinger, Austria)
12:00 – 12:15	Oral presentation	Platelet counting in cats (Cathy Trumel, France)	(Kendal Harr, USA)
12:15 – 12:30	Oral presentation		
12:30 – 12:45	Oral presentation		
12:45 – 13:00	Oral presentation		
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch break, poster viewing, exhibition		
	BIOCHEMISTRY Chair: Ilse Schwendenwein, Austria		TOXICOLOGY 2 Chair: Guillaume Counotte, Nederland
14:30 – 14:45	Inter- and intraindividual variance components and critical differences in cats and dogs (Ilse Schwendenwein, Austria)	Bone marrow examination in dogs and cats (John Harvey, USA)	GLP principle in pre-clinical testing (Manica Černe, Slovenia)
14:45 – 15:00			
15:00 – 15:15			
15:15 – 15:30	Urine chemistry: an evidence based approach (Ernst Leidinger, Austria)	Reticulocyte examination (Dennis DeNicola, USA)	Veterinary toxicology an integrated approach (Guillaume Counotte, Nederland)
15:30 – 15:45		Oral presentation	
15:45 – 16:00			
16:00 – 16:15	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	Chloramfenicol and florfenicol comparison of toxicological profiles (Manica Černe, Slovenia)
16:15 – 16:30	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	
16:30 – 16:45	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	
16:45 – 17:00	Oral presentation	Oral presentation	Oral presentation
17:00 – 17:30	Coffee break, poster viewing, exhibition		
17:30 – 19:00	ISACP BGM + ESVCP AGM		
19:00 – 21:00	Rest Break		
21:00	CONGRESS BANQUET		

SATURDAY (7 th July, 2012), Registration 8:00 – 10:00		
	BLUE	VIOLET
	NOVEL BIOMARKERS Chair: Osamu Yamato, Japan	COST action workshop: Proteomics and animal health Chair: David Eckersall, UK
9:00 – 9:45	Laboratory tests for metabolic inborn errors in domestic animals: clues to diagnosis (Osamu Yamato, Japan)	9:00 – 9:40 Overview of proteomics in veterinary science David Eckersall, Scotland
9:45 – 10:15	Laboratory assays in the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis in cats and dogs (Ilse Schwendenwein, Austria)	9:40 – 10:20 Proteomics in the tick born diseases research Andre Almeida, Portugal
10:15 – 10:30	Oral presentation	10:20 – 11:00 Proteomics in study of liver metabolism in dairy cattle Bjoern Kuhla, Germany
10:30 – 10:45	Oral presentation	
10:45 – 11:00	Oral presentation	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break, poster viewing, exhibition	
	WILDLIFE CLIN PATH Chair: Kendal Harr, USA	
11:30 – 12:15	BP Deepwater Oil Spill and Toxicologic and Environmental Ramifications in the Gulf of Mexico (Kendal Harr, USA)	11:30 – 12:10 Proteomics in investigation of AGP and SAA Fabrizio Cecilian, Italy
12:15 – 12:30	Oral presentation	
12:30 – 12:45	Oral presentation	12:10 – 12:50 Use of proteomineer to examine low abundance protein in the serum proteome Anna Bassols, Spain
12:45 – 13:00	CLOSING CEREMONY	

European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Annual General Meeting 2011
Trinity college Dublin

Meeting Convened at 20:20

1. Sixty-seven members of the society were present. At the time of the meeting, the Society has 182 members so a Quorum was established (>15% of the membership). The meeting was conducted according to the following agenda:

Pre-AGM

Keynote Address

Keynote address was given by Kristin Barnhart, Stefano Comazzi and Saverio Paltrinieri; Presidents of ASVCP, ESVCP and ECVCP

Kristin Barnhardt outlined the current status of the ASVCP. She highlighted that many of the recent gains and improvements in ASVCP have been in part helped by the establishment of a management company (Rees Group).

Around 25% of the membership is from outside the USA.

ASVCP Board member commitments are 5 year in duration.

Their laboratory professionals group is very active and organises a large amount of CPD at the annual meeting.

ASVCP International committee is recently established and starting to expand its interests
Recent developments include a new website, e-newsletters and the development of a case database (50-60 cases).

Policies (e.g. antitrust and disclosures) are in development and a system of re-certification is being developed

An Aperio based store of all ASVCP meeting case report is being established.

The next ASVCP meeting will be in Nashville 3-7 December 2011.

Stefano Comazzi outlined the history of the society from its beginnings in 1998 to the establishment of the provisional ECVCP in 2002. By 2011 our membership continues to increase each year representing 27 different countries. The largest membership countries are UK and Italy. Proposed future activities include enhanced relationships with other societies and organisations, website communications and to explore policies and opportunities for website advertising. In addition, the society should enhance its attractiveness to potential members that are non-ECVCP eligible

Saverio Paltrinieri outlined the history of the college including full approval in 2007 and the 2011 requirement to re-certify as a college. In comparison to other EBVS recognised colleges, the ECVCP has a membership number indicating strength and opportunity for growth. The majority of members are in academic rather than commercial work environments.

There are over 14 training sites approved with more under review although there is a discrepancy in approved labs versus approved training programmes.

Aims for 2011 are to increase membership through training and availability of training, to increase the relationships with other colleges and societies including a wider organisation of lab diagnosticians (including microbiology).

Other aims include promoting the “image” veterinary clinical pathologists, its legal standing and consequently employment opportunities for Veterinary Clinical Pathology Professionals Ernst Leidinger (website manager) asked a question about the development of policies relating to the use of the society Logo.

Peter O’Brien asked a question concerning what relationship there is or should be with the ECVCP. Stefano Comazzi and Saverio Paltrinieri outlined their views concerning the strength of an independent clinical pathology discipline and it was compared and contrasted with the situation in the USA by Karen Young and Kristin Barnhart.

ESVCP Hall of Fame Awards

Awards were made for distinguished contributions to the discipline of veterinary clinical pathology were made to Jean-Pierre Braun, Harold Tvedten, Mary Christopher and Jiro J Kaneko. An engraved plaque was presented to Jean-Pierre Braun and Harold Tvedten by Stefano Comazzi (ESVCP President). The awards to Mary Christopher and Jiro Kaneko will be made at the ASVCP meeting in Nashville.

ESVCP Small Grant Award

During 2011, resident research awards were made to Eve Ramery, and Marta Costa.

Best Presentation Awards

Best Poster 2011: Maria Elena Gelain

Best Case 2011: Erika Furman

Best Oral abstract: Will be announced 3rd September

AGM Business meeting

Approval of the minutes of 2010 AGM, Toulouse, France

- The minutes of the last meeting Annual General Meeting were circulated in advance by e-mail to the membership.
- No objection to the contents of the minutes was raised and consequently they were duly approved.

President’s Report

Stefano Comazzi confirmed to non-elected executive consists of himself, Josep Pastor and Stephan Neumann. He also extended his thanks to the previous past-president Jose Ceron for his much appreciated efforts during his term.

Jose Ceron expressed his pleasure to contribute to the society and reminded the members of their achievements of the society so far.

The relationship between the ESVCP and ECVCP is strong and with much in common will work together well. The ESVCP board and ECVCP Science committee will develop roles and responsibilities with regard to areas of perceived overlap

An on-line survey is planned to understand our society members and the different challenges in different geographical regions and to compare with the previous 2006 survey

15 new members were welcomed by Stefano

Treasurer's report

The treasurer report was presented by Mark Pinches.

No auditors report was presented at this meeting. Accounts are currently being prepared for auditors' review.

Mark presented the following updates:

- 2010 has been a financially successful year facilitating the promotion of vet clinical pathology
- Lloyds bank accounts are being replaced with HSBC accounts
- 182 subscription paid members
- Profit from Barcelona meeting 2008
- Slight loss in Thessaloniki 2009 and Toulouse 2010
- Audit fees have been caught up (last 3 years)
- Two research awards made for 2011
- No increase in subscription recommended this year

Applications for research awards 2012 were encouraged.

A protected wind-up contingency fund has been established

The Society has committed to contribute to the travel expenses of the Editor of Veterinary Clinical Pathology to the ESVCP AGM's

Future Meetings

ESVCP will have a presence at ECVIM 2011.

The main society meeting for 2012 will be held in association with ISACP in Ljubljana, Slovenia on the proposed dates of 3-7th July 2012. Joze Staric provided some background of the city and country.

Stephan Neumann outlined the joint meeting planned with German Small Animal Veterinary Association in Berlin 6-10th November 2013.

The expectation is that the 2014 meeting will be in Italy subject to future confirmation by the Society.

Journal of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Karen Young updated the members concerning the *Journal*. In her review of the year, Karen highlighted the following:

- Thanks to support team, editorial board, section editors and more than 200 reviewers
- 215 new manuscripts
- Acceptance rate: 34%
- Rejection rate 46% (including expired and withdrawn)
- Impact factor (2010) = 1.239 (increased by 56%)
 - Reflects citations of articles published in 2008 and 2009
 - Ranked 44 of 145 veterinary journals
- Virtual issue released on haemostasis

- Review articles now in each issue
- Published abstracts for ISACP, ESVCP and ASVCP
- Encouraging more use of STARD Guideline (diagnostic performance) and other relevant reporting guidelines
- Around 60% is original research, 1.4% review articles
- Letters to the Editor are being encouraged: additional comments and experience in addition to “criticism”
- USA and Europe account for around 60% of submissions (~50:50)
- Mean time submit-to-accept is 5 months
- VCP is your journal
 - Submit your best work
 - Be an advocate:
 - Does your library have a subscription?
 - Encourage your colleagues in internal medicine, emergency and critical care, oncology, and other disciplines to submit in-scope manuscripts.

Other Matters

Meeting closed 10:05 pm

Meeting Minutes prepared by P. Graham, 2nd September 2011

Peter Graham

Stefano Comazzi

President

Secretary

European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Annual General Meeting 2011

Trinity College Dublin

31/08/2011

Attendance: Appendix list (34 signatures)

SP: Saverio Paltrinieri, NB: Natali Bauer, ZP: Zoe Polizopolou, BvB: Barbara von Beust, AG: Alessia Giordano, MS: Martina Stirn

Recording Secretary: Anne Lanevschi (ALP)

Meeting start: 19:10

1. Minutes from previous AGM (Toulouse 2010) were approved (SP, seconded ALP)
2. Agenda for the meeting presented (SP)
3. Future 2012 Congress presented – Slovenia, joint ISACP and ESVCP congress, Veterinary Faculty in Ljubljana (SP)
4. Summary of 2011 board activities (SP):
 - Reorganization of committees
 - Definition of SOPs for different committees
 - Enforcement of pre-existing rules (see committee reports) – rules will be adhered to strictly henceforth in order to comply with EBVS requirements and College guidelines- these are presented the Education session and College AGM (Education; Credentials)
5. President's report (SP):
 - Inform on possible minor revision of the brochure to clarify wording: the IB is aimed to facilitate the life within the College; it is a "dynamic document" that needs to be adapted to EBVS rules and improved based on problems encountered (both occurred in 2011); some adaptation will be soon incorporated for clarity
 - Example: Application for the exam (CRED COM): The programme must be concluded by the date of the exam; application must be sent by March 1st; on March 1st the applicant/supervisor must submit: the status of the programme until March 1st; 2 papers, case reports, case log, daily log; give an outline of the provisional activities until the end of the programme; one month before the exam the applicant must submit the final status of the activities
6. Treasurer's report (NB):
 - Fees were increased from 100 to 150 € in 2011.
 - Donations: from Novartis for the speakers in the tox path session in Toulouse was 4,000.00; Pfizer donation in 2011 (£1844.17).
 - Total expenses since September 2010: € 7271.38
 - Reimbursements (since September 2010): € 3057.52
 - Website ESVCP/ECVCP: € 772 (Feb 2011)
 - Payment to the EBVS February 2011:€ 1470.33
 - Payment for Paypal account 2011: € 255.22
 - Payments for ECVCP secretariat: € 1716.31 (Feb, April, June 2011)
 - EBVS dues 2011: annual fixed levy per Board registered college: €270.43; there is an annual levy for 69 diplomates/associate members @ 16.90 €/diplomate = € 1470.33. The actual number clarified and corrected this year and there were no overpayments to EBVS as in past.
 - Breakdown of members:

- Active diplomates: 67 (requirement to pay dues to EBVS)
- Associate members: 3 (requirement to pay dues to EBVS)
- Honorary: 4
- Resigned/retired: the rest
- September 2010: audit of the treasurer recommendation is to pen a bank account used for transferring money (with Lloyds money can only be transferred within the UK by online banking) – ING is the bank for this purpose
- Kathy F proposes we seek an interest earning account
- September 2011: audit of the treasurer passed
- Auditors: Andreas Moritz and Gad Baneth
- ECVCP account balance:

Total income 2011 (all accounts): € 16446.68
Total expenses 2011: € - 7271.38
Net income 2011: € 9175.30 or £ 8016.46£
Increase from
- £ 29,118.88
£ 31,235.72
+ € 6225.57 (Paypal)
+ € 386.94 (IngDIBa)
= £ 37,135.34 Balance

Brief discussion on procedure for reimbursement with agreement to Natali' s proposal that non-EU diplomates should send in the original receipts and also the converted € amount in the currency of their bank account at the time of spending the money (refer to their bank or credit card statement showing amount)

CLSI membership option: a survey of diplomates attending the AGM resulted in a majority show of hands for interest to inquire about adherence cost for the College

ACTION: Natali to explore CLSI membership

Natali reminds diplomates that they must pay their dues on time – still a small number outstanding

ACTION: Outstanding diplomates to pay outstanding College dues ASAP

7. Credentials committee report (ZP):
- Members: .Z.S. Polizopoulou, P. Vajdovich, H. Brun-Hansen, S. Rossi
 - Eligibility requirements are outlined: Training programmes (approved by the Education committee) & training laboratories (approved by the Lab standards committee); completion of duration of training (standard/alternative programme); publications : 2 first author publications

In 2011: 8 first time candidates will present themselves for the exam

- An evaluation of first time examination candidates for 2011 highlighted the following problems:
 - Marked variation of training programmes
 - Old vs New information brochure and regulations - different interpretation by candidates and supervisors
 - Candidates changing training sites (and switching from standard to alternative programmes)
 - Documentation of sufficient external training

Accepted: 4

Provisionally accepted: 1 (ongoing training to be completed prior to September)

Rejected: 3

1 – lacking 1st author publications, training programme issues

- 1 – lacking 1st author publications
- 1 – lacking 1st author publications, external training issues
- Applicants from outside Europe to be granted diplomate status:
There are 2 applicants; some changes in the EBVS rules as to number of years they must be active in Europe is a barrier. This is discussed and several members including Peter O'Brien indicate we can define what is meant by active.
Motion approved, proposed by Kathy Freeman and seconded by Saverio Paltrinieri that the term 'active' diplomate within Europe be studied by the board.
ACTION: This will be discussed further by Credentials in conjunction with the board.
- Recertification process is presented:

Re-evaluation of the ECVCP membership status is required every 5 years for every ECVCP diplomate starting from the year of admittance and is based on a standard point system:
 - publications
 - presentations at national congresses or Continuing Education
 - presentations at international congresses
 - attendance at national or international congresses
 - preparing exam questions
 - supervision of residents
 - membership of ECVCP Board or Examination committee
- 2008 recertification:
31 diplomates enrolled in 2001-02
4 excluded (1 honorary member, 3 inactive)
27 diplomates to recertify
20 diplomates recertified
5 in review (exam questions evaluated)
2 missing applications
1 declined recertification, 1 did not respond to invitation
- 2009 recertification:
Six diplomates enrolled in 2003 needed to recertify
One retired and excluded from the process
Five remaining diplomates-all responded and sent applications
All recertified
- 2010 recertification:
12 diplomates listed to recertify
5 excluded from the process:
 - 2 accepted as associate members
 - 2 accepted as honorary members
 - 1 resigned from ECVCP7 asked to send applications
 - All applications received
 - 6 recertified
 - 1 feedback from the exam cmt (submitted Qs)
- 2011 recertification:
11 Diplomates to recertify
Invitations to be sent after Dublin
- Efforts are being made to improve the process for certification:

- Credentials committee chair to coordinate regular teleconferences with Education cmt for early “diagnosis” of training programme issues prior to expiration of deadlines; coordinate with lab standards cmt and Examination cmt and feedback for recertification
- Proposal: meetings (TC/other) 3-4 times per year unless dictated otherwise
- **ACTION: Mark Pinches and Natali Bauer propose that a requirement be added that members show proof they are up to date with paying dues**

Approved motion proposed by Mark Pinches, seconded by Peter O’Brien and Saverio Paltrinieri: ‘That recertification SOP include a final check with society and College treasurers prior to approval of the applicant to determine whether they are up to date with membership dues.’

8. Education committee report (BvB):

• Composition : Abigail Guija de Arespachoga , Bulgaria; Ilse Schwendenwein, Austria; Inger Lilliehöök, Sweden; Maria Elena Gelain, Italy; Mary Christopher, USA; Nick Carmichael, United Kingdom

• List of Activities (since March 2011):

- Reactivation of review process of pending training program applications
- Updating of currently approved and active residency training laboratories
- Survey: list of approved Training Laboratories
- Updating resident registration (Registrar)
- Review of renewal applications
- SOP’s
- Forms
- Summer School 2012

Number of programs and application status in 2011:

Programs 2011	Number	Preliminary Approval	Denial	Pending	Definitive Approval
„Old“	5	2	1	2	-
Renewal	4	1	-	2	1
New	1	-	-	1	-
Total	10	3	1	5	1

The process for application and approval is outlined so diplomates understand it is an arduous process that involves inter-committee consultation, hence the response time it takes prior to the applicant receiving news on the status of their application.

Three SOPs being drafted for the Education committee in 2011:

- Education Committee of the ECVCP – encompasses processes, active Contribution, time Lines, confidentiality, conflict of Interest
- End of Residency Questionnaire - encompasses support for training program improvement, recommendations to Supervisors
- Document Check – encompasses progress assessment, case log, protection of residents

Goals for 2012:

- Establish online Forms for Applications for Training Programs, Renewals, Candidates;
- Online List of Approved Training Laboratories
- Summer School 2012: is presented: theme is General Clinical Pathology Friday – Sunday, 8 – 10 July 2012

9. Examination committee (AG):

- Composition:

Alessia Giordano, Chair

David Ledieu, Past Chair: Diplomates questions management

General Clinical Pathology: Peter O'Brien (chair), Joy Archer, Anne Lanevski, (Sarah Putwain)

Clinical Chemistry: Vanessa Turinelli, Kerstin Thoren Tolling, Ugo Bonfanti, (Federico Sacchini)

Cytology: Elizabeth Villiers (chair), Kathy Freeman, Elspeth Milne

Haematology: (Cathy Trumel, candidate chair) Alexander Pankraz, Walter Bertazzolo, (Laia Solano-Gallego)

SOP subcommittee: Kathy Freeman, David Ledieu, Saverio Paltrinieri, Kerstin Tolling, Peter O'Brien

Local exam organiser Toulouse 2010 and 2011: Cathy Trumel

- 2010 exam:

6 candidates:

5 first-time candidates

1 second-time candidate

0 third-time candidate

- 1 appeal from candidate failing 3 parts - refused

Results: 1 new diplomate

Dr. Sarah Putwain (first time candidate, Academia, Standard program) is congratulated on joining the College, presented by Saverio Paltrinieri, president

- 2011 exam to be held upcoming 24-25 Sept 2011:

10 candidates:

5 first-time candidates

4 second-time candidates

1 third-time candidate

General Clinical Pathology: 10 candidates

Biochemistry: 7 candidates

Hematology: 8 candidates

Cytology: 6 candidates

- Exam yearly external review:

Alessia thanks external reviewers that assessed the exam for 2011: Anne Barger (whole exam); Dorothee Bienzle (haematology and cytology); Mike Fry (whole exam)

Breakdown of candidates and programs they originate from:

ECVCP Examination Committee - Examination Passing Rate

	Candidate Number	1st Time	2nd Time	3rd Time	Standard	Alternative	Total Passing Rate	1st Time	2nd Time	3rd Time
								Passing Rate	Passing Rate	Passing Rate
2004	3	3	na	na	1	2	3/3 (100%)	3/3 (100%)	na	na
2005	2	2	na	na	1	1	0/2 (0%)	0/2 (0%)	na	na
2006	7	5	2	na	2	5	4/7 (57%)	3/5 (60%)	1/2 (50%)	na
2007	5	2	2	1	3	2	1/5 (20%)	0/2 (0%)	0/2 (0%)	1/1 (100%)
2008	10	6	2	2	6	4	8/10 (80%)	5/6 (83%)	1/2 (50%)	2/2 (100%)
2009	3	1	1	1	1	2	2/3 (66%)	0/1 (0%)	1/1 (100%)	1/1 (100%)
2010	6	5	1	0	4	2	1/6 (17%)	1/5 (20%)	0/1 (0%)	na
Cumulative	36	24	8	4	18	18	19/36 (53%)	12/24 (50%)	3/8 (38%)	4/4 (100%)

na: Not applicable

Exam passing rate in single disciplines:

ECVCP Examination Committee - Examination Passing Rate

	Candidate Number	1st Time	2nd Time	3rd Time	Standard	Alternative	Total Passing Rate	1st Time	2nd Time	3rd Time
								Passing Rate	Passing Rate	Passing Rate
2004	3	3	na	na	1	2	3/3 (100%)	3/3 (100%)	na	na
2005	2	2	na	na	1	1	0/2 (0%)	0/2 (0%)	na	na
2006	7	5	2	na	2	5	4/7 (57%)	3/5 (60%)	1/2 (50%)	na
2007	5	2	2	1	3	2	1/5 (20%)	0/2 (0%)	0/2 (0%)	1/1 (100%)
2008	10	6	2	2	6	4	8/10 (80%)	5/6 (83%)	1/2 (50%)	2/2 (100%)
2009	3	1	1	1	1	2	2/3 (66%)	0/1 (0%)	1/1 (100%)	1/1 (100%)
2010	6	5	1	0	4	2	1/6 (17%)	1/5 (20%)	0/1 (0%)	na
Cumulative	36	24	8	4	18	18	19/36 (53%)	12/24 (50%)	3/8 (38%)	4/4 (100%)

na: Not applicable

- Requirement for exam question submission by members:

Alessia remind membership that it is a constitutional obligation & requirement for recertification for all diplomates to submit questions; at 4 questions / Diplomate / Year = 335 questions should be received from 67 diplomates

Submission can be anytime during the year. There are exam question submission templates on the website. Questions/Materials are to be submitted to Exam committee chair. Details & Address are on website.

ACTION: To all diplomates to submit their required 5 questions yearly respecting the guidelines on the website (also available in 2011 Spring newsletter, also available via website)

Process: Questions are reviewed by exam subcommittees, feedback to Chair and Diplomate (via subcommittee chair), and an annual summary is sent to the Credential committee chair (Dec 1st)

Exam question submission history:

Submitted Questions in 2008:

7 diplomates + 14 = 33%

32 questions (28MCQ + 3KC + 1GS)

Submitted Questions in 2009:

15 diplomates + 15 = 43%

147 questions (106MCQ + 17KC + 21GS + 3CC)

Submitted Questions in 2010:

15 diplomates + 14 = 41%

200 questions

Submitted Questions in 2011:

18 diplomates + 14 = 48%

215 questions

- Other business:

There was an examination educational session at the Dublin congress for examiners.

An exam question database management system is in progress.

10. Laboratory Standards committee report (MS):

- Composition:

Natali Bauer

Alexandra Briend-Marchal

Kathy Freeman

Martina Stirn

Stein Thoresen (Chair)

Martina points out that 2 more members are needed to support the amount of work for this committee.

- Approved labs 2003-8:

Axiom Veterinary Laboratories (UK)

Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (SP)

Clin Path Service, Murcia University Veterinary Hospital (SP)

IDEX Laboratories (UK)

Unit of General Pathology and Parasitology, University of Milan (IT)

UCVLM, Utrecht (NL)

Central Laboratory, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna (AU)

Central Laboratory, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen (DK)

Carmichael Torrance Diagnostic Services (CTDS) Ltd. (UK)

Vebiotel Laboratory, Arcueil (FR)

- Approved labs 2009-11:

Central Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Justus-Liebig-University, Giessen (GE)

LVS Diagnostic Laboratories, Langford Veterinary Services, School of Clinical Veterinary Science, University of Bristol (UK)

INVITRO Laboratory (Labor für Veterinärmedizinische Diagnostik und Hygiene GmbH), Vienna (AU)

Laboratorio d'Analisi Veterinarie San Marco (IT)

Clinical Pathology Laboratory, University of Edinburgh (UK)

Declined: 5 applications since 2008 pending fulfilment of specific areas.

- Re-applications

The process of evaluating re-applications is not yet initiated due to insufficient capacity in the Laboratory Standard Committee. When the number of active committee members is sufficient, the process of re-evaluations will be initiated.

Inger Lillihook proposes an example be placed on the web showing how the application should be presented but Martina indicates they are all very different from each other.

There is some discussion and request by members to facilitate and simplify the process for lab approval without compromising quality, eg ISO labs

11. Other business:

- We have been approached by another College to know our position of their proposal to change name: ECZM, Zoo Mammals, vs. ECZM, Zoo Animal Medicine: majority show of hands to support this College's request for a change of name
 - All submissions for applications to be sent to secretariat@ecvcp.org
 - ECVCP/ESVCP interactions (and sponsorship) – joint meeting will be held in Dublin: the proposal is to increase the interaction and define rules /SOPs for managing joint activities
 - Future development / liaisons (ASVCP/Australasia? Microbiology?) will be pursued: one obstacle are EBVS rules for de facto membership from outside Europe but the current direction of EBVS is to pursue recognition therefore the College can continue to move in this direction likewise and investigate joint meetings or committees, contacting meeting/ committee reps of other organisations with common affiliations.

Kirstin Barnhart (ASVCP guest; society president and ACVP exam committee member) indicates it will be important to pursue harmonisation between Colleges. Peter O'Brien indicates this is already being looked at by EBVS/ ABVS and Australia.

- Associate members: there has been a request for 1 member to be added in this capacity but there is no quota at present for new associate members (must be max 10% of membership) – new ones can be added as membership increases

Reminders on deadline for exam, training and lab std applications: these are being revised and deadlines will be communicated as soon as possible

Deadlines: Application for training programmes (EDU COM): to be revised

Application for Lab Standard: (LAB ST COM) to be defined

Application for the exam (CRED COM): March 1st (feedback by Apr 1st)

- Preparation of recertification of the College by the EBVS – there will be a peer review by 2 other Colleges – document is in preparation (JA, SP) and will be delivered by December 2011.
- **AGM attendees are reminded that ESVCP and ECVCP logos are for official use only** and although available on the member section of the website permission must be sought from the board prior to use ; they cannot be used for commercial purposes

Meeting adjourned 21:10

ECVCP & ESVCP board & committees

The composition of the committees and board for the ESVCP & ECVCP are outlined below.

ESVCP

Board:

Chair: Stefano Comazzi

Vice President: Peter O'Brien

Treasurer: Mark Pinches

Secretary: Peter Graham

Science committee: Stefano Comazzi, Jose Ceron, Josep Pastor, Stefan Neumann

Website editorial board: Ernst Leidinger (lead); Mary Christopher and secretaries of ESVCP & ECVCP

ECVCP

Board (as of Dec 2010):

President: Saverio Paltrinieri

Vice President: Cathy Trumel

Past President: Joy Archer

Secretary: Anne Lanevschi Pietersma

Treasurer: Natali Bauer

Councillor 1: Elspeth Milne

Councillor 2: Ilse Schwendenwein

Secretariat executive: Anne Lanevschi Pietersma - secretariat@ecvcp.org

All communications for application form requests & submissions for training, examination or laboratory approval must be sent to secretariat@ecvcp.org

ECVCP Committee chairs:

Education: Barbara von Beust

Credentials: Zoe Polizopoulou

Laboratory Standards: Stein Thorensen

Examination: Alessia Giordano

Nomination committee for election in 2013/14:

Kostas Papasouliotis, Anne Provencher Bolliger, Carlo Masserdotti