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**EBVS** EUROPEAN BOARD  
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SPECIALISATION

Veterinary Excellence through Specialisation



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## Introducing a college: The ECVO

Rick F Sanchez (ECVO)

*Rick Sanchez obtained his Bachelor's degree in Biology in St. Thomas Aquinas College (New York) in 1994 and his DVM in 1999 after attending Ross and Louisiana State Universities. He became a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ECVO) in 2007, worked in private practice until 2011, and then joined the Royal Veterinary College of the University of London as a Lecturer and Head of the Ophthalmology Service at the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals. He has written this article in collaboration with Bernard Spiess (Switzerland), Frans Stades (The Netherlands), Kristina Narfstrom (Sweden) and Heidi Featherstone (UK).*

### Founding of the ECVO (1991)

A group of veterinarians with a special interest in ophthalmology met during the 7<sup>th</sup> WSAVA World congress in Barcelona, Spain, in 1980, and after discussions with Dr. William Magrane (Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists - ACVO), the International Society of Veterinary Ophthalmology (ISVO) was established. This was the stimulus that served to create a specialty organization in Europe, and it was the first informal meeting of the veterinary professionals that would later become the founding members of the European College (ECVO). The initiative to form the ECVO with the aim of advancing veterinary ophthalmology in Europe developed further during the WSAVA Congress in Vienna in 1991. An informal meeting in Luxemburg followed this and by November of the same year Dr Frans Stades had completed the drafting of the College's Constitution and Bylaws. On November 27, 1992, the ECVO was officially registered in Giessen (D) by the following eight founding members: P. Bedford (UK), B. Clerc (F), K. Narfström (SWE), W. Neumann (D), C. Peruccio (I), M. Roze (F), A. Solarino (I) and F. Stades (NL) who was the first ECVO President (Table n° 1). The first meeting of the ECVO Executive Committee meeting was held in Zurich, Switzerland on March 2, 1993.



**A new perspective** - ECVO delegates at the first meeting of the College in Uppsala, Sweden, 1993

The College expanded further by inviting seven additional established professionals in the field of veterinary ophthalmology to join the founding members. Then, in 1995, another thirteen colleagues were invited. The de facto procedure ended in 1997 with a total of 28 members forming the body of the College.

The first 3 ECVO examinations took place in 1996, 1998 and 2000 in Giessen (D), Utrecht (NL) and Maisons Alfort (F), respectively. The examinations that followed were held annually in one of the European countries that had an active residency training program. Following an initial period of preliminary recognition, the College was granted full recognition by the European Board of Veterinary Specialization (EBVS) in 2003. In November 2012 the ECVO reached its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was celebrated at the College's annual meeting held in Barcelona in May 2013.

ECVO President	Year
Frans Stades (NL) 1	1992-1995
Bernhard Spiess (CH) 2	1995-1998
Kristina Narfström (SWE) 3	1998-2001
Bernard Clerc (F) 4	2001-2004
Ellen Bjerkås (N) 5	2004-2007
Björn Ekestén (SWE) 6	2007-2010
Ingrid Allgoewer (D) 7	2010-2012
Gill McLellan (USA) 8	2012-2014



*Table 1 - The first 8 Presidents of the ECVO. The photograph of President n° 3 is hidden somewhere else in the Newsletter*

The ECVO has a long lasting relationship with other professional colleges and associations in veterinary ophthalmology around the world. Some of the members of the ECVO are also Diplomates of the ACVO. The ECVO welcomes ACVO Diplomates that work in the EU into its college and Diplomates of both colleges can take an active part in at least part of the training of Residents of either college. There is no diploma reciprocity between the ECVO and ACVO at present. Diplomates from the ECVO, the ACVO, and members of other professional colleges and associations in veterinary and physician based ophthalmology have the opportunity to meet in Europe once yearly through the Annual ECVO Meeting, which has become a world-renowned

scientific and social event since its development in the early nineties, and is usually held in the month of May in a European country.

### Training ECVO Residents

As of December 2013, the College has 87 Diplomates (*Table 2*) (including 3 retired Diplomates), 12 of whom are also Diplomates of the ACVO.

Working country	ECVO Diplomats
Austria	5
Australia	1
Belgium	3
Canada	3
Finland	1
France	8
Germany	7
Ireland	1
Israel	1
Italy	5
Netherlands	6
Norway	2
Portugal	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	2
Sweden	5
Switzerland	8
United Kingdom	19
USA	8

*Table 2* - In 2013 the ECVO had a total of 87 Diplomates working in Europe but also North America and Australia

The College also has 26 Residents (*Table 3*). Most are in training through an approved Regular<sup>1</sup> Residency Training Program (RTP) and a few are enrolled in approved Alternative RTPs. At the time of writing, some of the Residents were already eligible to sit the ECVO's certifying diploma examination.

### How to become an ECVO Diplomate

Those wishing to become an ECVO Diplomate need to undergo structured training under the supervision of an ECVO Diplomate. Not everyone is eligible for admission into a Regular RTP as this requires having a veterinary degree, having completed at least one rotating internship or having had considerable clinical training. A Regular RTP is usually a three-year programme of intense, structured and supervised training. Residents must spend 70% of their time in clinical ophthalmic practice. An ECVO Resident must accumulate an extensive clinical and surgical caseload each year. There is a predetermined number of clinical cases per species with which an ECVO Resident must have hands-on experience. This includes a minimum of 700 dogs, 150 cats, 40 horses, 20 birds, 15 rabbits, 10 cows, 10 small ungulates and more, yearly.

Country	Number of Regular ECVO RTPs	Number of ECVO Residents (Regular RTPs)
Austria	1	1
Belgium	1	1
Canada	1	1
France	1	1
Germany	1	2
Israel	1 (inactive)	
Italy	2	2
Netherlands	1	1
Norway	1	1
Spain	1	2
Sweden	1	1
Switzerland	1	1
UK	5 (1 inactive)	6
USA	2 (1 inactive)	1
TOTAL	20	21

*Table 3* - Number of ECVO Residents and ECVO Resident Training Program (RTPs) as of December 2013. There are a few additional residents in Alternative RTPs that are not shown in the table.

There is also a large and varied number of ophthalmic surgeries in which a Resident must become proficient. Proficiency is reached in carefully planned steps and under strict supervision from an experienced mentor. ECVO Residents must complete a number of additional tasks every year such as actively participate in journal and book clubs, spend time training in ophthalmic pathology, ophthalmic anesthesiology and ophthalmic imaging, and engaging in scientific research. ECVO Residents are expected to publish at least two manuscripts in an internationally-renowned-peer-reviewed journal. These must be written during the residency and include one first author original article and a second author article or first author case report. In addition, every ECVO Resident must present at least one abstract at the ECVO or ACVO meeting. Lastly, all ECVO Residents are expected to attend a general ophthalmology basic science and pathology course, which for most ECVO Residents is most commonly the William Magrane Biannual Course held at North Carolina State University, in the USA. This is an intensive four-week course that offers ECVO Residents a great opportunity to learn and meet

<sup>1</sup> Some Colleges use the term "Regular" (like ECVO) or "Conforming" (like ECVN, see article on page 9), while the correct EBVS terminology for this type of Residency is "Standard"



other colleagues in training through the ECVO and the ACVO. An ECVO Residency may be complemented through collaborative research and brief externships in other centres around the world depending on the approved program in which the ECVO Resident is enrolled. ECVO Residents must submit a list of activities, a case log and a surgical log to the ECVO Education and Residency Committee (ERC) every year. The ECVO's ERC must approve, and generally comments on, the trainees' progress each year, and the ECVO Resident must satisfy all the prerequisites set by the ECVO to be allowed to sit the ECVO Qualifying Examination – this includes having published during the Residency and having met all the other requirements before applying to sit the ECVO Qualifying Examination. The examination is a two-day experience during which the Resident will sit through two multiple choice question exams and one slide test in the first day, and a practical test on the second day. The written tests are arduous and cover the content of seven years of written scientific literature contained in a number of preselected books and peer reviewed scientific journals, all of which the ECVO Resident must have read and be thoroughly familiar with in advance. The thorough practical exam includes all types of surgical and ophthalmic examination as well as diagnostic knowledge in any of the species mentioned above. The examination procedure takes place in the early part of each year and successful exam candidates are welcomed into the ECVO during the College's annual meeting.

The ECVO website ([www.ecvo.org](http://www.ecvo.org)) contains a great deal of detailed information about the College. The Resident tab is designed to assist those wishing to pursue a career in veterinary ophthalmology and those who are already undergoing training. There are several specific areas of interest, some of which are also listed in the Quick Menu on the right side of the homepage. The section 'Becoming a Diplomate' is structured in an easy-to-follow, question-and-answer style and can be used as a starting point. It provides links to relevant sections under the Resident tab. It also includes a 'Residency Experience', with personal accounts from two recently qualified ECVO Diplomates. The summary of available Regular Residency Training Programs, presented by country, specifies whether an RTP is active or inactive, and indicates when the next vacancy is available. This information is updated by the ECVO Resident Coordinator whenever changes occur. In order to find a supervisor, people should identify the Diplomate(s) of their nearest RTP, and also look under the Diplomate List in the ECVO website. It is always helpful to meet potential supervisors in person. Attending the ECVO Annual Meeting, as well as any local, national or international meetings is an excellent way to meet potential supervisors. Currently, the ECVO has regular RTP routes in Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States (Table 3).

The *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQs) section has been designed to help prospective and active Residents, including those who have completed their training and are aspiring to sit the ECVO examination. It is divided into three sections: Credentials, Residency Program and Examination and it is updated regularly throughout the year. Lastly, it is helpful to keep a close eye on the *Training/Job Opportunities* section as well, as it is updated frequently and it contains ads on new Residency positions and other ophthalmology related jobs around the world.



#### A vision for the future:

*ECVO delegates at the 20th anniversary meeting in Barcelona, Spain, 2013*

#### ECVO Research Grants

Over the last few years the ECVO has been providing funding for research in veterinary ophthalmology to ECVO-approved Residents. One of the goals of the ECVO research grants is to promote and encourage Residency programs to engage in research projects. For this reason, proposals submitted by ECVO Residents are normally given priority over proposals submitted by Diplomates although the College actively encourages both mentoring Diplomates as well as its Residents to engage in this process. The maximum allowable amount for a grant is €5000 per individual. A call for ECVO Research Grant proposals is published on the ECVO website and grant award announcements are made every year at the ECVO Annual Meeting.

Last, but not least, one of the most important achievements of the ECVO is the creation of the **Hereditary Eye Diseases Scheme** and the **ECVO Manual** of hereditary eye diseases through its Hereditary Eye Diseases Committee, chaired by Kristina Narfström (Sweden/USA), who introduces

this pivotal and much beloved topic below.



**Elephants have eyes too.** - Rick F. Sanchez is Lecturer and Head of the Ophthalmology Service at the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals (QMHA), Royal Veterinary College, University of London

### The ECVO Hereditary Eye Diseases (HED) Scheme and the creation of the ECVO Manual

When the ECVO was established in 1992, its Bylaws provided for the establishment of a set of guidelines to help ECVO Diplomates standardize the diagnosis and control programs for Presumed Inherited Eye Diseases (PIED) in animals. This was the birth of the **ECVO HED Scheme**. The main purpose of the Scheme was to help correctly identify and control presumed inherited eye diseases that were disabling, painful or disturbing to the wellbeing of animals, or that necessitated surgical intervention or lifelong medication. The scheme was compiled during the years that followed and was completed in 2010. Today, the scheme has achieved standardization of definitions and eye examination methods that ECVO specialists can use to provide a reliable and accurate diagnosis, and evidence-based treatments. Importantly, the scheme offers an eye examination certificate for dogs and cats that includes the results of a general ophthalmic ex-

amination. It also provides rules and guidelines for the examination and authentication of specifically trained European eye specialists that wish to help animal owners, kennel clubs and the general public through the certification of eyes against PIED.

At the yearly ECVO meeting in Berlin, 2009, the ECVO Board decided on the establishment of an online description of the work of the HED committee, formerly called the ECVO Genetics committee, which had existed since the establishment of ECVO. The year that followed the ECVO Board decided that the HED committee, including national panel representatives (e.g. the Advisory Committee), would write a manual that would include the HED Scheme. This was the start of the **ECVO Manual**.

As the name implies, the manual includes many of the practical aspects of the ECVO eye examination certificate, definitions, guidelines for filling in the certificate, recommendations about age and frequency for eye examinations, veterinary ophthalmologists' advice relating to the control of hereditary eye disease in animals, a list of known genes/mutations affecting vision and/or causing hereditary eye disease in dogs and cats and, finally, a list of the various dog and cat breeds with details and recommendations in regards to their respective PIED. The manual is therefore an essential working tool for the ECVO HED Scheme. The first version of the ECVO Manual has been available on line since 2013.

(<http://www.ecvo.org/inherited-eye-diseases/ecvo-manual>).



Kristina Narfström (ECVO) is currently the Chair of the ECVO Hereditary Eye Diseases Committee



### The ECVO "Vision"

Since its founding, the ECVO has greatly contributed to the advancement of veterinary ophthalmology in Europe through the establishment of recognized, post-graduate training programs known as Residencies, the examination and certification of veterinarians who have successfully completed a Residency, the encouragement of clinical and scientific research in veterinary ophthalmology and the promotion and dissemination of the results of this research. The ECVO wishes to inspire veterinarians and the general public through acting as a present and future pan-European reference for the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of eye diseases in all domestic animals. The ECVO will continue to disseminate its knowledge through its website, annual international meeting, residencies and active support of scientific research, and by providing training and inspiration for veterinary professionals seeking to pursue a career in the world of veterinary ophthalmology.

## Interviewing the EAEVE President

Stefano Romagnoli, ECAR  
EBVS Newsletter Editor

*László Fodor's impressive career started in 1979 when, as a new graduate from the University of Veterinary Science in Budapest, he was hired by Phylaxia Biologicals Co., a Hungarian vaccine company, where he became interested in veterinary microbiology and vaccine production. Two years later he joined the Veterinary School in Budapest where he climbed the academic ladder becoming Professor in 1997 and then Dean from 2004 to 2012, serving two consecutive terms. During this time he joined the Executive Committee of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (the European association responsible for controlling the quality of undergraduate veterinary education in Europe) as Treasurer (2008-2010), and then President (2010-2014). A broad-minded, forward thinking leader, László has guided EAEVE with great ability through difficult times. Read his views on the future of our profession, the role of veterinary specialisation and the challenges ahead of us.*

### How large is EAEVE, how many Veterinary Schools does it represent, and what is their geographical distribution in Europe?

EAEVE currently has 97 member schools, of which 75 are from EU Member states (constituting close to 100% of EU veterinary schools) while the rest are from geographical Europe and the Mediterranean area, including veterinary

schools from Israel, Jordan and Turkey. EAEVE does not advertise itself in order to attract new schools, they rather apply to us on their own initiative since they recognize the benefits of EAEVE membership. Becoming an EAEVE member is not a formality, and it may actually represent a challenge for some schools. Establishments from outside the EU have to undergo a consultative site visit and their admission is then discussed by the Executive Committee. Each school that joins is obliged to undergo a full visit within 3 years of becoming a member. The schools of some countries in Europe, such as Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, are unfortunately not among our members at the moment, however; in recent years several have expressed interest in joining in the future.

### How has EAEVE evolved, particularly over the last 10 years? Has there been gradual development or have there been groups of schools joining at certain times?

In the last 10 years there have been no major changes, however, there were certain development peaks previously. EAEVE was founded, mainly by Western European schools, 25 years ago but the political changes in the early



László Fodor, EAEVE President (2010-2014)

90's made it possible for the Veterinary Schools of the former Eastern block to join. Another peak occurred in the late 90's, when schools from the Asian part of Turkey became members. In recent years some newly founded schools have applied.

**When you were elected as President of EAEVE, what were the key issues, which issues formed part of your focus as incoming President, and what progress has been made?**

In 2010, when I was elected president, I took over a consolidated organisation that was functioning well from the previous president Prof. Marcel Wanner. I am very grateful to him for his excellent work, preparing the ground for further improvement and enhancement. By that time, the evaluation system had already become widely accepted within and outside of the profession, the association was financially stable, and an efficient office had been established under an enthusiastic office manager, Dr. Uschi Deimel. When I became President I did not plan to make revolutionary changes, rather to carry on the work that had been started by Prof. Wanner, which I fully supported as member of the Executive Committee. I did have two strategic goals, (i) to apply for membership of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) because I thought that ENQA approval would provide EAEVE with stronger status in Europe, and also because in several countries accreditation by an ENQA member organisation (such as EAEVE) would hold value similar to the approval of the national quality assessment organisation and (ii) to update the EAEVE Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). A self evaluation report was submitted to ENQA in 2012 and an ENQA Team visited our association in the summer of 2013. Their - for us not favourable - decision arrived in November 2013 and we are just preparing an appeal. As far as updating the SOP is concerned, a special SOP working group was established a while ago. The most important novelties to be implemented are that the current two stage evaluation process should be reduced to one stage and the inter-visitation period should be shortened from 10 to 7 years.

**What is your vision for EAEVE? Where and how do you see it being 20 years from now?**

Well, that is a very difficult question; I am not brave enough to predict anything. Who could have predicted our present state 20 years ago, when we had just completed the pilot evaluation with not an overly large number of member schools participating? If development remains as positive as in the last 20 years I will be entirely satisfied. Instead of predicting, however, I am happy to summarize what I would like to see in 20 years. I would like to see a continuously working, profession-specific evaluation system, where quality assurance and quality management form an integral part of both veterinary education and evaluation.

I do hope that in 20 years all member schools will be accredited by EAEVE and our accreditation system will be accepted by all member countries, so that our evaluation could be in a position to replace national accreditation. This will result in an equally high level of veterinary education, which will enable and promote more active collaboration in other areas (research, curriculum development, etc.). During this time perhaps other professions will see the advantages of profession-specific evaluation.

**Veterinary specialists are present in many EAEVE member Veterinary Schools. How important is it to EAEVE that Veterinary Specialists number among the Teaching Staff?**

I am convinced that specialisation in veterinary medicine opened a new era in our profession. As long as EAEVE is very active in the field of harmonising undergraduate veterinary training in the different schools, I am glad to notice that the training programmes organised by the different colleges already have European breadth. Specialists with a special and high level of knowledge and skills in a certain field of the profession are very important in education not only because they can transfer specific knowledge, but also because they can act as a career model for students. I think we have to encourage the EAEVE member schools to help young colleagues to follow Residency training programmes, however further discussion is needed to clarify the role of Diplomates in undergraduate education. In some cases there is a request to replace academic programmes in certain fields, mainly in the clinical disciplines, with Residency programmes. It is really difficult for young colleagues to successfully undertake a specialisation training programme and a PhD programme; however, I am convinced that research activity and academic programmes are an indispensable necessity at any veterinary school for the entire teaching staff.

**Because of the undisputable high quality of teaching and research provided for by College Diplomates, in US Veterinary Schools the presence of ABVS Diplomates in the core disciplines of Internal Medicine, Surgery, Anaesthesia, Pathology, and Diagnostic Imaging is almost a must, and in most Veterinary Schools there is a Diplomate in every discipline. In 2008, EBVS requested that EAEVE add this as an official criterion when evaluating Veterinary Schools, but this request was turned down. What is your position on this and when do you think we shall be able to deal with it?**

The veterinary profession is one of the seven regulated professions in the EU and the main aim of EAEVE is to develop the standard of veterinary education in its member schools. In this aspect I fully support the idea that more and more College Diplomates are needed in the education process and, as I have

mentioned before, I fully support the training of young veterinarians in the form of different Residency programmes. I am convinced that the more enthusiastic and committed teachers with specific knowledge we have, the better the education will be. On the other hand, EAEVE cannot demand a specific number of Diplomates in its Standard Operation Procedures (SOP), since in stage 1 of the evaluation it has to examine whether the school meets the criteria of directive 2005/36/EC, while in stage 2 the quality assurance methods used by the school are analysed. In both stages, however, the quality of the teaching staff is examined, and the number of Diplomates and presence of the Diplomates in different disciplines is a very good indicator of this and is always taken into account.

**How do EAEVE members perceive EBVS as an organisation? Is EAEVE satisfied with its relationship with EBVS, or does it expect this to change in the future?**

EAEVE has had excellent links to EBVS from the very beginning. It is based on personal connections, there have always been several Diplomates in the different bodies of EAEVE and Diplomates are well represented in EAEVE's expert pool, too. The European Coordination Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT), involving EBVS, EAEVE and FVE, provides a more official channel for these connections. It provides a perfect platform for discussions mainly on education and matters related to education, but it also gives us the opportunity to discuss any issue that is of significance to the member organisations. It is not only a forum for direct information flow, but it provides a solid basis to the concept of "one voice in veterinary education" and we can agree on helping the specific activities of the member organisations. The other regular form of keeping contact is attending the general assemblies of the partner organisations. I do not expect major changes in the future, strengthening the present connections and adapting them to the changing needs is enough work.

**Does EAEVE think that it is becoming too difficult to become a specialist?**

Specialisation is an important issue for EAEVE. At the education conference - part of our annual General Assembly - last year it was one of the key topics, and some members of EBVS gave very good presentations. In spite of this, the issue - whether it is too difficult to become a specialist - has not been discussed by EAEVE. So, I cannot provide EAEVE's opinion on this, merely my personal one. I think it is hard to become a specialist, but I think all kinds of achievements are characterized by a certain level of hardship since they require extra effort and work. It is a challenge for a colleague to be in a Residency programme, he/she has to follow a structured program which involves extra workload, financial backing ought to be in place, which is an additional challenge, since at this age, colleagues are typically trying to establish a sound financial basis with a view to

settling down, etc. - so there is the jeopardy of a certain trade-off with respect to prioritizing. Subsidising the training of Residents is not easy for Veterinary Schools, either. It might financially support the training, help the residents by dividing the workload - and at the end of the day, the Diplomate is lured away by another job opening, perhaps offering more advantageous financial and/or extra benefits compared to a career in academia.

**Are Day-1 skills periodically reviewed? How dynamic do you envision they should be in order for veterinarians to practice at a good level and to allow them to start an internship soon after graduation?**

The written Day-1 skills are periodically reviewed but I think it is inevitable that such lists are always one step behind the actual needs. The developments of the profession and the changes in society force the review of the skills, but the actual Day-1 skills needed by the profession and society are continuously developing. I am not a specialist in Residency programmes but I would suggest that young, enthusiastic colleagues should begin an internship as soon after graduation as possible. At the end of their undergraduate university studies they have the widest possible theoretical knowledge, they have the best capacity to learn. An early start can reduce the coincidence of the extra workload in the residency programme and personal challenges.

**For a specialist, working in a high quality environment can be of utmost importance. Is there any variation in the quality of teaching between EAEVE-approved veterinary schools in Europe? And if so, what could the reasons for this be?**

I think there is a variation in the quality of teaching between EAEVE-approved Veterinary Schools. EAEVE approval means that a Veterinary School meets the requirements laid down in the EU Directive. It means a minimum level, defined by the Directive and the EAEVE SOP, and not any kind of excellence. On one hand, there are Veterinary Schools that are just above the standard in one or more aspects and, on the other hand, there are schools, which are well above this. Education is a national issue; there are major differences between Veterinary Schools in different countries as far as finances, facilities, student flow, research, etc. are concerned. There can be great differences between schools even within a country, but great differences between the teachers can be seen in the same school as well.

**Do you think that there are important areas of veterinary specialisations that are not covered by EBVS?**

I do not think that there is any important discipline of the veterinary profession that is without specialisation. There are disciplines, which perhaps do not



have a College of their own, but that could be integrated into another College. On the other hand, I would not rule out the establishment of new Colleges, since the changes in the profession and the society might create such a need.

**EBVS is becoming a more professional organization. Is this beneficial to EAEVE approved schools?**

I fully agree that EBVS is becoming a more professional organisation and I think this is beneficial to EAEVE as well as to its member Schools. As mentioned earlier, Diplomates play an important role in veterinary education, and an efficient and professional EBVS can organise better residency programmes, which will be attractive to more young colleagues from these schools. EAEVE is in favour of an efficient EBVS.

## The Standard Residency Programme in Veterinary Neurology in Hannover

Andrea Tipold, ECVN, and Veronika M. Stein, ECVN

*The ECVN Residency training programme in Hannover is a successful one, and a good example of how training Residents can become a win-win situation in academia. Prof. Andrea Tipold, a Vienna graduate with an international reputation in veterinary neurology and internal medicine started the Hannover ECVN Residency program in 1999. Dr Veronika M. Stein, a Hannover graduate, was one of the first Residents of this program. After passing the ECVN exam in 2007 and doing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania from 2008 to 2009 she is now a Senior Clinician at the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at the Veterinary School in Hannover. Together and with the help of their Residents they run a busy neurology consultation service offering a high quality clinical service as well as excellent teaching opportunities.*

At the Small Animal Clinic at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, a Residency Programme for training in Veterinary Neurology, accepted by the European College of Veterinary Neurology (ECVN), has been active since 1999. The programme follows the ECVN guidelines and fulfills requirements for the host institution and Residency Training Programme (RTP) in order for a veterinarian to achieve the entry credentials and sit the examination of the ECVN (for details see <http://www.ecvn.org/>).

This ECVN-approved RTP (also known as conforming programme) is a post-graduate veterinary training of at least three years duration in veterinary neu-

rology and neurosurgery (<http://www.ecvn.org/ecvn/education/residency/default.aspx>) and takes place under the direct supervision of an ECVN or ACVIM (Neurology) Diplomate employed and working for at least four days a week within the training institution. In addition, the institution should also employ Diplomates of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) or American Board of Veterinary Specialization (ABVS) recognised Colleges in at least 4 of the following disciplines: Anaesthesia, Clinical Pathology, Diagnostic Imaging, Internal Medicine (Companion Animals), Ophthalmology, Pathology, and Surgery. Since the Small Animal Clinic fulfills these criteria, I (AT) could start formulating the programme when I started my professorship in Veterinary Neurology in Hannover in 1999.



Andrea Tipold, ECVN, Professor in Veterinary Neurology at the Veterinary School in Hannover since 1999.

The 3-year Residency Training Programme is located primarily at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover. In the small animal clinic, approximately 800 to 1000 new first and second opinion neurology cases/year are seen by a ECVN Diplomate. Therefore, Residents deal with an excellent case load. Two residents, who are in different years of their residency, work in the clinic at the same time. The Hannover Veterinary School does

not employ a Diplomat in Diagnostic Imaging. To tackle this problem, as well as to give Residents a chance to see other clinical approaches and meet other clinicians and ECVN Diplomates, we provide them with an opportunity to do a 3-month externship at a different institution. Most residents do their externship at the Department of Clinical Studies, University of Berne, Switzerland, while some others choose to spend their time in American Universities (Georgia, California), which has additional positive effects - training in the English language and the cultural experience. The ECVN exam is held in English and non-native speakers need to achieve a certain level of proficiency. In Hannover, language training is performed in classes which are taken together with an international neuroscience PhD programme, as well as in the weekly Journal and Book Club and during Neuropathology rounds. The collaboration with the partner Institutions is bilateral, as the Hannover ECVN Residency programme accepts ECVN Residents from other training institutions for their externship.

Currently, Residents work primarily in the clinics. However, Residents are also encouraged to do research work. Actually, most of them are already enrolled in a research project prior to starting their Residency, and those who complete it early in their Residency often engage in further research during the rest of their training period. Most Residents have come so far from Germany, with a few exceptions (one Italian and one Swiss Resident) enriching the programme and the international exchange. The two ECVN Diplomates who are authors of this article are the main supervisors of this training programme and are constantly available for Resident training.

Up to now six Residents have finished their conforming programme in Hannover and passed the ECVN exam, while 2 other ones are preparing for the exam and 2 Residents are currently enrolled in the programme. Three Residents registered in a so called non-conforming programme did their training at our clinic and have passed the ECVN exam. Additionally, we have had 8 "guest-Residents" performing their external rotation in Hannover.

From the perspective of a Resident (VS) the Residency programme in Hannover provides all the technical skills and the in-depth knowledge needed to become a specialist in veterinary neurology. The discipline of neurology at the small animal clinic in Hannover has the specific strength of being a lively scientific arena with a direct link to the clinics. Therefore, Residents benefit from both academia and a diversified case load which enables them to understand the background of complex cases instead of simply applying medical procedures and treatment strategies. The Residency programme is also a constant challenge for time management and self-organisation. For a clinical supervisor in



*Veronika M. Stein, ECVN, Resident in Hannover 2002-2005, now Senior Clinician in the Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at the Veterinary School in Hannover.*

an academic environment, having been a Resident is certainly an important asset as it allows me to better understand Resident needs and expectations, thus providing a better teaching experience.

From a supervisor's perspective having such a programme in the clinics offers many advantages. It is a constant source of quality control, since teaching has to be performed at an international level on a daily basis with each patient. Supervisors are forced to keep their knowledge up to date and constantly discuss new publications. Undergraduate students also have the advantage of being trained by Diplomates during their rotation in the practical year, which gives them an opportunity to learn about specialisation programmes in Europe. Developing such a programme needs the commitment of the whole University and especially of the clinical department/s. At least 2 Residents should be enrolled at the same time to provide on and off-clinic rotations and a fruitful exchange of clinical experience with other specialists. Obviously, having 3 Residents would allow for a better rotation scheme.



Having only 2 Residents can be challenging at times, particularly in a busy clinical environment such as in Hannover. To cope with an increasing number of demanding clients, at our School, thesis and/or PhD students often help during their clinical rotations. This solution provides the advantage that people have an insight into both clinics and research. The clinical neurology group in Hannover was very small, when I (AT) started in 1999 (1 person – myself, after several months 2 persons, myself and the first Resident Dr. Kai Rentmeister, now Dipl ECVN). At the moment, with support of the University and grant money, 2 ECVN Diplomates, 2 Residents and a varying number of thesis and PhD students form our neurology group. One of the greatest challenges is to obtain funding to hire Residents: without sufficient grant money, a good performance in teaching, service and research is very difficult to achieve in most if not all academic environments.



Dr. Jasmin Nessler, here performing a neurological examination on one of her patients, started her ECVN Residency in Hannover in November 2013.

## The view of an ECVDI Resident

Caroline Fina

*Caroline Fina graduated from the Veterinary School in Alfort, Paris, France in 2009. After one year as a small animal rotating intern, she subsequently completed an internship in small animal diagnostic imaging at the same institution. She joined the University of Ghent in 2011 where she started a Residency in diagnostic imaging in 2012.*

When I started Veterinary School in France, I thought the only professional choice I would ever have to make would be between small and large animal veterinary practice, or perhaps even as wildlife veterinarian, even if this sounds like a bit of a cliché. I had no idea that becoming a veterinarian offered far more professional options. During my studies, thanks to my teachers and unexpected externships, I 'caught' the passion for imaging, and the idea that I would like to build my future around it, slowly grew.

I am now a second-year imaging Resident. I've moved three times. I'm living in another, but not-so-far-from-home, country, Belgium, which honestly I would never have expected to become my adopted home. I have discovered a beautiful city, Ghent, and Flemish culture. Although some days are still tough, I've not once regretted my choice to take on this Residency adventure. It's a bit of a crazy life, but so stimulating! To enjoy it, you must be convinced two hundred percent that this is what you want and you must understand the sacrifices. From the first day, it is a race to prepare for what becomes your Grail: the College exam.

The 4-year imaging Residency programme in Ghent is divided between clinical and "off clinics" time (for research and study). The clinical time is spent rotating between the various imaging modalities, handling clinical cases and teaching small animal final year student rotations. Clinical time takes place mainly at our institution, but also frequently in other referral centres focused on specific aspects of imaging (namely oncologic imaging of small animals, imaging of exotics, scintigraphy and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for equines). These externships are a source of curiosity as we travel, and we get the chance to work with recognized people in specific areas of imaging, discover other ways of thinking, and as a consequence diversify our knowledge.

Clinical time is by far what I prefer, as it means handling challenging cases and applying theory to practice. In diagnostic imaging, the variety of rotations we have for each modality (radiography, ultrasound, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging or nuclear medicine), as well as the alternation between small and large animals, make the clinical work always interesting, never boring! When, as a small animal veterinarian, I started the equine imaging rotations one year ago, a new world, with plenty of new possibilities and challenges, opened up to me!

I also like clinical work because it is a *shared* experience, either with colleagues of other departments or other students. In Ghent, there are Residents from Spain, Italy, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, South Africa, Croatia, Israel and Germany. Most of these colleagues have become friends and our work has brought us together. There are probably few positions in which people coming from so many different backgrounds can work together like we do, because we all share the same goal and passion.

In our department, having a strong team of imaging Residents around, with friendship and support during good and bad moments, is vital. Between imaging Residents we share literature sources, training, challenging cases, and this allows the youngest Residents to successively take advantage of their 'elders' personal experience (those who already took the College exam). This makes our residency time very organized.

Despite all this, I must admit that the biggest challenge for me personally is time management. How do I get all the study work done? The feeling of anxiety and restlessness when you can't read all the articles you wanted to, or set your work objectives too high. You also feel guilty when you decide, for once, not to study one evening (even if disconnecting every once in a while is crucial for your mental health). Once again, in these moments, I thank my great teammates! Since the beginning of my Residency, I have had to learn to have a regular and sustained study rhythm, to study several things at the same time, to be time-efficient, to manage chronic stress and to set realistic short- and long-term objectives. This is not easy. However, study moments are precious, as you can really appreciate what you are reading, memorizing, and the final grateful reward comes later, during your clinical work, when you realize you have successfully managed a challenging case or improved your imaging skills.

Research is another aspect of the Residency. It is important as we need to have two papers published as part of our credentials; in addition, contributing

to increased knowledge of diagnostic imaging is one of the main goals of the ECVDI. No matter what your research project is, the sooner you start it, the better. The experiments, the writing and the revision of manuscripts take time.

The Residency will definitely change you on a personal level: I have learned patience, humility and I have certainly become broader-minded and less "hot-blooded" than when I started. I know that the way to get there is step by step and that I'm lucky to have been accepted into the programme. However, I am only halfway through my Residency. I will be able to give my full story in two years' time. And the hardest is yet to come! Having said that, and in conclusion, I am happy to live this experience. Whatever the specialty you are considering, if you are open-minded, passionate about what you're doing and persevere, just go for it, it is worth the risk!



Dr. Caroline Fina with one of her patients.



## Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists Report – October 2013

Kim Hudson

Executive Officer of ANZCVS

*The following is the most recent Report on the composition and activities of the ANZCVS, published in the latest issue of the ANZCVS Newsletter, the College Courier. Read how the ANZCVS has been raising its international profile in recent years, being recognised by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. We thank Kim Hudson, the new Executive Officer of the ANZCVS, for sharing this story with us.*

The Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS) currently has a total membership of 2270, comprising 1783 Members, 226 Fellows, 36 Life Fellows, 162 Life members, 48 Associate Members and 15 Honorary Fellows.

### College Science Week 2013

The 2013 College Science Week ran from 11 – 13 July in Surfers Paradise, Queensland. 550 delegates participated in the highly successful multi-stream program produced by fifteen College chapters.

Eleven streams ran concurrently each day with input from all of the Chapters of the College. In recent years combined sessions have emerged to pool the talent and expertise of associated Chapters to discuss controversial or topical issues. This year was no exception, with twelve half-day collaborative sessions shared between fifteen Chapters.

Informative and innovative scientific programmes that varied in length from half a day to the full three days were provided by Radiology, Small Animal Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Ophthalmology, Animal Welfare, Cattle, Vet Anaesthesia, Emergency and Critical Care, Feline Medicine, Dermatology, Animal Behaviour, Feline Medicine, Oncology, Equine, Animal Reproduction, Avian Health, and Epidemiology.

The College held two Science Week Plenaries. The first, introduced by Dr Liz Norman, Assistant Chief Examiner (Examinations), was entitled "Measuring what we want to measure: writing excellent questions for College examina-

tions". The second, presented by Dr Mark Owen and Dr Peter Bennett, was entitled "Training programs of excellence: Institution or Individual?" Both plenary lectures attracted large audiences.

College Council also welcomed an important international guest - Professor Dimitris Raptopoulos, representing the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation - to Science Week. Dr Raptopoulos is the CEO of the EBVS. Council was able to have an interesting discussion with Dimitris regarding ongoing close association between the ANZCVS and the EBVS and explored options for future collaborative opportunities between ANZCVS Chapters and EBVS Colleges.

Once again College Science Week lived up to its reputation as being Australia's premier veterinary scientific meeting. It was a major benefit to members and other delegates to have so much to choose from, and the collegiate atmosphere complimented the superb scientific content.

The College was delighted to welcome Dr Mandy Burrows to Council; although Dr Burrows has been a member of Council, as the Chief Examiner, she is now an elected member of the Council and the College welcomes her hard work and enthusiasm. Dr Michael Paton was also re-elected and welcomed back on Council, taking over as Honorary Treasurer. Dr Mark Owen will join Council as Chief Examiner. Our new Executive Officer Mr Kim Hudson also joined the College in August.

### Examinations

As is the College's usual practice, examinations for Membership and Fellowship<sup>1</sup> were held in conjunction with the College Science Week. Candidates sit a mixture of written, oral and practical components. Some Candidates have previously passed some of these components and hence only sit the components needed to obtain Membership or Fellowship.

<sup>1</sup> Within the ANZCVS Fellows undergo a Residency training and have to pass an exam, which makes their title more or less equivalent to that of a European College Diplomate. Although there is not yet a full equivalence between title of European College Diplomates and ANZCVS Chapter Fellows, talks are ongoing in a few disciplines and some (i.e. surgery) have signed a memorandum of understanding to standardize training requirements thus creating a base for full recognition and reciprocity.

150 Candidates sat the Membership examinations, with 100 passing outright. In addition, another four Candidates have been granted a future oral supplementary examination and 18 Candidates written supplementary examinations. A total of 26 Candidates sat the Fellowship examinations. Of these, 12 passed all components and have been welcomed as Fellows to the College. As Fellowship Candidates have three years to pass all four components of the examination, several Candidates will be able to return in future to re-attempt components needed to obtain Fellowship.

### Announcing new Members and Fellows for 2013

The College is pleased to announce that as a result of this year's examinations, 100 new Members have been accepted into the College. The College is also pleased to welcome the following 12 New Fellows:

- Small Animal Medicine: Dr Erin Bell, Dr David Collins, Dr Karina Graham, Dr. Karen Hazel
- Veterinary Oncology: Dr Laura Brockley, Dr Kathleen O'Connell.
- Small Animal Surgery: Dr David Burgess, Dr Brenton Chambers, Dr Soo Kuan
- Veterinary Anatomical Pathology: Dr Mark Krockenberger.
- Veterinary Behavioural Medicine: Dr Jacqui Ley.
- Equine Medicine: Dr Elizabeth Tee.

### International Profile of ANZCVS

The international standing of the College and the international currency of its qualifications (in particular Fellowship) are important for many of its Members. The ANZCVS continues to pursue its aims in the international arena through:

- ANZCVS representation at relevant meetings of international veterinary specialist organisations
- Building sound business relationships with overseas colleges and speciality boards
- Participation in discussions with overseas colleges and speciality boards about the structure of the ANZCVS, its role in veterinary specialisation and advanced education in Australia and New Zealand and the relationship its members would like with equivalent overseas colleges
- The development of agreed international standards for specialist training and examinations,
- The advancement of the pursuit of international recognition of ANZCVS Fellowship and Membership qualifications.

Dr Tias Muurlink attended the European College of Veterinary Surgery's examinations in February 2013 as an observer and exchanged valuable information about the College's examination processes. In February 2013, Dr Annette Litster attended and addressed the Annual Meeting of the American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS) in Schaumburg, Illinois. Treasurer, Dr Liz Dill Macky attended and addressed the European Board of Veterinary Specialties (EBVS) General Assembly in Brussels in April 2013, presenting two sessions at an examiner training workshop for EBVS Colleges and explaining some of the recent work and policies of our Board of Examiners'



*Philip Moses is the current (2011-14) President of the Australian New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists. Dr. Moses is founding partner of Veterinary Specialist Services in Brisbane and has an appointment as Adjunct Associate Professor in Veterinary Surgery with the University of Queensland. In this picture he is wearing the Official Chain of Office of the President of the ANZCVS. The little plaques carry the names of each of the past Presidents going back 42 years*



Examination Committee. This was a very valuable opportunity to represent the College at this important forum. The three main parent organisations - the EBVS, the ABVS and the ANZCVS now demonstrate a strong alliance through the International Veterinary Specialty Working Group (IVSWG), sharing ideas and experiences and looking for opportunities for future collaboration and mutual learning.

In 2012 the College was advised that the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine had launched a new level of formal recognition with the development of the ACVIM Associate Status. The College has been invited to apply for Associate Status as its credentialing process (Residency training, examinations and publications) is comparable to that of respective ACVIM specialities. This is an important step for the advancement of the College internationally. Associate Membership of the ACVIM allows, amongst other benefits, for supervision of Residency programs of ACVIM Diplomats. This is similar to the agreement the College has in Europe with ECVS. College Council is very pleased with these achievements and the continued development of international understanding and recognition of the College.

## Combining winter activities with Veterinary Pathology

*Professor Mona Aleksandersen is a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Pathology (ECVP) and Professor of Pathology at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences in Oslo. Mona served as a Board Member representing the ECVP and is currently serving as Treasurer of EBVS. Here she tells us a bit about her background, how she got into the specialty and how she became a member of the EBVS Executive Committee.*

As most Norwegians, I love skiing and the photo taken at our cabin last winter hopefully shows that! I also have a fascination for animals and decided during high school that I wanted to become a veterinarian. Eventually I enrolled at the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science in Oslo, the only veterinary school in Norway. After finishing my veterinary degree I spent a year in private practice (cattle, sheep and pigs) before returning to Oslo where I worked for a couple of years in the large animal clinic as a clinician. When I returned to work after two periods of maternity leave when our two children, Mari and Øyvind, were born, I moved into pathology and did my PhD under the super-



*Taking some time off.*

vision of Professor Thor Landsverk. After completing my PhD I worked as Researcher and Associate Professor at the Department of Pathology, Norwegian School of Veterinary Science and for a short period at the National Veterinary Institute. My work time was split into teaching (lectures and practical classes in pathology), diagnostic work and research. I was appointed full professor in pathology in 2007. I was Head of Section for anatomy and pathology for some years and have, for the last six years, been Head of Department of Basic Sciences and Aquatic Medicine. In my free time I like outdoor activities like skiing, hiking and cycling. I also love to cook and knit.

I submitted my credentials in 1997 and became a Diplomate of the ECVP in 1998. I have actively participated in the ECVP activities as member of the Education and CPD committees. I joined the Council of ECVP in 2001 and was Council member for 12 years – as Councillor (2001-2003), Treasurer (2003-2009), Vice President (2009-2011) and President (2011-2013). Now I am Past President and have an advisory role. The ECVP has developed significantly over the last decade and is now a College that is fully-recognised by EBVS with a growing number of Diplomates. I joined the Executive Committee of EBVS in the function as Treasurer in 2012. This has given me important knowledge about EBVS and other international veterinary organisations. I believe that EBVS has a very important role in the further development of veterinary specialisation in Europe, and a well organised and strong EBVS will be of vital importance.



Mona Aleksandersen, ECVP, EBVS Treasurer

## From the ECVP

*A Press release on a relevant appointment for the current ECVP President Sean Callanan*

Dr. Sean Callanan, who is currently serving as the President of the European College of Veterinary Pathologists (ECVP), has been appointed to lead Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine's (RUSVM) new postgraduate degree programmes focused on research. RUSVM is located in St. Kitts, an island in the West Indies chain of Caribbean islands. Under Dr. Callanan's leadership, the new degree programmes provide opportunities for students with science or veterinary educational backgrounds to specialise in global issues related to human-animal interactions, such as diseases that transfer between species. Courses of study include wildlife conservation and tropical animal health.



Sean Callanan, ECVP President

Dr. Callanan completed his degree in veterinary medicine at University College Dublin, in his native Ireland, and received his Ph.D. degree and pathology training from the University of Glasgow in Scotland. He has a strong interest in neuroscience and is well known for his discovery and characterisation of a new neuroinflammatory disorder in Irish greyhounds.



## Behind the Scenes

### Recent activities of the EBVS Executive Committee

- Two meetings of the EBVS Executive Committee (ExComm) were held on 17th October 2013, at Stansted, UK, and on 2nd December (teleconference). Items discussed included proposed updates to the Constitution and Policies & Procedures, the new annual report template, the budget, the upgrade of the EBVS website, the publication of an EBVS Brochure, the changes to the EU Directive 2005/36, and the future of the Newsletter.
- In-between ExComm meetings, the ExComm members have been particularly busy working on the proposed changes to the Constitution and Policies & Procedures of the EBVS as well as on specialist competencies. These are all to be discussed and voted on at the next EBVS Annual General Meeting in April 2014.
- Applications for recognition of two new Colleges have been received (European College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care, ECVECC, and European College of Aquatic Animal Health, ECAAH). These will be discussed and voted on at the next EBVS Annual General Meeting in April 2014.
- Five Colleges have submitted their 5-year detailed report for consideration at the next EBVS AGM in April 2014.
- Work to improve the website is continuing. It is hoped that the fully upgraded version will be ready by April 2014.
- Two appeals against an adverse decision of one College have been received and are being dealt with.
- A draft version of the Statutes for VetCEE was recently produced by the Board of VetCEE and submitted to EBVS, FVE and EAEVE. The EBVS ExComm is currently reviewing it. This is a formal document meant to be "legally correct" and as such already approved by a legal firm in Brussels. This will be available for discussion at the next EBVS AGM in April 2014.

### In 2013, EBVS was represented at the following meetings:

- ESCO on Feb 19, May 2, July 1-2, Nov 19, in Brussels (all four Peter O'Brien)
- ABVS on 21-23 Feb in Schaumburg, Illinois, USA (Peter O'Brien)
- ECCVT on March 20 and Sept 24, 2013, in Brussels (both Stephen May);
- EAEVE on May 15, 2013, in Padova (Stephen May and Peter O'Brien);
- ANZCVS Science Week on Jul 10-13, 2013 in Brisbane, Australia (Dimitris Raptopoulos);
- FVE-UEVP on June 7-8, 2013 in Maribor, Slovenia (Dimitris Raptopoulos);
- FVE Leadership Conference on June 24-25, 2013 in Leuven, Belgium (Dominiek Maes);
- FVE-UEVP on Nov 14-16, 2013 in Brussels (Dominiek Maes and Dimitris Raptopoulos).

## Promoting Veterinary Specialisation in Croatia: the European College Day

Niksa Lemo, ECVD

*Like most former Yugoslavian and other Eastern European countries, Croatia has only a handful of EBVS Diplomates, and young veterinarians need to travel abroad if they wish to pursue a career as specialists in most disciplines. This is slowing down the development of the veterinary profession at the specialist level in Croatia. In order to promote the concept of specialisation in veterinary medicine in Croatia, Prof Niksa Lemo, a Zagreb Faculty member and ECVD Diplomat, decided to give an EBVS flavour to one of the Faculty's continuing education events by labelling it The European College Day.*

The first European College Day was launched in April 2007 as a continuing education meeting in veterinary dermatology, organized at the Veterinary Faculty in Zagreb. It was organised again in 2008 and 2009, again as a classical continuing education event on topics of veterinary dermatology, but also

anesthesia and internal medicine, still with Diplomates of EBVS and ABVS as lecturers. In 2010 the 4<sup>th</sup> European College Day was organised as a videoconference with one of the speakers, Dr. Thierry Olivry (ACVD, ECVD), lecturing live from North Carolina State University.

The 5<sup>th</sup> European College Day in 2011 saw a large increase in audience from 80-90 delegates in the initial years to 720 veterinarians from 52 countries from five continents watching the event being streamed via the internet from the University of Zagreb. A video signal was shared with the rest of the world for the first time with participants watching the lectures and having the possibility of sending in questions via the web at the end of lecture. The 6<sup>th</sup> European College Day is

scheduled for April 15, 2014 and will deal with the topic of antimicrobial resistance in veterinary practice, with Vanessa Schmidt (ECVD, Liverpool University) and Prof. Nicola Williams (Liverpool University) as the main speakers (<http://www.vet.unizg.hr/eu-derm-day/>).

The meeting is very popular, and free of charge for veterinary students and veterinarians. Young and active practitioners, specialists, interns, residents and final year students are welcome to participate in this annual meeting which is fast becoming a traditional annual event for the Zagreb Veterinary School.

**5th European College Day**  
**20th December 2011**  
**at 8pm Central European Time Zone CET (7pm GMT)**

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*A web shot from the 2011 European College Day, with speaker Prof. Thierry Olivry lecturing on streaming to over 700 veterinarians connected through the internet*



## Literature on Veterinary Specialisation

*The following is a list of recent and not so recent publications directly or indirectly related to Veterinary Specialisation appearing on scientific journals. The previous list of papers on this topic was published on page 13 of the issue n° 5 of the EBVS Newsletter*

### Clinical Reasoning and Case-Based Decision Making: The Fundamental Challenge to Veterinary Educators.

May S - J Vet Med Educ; 2013;40 (3):200-209

### RCVS Council agrees new structure for specialisation.

Vet Rec. 2012 Jul 14;171(2):39-41.

### Specialisation, self-assessment and measuring competency.

Whipp C. Vet Rec. 2011 Oct 22;169(17):448-9. doi: 10.1136/vr.d6803.

### Specialisation, self-assessment and measuring competency.

Manning PR. Vet Rec. 2011 Oct 15;169(16):421-2. doi: 10.1136/vr.d6597.

### Specialisation, self-assessment and measuring competency.

Whitehead M. Vet Rec. 2011 Oct 15;169(16):421. doi: 10.1136/vr.d6596.

### Specialisation, self-assessment and measuring competency.

May C, Swift S. Vet Rec. 2011 Oct 1;169(14):367. doi: 10.1136/vr.d6241.

### Seeking clarity on specialisation.

Elwood CM, Marr CM. Vet Rec. 2011 Jul 30;169(5):129-30. doi: 10.1136/vr.d4594.

### Integrating the issues of global and public health into the veterinary education curriculum: a European perspective.

Lipman LJ, van Knapen F. Rev Sci Tech. 2009 Aug;28(2):745-51.

### The European College of Veterinary Pathologists (ECVP): the professional body for European veterinary pathologists.

Kipar A, Aleksandersen M, Benazzi C, Suter M. J Vet Med Educ. 2007 Fall;34(4):473-7. doi: 10.3138/jvme.34.4.473.

### Establishment of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ECVCP) and the current status of veterinary clinical pathology in Europe.

O'Brien PJ, Fournel-Fleury C, Bolliger AP, Freeman KP, Braun JP, Archer J, Paltrinieri S, Tvedten H, Polizopoulou ZS, Jensen AL, Pastor J, Lanevski-Pietersma A, Thoren-Tolling K, Schwendenwien I, Thoresen SI, Bauer NB, Ledieu D, Cerón JJ, Palm M, Papasouliotis K, Gaál T, Vajdovich P. Vet Clin Pathol. 2007 Dec;36(4):325-30.

## LATEST NEWS

Prof. Pierre Lekeux, ECVPT (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Liege) was elected as Director of the Evaluation/Accreditation Programme by the Executive Committee of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) for one year

## AMENDMENT to the EU DIRECTIVE

On 20 November 2013, following the amendment of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications (which includes the veterinary profession), the European Parliament and Council published the new Directive 2013/53/EU. The text on veterinary education has been updated by Article 38, which is on page 154. You can find the new Directive at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:354:SOM:EN:HTML>

**Do you have a comment or a critique** about anything published in this issue of the EBVS Newsletter? Send an e-mail to the Editor at [stefano.romagnoli@unipd.it](mailto:stefano.romagnoli@unipd.it). Your contribution will be published

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **ABVS General Assembly**, February 21-22, Schaumburg, Illinois (USA)
- **EBVS General Assembly**, April 11-12, 2014, Bruxelles (Belgium)
- **EAEVE General Assembly**, May 15-16, 2014, Murcia (Spain)
- **FVE General Assembly**, May 23-24, 2014, Biarritz (France)
- **ANZCVS Science Week**, July 10-12, 2014, Brisbane, Queensland (Australia)

Front cover: A bionicroscope (also known as slitlamp) is being used to examine the anterior segment of the left eye of a Polish sheepdog by Dr. Kristina Narfström. The use of this instrument allows veterinary ophthalmologists to confirm the diagnosis of cataracts in domestic animals. Some types of cataracts are hereditary in dogs and should be ruled out before the dog is used for reproductive purposes.