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**EBVS** EUROPEAN BOARD  
OF VETERINARY  
SPECIALISATION

Veterinary Excellence through Specialisation



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## If you only have 5 minutes

### Introducing ECVP Training European Pathologists



The ECVP has 366 Diplomates working in 21 different countries of which the majority are Diplomates by examination. **Five Committees** (Examination, Education, Applications, Re-Registration and Nominations) help the Council (the executive organisation) run the College. The ECVP certifying examination has a level of difficulty and a pass rate in line with that of the ACVP exam and has been offered every year since 1999. A total of **48 Training Institutions** offer ECVP Residency Training Programs across Europe and Canada. The College also organises a **Summer School** to support trainees from schools lacking an ECVP Diplomat, in preparation for the examination. ECVP and ACVP are equal partners and they publish together.... [read more](#)

### The President's Report A historic year

2013 has seen a fruitful collaboration with the European Association for Hospital Pharmacists, with which EBVS has lobbied successfully for **changes in the EU Directive** to empower member states to use the "Common Training Framework" to enable formal recognition of specialists for the first time.



The insertion of the term "**Veterinary Specialist**" in the future Directive will mean that European National Quality Assessment bodies will want to prove that our organisation has the means to achieve its mission and, most importantly, that it really achieves it. We will need to work with friendly national associations and statutory bodies.... [read more](#)

### The Secretary's Report A busy year

The Dutch Chamber of Commerce has accepted that EBVS (and potentially all Colleges thereby registered) files its constitution in English, and also that **Colleges are not liable for sales or corporation tax**, although while current, this position could change with future legislation.



A continued effort towards a more professional EBVS has led to an **increased focus on our communication strategy** through the website (its new key features will be shown at the General Assembly), the Newsletter (its length, frequency and number of issues/year is currently under discussion), the preparation of a higher resolution version of the EBVS logo, providing ExComm members with business cards, tapping into the social media with Twitter, preparing brochures and press releases. **Recognition of service to EBVS** has also been given attention, both in terms of internal service to our organization and external service to the cause of Veterinary Specialisation more generally. For this reason, Anne-Dominique Degryse (ECLAM), Leen Verhaert (EVDC) and Didier Noel Carlotti (ECVD) .... [read more](#)

### The 2014 ABVS Meeting Making the Atlantic smaller

The classical late February date for the ABVS General Assembly is likely to be moved later in the year as of 2016, due to harsh weather conditions which this year prevented several representatives from reaching snowy and windy Chicago. **Thorny issues** discussed included consistency of use of the title "**Honorary Diplomate**" between Colleges and whether or not Diplomas can be removed from individuals who fail to keep up-to-date through CPD: the European approach of holding a separate specialist list was recognised as one solution to this problem. On International recognition, Colin Harvey presented an interesting "One Standard, Twin Track" proposal which should allow progress around common standards. There was considerable interest in the work of VETCEE and also, in the UK, the RCVS, in defining and creating lists for a "**middle tier**" of Advanced Practitioner (AP), as such a list might be used to prevent spurious specialist status claims by APs who have at stake the loss of their AP listing. Both ABVS and EBVS manage specialist examination and recognition outside formal legal frameworks. However, the new Directive (2013/55/EU, Article 38) allows adoption of a **Common Training Framework** by individual Member States, which could then become a "de facto" specialist recognition framework for Europe provided that.... [read more](#)

### The new ABVS Liaison to EBVS

#### Will be with us for 3 years

In 2013 the AVMA renewed the 3-year grant to support travel costs for an ABVS Liaison to EBVS, and Robert Murtaugh was selected for this task. He has been one of the **pioneers in Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care** in North America and one of the promoters, co-founder and **former President of the ACVECC**. A 1980 graduate of



the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, he trained also at Ohio State University and at Tufts University, where he held his first academic position while achieving Board Certification via examination from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in 1985. While at Tufts University, from 1984 through 1998, Dr. Murtaugh was instrumental in establishing the world renowned emergency and critical care service at that University. From that activity sprung the development.... [read more](#)

### VETCEE coming of age Subcommittees for the Middle Tier

The statutes of Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe (VETCEE) were signed on March 26th, 2014 in Brussels by the representatives of FVE, EBVS, EAEVE and UEVP.



The purpose of VETCEE is the development of **standards and validation of the "middle tier"** post graduate professional development programmes. VETCEE is **developing standards** through sub committees supervised by the relevant European veterinary organisation(s): FECAVA for compan-

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ion animal and the EAPHM + ECPHM for porcine middle tier programs, respectively. In addition, the FEEVA has agreed to form an Equine sub-committee, while EVERI and ECLAM have formed a sub-committee to develop laboratory animal program standards. The VETCEE interim Board is now focusing on completing structural and administration systems and then moving forward with..... [read more](#)

## Meet our Vice President

*A double diplomate*

Unsure whether to enroll for human medicine or animal science, Dominiek Maes ended up at the Veterinary School (Ghent) from where he graduated in 1993 and later obtained **two Master's and one PhD degree**.



He subsequently completed a one-year postdoc at the University of Minnesota, USA, and then returned to Ghent where he ascended the academic ladder achieving associate and then full professorship in 2003 and 2012, respectively. As a Professor of Porcine Health Management and a **double Diplomate** (ECPHM and ECVPH), he has been President of the ECPHM and, via this route, served for 6 years as ECPHM representative in the EBVS. He was recently elected as EBVS Vice-President (2013-2015). Besides teaching undergraduates and being busy in research, Dominiek also supervises ECPHM and ECVPH residents, and is also Director of the Institute..... [read more](#)

## EU Conference on Safe Mobility

*Moving professionals around the EU*

On February 12, 2014 the European Commission hosted a conference in Brussels to discuss the Directive 2013/55/EU (the most recent amendment to the Professional Qualification Directive 2005/36/EC). Facilitating mobility and qualifications, reinforcing safeguards and adopting common training principles for professions at both generalist and specialist levels were issues on the agenda. Currently, there is **little professional mobility**; about 25% of EU citizens would be prepared to work elsewhere in the EU. One of the obstacles to mobility is the recognition of professional qualifications. The adoption of a **European Professional Card** (EPC, an electronic procedure to simplify, improve and speed up the exchange of information regarding professional qualifications) should enhance and facilitate mobility through safety and mutual trust based on updated training requirements. The EPC cannot exist without an **alert system** (particularly important in healthcare). The use of 'blacklists' is practised by some member states but it does not have widespread acceptance. The new Directive proposes a simpler mechanism for the **recognition of qualifications**: professionals have to have a skill set at their disposal based on training programmes and shared testing. These common training principles are the realm of competent authorities and it is up to professional organisations to develop these. Achieving more engagement between professions and the EU... [read more](#)

## An outstanding contribution to EBVS

*Didier Noël Carlotti, ECVD*



In 1999, Dr Carlotti founded a Union of French European Veterinary Specialists (SFMCE). This small group was successful in achieving formal recognition as a stakeholder by the French government. Under the leadership of Dr Carlotti (1999-2009), the French Association of Companion Animal Veterinarians (AFVAC) actively supported the European route to veterinary specialisation. In 2010, the **ECVD was the first College to be recognized officially** in France. By the end of 2013, twelve Colleges .... [read more](#)

## Developments in Animal Welfare Science and the EBVS

*Are we all teaching Animal Welfare?*

The past decade has seen the development of numerous animal welfare programmes in veterinary schools across the western world and in Europe in particular.



In view of these developments and societal expectations, the FVE established a Working Group in 2012 (chaired by the author of this article) to **map animal welfare teaching** in undergraduate veterinary education and to **develop a core curriculum**. Based on a survey of EU veterinary schools the main obstacles to strengthening animal welfare teaching include: lack of space in the curriculum; difficulties in organising practical sessions; financial difficulties; lack of qualified teachers; and a low priority for animal welfare within a faculty. To overcome these obstacles, the report

provides guidance on how animal welfare teaching can be organised so that it fits into an already crowded veterinary curriculum. As with any new subject the start-up period is difficult particularly as this expertise may or may not always come from within the veterinary faculty. The ECAWBM is aiming at having the first diplomates.... [read more](#)

## EFSA opportunities for Diplomates

*Veterinary Specialists Wanted*

The European Food Safety Authority is looking for experts for its **scientific committee and eight panels**. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was set up in 2002 and is an independent European agency funded by the EU budget that operates separately from the European Commission, European Parliament and EU Member States. EFSA is an **independent source of scientific advice** and communication on risks associated with the food chain and the keystone of European Union (EU) risk assessment of food and feed safety. A number of **Diplomates from several EBVS Colleges have served EFSA** and these new opportunities may be of interest to Diplomates of.... [read more](#)

## In Brief

- The 6th European College Day, will be broadcasted in streaming from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, on Tuesday April 15
- EBVS will be represented at 7 meetings in 2014:
- Two EBVS ExComm meetings were held since the beginning of the year, on February 18 (Stansted, UK) and April 10 (Brussels, Belgium),
- The new EBVS representative within the VETCEE board will be Dominiek Maes

## Introducing a College: the ECVP

Maja M. Suter Brunner (ACVP/ECVP) and Mona Aleksandersen (ECVP)

*Maja Suter received her veterinary degree from the University of Zürich, where she also was a Resident and doctoral student in veterinary pathology. After postdoctoral research at UC Davis she returned to the University of Zürich where she started her academic career in 1977, which also included a PhD, an assistant professorship at Cornell University, and then the directorship of the Institute of Animal Pathology at the University of Bern. Maja has been a DACVP since 1987, was one of the strongest drivers of the European College of Veterinary Pathologists (ECVP) during its formation and was one of the first Examination Committee members and President from 2003-2005 as well as developing a strong residency programme in veterinary pathology at her Institute.*



Maja M. Suter Brunner (ACVP/ECVP)



Mona Aleksandersen (ECVP)

*Mona Aleksandersen received her veterinary degree from the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science where she also defended her PhD thesis in 1989. She worked at the same institution as researcher and Associate Professor for several years, was appointed Full Professor in 2007 and Head of the Department of Basic Sciences and Aquatic Medicine in 2008. She has contributed significantly to the development of the ECVP of which she was President in 2011-2013. Mona is currently EBVS Treasurer.*

Since the 1960's, several European countries established their own post-graduate qualification system for veterinary pathology, such as the "MRC Path" in the UK, the "Fachtierarzt für Veterinärpathologie" in Germany and the "FVH für Tierpathologie" in Switzerland. These were the only post-graduate qualification systems throughout Europe during those decades, and the quality of trained veterinary pathologists from all over Europe was difficult to compare, in spite of the fact that veterinary pathology was quickly becoming a global specialty. Furthermore, at the time, the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) with its history of high level certification, demonstrated the value of a structured training in this specialty

### The Development of the ECVP

The European Society of Veterinary Pathology (ESVP) held its first annual meeting in 1970, bringing together veterinary pathologists from all over Europe. This fostered a closer relationship between European veterinary pathologists. Over the subsequent two decades, the activity of this society unfolded both the increasing necessity and desire for harmonisation of Europe-wide standards for post-graduate training in veterinary pathology. It was at the 1994 annual ESVP meeting, in Mondovi (Italy), that the idea of a college of veterinary pathology was brought forward. Time was ripe, and within a year the ECVP was founded at the 1995 ESVP meeting in Edinburgh with the goal to advance veterinary pathology in Europe and promote high standards within the specialty.

Four "grandfathers" (Proff. G. Trautwein, Germany, W. Misdorp, Netherlands, P. Kennedy, USA and N. Chevillat, USA) selected 85 invited charter (founding) members to form the initial body of the ECVP. As a European College, the ECVP applied for membership of the EBVS and structured its policies and procedures accordingly. In 1997, the ECVP was granted provisional recognition by EBVS. At that moment, the College membership had grown to 271 based on the accept-

Name	Year
Donald Kelly (UJ)	1995 - 1997
Joachim Pohlenz (DE)	1997 - 1999
André Parodi (F)	1999 - 2001
John Vandenberghe (B)	2001 - 2003
Maja M. Suter (CH)	2003 - 2005
Wolfgang Baumgärtner (DE)	2005 - 2007
Lluis Lujan (E)	2007 - 2009
Flavio Cramer (CH)	2009 - 2011
Mona Aleksandersen (NOR)	2011 - 2013
Sean Callanan (IRL)	2013 - 2015

ance of 182 de facto members. Since 1998 access to the College has been only possible by passing the certifying examination which is held each year in February. In 2007, the ECVP was granted full recognition by EBVS.

Table n° 1 - The Presidents of the ECVP

The membership of ECVP is composed of Diplomates by examination, de facto and charter members, retired and honorary members, originating from academia, pharmaceutical industry, state diagnostic laboratories, research institutions, as well as private diagnostic laboratories (Table 2). As of November 2013, the number of members has grown to 366 with 304 active members, 56 retired and 6 honorary members (Table 3). Diplomates by examination make up the majority of the membership (177, 58%). Their place of work is located in 21 different countries, 5 of them outside Europe (Table 3). Veterinary pathologists work in a global market and readily move between countries during their career. The ECVP is embedded in a strong global work environment, exposed to global standards like the ones of the ACVP. In the EBVS, the ECVP is the second largest college.

Table n° 2 - Type of Membership in the ECVP

Type of Membership	Academia	Industry	Research Institute	State laboratories	Private laboratories	Unknown	Total
Diplomate by examination	82	61	5	10	11	8	177**
Charter member	26	4	0	3	1		34
De facto member	47	24	0	8	11	3	93
Retired							58
Honorary members	4						4

\*Unknown includes unemployed, locums, etc. \*\*There are actually 179 Diplomates by examination but 2 have chosen to leave the ECVP.

### The Organisation of the ECVP

The Council (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and three members) is the executive organ of the ECVP. Council members serve a 2-year term, except for the Treasurer and Secretary who remain in office for 5 years. The first president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer were Prof. Donald Kelly, Prof. Joachim Pohlenz, Prof. Ted van den Ingh and Dr Bernard Leblanc, respectively (Table 1). The following list summarizes all the ECVP committees which are currently in place, and their functions:

- Council: executive organ of the College
- Examination committee: organises the yearly certifying examination
- Education committee: organises and survey the Summer School
- Applications committee: evaluates candidates applying to the examination
- CPD Re-Registration committee: evaluates the CPD qualifications of the membership.
- Nominations committee: receives nominations for office positions

Country	Diplomates by Examination	Charter/ de Facto Members	Retired	Honorary Members	Total Members
Australia	2	1			3
Austria	2	2			4
Belgium	5	4	1		10
Canada	2				2
Czech Republic		2			2
Denmark		1	2		3
Finland	2		1		3
France	40	15	5		60
Germany	29	18	8	1	56
Ireland	2		2		4
Israel		1	1		2
Italy	19	12	4		35
Netherlands	11	2	6	2	22
Norway	3	2	3		8
Portugal		2			2
Spain	8	24	1		33
Sweden	5	5	1		11
Switzerland	26	10	7	1	45
UK	17	17	12		46
USA	4	8		2	14
West Indies		1			1
<b>Total Number of Members</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>366</b>

Table n° 3 - Number and origin of ECVP Diplomates (as of September 1, 2013)

### Training and Qualifying Examination of the ECVP

In 1996, the first examination committee was formed with the task to create a high level qualifying ECVP Certifying 3 examination. The first examination committee was composed of 10 members from 9 different countries and had energetic and sometimes heated discussions - a real melting pot! It took days to create the optimal Europe-wide examination, an examination that was Europe specific but stood up to the standards of the renowned ACVP examination. Realizing how much our understanding of veterinary pathology varied between countries was an eye-opening experience! As the Examination Committee realized that a mock examination was necessary to allow European trainees to fully grasp the examination process, a mock examination was offered in Hannover in 1998. Subsequently the first ECVP certifying examination took place in 1999 with 8 candidates, and has been held every year since.

The examination is divided into 5 parts, covering both practical and theoretical topics, and consists of multiple choice, short essay and long essay type questions (Table 4). Initially, the number of candidates was low (between 7 and

11 including new and repeat candidates), then, in 2005, it jumped to 26 and subsequently rose steadily to around 50 per annum. While the pass rate for the first attempt ranged between 25 and 100%, the overall pass rate (including candidates repeating the examination) is around 80%. The ECVP examination pass rate is roughly equivalent to the ACVP examination pass rate, which suggests that the standards of the two colleges are comparable. To guarantee consistency in the examination quality each part of the examination is scientifically evaluated by the Institute of Medical Education at the University of Bern, Switzerland, which determines the degree of difficulty, the selectivity, reliability and specificity of questions (Figure 1).

Examination Theme	Format	Time allocated (hours)
Histopathology	Description of 20 glass slides including a smear	4.5 h
Macroscopic pathology	Identification of 60 gross pathology slides	2 h
General pathology	40 multiple choice and 20 short answer questions	4 h
Veterinary pathology	A major and a minor part to be chosen from 4 & 7 subjects respectively: Major parts: - small & large animals - laboratory animals and toxicologic pathology - exotic, poultry and fish Minor parts: small animals, large animals, laboratory animals, toxicologic pathology, exotic animals, fish, and poultry MCQ and short answer questions	4 h
Comprehensive pathology	Five essay questions of different format	4 h

Table n° 4 - Structure of the ECVP Certifying Examination

*The ESVP/ECVP Summer School:* To harmonize the training in Europe and to support trainees from schools that lacked an ECVP Diplome, in preparing for the examination, a Summer School was established as a joint venture by the ECVP and ESVP in 2003 and has been offered every summer since then. This is a 2-week course that spans a four-year cycle. The programme includes modules on the pathology of major organ systems and the most relevant species, general and clinical pathology and specific sessions on molecular mechanisms of disease, genetically engineered animals, animal models and emerging infectious diseases (Table 5). For the first four years, the Summer School was funded by the European Commission. This funding provided support for veterinary pathology trainees from all over Europe, including Eastern European countries.

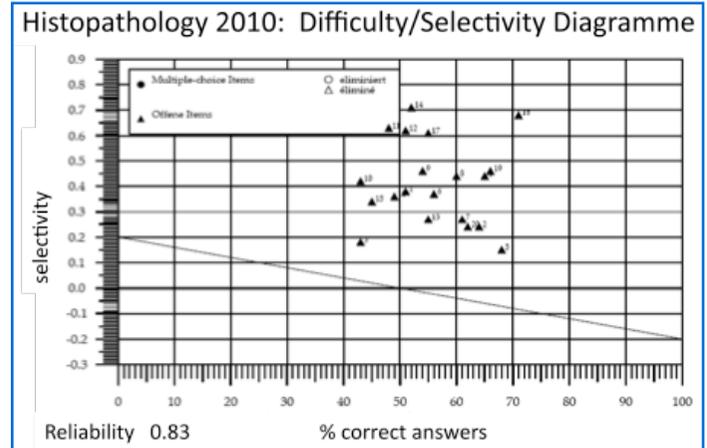


Figure n° 1 - Scientific Evaluation of the Examination. This graph shows the difficulty and selectivity of the answers given in the histopathology examination that consists of 18 histology slides, one cytological and one electron microscopic image. The graph provides the percentage of correct answers per slide on the x-axis, i.e. reflects the difficulty of the examination. On the y-axis the selectivity is given, i.e. the ability of the question to select between good and bad candidates (a question that is answered correctly by the excellent candidates overall has a high selectivity while a question answered wrongly by the good candidates but correctly by the overall bad candidates has a low value). Questions with a selectivity below the grey line will be eliminated. In this example, from the 2010 histopathology examination, the questions were answered correctly by 40–70% of the candidates and the questions had a selectivity of at least 0.1 which reflects the excellence of the examination.



Pathology Summer School organized jointly by the ECVP and the European Society of Veterinary Pathology, University of Helsinki, 2008

*Registration of Residency Training Programmes:* To guarantee good quality residency training programmes, a programme registration system was established in 2006. Each training centre is required to apply to the ECVF Education Committee. The ECVF requires that the programme director is an ECVF Diplomate, and that a programme is presented which provides adequate training and supervision of trainees, and has the facilities for training residents in veterinary pathology. Currently 45 residency training centres are registered throughout Europe and 2 outside Europe, the latter are headed by an ACVP and ECVF Diplomate, respectively. These centres supervise a total of 145 registered trainees (Table 6).

### Continuing Professional Development

Based on the EBVS Policies & Procedures, re-evaluation of Diplomates is performed on a regular basis through a standard procedure based on a credit point system. Each Diplomate is required to collect a minimum of 100 points during a 5-year period. The ECVF re-evaluation is conducted by the CPD Re-Registration Committee which was initiated in 2003. Credit points can be collected in 5 areas:

- Publications or published works related to veterinary pathology
- Presentations/communications
- Attendance at conferences/meetings
- Involvement in ECVF activities
- Other boards and committee activities

At the end of the evaluation procedure, members are notified by the ECVF Secretary of the outcome of their application for re-registration.

### The ECVF website:

Information about the organisation, examination, training and annual meeting can be found at the ECVF website (<http://www.ecvpath.org/>). This site is well designed, user-friendly and full of free information for members, residents and examination candidates.

In particular it provides

- information for its members, e.g. on upcoming meetings as well as past congress abstract books, and continuing education material. Especially attractive are the gross pathology pictures on the home page.
- a wealth of material to support trainees in achieving the standards of the board examination. Particularly important is the histology slide database.
- information on job opportunities
- the ECVF Forum – a discussion list open to those who are registered; an excellent tool for members to interact

Year	Topics	Number of days
1	Mammary tumours in dogs and cats	1
	Genetically engineered mice	1
	Emerging and zoonotic infectious diseases	1
	Zoo and wild animal pathology	2
	Muscular pathology	1
	Mock examination	2.5
	Eye pathology	1.5
	Porcine pathology	1
2	Gross pathology	1
	Liver pathology	2
	Carcinogenesis	1
	Biomarkers	1
	Equine pathology	1
	Female reproductive tract	1
	Haemo- and lymphopoietic system	1
	Ultrastructural pathology	1
3	Skin pathology	2
	Avian pathology	2
	Inflammation	2
	Laboratory animal pathology	1
	Cytology	1
	Muscular system	1
	Mock examination	1
4	Respiratory tract pathology	2.5
	Skeletal system	1.5
	Male reproductive tract	1
	Comprehensive	1.5
	Fish pathology	2
	Mouse and rat pathology	1.5
	Endocrine pathology	2
5	Fish models and imaging tools	1.5
	Central nervous system	0.5

Table n° 5 - Schedule of the ECVF/ESVP Summer School 2010-2013. The reason why a mock examination is only held every other year is because the 4 year program is for the same cohort of Residents.

### International networks

Early on, the ECVF looked for interaction with its larger sister college, the ACVP. The acceptance by this College that celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1999, would provide European Diplomates equal acceptance and job opportunities world-wide. After yearly meetings with ACVP Council which soon offered support in various issues (e.g. ECVF examination committee members were invited to the ACVP examination committee meeting), the ACVP Council accepted, in 2003, that ECVF members by examination would be allowed to sign for ACVP candidates to sit examinations, and vice versa. This was the first official recognition of the ECVF by the ACVP and demonstrated the equal standard of ECVF Diploma by examination world-wide. Since then the ECVF has been accepted as an equal partner. This is manifested most clearly by ACVP and ECVF publishing the journal "Veterinary Pathology" as a joint venture.

Training Centre	Country	Year registered
MAbbey Vet Services	UK	2007
AstraZeneca R&D	UK	
Animal Health Service Vessem	Netherlands	
Fachpraxis fur Tierpathologie	Germany	2007
Histovet	Spain	2007
National Veterinary Institute	Sweden	
Oniris (Nantes)	France	2006
Royal Veterinary College	UK	2006
University of Alfort	France	2006
University of Barcelona	Spain	2006
University of Berlin	Germany	2006
University of Berne	Switzerland	2006
University of Bristol	UK	2006
University of Brno	Czech Republic	2006
University of Cambridge	UK	2006
University of Copenhagen	Denmark	2010
University of Cordoba	Spain	2006
University of Dublin	Ireland	2009
University of Edinburgh	UK	2006
University of Ghent	Belgium	2006
University of Gießen	Germany	2006
University of Glasgow	UK	2006
University of Hanover	Germany	2006
University of Helsinki	Finland	2009
University of Las Palmas De Gran Canaria	Spain	2006
University of Leipzig	Germany	2006
University of Leon	Spain	2006
University of Lisbon	Portugal	2006
University of Liverpool	UK	2006
University of Lyon	France	2009
University of Madrid	Spain	2006
University of Montreal	Canada	2012
University of Munich	Germany	2006
University of Murcia	Spain	2006
University of Milan	Italy	2006
Norwegian School of Veterinary Science	Norway	2006
University of Padova	Italy	2006
University of Perugia	Italy	2013
University of Pisa	Italy	2007
University of Porto	Portugal	2006
University of Queensland	Australia	2012
University of Toulouse	France	2006
University of Uppsala	Sweden	2006
University of Utrecht	Netherlands	2006
University of Vienna	Austria	2006
University of Zaragoza	Spain	2006
University of Zürich	Switzerland	2006

### Recent Developments

*Adaptation of the Examination Format:* For the examination in February 2014 two different formats have been adopted:

1. The **conventional format** (five parts, to be passed within 4 years)
2. The **alternative format:** The examination can be split and taken in two parts. Three parts are taken in the first year, followed by two parts in the following year, provided that the candidate has passed the three first parts.

This change has been implemented to facilitate the preparedness of candidates for the examination since the examination has a broad scope. The title Diplomate ECVP is given when all 5 parts have been passed, meaning that candidates having passed the three parts of the examination in the first year (i.e. 3 parts) are not entitled to use any type of title.

*The ECVP Ambassadorship Initiative* was launched in 2010. The aim has been to foster the establishment of ECVP recognised training centres in European countries without such centres. The initiative supports an established veterinary pathologist in preparation for the certifying examination by the alternative route. Candidates are trained by ECVP Diplomates, and the support includes a one-year fellowship at the supervisor's training centre. The home institution of the candidate must keep the position for the candidate and establish an ECVP recognised training centre upon the return of the candidate and his/her success at the ECVP examination.

### Concluding Remarks

The ECVP has made a substantial contribution to veterinary pathology in Europe since its establishment in 1995. Its certifying examination has achieved a high standard and is now widely accepted as a high quality examination leading to true specialisation. Diplomates by examination enjoy world-wide acceptance, which allows them to take advantage of excellent job opportunities.

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- Kipar A., M. Aleksandersen, C. Benazzi, et al. Providing high-quality research training for veterinary pathologists in Europe. *Vet Rec* 160: 285-286, 2007.

Table n° 6 - Registered ECVP Training Centres.

## President's Report

Stephen May, ECVS

*For EBVS, 2013 will be remembered as a landmark, the year in which we started down the road to legal recognition of the veterinary specialist title in Europe. Meeting representatives of the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists and realising that we both shared common goals and a common enthusiasm was instrumental in the development of a strategy for successful lobbying of the European Parliament and Commission. The next stage is to develop an effective communication strategy to explain to national quality assurance bodies who we are, our mission, and how we hope to accomplish this.*

**It is perhaps an affectation** of all presidents that they see their period in office as being "historic"! However, I hope I can be forgiven for identifying 2013 as an important year in which EBVS, working with other groups representing the health professions in Europe, most notably the Hospital Pharmacists, successfully lobbied for changes in the EU Directive to empower member states to use the "Common Training Framework" to enable formal recognition of specialists for the first time. This will be a major item for discussion at our 2014 AGM, and should stimulate us to critically review ourselves, both EBVS and the separate European Colleges, in order to ensure that we can stand up to the scrutiny of national quality assurance bodies who will want to know why our system should become the one that gains recognition as opposed to any other.

Questions such as whether we are genuinely Specialist Colleges, policing ourselves and our members, or really professional associations masquerading as regulators; whether we have administrative structures that can deal internationally in a timely and professional manner with different stakeholders across Europe; and whether we are sustainable long-term, all need to be revisited. We will need to identify countries that will be keen to adopt our systems, and others that might be persuaded so to do, and have good ambassadors, in the form of well-connected diplomates in each country to support us in this. It will require a campaign with a level of cooperation and commitment that we have not asked for before. However, I am confident that provided we recognise the true value of a successful outcome, all Diplomates will rise to the challenge and play their part. This means that EBVS Board members will all need to be effective in communicating with all members of their Colleges.

Two new support structures that will be important in this work will be the National Representatives network and the new website. We need to work with friendly national associations and statutory bodies to gain support for these National Representatives, both in terms of their recognition and their expenses for attending meetings. We also need a comprehensive website that will be "all things to all men and women". It needs to have an EBVS face, a College face and a national face, as well as providing support to individual diplomates and individual organisations, politicians and members of the public seeking specialist veterinary advice. This is a massive requirement, and one that has exercised my colleagues on the Executive Committee for several months. It has been frustrating that we do not have a complete solution yet, but we anticipate that the wait will be worthwhile and better than establishing further interim solutions that do not fully meet our expectations.

I look forward to discussing all this with Board members in Brussels. Specialist recognition is very much on the agenda in 2014!



Stephen May, ECVS

## Secretary's Report

Linda Horspool, ECVPT

*Our main focus this year has been streamlining our operations in terms of developing a fully integrated communication strategy, allowing for faster and more effective sharing of information from the ExComm to the College and National Representatives and then on to our sister and partner organizations (FVE, EAEVE, ABVS), our stakeholders, EU politicians and the public. Making summaries of minutes of ExComm meetings available on the Representatives Forum, improving our Newsletter and Logo, reviewing proposals of tenders for the new website, developing brochures and business cards, attending an increased number of meetings are just a few aspects of a very busy year, which will end with an AGM organized by a professional, Brussels-based company handing out badges to College as well as National representatives!*

**Turning around the lengthy notes** taken during the 2013 AGM proved a real challenge due to the absence of any secretarial support, – sometimes the day job and life just get in the way! The aim was to produce minutes rather than notes, but in their rather belated final form the minutes were still notes! That said, a public summary (of 8-9 pages) was made available for the first time and this has been posted on the publications section of the EBVS website after the minutes were accepted in November 2013. The 2014 AGM sees us in better shape since the appointment in October 2013 of Mrs Areti Kesisoglou as the EBVS secretariat. The pressure is not off, but many hands are said to make light work and this means that the elected role of EBVS secretary has started to evolve. There is no need to worry though, there still seems to be plenty for the elected Secretary to do!

On the administrative front, the Dutch Chamber of Commerce confirmed that although the original EBVS constitution was filed in Dutch, an English version would now be acceptable. This should make things easier not only for EBVS but also for Colleges registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in Utrecht, although individual Colleges are advised to check with their 'local' Chamber of Commerce before submitting an updated Constitution in English.

Corporate tax liability of Colleges registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce is a recurring theme. Colleges (e.g. ECVIM-CA, ECVO, ECVA, ECV, ECZM) and EBVS registered in the Netherlands are registered in the form of a "rechtspersoon" - translated literally a 'legal person' or 'legal entity'. This is



Linda Horspool, ECVPT

a legal construction that allows an organisation to function as a single entity with the legal rights and obligations of an individual. In other words, this form of organisation can, for example, have possessions and debts, make contracts, and start, or be subject to, legal action. This type of registration is also used for a number of veterinary associations and colleges and associations for other disciplines including medicine and dentistry. The liability for corporate tax for this type of 'association' appears to depend on whether the association is actually running a business and as such are competing with an enterprise registered as a business (that is, of course, liable for taxation). Corporate tax liability is not related to the bank balance or turnover of the association. The ECVA sought advice from the Dutch tax authorities in 2012-13 and were informed that they were not liable for sales tax, corporate tax, etc. This opinion however only applies to the situation at the time the advice was requested. This situation is not black and white and there certainly does not appear to be a single judgement that will fit EBVS and all of the Colleges that are registered in the Netherlands on all occasions since this relates to whether the organisation in question is competing with businesses or not in any given fiscal year.

A major focus currently is the professionalisation of EBVS. This is something that we, as an organisation, have been discussing for several years and we have to, as they say, walk the talk. Communication – meaningfully conveying information through the exchange of thoughts, messages, or information – is key to this. Communication can and should take many forms and EBVS is taking the first steps towards developing a fully integrated communication strategy that will enable it to communicate internally with its Board members, their Colleges and national representatives. Internal communication is important but smooth external communication - with partner health professionals in Europe, communication with sister organisations such as EAEVE and FVE, communication with our profession, with other veterinary specialists around the world and of course with animal owners and the general public - through multiple channels is critical.

Communication is a key part of any organisation and EBVS is no exception. Some of the steps towards improved communication are simple. The Executive Committee has started to make summaries of the minutes of their meetings to share with Board members. These are available via the Board Representatives Forum. The EBVS newsletter is already well established, widely distributed and well respected. The 8th edition was the first to be type set professionally and featured enhanced functionality. Further development of the newsletter, under the leadership of its editor, Professor Stefano Romagnoli, has been discussed, not only with regard to content but also length, frequency and number of issues. A summary of key stories – for those of us who only have 5 minutes – will feature in future issues. The content of future editions will build on the basic table of contents and focus on issues important to EBVS as it works on developing the possibilities opened by the new professional qualifications directive (PQD), such as the common training framework (CTF).

The EBVS logo is an important part of any communication by EBVS and European veterinary specialists. One version of the logo is used by EBVS while another version can be made available to European veterinary specialists when a permission form is returned to the EBVS secretariat. In recent years, the EBVS logo has also been used on publications including posters at congresses and events highlighting EBVS and its Colleges. For this a high resolution version of the logo was needed. To make sure the EBVS logo was available as a high quality graphic suitable for use across a number of different types of media (print and online) of different sizes the logos have been redrawn and are available in high resolution on request. Since the logo is an important part of the identity of EBVS the logo needs to be used in compliance with the associated regulations.

The website has been a major project, one perhaps that we all underestimated.

A brief was prepared in November and put out to tender. Three of the four companies asked to tender responded but choosing between these very different proposals proved no easy task. An additional estimate was requested and, after much discussion, a new provider has been selected based on a majority decision. The brand identity of EBVS (colour, font, etc.) will be developed further along with the work on the new website. We cannot talk about the new website without thanking our current provider, Kieran Hennessy, for his support over the last few years and his prompt and professional approach to our requests.

The new website is still in the planning stages but the first steps will be presented during the 2014 AGM. The site will be backed by a comprehensive database and should be flexible and meet the demands of EBVS for some years to come – with sections for board members, national representatives, the veterinary profession and the public, and the potential to seamlessly include College websites too. Not only that, but the new website should enable time-limited specialist certificates to be issued, as well as simplifying keeping Diplomate coordinates up to date and submitting annual returns. The annual return for 2013 was a stopgap measure developed in Microsoft Excel as a one-off to try and facilitate some of the analysis and promote standardisation of data. As we move to the new website this will require some work to get everything submitted in the correct format – but once we are there this should become a much easier annual process for all Colleges large and small!

A website is only a small part of communication within a modern organisation. The Executive Committee and CEO have EBVS business cards to use when they are representing EBVS at external meetings such as those of sister and partner organisations, such as FVE, EAEVE and ABVS. EBVS needs to consider other aspects such as twitter and groups on social networking sites. Alongside this, more traditional forms of communication such as press releases and brochures are also important. The latter are already planned and will be coordinated with a veterinary communication professional along with the redrafting of the website.

Another facet of communication is the recognition of service. There are two very different forms of service that require recognition. The first is service to the organisation – EBVS – in the form of a key internal role, such as on the Executive Committee or as an auditor, particularly during the organisation's development. The second form of service is more external in nature. This type of service is contributions made by an individual or organisation to the progress and recognition of Veterinary Specialisation in Europe. This might

include work on behalf of a College to gain broad recognition across different European countries, or work in one country, across multiple disciplines to help gain recognition for EBVS specialists more generally. The Executive Committee is delighted to be able to present awards recognising internal service to EBVS and external service to the furthering of veterinary specialisation for the first time in 2014. The Executive Committee is grateful to the Nominations Committee for coordinating nominations for the latter. The first awards for important contributions to the development of EBVS go to Anne-Dominique Degryse (ECLAM) and Leen Verhaert (EVDC) who served as auditors for 10 years (2004-2013). The first award for outstanding contributions to veterinary specialisation in Europe will be presented to Didier Noël Carlotti (ECVD). The award ceremony will round-off the afternoon session of the AGM on Friday and be followed by the EBVS dinner.

Following the workshops held after the AGM in 2012 and 2013, there was a request to make this training available online. Despite our best efforts, webinars have not yet been made available; however we are planning to film the 2014 workshop so this can be made available online. In addition, a key part of the programme of the 2014 AGM is the session on European matters. To make this available to the wider organisation we also plan to record this session so that all of the national representatives and Colleges at large can learn more about the professional qualifications directive and common training framework.

This year, the Executive Committee had four face-to-face meetings, in June, October, February and April, as well as a number of interim discussions via internet, telephone and Skype. EBVS has been represented at a number of conferences and meetings in the last 12 months. A plan is already in place to set the dates for meetings in the coming year to try to maintain the full attendance record which helps facilitate balanced and complete discussion. The Executive Committee have divided up representation at external meetings to try to keep this consistent. Currently, EAEVE meetings and the ABVS meeting (February 2014) are covered by the President; ECCVT meetings are attended by the President and Senior Vice President; and FVE / UEVP meetings are attended by the Vice President and CEO. In addition, the CEO attended the ANZCVS meeting in July 2013 and the Secretary and Vice President attended the PQD conference on Safe Mobility in Brussels in February 2014. Finally the Secretary represented EBVS during lobbying of the European Commission on the PQD in May 2013 and at a roundtable discussion on CTF during the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists conference in Barcelona in March 2014.

The AGM is an important part of the EBVS calendar. While the Executive Committee and CEO represent EBVS at meetings during the year, this is the one

meeting per year when we all meet. It is therefore important that this meeting is organised professionally and runs smoothly. Dimitris has been working tirelessly, supported by Areti, to get all the documentation available in time – much of the documentation was posted in the secure section of the EBVS website (under AGM 2014) 6 weeks before the meeting and as requested the documentation is easier to access and can be downloaded all in one go – thanks to Kieran! There are lots of new College representatives this year and we will also be joined by national representatives and guests, so name badges have become an essential accessory for us all! This year we have also enlisted the services of Semico, a Brussels-based professional congress organiser, following a tender process. With Semico's help we have selected a new location in central Brussels and hope to run a "tighter ship" including efficient online registration.

I look forward to discussing all this with Board members in Brussels. Communication is very much on the agenda in 2014!

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## The 2014 ABVS Annual Meeting

Stephen May, ECVS

*Apart from a few, striking differences between ABVS and EBVS i.e., the harsh weather conditions of February in Chicago (which this year prevented a few College Representatives from attending the meeting) and the overarching role played by AVMA in controlling ABVS, the two meetings share many similarities. The potential removal of diplomas from individuals who fail to keep up-to-date through CPD has been causing some debate within US Colleges, and ABVS has been looking with interest at the EBVS approach of a Register of currently active specialists, as well as at the VetCEE approach to "middle tier" diplomas.*

**The UK has been unseasonably warm** and wet this winter, but Chicago lived up to its reputation for wind and snow which meant that several representatives were unable to make it to the AVMA Headquarters. Historically, the ABVS meeting has been in February so that its business could be discussed and approved through the senior committees of AVMA in a timely manner. However, with restructuring, ABVS is no longer quite so constrained. Moving the meeting to March, or even April, for 2015 was considered, but it was felt that the optimal time could not be easily identified. So it will be 20-21 February 2015, with a move to a later time in 2016.

The routine business would be very familiar to all EBVS Board members, with sections of the meeting dedicated to Five Year "In-Depth" Reports, Annual Reports, and news on the development of new specialties. However, as always, it is the more substantive items for discussion that are of particular interest, as the issues and potential solutions all have parallels in the European context. I was amused to recognise some of these as "old chestnuts" for us, and still others as emerging issues that we will be discussing at our next AGM.

Like EBVS, ABVS has to deal with anomalies that have emerged in the course of the development of different Colleges with different foci and priorities. One of these is the "Honorary Diplomat" and the nature of these individuals. For some American Colleges, they are retired diplomates of distinction, for others they are distinguished non-veterinarians. These differences are not helpful to those outside the College system, and hopefully our work on this over recent years at EBVS has helped align our various membership categories.

Another thorny issue that was discussed is whether or not diplomas can be removed from individuals who fail to keep up-to-date through CPD. EBVS and the Colleges have taken the view that for those who have been examined, the Diploma is like a degree certificate – a work of achievement on a single occasion. However, it does not mark you out as a currently-active specialist. It is whether or not you are listed with EBVS that counts, and we intend to do more to publicise this in future years. Neither ABVS nor AVMA hold a specialist list in the same way but the representatives could see the advantage of this approach and how it could be linked to publicising the value of specialist skills to society. Like EBVS, ABVS (and AVMA) are exercised by a failure to identify the best routes for public education about the value of specialist veterinarians and an easy means of identifying or checking up on an appropriate specialist in your area. We hope we can finally tackle this through a combination of College and National pages on the new website, together with a more user-friendly "Register of Specialists".

Colin Harvey spoke well on international issues, which he has now handed on to Bob Murtaugh, who we will welcome in Brussels for the first time this year. Colin is justifiably recognised by other ABVS representatives for all the hard work he has put into discussions on global standards over the years, and he was listened to attentively as he presented the "One Standard, Twin Track" proposal. This recognises sensitivities relating to mutual recognition, but allows progress around common standards with individuals gaining the appropriate specialist qualification and "licence" to practise in their own region. ABVS representatives all agreed that they were happy to see progress on this basis.

As previously reported, Peter O'Brien gave a comprehensive overview of EBVS developments and activities in 2013, so this year I chose to focus in more depth on two main themes: the Common Training Framework, and VetCEE and the "middle tier" of "advanced"/"acknowledged" practitioners. Although Australasia has legal recognition of the specialist veterinarians, in both North America and Europe, ABVS and EBVS manage specialist examination and recognition outside formal legal frameworks. However, as will be discussed at the 2014 AGM, the new Directive (2013/55/EU, Article 38) provides for adoption of a Common Training Framework by individual Member States, and if a third or more of EU members are happy to adopt this, the system becomes the "de facto" specialist recognition framework for Europe. EBVS intends to lead the Colleges in promoting their interests at national level in order to gain the approval of at least 10 member states for European College standards and processes. However, this will clearly depend on convincing national organisations that the Colleges have the critical mass to be sustainable and manage robust quality assurance processes!

As for EBVS and the European Colleges, the lack of legal protection of specialist title in North America has allowed other groups to suggest that their Certificates in some way provide evidence of specialist status. Therefore, there was considerable interest in the work of VetCEE and also, in the UK, the RCVS, in defining and creating lists for a "middle tier" of Advanced Practitioner (AP). I was able to point out the way in which spurious specialist status claims might be prevented by those listing as APs not being allowed to describe themselves as specialists at peril of loss of their AP listing.

All in all, the exchange of representatives between ABVS and EBVS continues to be of value. The sharing of our concerns, and ensuing discussions, helps those on each side to recognise the similarity of our ambitions and the challenges we face. In addition, exploring our, at times, different solutions in a constructive manner can help us make progress on important areas for convergence as well as those where our different political and cultural contexts mean that the solutions must be more regional.

## Robert Murtaugh, the new ABVS liaison officer to EBVS

*Robert (Bob) Murtaugh ("Murt") is one of the pioneers in Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care in North America and one of the promoters, co-founder and former President of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC). He has been the ACVECC representative to the ABVS for the last few years. In 2013, the American Veterinary medical association (AVMA) renewed the 3-year grant to support travel costs for an ABVS liaison officer to EBVS, and Bob was selected for this task. We look forward to collaborating with him until 2016 and hopefully beyond that.*

**Robert (Bob) Murtaugh graduated** from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, USA in 1980. Following an internship in Los Angeles, Dr. Murtaugh completed (1984) a residency in veterinary internal medicine and a Master's program at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. From there, he joined the faculty at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine (1984-1998) and passed the the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) examinations in 1985.

While at Tufts University, Dr. Murtaugh was instrumental in establishing a world renowned emergency and critical care service, and served as Director for the teaching hospitals and the Associate Dean for Curriculum, among other administrative pursuits. During that period he was also the co-author on over 30 refereed publications and two key textbooks on Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care.

Following his time at Tufts, Dr. Murtaugh raised the bar on the practice of veterinary emergency and critical care in the Pacific Northwest by leading the team at the Dove Lewis Animal Emergency Hospital Group in Portland, Oregon (1998-2000). In 2000, Dr. Murtaugh returned to the Boston-area where he served as the Northeast Regional Medical Director for VCA Animal Hospitals (2000-2010) overseeing the medical care in over 40 veterinary hospitals, including six large specialty practices.

Dr Murtaugh's development of the emergency and critical care service at Tufts led to the development of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC), which was recognized by the ABVS in 1989. As a Charter Diplomate of the ACVECC, Dr. Murtaugh has served in several roles



*Robert and Clochette*

including leadership of the organizing, credential and training committees and President. He is currently serving as the ACVECC representative to the ABVS and has participated actively in several initiatives including requiring job task analyses and re-credentialing for ABVS specialties and most recently the efforts to foster the globalization of veterinary specialty medicine.

Dr. Murtaugh is presently working as the medical director at VCA All Care Animal Referral Center in southern California. The Hospital is a tertiary referral facility with residency training programs in internal medicine, surgery, emergency/critical care and neurology. In his free time, "Murt" enjoys the company of the love of his life, Jill, along with running on the beach, playing with his pugs, cooking and the challenge of a game of golf.

## VETCEE coming of age

Andrew Byrne

*Andrew Byrne is a 1985 graduate of University College Dublin, and currently one of three partners in a four vet companion animal practice in Ireland. He has been a member of the interim VETCEE committee since its establishment in 2012 and currently is Chair of the interim VETCEE Board. He is a past president of FECAVA, past Vice President of UEVP and past Chair of ACOVENE (Accreditation Committee for Veterinary Nursing Education)*

### The statutes of Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe

(VETCEE) were signed in Brussels on March 26th, 2014 by the representatives of the four founding full member organisations i.e. Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS), European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP, one of the branches of FVE). VETCEE will be registered under Belgian law as an international non-profit association (AISBL). The interim VETCEE board also included FECAVA and the statutory bodies working group as co-opted members.

The purpose of VETCEE is the development of standards and validation of "middle tier" post graduate professional development programmes. Middle tier refers to a level above the level of graduation in Veterinary Medicine from an EAEVE approved Veterinary School, but below the level of Diplomate granted by an EBVS college.

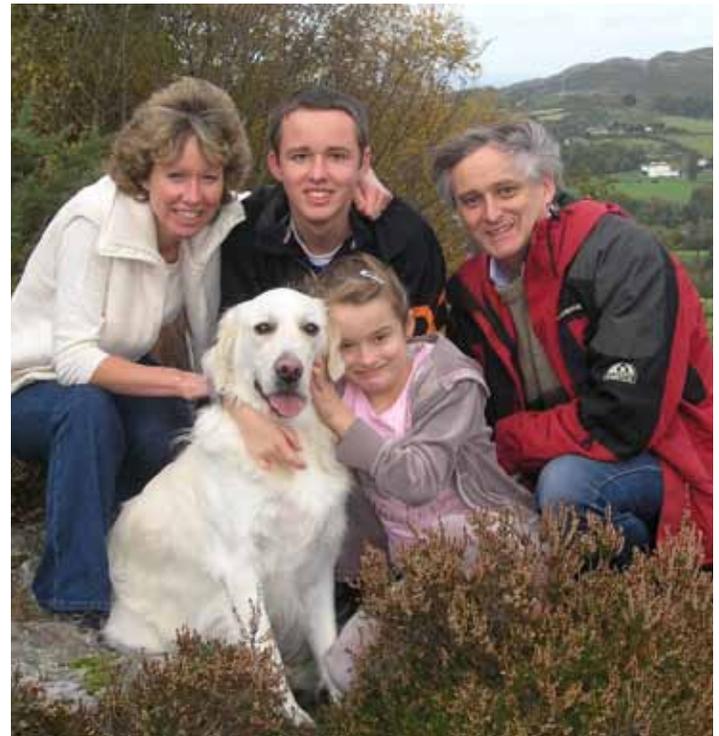
As part of the pilot phase VETCEE developed standards for companion animal "middle tier" programs and carried out trial evaluations of three programs to test the standards and validation process.

The structure for developing standards consists of VETCEE sub committees supervised by the relevant European veterinary organisation(s). In the case of the companion animal standards, FECAVA helped establish the VETCEE companion animal sub-committee. Recently a porcine sub-committee has been established jointly by the European Association for Porcine Health management (EAPHM) and the European College of Porcine Health management (ECPHM) and has developed draft standards for Porcine middle tier programs. In addition, the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA) has agreed to form an Equine sub-committee that will work on standards for Equine programs and

the European Veterinary Education Research and Industry (EVERI, one of the branches of FVE) and the European College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ECLAM) have formed a sub-committee to develop laboratory animal program standards.

The companion animal programme standards have been adopted by the interim VETCEE board following the pilot phase. The porcine programme standards have been completed and it is anticipated that they will be ratified by the VETCEE board when it meets in May 2014.

During the next two months, while the legal registration of VETCEE is being processed, the VETCEE interim Board will focus on completing structural and administration systems and then move forward with development of standards with its sub committees and invite programme applications for validation. VETCEE standards will complement existing structures where they exist and will be a mechanism to assist in mutual recognition of "middle tier" programs among European countries. VETCEE is not an awarding body and does not propose titles as this is a matter for the relevant statutory bodies within each country.



Andrew Byrne and his family on a walk in county Wicklow, Ireland, 5 minutes from their home.

## How medicine of pigs got me into EBVS

Dominiek Maes, ECPHM, ECVPH

*Dominiek Maes is a Diplomate of the European College of Porcine Health Management (ECPHM) and the European College of Veterinary Public Health (ECVPH) and is Professor of Porcine Health Management at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Ghent University, Belgium. He was Vice-President and President of the ECPHM and served for 6 years as ECPHM representative on the EBVS board. He was elected as Vice-President of EBVS in April 2013.*

**I was born in 1969, the youngest son** in a family of three children, and grew up in West-Flanders, the Belgian province with the most agricultural activity. At the end of secondary school, I decided to study veterinary medicine. It was not a decision that was made earlier in my childhood, as animal sciences and human medicine were also high on my list. At that time, I considered veterinary medicine as a combination of both.



Dominiek Maes, ECPHM, ECVPH

I obtained my veterinary degree (DVM) in 1993 from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Ghent University. This is the only Veterinary Faculty in Flanders (the Dutch speaking part of Belgium). Pig medicine is important in our faculty, as more than 90% of all Belgian pigs are raised in Flanders. Thereafter, I started a PhD on respiratory disease in pigs, focusing mainly on epidemiological studies. During that time, I also worked in the ambulatory clinic of the Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health, and obtained two Masters degrees, one in Animal Production from Ghent University, and another in Herd Health and Epidemiology from Utrecht University. I completed my PhD in 1998 and then worked for one year as a Post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Clinical and Population Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, US. It was a very interesting period, especially from a scientific point of view. However, it was also tough personally, as I was just married, and while I was in the US, my wife, a medical doctor, was in Belgium specialising in endocrinology. Fortunately, we did not yet have children at that time. Our four children were born during the years that followed.

I became Associate Professor in Porcine Health Management at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Ghent University in 2003, and full professor in 2012. Currently, I spend approximately one-third of my time teaching, one-third on research and one-third on service provision. I teach undergraduate students in the third, fifth and sixth years of the curriculum. The courses include veterinary public health in farm animals, animal housing, pig reproduction and pig herd health and epidemiology. A major part of the latter courses includes clinical teaching. I supervise a number of PhD students, always in collaboration with another promotor. It is mostly applied research focusing on pigs, and the topics can be classified into three main categories: production / reproduction, respiratory disease and veterinary public health at farm level. I also supervise ECPHM and ECVPH residents. As is the case for many professors, the broader service commitments relate to activities within the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, and for external organisations, institutions and companies. I am currently (2012-2015) Director of the Institute for Continuing Professional Development within the faculty. This is very interesting, as it not only relates to my own discipline, but covers almost all disciplines within veterinary medicine. Permanent education or lifelong learning has become increasingly important and is necessary for all veterinarians to keep abreast of the latest developments in their discipline. I am also serving a second four-year term as President of the Belgian Pig Veterinary Society. Apart from my professional activities, I like spending time with my family, working in the garden and performing different sports; I particularly love playing tennis.

I became a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Public Health (ECVPH) in 2003 and the European College of Porcine Health Management (ECPHM) in 2005. For the latter College, I was elected Vice-President in 2007, and became President in 2010. The ECPHM has evolved significantly in recent years. The College is very dynamic; all bodies are functioning very well, and full recognition was obtained in 2013. With approximately 150 diplomates and 45 residents, it can be considered an average-sized college within EBVS. The College has a good collaboration with the recently established European Association of Porcine Health Management. Every year, a European symposium with approximately 1000 delegates is organised jointly, and the College and the Association recently launched a new scientific journal Porcine Health Management.

I served for six consecutive years as ECPHM representative in EBVS, and was elected as Vice-President of EBVS in April 2013. It is a pleasure and I also consider it an honour to be able to serve the EBVS. I received a very warm welcome from colleagues during the first executive committee (EC) meeting at London Stansted. During all the EC meetings I have attended so far, I have always felt that items are well prepared and discussed in an open, friendly and professional way.

EBVS and the different Colleges are very important to our profession, as they need to promote and guarantee high-level specialisation in veterinary medicine in Europe. The quality assurance role of EBVS is of paramount importance, as all the different colleges need to fulfil common standards in terms of quality of training and their examinations, sufficient residencies and residents, democratic and transparent rules, professional administration and geographic coverage across Europe. However, the provision of information and visibility of veterinary specialisation to governmental bodies, private organisations, veterinarians and animal owners is also very important. We need to show that we deserve the European Veterinary Specialist™ title, and that all Colleges comply with EBVS quality assurance mechanisms. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Therefore, EBVS has to be strict and avoid significant variation in rules or quality levels between Colleges. At the same time, EBVS should encourage and help Colleges to function optimally.

There are many challenges ahead of us, but also a range of opportunities. I am sure that, by joining forces and collaborating well, we will further expand and optimise specialisation in veterinary medicine, for the benefit of the European veterinary profession and all those involved with the animals that we treat. I am very pleased and also feel privileged that I am able to contribute to this goal as EBVS Vice-President.

## Professional Qualifications Directive Conference - Safe Mobility

Linda Horspool (ECVPT) and Dominiek Maes (ECPHM)

*Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications came into force in 2007. It has since been amended several times. The most recent amendment Directive 2013/55/EU, including the recognition of professional qualifications, was published 28 December 2013. On 18 February 2014, the European Commission hosted on a conference 'Modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive – Safe mobility' in the Charlemagne building, Rue de la Loi, Brussels that was attended by the EBVS Vice President Dominiek Maes and Secretary Linda Horspool. The conference programme was a series of lectures and statements and panel discussions on facilitating mobility (i.e. the European Professional Card), reinforcing safeguards (i.e. alerts, language), facilitating qualifications (i.e. traineeships and diversity) and common training principles for professions at both generalist and specialist levels. This article summarises the presentations and discussions from the conference.*

**Free movement is one of the fundamental** principles of the European Union (EU). Currently, there is little professional mobility; about 25% of EU citizens would be prepared to work elsewhere in the EU. There are many reasons for the lack of mobility including language, culture and family. Language of the host country is important and essential, particularly for medical professions, but any testing needs to be done on a case-by-case basis. EU law prevents language testing being a general requirement, as although it is very important in consumer protection, language should not be used as a pretext to prevent mobility.

One of the obstacles to mobility is the recognition of professional qualifications in the EU. Currently, 40% of queries about services are about recognition of qualifications. Mutual recognition of qualifications and training allows EU citizens to benefit from mobility. This is not just about employment but about more services and better services at a better price. The system needs to be flexible, allowing Member States (MS) to protect their consumers and the general public interest while respecting national choices.

Key aspects of professional mobility relate to building confidence and trust between organisations and recognising trainee opportunities. However, common

approaches to training are also about encouraging professionals to keep improving their skills. There are fears that mobility will bring about problems for consumers and patient concerns (if there is more mobility in the medical profession). This is linked to the updating of minimum training conditions and trying to ensure that day 1 skills are the same in all EU MS. Initial training is important but continuous professional development / vocational training is too.

There have been a number of steps towards recognising the qualifications of the 21st century giving all professionals access to information - a one-stop shop, including temporary provision of services in another member state. The new professional qualifications directive (PQD) adopted by the council and parliament should encourage mobility and guarantee protection for all citizens.

#### Main highlights of the Professional Qualification Directive 2013-55-EU

- Information on mobility
- Increased availability of electronic procedures
- The need to update and harmonise minimum training requirements to allow automatic recognition of professions.
- The need to facilitate temporary service provision without creating too many obstacles
- Extension of the general system of recognition
- Partial access – which would solve the problems of a number of EU citizens
- Recognition of traineeships

#### Three main components of the PQD

There are three main components to the PQD: the European professional card, common training principles and the alert mechanism.

##### 1) European professional card (EPC)

The EPC is about enhancing and facilitating mobility through safety and mutual trust based on updated training requirements. The EPC will be an electronic procedure to simplify, improve and speed up the exchange of information regarding professional qualifications rather than a printable card.

It is a way of contributing to European market growth by encouraging further development of enterprises, based on a simplified approach to combining skills and mobility. It is hoped that it will not only increase flexibility but also be more cost effective – it may reduce costs for a host authority as it is more likely that complete documentation will be received and it will be clearer what is relevant under the PQD. The new system will help prevent fraud as the documents will need to be verified by the home MS. The new mechanism does not infringe on the host au-

thority as they retain the decision making power, although it may require more effort and deadlines are tighter.

For example, mobility and free movement have long been important to nurses (both generalist and specialist) – the profession with the highest mobility in Europe. The EPC will help nurses submit their training information and move to fill vacancies in other MS, decreasing unemployment and bringing better healthcare to patients while maintaining safety and quality. There was also support for the EPC expressed by nine different types of accountants working across six MS and hoping to increase to the ten MS required to establish a CTF. In contrast, concern was expressed by engineers that the EPC may hinder mobility within the private sector of this high-mobility profession. In response, there was a comment that while the private sector is also an important consideration, it is very important that the public and private sectors not be dissociated. It was reiterated that the EPC was designed to bring security for individuals working abroad, being able to keep track and help to focus and rationalise training programmes.

Some MS (e.g. Austria, UK) are not in favour of the EPC. The EPC is not something that is being imposed but should be developed in line with systems already in place in MS, respecting the rights of individual authorities. Thus, the host country will still be in charge of recognising qualifications. Moreover, the EPC will only be introduced for professions and for individuals within these professions that want to use the card. It is hoped that as many professions as possible will take advantage of the EPC. It has to become something that will be useful for all EU citizens; a real tool of European citizenship in a Europe that has doubts and a crisis of confidence. If all MS work on this the EPC will be a success. The adoption of the PQD text is just the start and the commission wants to make sure that the EPC delivers what people are expecting and to do everything possible to get this message across to MS.

##### 2) Common training principles

Professions are changing. Positions are not filled because of lack of skills. The number of so-called regulated professions varies from country to country. The new directive proposes shared training principles, a simpler mechanism for the recognition of qualifications. The new vision is based in the skill set that is at the disposal of a given professional based on training programmes, and perhaps also shared testing, guaranteeing the same minimum competences and minimum knowledge required to exercise such a profession. It is important that these different approaches can be brought together within minimum training

requirements (scope and duration of training) and common training framework (CTF).

One way to facilitate qualifications is through the recognition of traineeships and the importance of diversity in education systems. Young people should aspire to qualifications that will be valued in other countries and potentially bring skills back to their own countries within the divergent economies.

The legislators decided that common training principles are the realm of competent authorities and that professional organizations should develop this - this is an opportunity! This is a bottom-up approach since it is now in the hands of the professions and a number of professions will be able to benefit greatly from it. One of the challenges is that, in many professions, a professional qualification is more than just an academic qualification. European qualifications need to be developed in line with national qualifications. Learning outcomes and competence profiles need to be organised within a profession, or even within a discipline within a profession.

It is important that there is more engagement between professions and the EU within the course of the next parliament both to ensure that this proceeds and make sure concerns are addressed. There is still a lot of work ahead but it is very important that we work together and talk to each other and provide information in a reciprocal basis to work through any difficulties to make sure the system is properly adapted to all the professionals involved.

### 3) Alert mechanism

The alert mechanism is the flip-side of the EPC; the EPC cannot exist without an alert system. The EPC needs to be valid and it needs to be clear whether issues on competence have not been raised by other MS. This is particularly important in healthcare. The alert mechanism is about reinforcing safeguards for citizens and protecting patients. The alert mechanism may be ineffective if the individual concerned is always one step ahead of any disciplinary process. Some MS (e.g. NL) publish 'blacklists' but this is not something that has widespread acceptance since these lists can be misinterpreted and there is a need for confidentiality during investigations. There are also unanswered questions, e.g. around what happens when someone is in the process of appeal and whether an individual is suspended while an appeal is ongoing, but normal legal standards have to apply. There can be public unrest when individuals have moved country and started working pending disciplinary action in another MS.

The introduction of the alert mechanism is a good first step. Implementation of the PQD text needs to be robust and inspire confidence. Currently there is diversity in systems between countries: some have a two-step process and in others it is a single step, where recognition grants access to the profession. Moreover, language testing needs to be implemented into a single-step process. However, this is more about allowing competent authorities to require evidence of language proficiency rather than a test per se. Implementation should not wait until 2016; action is needed now!

### Comments

EBVS was formed to coordinate veterinary specialisation in Europe. Two decades on, the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive provides EBVS with a legal framework to further veterinary specialisation in Europe. EBVS has strong ties with organisations coordinating the standardisation of veterinary training (EAEVE, ECCVT) and representing veterinary practitioners (FVE) in Europe and is a key stakeholder in the development of veterinary continuous education (VetCEE).

The time is ripe for EBVS to prepare a common training framework (CTF) application and present this to the European Commission. One of the preparatory steps – agreeing knowledge, skills and competences – is already very much a part of EBVS and its College structure but needs to be aligned with lifelong learning initiatives such as national specialist qualifications and VetCEE. The two other key steps are:

- 1) The identification of at least ten MS where veterinary specialisation is recognised.
- 2) Getting the support and buy-in from national competent authorities, education providers and government in these MS.

This is where the concept of EBVS national representatives comes in. In 2013, a first meeting of EBVS national representatives was held. There is now an EBVS national representative for each EU MS and a meeting of the national representatives will follow the EBVS AGM on Saturday 12 April. The role of the national representative is to coordinate lobbying activity within a MS and liaise with competent authorities and national associations. As such, the national representative has a cross-College role. The role of the EBVS national representatives needs to become a reality so that EBVS is in a position to lobby competent authorities and national associations. In addition to the transparent due process including relevant stakeholders highlighted above, legal recognition of the

European Veterinary Specialist™ will require a governance model that not only includes qualification quality assurance but also continues to evolve so that MS can be added (or removed) in future.

CTF was designed, against the backdrop of the 2008 economic crisis, to address issues of mobility within the EU. Thanks to lobbying with coalition partners - the recent amendment of the PQD has given professional associations such as EBVS, the Union of European Medical Specialists (UEMS), the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists and the European Specialist Nurses Organization (ESNO) a leading role and the ability to apply for legal recognition of specialist qualifications. The ball is in our court!

For those who are already hungry for more, the PQD - Safe Mobility conference was streamed live on the internet and the video and conference highlights can be viewed here. The PQD and how EBVS plans to proceed with this are very much on the agenda at the 2014 AGM. EBVS and ESNO also participated in a workshop at the EAHP conference on March 26 where some of the key questions, issues and steps, from the perspective of hospital pharmacy, were discussed. Speakers from the European Commission and EAHP will join EBVS at its 2014 AGM and we are going to film this part of the European Matters session to make it easier to spread the word within EBVS.

## First award for outstanding contribution to European veterinary specialisation: Didier Noël Carlotti, ECVD

*In 2012 the EBVS established an award for contributions made by an individual or organisation to the progress and recognition of veterinary specialisation in Europe. This award is for individuals who have advanced the cause of veterinary specialisation either across multiple disciplines in a single country or region, or in a single discipline across the whole of Europe. This award should be distinguished from service awards that EBVS makes and that EBVS Colleges may make to celebrate the achievements of outstanding individuals to a specialty. The first EBVS award for outstanding contributions to veterinary specialisation in Europe is being made to Dr Didier Noël Carlotti. These contributions were described in detail in an article in the 6th edition – spring 2013 - of this newsletter and are summarized here.*

**In 1999, Dr Carlotti was one of the founding** members of the Syndicat Français des Vétérinaires Membres de Collèges Européens (SFVMCE). This small group was successful in achieving formal recognition as a stakeholder by the French government. Under the leadership of Dr Carlotti (1999-2009), the French Association of Companion Animal Veterinarians (Association Française des Vétérinaires pour Animaux de Compagnie, AFVAC), actively supported the European route to veterinary specialisation. Through lobbying by SFVMCE and AFVAC, the French Ministry of Agriculture adopted a number of position papers suggested by the committee regulating veterinary specialisation in France (Conseil National de la Spécialisation Vétérinaire (CNSV)), chaired currently by Dr Carlotti. In 2010, the European College of Veterinary Dermatology was the first College to be recognized officially in France. By the end of 2013, twelve Colleges (ECVD, ECVDI, ECVO, ECVS, ECVCP, EVDC, ECVIM-CA, ECLAM, ECVN, ECVCN, ECVPH and ECEIM) including subspecialties, all with residency training programmes in France, had been granted recognition. There is at least one further application pending (ECVPT).



Didier Noel Carlotti, ECVD

There are now more than 300 European Veterinary Specialists™ working in France. Thanks to the leadership, dedication and commitment of Dr Carlotti and his peers, the training required to achieve a Diploma from an EBVS College was recognised formally by the authorities in France and the use of the title “Veterinary Specialist in” can now be applied for by Diplomates of the abovementioned Colleges. Dr Carlotti is a role model for the EBVS national representatives. The “French model” he helped to develop has provided inspiration to Diplomates in other European member states who are striving to gain recognition nationally for European veterinary specialisation.



The engraved glass awards for Dr. Didier Carlotti (middle), Dr. Anne-Dominique Degryse (left) and Leen Verhaert (right)

## Developments in Animal Welfare Science and the EBVS

David Morton (ECAWBM)

*David Morton is Emeritus Professor at the University of Birmingham. He is a Foundation Diplomate of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine (ECAWBM), sub-speciality Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law. Throughout his career he has worked on the recognition and assessment of pain, suffering, distress and lasting harm in all sentient animal species, as well as the ethical challenges that brings when welfare is compromised from particular uses of animals. As animal welfare is an overarching principle which needs to receive serious consideration by all other veterinary specialties, Dr. Morton's views are relevant to all of us, regardless of discipline or the sector in which we work.*

**A report on Day 1 Competencies** dealing with Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law was recently published by the FVE/EAEVE with implications for the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine's sub-speciality of the same name <[http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/full\\_report\\_aw\\_curriculum\\_adopted.pdf](http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/full_report_aw_curriculum_adopted.pdf)>. At the beginning of the report two quotes are given:

***“Veterinarians are, and must continually strive to be, the leading advocates for the good welfare of animals in a continually evolving society.” (FVE/AVMA 2011).***



David Morton, ECAWBM

***“Veterinarians should be the leading advocates for the welfare of all animals, recognizing the key contribution that animals make to human society through food production, companionship, biomedical research and education.” (OIE, 2012)***

The domain of animal welfare comprises three complementary dimensions: science, ethics and law, and training in all three elements would equip members of the veterinary profession to play an ever-increasing role in these areas. The past decade has seen the development of numerous animal welfare programmes in veterinary schools across the western world and in Europe in particular. In view of these developments and societal expectations, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) established a Working Group in 2012 (chaired by David Morton) to map animal welfare teaching in the undergraduate veterinary education and to develop a core curriculum.

The Working Group carried out a survey of veterinary schools in the EU to ascertain the current state of teaching and found that the main obstacles to strengthening animal welfare teaching include: lack of space in the curriculum; difficulties in organising practical sessions; financial difficulties; lack of qualified teachers; and a low priority for animal welfare within a faculty. To overcome these obstacles, the report provides guidance on how animal welfare teaching can be organised in an already crowded veterinary curriculum. The schools commented that the proposed learning outcomes were complete and deliverable and covered all the important competences. However, only 44% stated that they currently delivered these competences, but 73% stated that they could reach them within the next five years. As with any new subject the start-up period is difficult, how does one find the teachers before it is self-reliant and self-sustaining? Furthermore, this expertise may or may not always come from within the veterinary faculty and the contribution of ethicists, animal scientists or other disciplines would be beneficial.

The ECAWBM is aiming at having the first diplomates qualified in 2016/2017 but in the meantime has appointed some 25 de facto diplomates to start training post-graduates in the field, and to provide a source of teachers to help ensure the Day One Competencies can start to be delivered. The development of a post-graduate college specialising in animal welfare will, in the future, provide a source of animal welfare teachers and researchers. The work of this new College depends on creating suitable positions for its study such as residency programmes, and having active research programmes.

The FVE/EAEVA Working Group developed an animal welfare curriculum, composed of a model syllabus, the corresponding learning objectives and a list of the essential Day One Competences (or learning outcomes). These will enable veterinary graduates to fulfil their role as primary advisers on animal welfare across all contexts of animal use.

#### Learning outcomes for Day One

1. Appraise different concepts as well as analytical frameworks of animal welfare and how they relate to practice and to the context in which they are set.
2. Apply sound principles to objectively evaluate the welfare status of animals and to recognise good and poor welfare.
3. Participate in animal welfare assessment, monitoring and auditing with the aims of improving the physical and mental health of animals.
4. Formulate an informed, science-based, view on animal welfare matters and communicate effectively with those involved in keeping animals.
5. Appraise the social context and participate in societal debates about animal welfare and ethics.
6. Retrieve up-to-date and reliable information regarding local, national and international animal welfare regulations/standards in order to describe humane methods for animal keeping, transport and killing (including slaughter).

#### Recommendations.

1. The FVE and EAEVE should actively encourage all European schools to implement these Day One Competences and the corresponding learning objectives, and to have them incorporated and evaluated through the EAEVE/FVE accreditation system of veterinary schools.
2. European veterinary schools should ensure adequate time, staff and practical sessions for teaching animal welfare science, ethics and law.
3. Animal welfare science, ethics and law teaching should be delivered in such a way that the study subject is clearly identifiable in its own right, while being integrated throughout the veterinary course.
4. Animal Welfare science, ethics and law should be a core subject, and examinable with the same pass/fail criteria as other core subjects.
5. European veterinary schools should encourage cutting edge animal welfare research as this will attract both students and top quality staff.
6. CPD providers should incorporate advances in welfare, ethics and law into their programmes through the principles of life-long learning.
7. All staff, as role models, should be continually updated in Animal Welfare.

### Post-graduate studies and the EBVS

Similar challenges for teaching of animal welfare arise at a post-graduate level. It would be important to establish a list of suitable competences that students would need to acquire during their postgraduate studies as a basis for later study. All veterinary practitioners should continue to learn and improve their practice through continuous professional development programmes. CPD is obligatory in many European countries and forms the basis of assuring the public about the quality of veterinary care. It is of utmost importance to incorporate advances in welfare and law into these CPD programmes. Such programmes should also focus on ethical issues and on the ability to communicate with clients and the public. Recommendation 7 that all staff, as role models, should be continually updated in Animal Welfare will apply to members of all the European Colleges of the EBVS, and steps should be taken for its implementation.



EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF

## Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine

*The official logo of the ECAWBM*

### Conclusions

Many of these requirements in the Report tie in with the more traditional core Day One Competencies at graduation, particularly clinical competence, and so should not be seen as unique and requiring special coursework, although some will. Moreover, some of the learning outcomes suggested above will complement other competencies e.g. holding a scientific evidence based position, recognition of strong and weak arguments, provision of advice in any public debate, and the One-Health Concept - recognising the close link between the health and welfare of both humans as animals and the environment.

## EFSA scientific committee and panel opportunities

*Shira Tabachnikoff, Head of Communications Channels at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has reported that EFSA is looking for experts for its scientific committee and eight panels. A number of Diplomates from several EBVS Colleges have served EFSA and these new opportunities may be of interest to Diplomates of a number of Colleges.*

**The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)** was set up in 2002 and is an independent European agency funded by the EU budget that operates separately from the European Commission, European Parliament and EU Member States. EFSA is an independent source of scientific advice and communication on risks associated with the food chain and the keystone of European Union (EU) risk assessment of food and feed safety. It performs environmental risk assessments of genetically modified crops, pesticides, feed additives, and plant pests and considers the possible impact of the food chain on the biodiversity of plant and animal habitats. EFSA provides independent scientific advice that underpins the European food safety system and clear communication on existing and emerging risks. Thanks to this system, European consumers are among the best protected and best informed in the world as regards risks in the food chain. EFSA works in close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders.

The new positions are open to “scientists” from all Member States of the European Union. EFSA is looking for candidates with “proven excellence” in one or more of the scientific fields within its remit of food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, plant protection and plant health including subjects such as feed additives, food contact materials, food ingredients, genetically modified organisms and pesticides.. The work of EFSA experts is published in the “EFSA Journal”, which is indexed in several key bibliographic databases.

The selection process is through an open, transparent procedure. Successful applicants will be appointed for a 3-year term starting in July 2015. Further information will be available via the EFSA website ([www.efsa.europa.eu](http://www.efsa.europa.eu)) from early April.

## News in brief

**The 6th European College Day**, a Webinar on Antimicrobial Resistance in Veterinary Practice will be broadcasted in streaming from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, on Tuesday April 15, 2014, 8:00-10:00 p.m. Central European Time (7:00-9:00 pm UK time). Dr. Vanessa Schmidt, ECVD, is one of the speakers. 218 participants from 40 countries have already registered. Registration and program are available at <http://www.vef.unizg.hr/eu-derm-day/>

### MEETING ATTENDANCE IN 2014:

**ABVS** (Illinois, USA, 21-22 February) = Stephen May  
**ESCO** (Brussels, Belgium, 17-18 March) = Peter O'Brien  
**EAHP** (Barcelona, Spain, 26 March) = Linda Horspool  
**ECCVT** (Brussels, Belgium, 26 March) = Peter O'Brien  
**EAEVE** (Murcia, Spain, 21-22 May) = Stephen May  
**FVE** (Biarritz, France, 23-24 May) = Dominiek Maes  
**ANZCVS** (Brisbane, Australia, 10-12 July) = Stefano Romagnoli\*

**ABVS** = American Board of Veterinary Specialties  
**ESCO** = European Skills, Competencies and Occupations  
**EAHP** = European Association of Hospital Pharmacists  
**ECCVT** = European Coordinating Committee on Veterinary Education  
**EAEVE** = European Association of Establishments of Veterinary Education  
**FVE** = Federation of Veterinarians of Europe  
**ANZCVS** = Australian New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists

**Two EBVS ExComm meetings** were held since the beginning of the year, on February 18 (Stansted, UK) and April 10 (Brussels, Belgium), to discuss topics such as the 2014 EBVS annual general meeting (draft agenda, logistics, online registration, professional congress organizer), filming presentations on the new Professional Qualifications Directive (on Friday afternoon) and the Examiner's Workshop (on Sunday after the AGM) so these can be made available to a wider EBVS audience, awards for Contributions to EBVS, the EBVS Newsletter, the common training framework and national recognition, and the new EBVS website.

**The new EBVS representative** within the VETCEE board will be Dominiek Maes.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**EAEVE General Assembly**,  
May 15-16, 2014, Murcia (Spain)

**FVE Spring General Assembly**,  
May 23-24, 2014, Biarritz (France)

**ANZCVS Science Week**,  
July 10-12, 2014, Brisbane, Queensland (Australia)

**WSAVA Congress**,  
September 16-19, 2014, Cape Town (South Africa)

**SEVC Congress**,  
October 16-18, 2014, Barcelona (Spain)

**FECAVA Congress**,  
November 6-9, 2014, Munich (Germany)

**FVE Fall General Assembly**,  
November 21-22, 2014, Brussels (Belgium)

**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

The front cover picture portrays Mr. Tore Engen, one of the technicians in the post mortem room of the Veterinary School of Uppsala, Sweden, showing 4th year veterinary students how to remove the abdominal organs from a horse.