

European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Annual General Meeting 2008

Auditorium of CosmoCaixa, Barcelona, Spain

Wednesday 1st October 2008,

Meeting Convened at 17:50

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

Matters Arising for the last AGM

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

Elections of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President

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

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

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

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

Treasurer's report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Future Meetings

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

Journal of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

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

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

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

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

Trainee Advisor and Self-Evaluation Exam Report

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

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

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

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

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

Other Matters

- ***Website***

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

- ***Awards***

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

- ***Fund-raising***

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

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

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

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

AOB

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

Meeting Adjourned 18:40

Meeting Minutes prepared by P. Graham, October 2008

Jose Ceron
President

Peter Graham
Secretary