

# **ESVCP & ECVCP NEWSLETTER**

European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

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**Autumn 2013 Volume 13 (1)**

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

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## **Word from the Editor**

Welcome to the Newsletter, apologies that there have not been as many as usual this year, but hopefully this one will make up for it. Also many apologies to those who have had problems with receiving the Veterinary Clinical Pathology Journal or difficulties accessing it online. This has been due to a combination of several new people at the publishers and a new secretary (me) trying to work out who needs what information as a result. I trust everything has been sorted out for everyone now but if not then please email me at [ESVCPSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ESVCPSecretary@gmail.com) and let me know, or alternatively come and tell me in person at the congress in Berlin (6th -9th November) <http://esvcp.org/index.php/congress.html>

Look forward to seeing many of you there.

Kate English  
ESVCP Secretary

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ESVCP CHAIR

Dear colleague,

I hope this letter find you well.

In 2012 our annual meeting in Ljubljana (Slovenja), was a great success not only from an economical perspective but also in term of participation and the quality of the presentations. The collaborative meeting with ISACP allowed us to strengthen the relationship between our two societies and to have invited lectures at the highest level. I wish to thank the local organizing committee for their great capability and the skill shown in putting on such a successful meeting. I really enjoyed it! In the ESVCP Annual General Meeting I presented the results of the online survey on clinical pathology in Europe. You can now find a comprehensive report on the ESVCP website with some comments regarding possible future plans to improve society's visibility and strengthen us going forward.

The society was also involved in two other meetings this year: the first workshop on canine lymphoma held in Lugano on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013, and an ESVCP session at the ECVIM congress in Liverpool, Sep, 14<sup>th</sup> 2013. They were a great success in term of participation and quality of the presentations and also helped to create collaborations between researchers working in the same topics but in different fields.

The next annual congress is going to be held in Berlin in November, 6-9<sup>th</sup> 2013 and you will find a complete program and more information in the present newsletter. I wish to thank our vice-president Stephan Neumann for the great efforts he has put into the organization of this upcoming meeting.

Thanks to the society's good economic health we were also able in 2013 to assign an ESVCP Small Research Award (ESVCP SRA) to support a resident research project: Barbara Ruetgen, University of Vienna: Title: The establishment of analyses for assessment of molecular clonality in feline lymphoma. The society also awarded prizes for the best poster, scientific communication and case presentation at the Ljubljana meeting. We wait now for the results of the research the society has supported in the last few years and I'm sure that we will be very glad for our choices. One of those we have supported in the past is presenting at the meeting in Berlin this year.

Finally, I want to thank you all for the renewed trust in our society and to remember that the regular payments of the annual fees is mandatory for regularly receiving the journal and, for ECVCP diplomats, to maintain their status.

Again I encourage you to send me any comment or suggestion for future initiatives, and I personally thank all the colleagues who contacted me to report problems and suggest solutions. You can directly contact me by e-mail ([stefano.comazzi@unimi.it](mailto:stefano.comazzi@unimi.it)).

Enjoy our meeting in Berlin

## **LETTER FROM THE ECVCP CHAIR**

Dear Colleagues,

This is my last message as the ECVCP President. Procedures for the election of the new ECVCP Board have already started and will be completed by the next ECVCP meeting at the Berlin Congress. Therefore, it is time to briefly summarize the activities of the past three years, with special emphasis on this last year.

In 2011 the ECVCP Committees were restructured and enlarged, and a Secretariat post was established (I still recommend any member to interact with the Board or the Committees through the address [secretariat@ecvcp.org](mailto:secretariat@ecvcp.org).)

In 2012 the procedures for a more efficient communication among ECVCP Committees and between the ECVCP Committees or Board and college membership were established and the connections with the ASVCP increased, with the creation of a “task force” to work towards a possible harmonization of our training procedures.

Also in 2012 the College passed the 5-year EBVS recertification.

In 2013 the role of the Secretariat was further expanded, largely thanks to the recruitment of Sue Lennon to the position. The ECVCP/ESVCP website has been refurbished in order to be more user friendly. Once this process has been completed it will be easier to find and download relevant documents and forms.

July 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013 saw us hosting our first summer school in Porto in July, jointly with the summer meeting of the ECVCP Board and Committee chairs. Eighteen Residents participated in the summer school with lectures and practical sessions on the four parts of the exam and a self assessment test that was held on the last day. Their comments about this experience were enthusiastic and this is on one hand a great satisfaction for the Board and on the other hand a stimulus to plan further similar educational initiatives in the future. I take this opportunity to thank, both personally and on behalf of the Board, the teachers that prepared lectures, slides, cases, workshops, and especially to three members of the summer school committee, Gabriele Ghisleni, Emma Hoojberg and Nazarè Pinto da Cunha that were the main individuals involved in making this a successful experience.

Finally, the ECVCP has been registered as a Charity in UK. This step was necessary for legal and fiscal reasons and will allow us easier management of some of the College’s activities. Nevertheless, this requires a change in the Constitution that must include some articles related to the general regulation of UK charities. Although the parts of the Constitution related to practical issues of the college’s life (membership, composition of Board and committees, exam rules, etc) are not changed, the new Constitution needs to be approved at the next AGM. Therefore it will be circulated by e-mail as soon as possible to allow the membership the opportunity to check and comment on the modifications before voting.

Also the information brochure (IB) has been revised to comply with EBVS rules for standard and alternative programmes (including supervision/cosupervision of programmes) and to satisfy the EBVS recommendation to facilitate the creation of new Residency programmes and future residents ability to access these programmes to maintain an adequate level of training quality. The new IB will be presented at the next AGM in Berlin and then published on the website. As stated in the previous newsletters, the IB needs to be continuously updated, being a “dynamic document” that must be adapted to any current problem or EBVS recommendation. Therefore it is particularly

important that ECVCP members regularly check the IB published on the website, especially before applying for the accreditation of a laboratory or of a training programme.

I want to personally thank the Board members, who supported all the activities of 2013 and of the whole of my 3 year term. The committee members and especially the committee chairs (see the website for the composition of Committees) that dedicated a lot of time and extra-hours to their Committee, and all the diplomats that provided suggestions or comments that facilitated the work of the Board and Committees.

Despite this large amount of work, other aspects of the College's life still need to be improved in the future. The promotion and protection of the title at a National and European level and the possibility to increase our critical mass through the possible inclusion of other subspecialties that are scientifically closely related to Clinical Pathology (as outlined by many ECVCP/ESVCP members in the survey presented in Lubjiana and recently published on the website). Therefore, it is important that the next elections will involve as many ECVCP members as possible, to give to the new Board a strong support from the membership. I strongly invite all the ECVCP members to participate to the electronic ballot that will be open as soon as possible and will be concluded immediately before the next AGM.

The next meeting in Berlin will be a great opportunity for a successful scientific meeting but also to be informed about all the news mentioned above, to approve the new Constitution, to welcome the new diplomats that passed the exam in 2012 (Myriam Defontis, Anne Geffrè, Emma Hooijberg and Josefine Oberg) and to meet the new Board. Therefore, I'm looking forward to seeing you in Berlin.

*Saverio Paltrinieri*

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## Background on ESVCP

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

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

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

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

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## Examination ECVCP

**The next ECVCP exam will be held in**

**For details on how to apply for future examinations please visit the ESVCP website.**

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

Dear ECVCP member,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please send the questions and materials to: [alessia.giordano@unimi.it](mailto:alessia.giordano@unimi.it)

Post glass slides carefully wrapped to:

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

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

Alessia Giordano,  
Exam committee chair

## 2013 ESVCP Membership payments

Earlier this year an email invoice was sent to you outlining your membership fees for 2013 and the address to which the VCP journal will be mailed. – Please keep this for your records

To pay please visit [www.esvcp.com](http://www.esvcp.com) and use the Paypal link on the home page:

[http://www.esvcp.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=49&Itemid=59](http://www.esvcp.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=49&Itemid=59)

If you wish to pay by bank transfer (€15 charge) please contact the treasurer by email [treasurer.esvcp@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.esvcp@gmail.com)

### New members

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

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

Mark Pinches

BVSc MSc DipRCPath DipECVCP

Treasurer of the ESVCP

[treasurer.esvcp@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.esvcp@gmail.com)

## ESVCP/ECVCP Congress November 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> 2013

<http://esvcp.org/index.php/congress.html><http://esvcp.org/index.php/congress.html>



15th ESVCP-ECVCP Congress 6-9th November, 2013  
Berlin, Germany

<http://esvcp.org/index.php/congress.html>

15 years of ESVCP/ECVCP congresses



For the last 15 years there have been regular meetings of the European Society and College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology which have taken place in many different European countries. In this way participants of our congresses got the latest information about clinical pathology and they could broaden their experience because of the wonderful locations. In my opinion this is the best way to evoke the European ideal. We often migrated to southern Europe where the weather is constantly good so the northern European participants could enjoy some shafts of sunlight.

This year we cannot guarantee that the November weather will warm your body and soul, but we can guarantee another fascinating congress in a rich cultural environment.

Berlin is the site of our congress, and we will take the opportunity to meet and collaborate with other societies. One of those meeting is the German Small Animal Veterinary Association (GSAVA). This is one of two largest German veterinary societies and so there will be many participants who are interested in small animal medicine attending.

The program we have chosen for Berlin is a mixture of the main topics of clinical pathathology: hematology, clinical biochemistry and cytology. But other less common, but very exciting, areas will also have a focus including:- cytokines, exotic pet clinical pathology, interpretation of large data sets, and rapid tests. Together with the programs of the other societies the 15<sup>th</sup> annual ESVCP/ECVCP Congress in Berlin gives us the chance to be part of a congress about the entirety of veterinary medicine.

So please come to Berlin to enjoy an interesting congress and some fascinating days in the German capital.

Stephan Neumann

Prof. Dr. Stephan Neumann, Dipl. ECVCP  
Institute of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Goettingen  
e-mail [sneuman@gwdg.de](mailto:sneuman@gwdg.de)





## Sponsors



## **Annual General Meeting Minutes ESVCP 2012**

**European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology ESVCP (Society) Annual General Meeting Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana  
Poljanski Nasip 2, Ljubljana, Slovenia Friday 6th July 2012  
Meeting Convened at 5:30 pm**

78 members of the society were present. At the time of the meeting, the Society has 149 paid members so a Quorum was established (>15% of the membership). The meeting was conducted according to the following agenda:

### **Approval of minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting Annual General Meeting were circulated in advance by e-mail to the membership.

No objection to the contents of the minutes was raised and consequently they were duly approved.

### **Report of the President**

#### ***Hall of fame***

Stefano Comazzi presented the following "Clinical Pathology Hall of Fame" honours:

· **2011: Mary Christopher DVM, PhD, DACVP, DECVCP** (Mary was unable to collect her award last year)

- Professor of Veterinary Clinical Pathology at Davis University
- Past editor in Chief of the Veterinary Clinical Pathology Journal, contributing in the development of the discipline worldwide for 12 years
- Authors of over a hundred papers and member of the ASVCP, ESVCP, ISACP
- Winner of many teaching and scientific awards

· **2012: John Harvey, BS, DVM, PhD, DACVP**

- Full professor of VCP at University of Florida
- Author of more than 120 articles and chapter of books including:
  - Harvey JW: *Atlas of Veterinary Hematology: Blood and Bone Marrow of Domestic Animals*.
  - Meyer DJ, Harvey JW: *Veterinary Laboratory Medicine. Interpretation and Diagnosis*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed,
  - Kaneko JJ, Harvey JW, Bruss ML (eds): *Clinical Biochemistry of Domestic Animals*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed
- His research topics are focused on erythrocyte biochemistry, iron metabolism, methemoglobinemia, and comparative hematology

· **2012: Corinne Fournel, DVM, PhD, DECVCP**

- Specialised in General Hematology and in Cell Biology
- Founding member of ESVCP and ECVCP
- Professor at University of Lyon (FR)

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- Authors of many articles in Peer Reviewed Journals and of several

book chapters including

- Color Atlas of Cancer Cytology of the dog and cat (1994)
- Veterinary Cytology: Dog, Cat, Horse and Cow (2007)

- Her research topics are hematology, and cytological and immunophenotypic characterization of NH lymphoma in dog

#### ***Small Grant Awards 2011***

Stefano reminded the meeting that in 2011, the following small research grant awards were made:

- Eve Ramery (Liege, Belgium): Validation and prognostic value of plasma PTX3 measurement in horses suffering from colic

· Marta Costa (Bristol, UK) Measurement and clinical significance of soluble mesothelin related peptides (SMRP) in canine body cavity effusion (a free communication of this work was presented at this 2012 Annual Scientific meeting)

#### ***Small Grant Awards 2012***

The following small research grants were made for 2012:

- Uhríková Ivana: High Mobility Group Box 1 In Patients With Gastric Dilatation And Volvulus; University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno, Czech republic €1,150.00.
- Gabriele Rossi: Analytical And Diagnostic Validation Of Canine Procalcitonin As Marker For Sepsis; University of Milan, Italy €1,598.00.

#### ***Best presentation awards 2012***

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**Best poster:** ME Gelain: A novel point mutation in the B tubulin gene in asymptomatic macrothrombocytopenic Norfolk and Cairn Terriers

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**Best case:** F.Granat: Anemia in a cat

.

**Best oral presentation:** Anne Geffré: Reference Value Advisor (V.2) Now Performs Regression-Based Reference Intervals With Continuous Covariables.  
N. Bourge`s-Abella, A. Geffré, D. Concorde, J.P. Braun, C. Trumel

#### ***2012 EU Veterinary Clinical Pathology Survey***

Stefano presented the results of a survey conducted in 2012

- 54 responses were received
- The largest number of respondents were in academia with lesser numbers in commercial laboratories, industry and private practice
- More than half the institutions had one-or less ECVCP diplomate
- More than half had 1-5 five non-diplomates and residents
- The largest number of respondents listed Cytology as their particular expertise with less for Haematology and even less for Clinical Chemistry
- The majority of respondents felt that the awareness in other veterinary specialists of the role played by Veterinary clinical pathologists was “Poor” or “Insufficient”

A detailed report of the survey will be made available on the college/society website.

#### ***Other matters***

Stefano highlighted the need over the coming year for the society to focus on the following procedural matters:

- Establishment of procedures for organization of the scientific meetings, including composition of scientific committee and inclusion of a member of the board in local organizing committee
- Setup of a post meeting survey to collect:
  - Comments, criticisms and suggestions from people who attended the meeting
  - Comments from members who decided not to attend the meeting
- Guidelines for awards assignment
- Guidelines for reimbursements for invited speakers

#### ***Report of the Treasurer and Auditors***

In the absence of Mark Pinches, the report of the treasurer was presented by Peter Graham and Stefano Comazzi

#### ***Membership numbers and fees***

- Membership numbers had increased to 217 a 26% increase on 2009 numbers

The main issue of concern was the proportion of Members that had not yet paid their 2012 subscription in the first 6 months of the year. The meeting was reminded:

- Subscriptions for *Veterinary Clinical Pathology* including annual refresh of online access will not be processed until membership fees are received and that there is no guarantee that back-issue can be organized for late-payers.
- That all diplomates of ECVCP are required to maintain a fully paid membership of ESVCP

#### **Costs associated with Meetings**

It was noted that considerable society funding support had been necessary for the most recent Dublin meeting.

#### **Account balances**

Despite the late payment of subscriptions this year, the society remained in a strong financial position and would be easily be able to continue to fund the Small research Grant scheme

### **Elections of vice-president, secretary and treasurer and Auditors**

The positions of Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer were available for election.

Notifications of the elections and requests for nomination were distributed to the meeting in advance of the meeting.

Single nominations were received for each post:

- **Vice-president:** Stefan Neumann
- **Treasurer:** Mark Pinches (additional term)
- **Secretary:** Kate English

All three nominations were confirmed as elected by unanimous show of hands.

The current Auditors were re-elected unanimously

Thanks were given to Peter Graham for his 9 years of service as Society Secretary

### **Report of Next meetings**



Stefan Neumann presented information concerning the next meetings of the society:

- Berlin November 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Estrel Convention Center with a focus on Diagnosis and Treatment of degenerative, neoplastic and immunological diseases.
- Milan Sept or October 2014
- ESVCP would also be represented at ECVIM 2012 (Maastricht)

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

Karen Young provided an overview of the activities of the Journal of Veterinary Clinical Pathology over the last year (The official journal of both the American and European Societies of Veterinary Clinical Pathology)

- 224 new manuscripts
- 29% acceptance rate
- 50% rejection rate
- Average submit-accept interval 136 days
- Impact factor (2011) = 1.556
  - Reflects citations of articles published in 2009 and 2010
  - 26% increase 2010 (1.239)
  - 96% increase over 2009 (0.793)
  - Ranked 31 of 143 veterinary journals (was 44 of 145)
- Published ESVCP, ASVCP, ESVCP at ECVIM abstracts

- 50% of manuscripts were Original Research with lower proportions of What's-Your-Diagnosis, Brief Communications and Case Reports
- The US and Europe represented the most submitted manuscripts at 28-29% each. Asia and South/Central America accounted for almost all of the remainder in equal proportion.
- Author guidelines reflect a need for compliance with reporting guidelines (STARD, CONSORT, REFLECT and ARRIVE)
- iThenticate Plagiarism checking has been implemented in the journals review processes.
- Thanks was given to the editorial board and section heads and more than 200 reviewers that have contributed to the success of the journal this year
- The meeting was reminded:
  - Be an advocate:
    - Does your library have a subscription?
  - Encourage your colleagues in internal medicine, emergency and critical care, oncology, and other disciplines to submit in-scope manuscripts or state-of-the-art reviews.
  - Contribute:
    - Letter to the Editor
    - Laboratory Medicine:
      - Yesterday  Today  Tomorrow
  - “Writing for Publication in Veterinary Medicine” is available from the Wiley Blackwell Publications website: [www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-612222.html](http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-612222.html)

## **Other matters**

- Resident Advisor/Mock Exam
  - Volunteers to assist with the provision of mock-exams for residents were invited to contact Stefano and the executive.

## **Meeting closed 6:40pm**

Meeting Minutes prepared by P. Graham, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012

## ECVCP & ESVCP board & committees

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

### ESVCP

#### **Board:**

Chair: Stefano Comazzi

Vice President: Stephan Neuman

Treasurer: Mark Pinches

Secretary: Kate English

Science committee: Stefano Comazzi, Jose Ceron (Past ESVCP President), Josep Pastor, Stefan Neumann

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

### ECVCP

#### **Board:**

President: Saverio Paltrinieri

Vice President: Cathy Trumel

Past President: Joy Archer

Secretary: Anne Lanevschi Pietersma

Treasurer: Natali Bauer

Councillor 1: Elspeth Milne

Councillor 2: Ilse Schwendenwein

Secretariat executive: Sue Lennon - [secretariat@ecvcp.org](mailto:secretariat@ecvcp.org)

**All communications for application form requests & submissions for training, examination or laboratory approval must be sent to [secretariat@ecvcp.org](mailto:secretariat@ecvcp.org)**

#### **ECVCP Committee chairs:**

Education: Barbara von Beust

Credentials: Zoe Polizopoulou

Laboratory Standards: Kathy Freeman with Stefanie Klenner co-chair

Examination: Alessia Giordano and Cathy Trumel Co-chairs

Nomination committee: Kostas Papasouliotis, Ernst Leidinger, Myriam Defontis