
ESVCP & ECVCP NEWSLETTER

European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology



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

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Word from the Editor

Dear colleagues:

I hope this newsletter finds all of you well despite of, or in light of all the abundant snow we've had in many parts of Europe this year. As we enter another decade, it's time to think about how we can all help shape our Society and College for the future - please read what José Ceron and Joy Archer envision for the year to come. This coming year's meeting will be with ECVIM in Toulouse, so it's time to start planning in that trip to meet in France in your calendars. Wishing you all the best for 2010!

Anne Lanevschi-Pietersma, annelanevschi@yahoo.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE ESVCP PRESIDENT

Dear All,

In 2010, our main activity will be the Society Congress that will be held between September 9th – 11th in Toulouse, France, in conjunction with ECVIM. Reinhard Mischke together with members of the scientific committee of the society and the local organising committee, led by Jean-Pierre Braun and Cathy Trumel, have made a great effort to provide a varied and interesting programme that will include sessions on endocrinology, biochemical markers, clinical toxicology and leukocyte evaluation. In addition, we will have a pre-congress day on September 8th, at the Toulouse Veterinary School with the aim of providing continuing education on statistics, liver biochemistry, cytology and coagulation tests. We hope that this diverse and extensive program will be both interesting to follow and will satisfy the needs of all our members.

In this newsletter, you will also find a reminder from our treasurer, Mark Pinches, about the membership payment for 2010. Our new system of payment has been a success and last year we grew our membership to the greatest number in our history. We should recognize the great job that Mark has done in the management of the society finances.

As we mentioned in a previous newsletter the new ESVCP executive believes that all members should contribute with ideas and suggestions to help guide the society so that we can improve and better meet the needs of our membership. I would therefore encourage any member to contact me directly (jjceron@um.es) with their ideas and comments.

I wish you the very best for this New Year.

Jose Ceron

Background on ESVCP

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

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

Interested in accessing a veterinary clinical pathology discussion forum?

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

Letter from the ECVCP President

Dear Colleagues,

We wish that you had a happy and relaxing holiday season. As we said goodbye to 2009 we remembered the great time we had in Thessaloniki. I am sure that all who were there enjoyed the scientific programme, the hot late summer/ autumn weather and especially the lunch time visits to different restaurants each day. All this thanks to Zoe (Polizopoulou) and Mathios (Mylonakis) and their local team of organizers. The 2010 meeting is already in advanced organization state and the preliminary views of Toulouse the Ville Rose are on the ECVIM website and thanks to JP (Braun) and Cathy (Trumel) our local team will be hosting a pre congress CE day and ECVCP AGM at the vet school there.(September 8 -11, 2010)

We had a good turnout for our day on platelets in EVCIM in Porto and the ESVCP/ECVCP continuing education day programme, despite the threat from the Red Baron (I believe that the river fog saved the day!!)

We are pleased to welcome 2 new members (who were successful in the September 2009 examination) and look forward to presenting them with their diplomas at the AGM in Toulouse in September.

The credentials committee led by Zoe (P) has been very busy with the first rounds of re-certifications and most are now complete. If you are one of the members who need to recertify in 2010 I urge you to make sure that you have 20 questions ready and have attended 1 in 3 AGM. If not please make sure that you will be in Toulouse in September.

The executive and all the committee chairs met in Cambridge at the end of March for a weekend to discuss the way forward on some important issues for the college. A further meeting this spring will likely be in Vienna. The education committee (chair Ilse Schwendenwein) and the executive are hard at work on the new information brochure and guidelines for training programmes.

A friendly reminder to all residency training programme directors that as agreed at the Barcelona AGM, these need to be approved by the education and lab standards committees. Outstanding applications should be with the respective committees by March 1st, 2010. We have approximately 32 persons in training and they met with Ilse (S) our registrar in Thessaloniki. We had some special sessions on training and exams both for trainees and trainers at this meeting and plan on having a session specific for exam question-writing in Toulouse.

The annual self evaluation practice exam in Wetherby has been postponed until January 23 and 24 this year with many participants signed up for it. Thanks to Kathy (F) and her many helpers and IDEXX our sponsors yet again this year.

A final reflection that all is not doom and gloom like the economy and the weather in many parts of Europe: 10 years ago ESVCP met in Toulouse as a small post-ISACB (ISACP) meeting when ECVCP was only beginning to take shape, whereas this year the ESVCP and fully accredited ECVCP will meet there again. We should all be proud of this achievement and resolve to continue to help and support the college and all our trainees to keep ECVCP in the front ranks. Maybe it is not too late for this to be part of our New Year resolutions.

With best wishes to you all *joy (Archer)*

2010 ESVCP Membership payments

Note that 2010 membership fees have been maintained frozen at 2008 levels:

- €100 Full member
- €80 Resident
- €80 ASVCP member

Existing members

Earlier this year an email invoice was sent to you outlining your membership fees for 2010 and the address to which the VCP journal will be mailed. – Please keep this for your records

To pay please visit www.esvcp.com and use the Paypal link on the home page or [here](#).

If you wish to pay by bank transfer (€15 charge) please contact the treasurer by email treasurer.esvcp@googlemail.com

New members

Please complete the registration form found in the ESVCP “how to join us” section or at this [link](#).

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

Society financial report 2009

In 2009 I completed my first year running the financial side of the ESVCP. Thanks to Joy Archer, when I took on the role of treasurer at the end of 2008, the society was in a reasonably sound financial situation and you will be pleased to hear that we have strengthened and extended our financial position further over the last year

Throughout 2009 I implemented a number of key changes to the management of the finances:

- Use of Paypal to pay membership fees. Paypal offers a convenient system to co-ordinate membership fee payments from around the world. It facilitates record keeping and auditing and reduces the risks of errors in membership recording.
- Use of centralised record keeping for membership affairs. The ESVCP now has an up to date, centralised database of member details that is shared between committee members. This facilitates communication and accuracy of information.
- Use of an online spreadsheet for members to update their address details. This has shifted the emphasis from the committee to the members when it comes to providing the correct address for delivery of the VCP journal. Indeed 2009 was subsequently a record year with very few complaints about journal delivery!
- The ESVCP accounts (2006-present) are now held electronically in a spreadsheet. Again this facilitates auditing and accuracy of record keeping.

Key figures

2009 has been an excellent year for the society with a record number of members. In 2009 we had 174 paid up members (123 full, 32 residents, 16 co-ASVCP) that generated a revenue of ~€16,167. We also received €1000 from Idexx (www.idexx.com), and €500 each from TDDS (www.tddslab.co.uk) and CTDS (www.ctdslab.co.uk) as sponsors. The 2008 Barcelona conference generated a significant profit for the society (~€10,000) – although this money has still not been transferred to the society to date. The 2009 Thessaloniki conference also appears to have been very successful - generating a small profit despite being run during a period of tightening finances for many organisations. Significant outgoings for 2009 included €6,500 for the VCP journal subscription – this cost has eased significantly over the last year with the slide in value of the dollar; €1200 to ECVIM; ~€3,000 to support meetings and travel of speakers, €1,500 for miscellaneous accounting and administrative costs. These figures are not complete and accurate, although full and detailed accounts will be available at the AGM in Toulouse.

In other activities, I have completed the submission of 2006, 2007 and 2008 ESVCP finances to the accountants in Germany (Dec 09). A brief summary of these accounts is given below. The accountants are currently reviewing these and I am hopeful that they will be submitted to the tax authorities shortly.

	2008 €	2008 £	2007 €	2007 £	2006 €	2006 £
Open	11,352	3,591	Bank statements with Acctnts	12 DR	Bank statements with Acctnts	4,180
Close	14,201	1,712	11,352	3,591	Bank statements with Acctnts	12 DR
In	7,291	2,555	17,962	15,016	13,300	84,669
Out	2,542	4,577	11,293	4,862	8,683	88,357

Future activities

Given the excellent financial position that the society finds itself in as we enter 2010, we can develop opportunities to increase the support that the society provides for clinical pathology in Europe. Ideas include extending the prize-giving for posters and scientific abstracts to the top three best in each class and developing a small grant award for young researchers studying towards the ECVCP board examinations. Many of these ideas were discussed at the AGM in Thessaloniki. The committee is focused on developing these ideas as we move forward. Please contact Jose Ceron with any additional ideas on how to support clinical pathology in Europe.

On a managerial front the major changes for 2010 will be the move towards a different banking provider. Over recent years the ESVCP has used Lloyds TSB for our banking provision, but I have found them to provide a poor quality service, particularly with overseas payments, where errors and delays were frequent – my apologies to any member that had to wait for a payment during 2009. Subsequently a move to business banking with HSBC has been implemented with the hope that this service will provide greater convenience and speed for managing the society’s affairs going forward.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support, and I look forward to continuing managing the societies financial affairs in a successful and prudent manner in 2010.

Mark Pinches

BVSc MSc DipRCPPath DipECVCP

Treasurer of the ESVCP

treasurer.esvcp@googlemail.com

2010 College Membership payments

Dear Colleagues,

You are kindly requested to pay your ECVCP diplomate fees for 2010 now. Please keep in mind that your annual payment of fees is mandatory for keeping your diplomate status.

If you have already paid your dues, please send me a short email and I will check if I have received the money.

The fees are as follows:

- € 100 ECVCP diplomates
- € 100 ACVCP diplomates
- € 80 associate members ECVCP
- € 80 inactive members ECVCP
- € 0 honorary members ECVCP

There are the following payment options:

1. Diplomate Fee and Payment Methods

International Funds Transfer

Bank details for Funds Transfer:

Account name: European College for Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Bank: Lloyds TSB

Address: Aberfeldy Branch, Bank Street, Aberfeldy, Scotland, United Kingdom

Account No: 0511748

Sort code: 30 25 87

Swiftbank code (Bank Identification Code): TSBSGB21280

IBAN code: GB97TSBS30258700511748

2. Making your Payment

Using Paypal to pay Dues

This can be easily done via the ESVCP website where you will find a request for payment of ECVCP and ESVCP dues. Choose your appropriate diplomate status (ECVCP diplomate, associate member etc), then press the button pay now and follow the subsequent paypal instructions.

International funds Transfer

This usually requires completion of a form at the bank. **Please note that when using this method of payment it is essential that the member's name is given in the payment details and that the final amount is €100.** A number of payments using this method have been received which cannot be traced because the member's name is not given on the transfer document. Please state this first in the payment details field of the form.

If you have any queries regarding membership payments please contact the ECVCP Treasurer, Natali Bauer at ecvcp_treasurer@gmx.de.

I wish you a happy and successful year 2010
Natali Bauer, Treasurer ECVCP

12TH MEETING OF THE ESVCP/ECVCP

SEPTEMBER 9-11TH, TOULOUSE, FRANCE

Dear colleagues,

Our next annual meeting will take place September 9-11th in Toulouse, France. Some preliminary information about this splendid historic city can be found in our website www.esvcp.org (and on the tourist information center : http://www.toulouse-tourisme.com/accueil/index_fr.php). It will be updated within the next days with a link to the website of the congress and the preliminary programme. The 2010 meeting will be organized by the ESVIM.

As with previous meetings, there will be a whole pre-congress Continuing Education day (Wednesday 8th) especially aimed at residents and trainees but we are sure that many more people will be attracted by the topics. This pre-congress day will be organized at the Veterinary school of Toulouse. Main sessions will be addressed in the main and parallel sessions with ESVIM during the next two days at Palais des Congrès Pierre Baudis near the city centre close to a nice Japanese garden.

Toulouse is a very nice and old “pink” city, located between two seas and mountains, where you can spend some time just walking in the street and looking at churches, palaces and simple houses from the XVIth century built with the money of the famous blue colour, the pastel. You will also find many cafés with terraces and enjoy excellent dinner with good wine and maybe “cassoulet”, one of the special foods of this region.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of you in Toulouse!

On behalf of the local organizing committee,

Cathy Trumel and Jean-Pierre Braun

European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Annual General Meeting 2009

Electra Palace Hotel, Thessaloniki, Greece

Friday 9th October 2009

Meeting started at 12:40

32 in attendance

General

- The minutes of the last AGM were circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted
- The communication between the committees is going to be improved by telephone conferences every few months
- The executive meeting spring 2009 in Cambridge was successful

- Credentials
- Education
- Laboratory standards
- Examination

1. Credentials committee report presented by chair Zoe Polizopolou

Activities of the committee are outlined – application for examination, recertification process.

Recertification: Recertification of diplomates is necessary 5 years after the diploma has been received and then every 5 years. Evaluation is based on a standard point system (publications, national and international congresses, supervision of trainees, work in committees etc.)

Documents for those who have to recertify is available on the website.

Exam candidates: Requirements for candidates – approved training program and lab; deadline is March 1st, 2009, including 2 1st author publications.

Members who become diplomates by examination should begin counting the 5 year period from January of the year following success in the September examination. Forms are available on the website.

2008: 27 diplomates have to be recertified

- 24 applications received
- 19 diplomates recertified
- 2 will be recertified after 11th ECVCP congress in Thessaloniki
- 2 have to send missing questions until the end of 2009
- 1 application send at the end of September

2009

- 6 diplomates have to be recertified
- 1 diplomate is retired

Invitations to recertify will be send out after this meeting.

2. Education committee report presented by chair Ilse Schwendenwein

2009:

- 32 trainees identified
- 10 candidates that will sit the exam in 2010
- 4 approved standard programs
- 2 approved alternative programs
- 1 submission
- It is especially of importance that the training laboratory has been approved by the Lab standards committee
- Both criteria have to be fulfilled prior to accepting a resident
- The deadline for this has not been decided yet
- These rules are necessary to be in accordance with the EBVS requirements

A lively discussion of the format of the Alternative Training Programmes occurred. It was resolved that programme directors should discuss further and send recommendations, comments, to the president within the next few months.

2. Education committee report presented by chair Ilse Schwendenwein

- 2009: 32 residents in training
- 10 candidates will sit the exam in 2010
- Actually 9 approved standard programs and 2 approved alternative programs present

There is 1 provisional approval and 1 submission of a training programme

It is required that all programmes be approved for training and the training laboratory be approved within 6 months of each other. Programmes will be re-evaluated every 5 years. If there are changes in the programme or the director, then the committee should be notified immediately. All non approved programmes which have trainees are encouraged to apply before 1 March 2010.

The Committee and the executive board are updating the brochure (original September 2001).

There was a brief outline following the presentation at the trainer -trainee forum. There are currently 32 registered trainees. There are 9 standard and 2 alternative approved programmes, 1 provisional and 1 under consideration.

3. Lab standards committee presented by Natali Bauer (report prepared by chair Stein Thoresen)

Outline of members: new member: Martina Becker;
in 2009, 13 approved labs, 2 applications under review;
in 2008, 4 applications under review currently.

ECVCP Training Laboratory Application may be downloaded via the ECVCP website.

Approved laboratories have to apply for re-approval every 5 years. If there are changes in the structure function diplomate direction of the laboratory the committee should be notified immediately.

Members are reminded that the 2 part distance learning course sponsored by VIN and run by members of this committee directed by Kathy Freeman is continuing and is approved for trainees. Instructors: Kathleen Freeman, Ernst Leidinger, Stefanie Klenner

4. Examination committee report presented by chair David Ledieu

Presentation of committee members in 2009.

Report of the activities of the committee in 2009:

- March 2009: executive meeting (6 committee members, Joy Archer, Ernst Leidinger)
- September 19-20: Examination at IDEXX laboratories organized by Kathy Freeman and Federico Sacchini. Attendees: 3 committee members
- October 2009: post examination lunch meeting. Attendees: 7 committee members and Joy Archer

There was no exam preparation meeting this year, as it was part of the March board meeting.

David Ledieu gave an overview about the 4 parts of the exam. Exam questions are designed to be a balance between all fields.

Information how to write questions are on the website.

Slightly increasing rate of question submission:

- 2008: 6 diplomates submitted 10% of of the questions
- 2009: 16 dipomates submitted 27% of the questions; diversity of the questions increased

A record of submitted questions will be sent to the credentials committee chair each January.

Exam performance has been consistently good for cytology and poor for general pathophysiology since the first exam in 2004. The EBVS expects a passing rate of 60 % for ALL colleges.

Five questions / diplomate / year are required from ALL diplomates (minimal number: 20 questions/five years). Deadline for inclusion in the actual exam is December 2009 but questions can be submitted any time during the year.

Procedure of questions submission:

- Questions have to be submitted to the exam committee chair (david.ledieu@novartis.com)
- He will send them to the respective subcommittee
- Feedback is given by the chair and a summary is send tom the credentials committee

Yearly passing rates (overall); 58% on average which is lower than requested by the EBVS (60%). Thus, training programs have to be improved.

Plans for 2010 to define SOPs, need for communication between Education Committee and the diplomats; evaluation of submitted questions, exam feed back, exam preparation and organization.

Prof Steve Stockham will no longer serve as external examiner. A new one is being recruited for 2010. He was thanked for his outstanding service to the ECVCP.

5. Science committee: report presented by Jose Ceron chair.

This was brief as the ESVCP AGM was also held. The 2008 Barcelona joint ESVCP – ISACP meeting in Barcelona was a great success both scientifically and financially. The science committee with Reinhard Mischke ESVCP VP as chair is organizing the programme for the 2010 meeting to be held jointly with ECVIM -CA in Toulouse in September. A separate pre congress CE day will be held at the vet school there.

6. Communications committee: report presented by Ernst Leidinger chair.

A brief update of the web site was presented and the availability of all forms on line and the new residents forum explained. Members were encouraged to help keep the site up to date and to contact Ernst about this.

7. Treasurer's brief

Balance 2009 ~20,975 £; donations (Pfizer, Idexx, IN vitro Labs)

Expenses:

- € 3,800 travel, € 1,122.80 website, € 1,320.50 EBVS dues.
- There are 68 active members, 3 associate members, 4 honorary members, and 3 non-active-retired members in 2009.
- Dues remain at Euro100.00 and can be paid via the ECVCP website, pay pal or direct bank transfer.
- 10/71 members have outstanding dues in 2009

8. Award of diploma to:

- Martina Becker
- Maria Elena Gelain
- Gabriele Ghisleni
- Federico Sacchini
- Nandor Balogh (not attending)
- Claudio Petterini (not attending)
- Silvia Rossi (not attending)

Thanks by Joy to committee members.

9. Elections of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President

Kostas Papasouliotis and Peter Vadovich are election officers and will circulate requests for nominations to the membership. Answers should be given before January 2010.

Report from the president was omitted due to time constraints. All committee members were thanked for their hard work over the past year. It was noted that Kostas Papasouliotis chair nominations committee will solicit nominations and organize (by web site) elections for Board positions of Vice president, Treasurer, Secretary and 2 Councillors. Officers are reminded that they can stand for re-election. Approval of the nominee must be obtained prior to nomination.

10. Close of meeting

The AGM was closed at 14:00. Synopsis of joint minutes submitted by Natali Bauer and Joy Archer.

European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Annual General Meeting 2009

Electra Palace Hotel, Thessaloniki, Greece

Thursday 8th October 2009,

Meeting Convened at 17:45

1. Fifty-seven members of the society were present. At the time of the meeting, the Society has 175 members so a Quorum was established (>15% of the membership). The meeting was conducted according to the following agenda:

Approval of the minutes of 2008 AGM, Barcelona, Spain

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

Treasurer's report

Mark Pinches delivered the Treasurer's Report. No auditors report was presented at this meeting. Accounts are currently being prepared for auditors' review.

Mark presented the following updates:

- Formal accounts for 2006-2008 are under preparation for auditor review.
 - The difficulties arising from the resignation of a previous treasurer in 2007 has delayed the preparation of accounts for that period.
- A part-time book-keeper has been employed by the society to organise and prepare invoicing and payment records for the period.
- The possibility to pay membership fees electronically through Pay-Pal has been re-instituted from the 2009 membership year. It has gone very well and made record keeping and membership status much easier to manage.
- To cover any costs to the society incurred by the receipt of international bank transfers, a surcharge of €15 has been instituted for membership payments made by this method.
- A central used membership details database has been developed which can be accessed by the Board and the Webmaster. Changes to membership details including payment status can be made by the Treasurer, Secretary and President.
- A web accessible *Membership Details Update Form* has been established to make it easier for members to update their details with the society and also to make it easier for the executive to manage membership records.
- To reduce the costs incurred by multiple international payments, the society now pays subscription fees to the publishers of the Journal of Veterinary Clinical Pathology only once per year. Joint meeting with ISACB in Barcelona October 2009 was successful and surplus

funds were created. These funds will be split between the 2 organisations and Mark Pinches expects that the Society will receive an amount close to €12-13,000

- A summary of accounts was presented by PowerPoint. The following current membership information was provided:
 - Of 206 names of individuals that been members or expressed interest in joining the society at anytime in the past, 175 have paid a membership fee for 2009. Of these, 126 were Full members, 32 Resident members and 16 joint ASVCP members.

Future Meetings

Reinhard Mischke presented the Society's plans for future meetings.

In 2010, the ESVCP will hold a joint meeting with the ECVIM congress in Toulouse (9-11th September). There will be one Continuing Education Day on Wednesday 8th September, 1 main ECVIM main session with gastroenterology group, 1 ECVIM day to included invited speakers and scientific abstracts. A third day is planned on which the case review session will be held.

Anne Provencher-Bolliger raised a question concerning what plans were to be made for a "ToxClinPath" session at the 2010 meeting. A parallel meeting was suggested and the difficulties of including such a topic in a main ECVIM congress discussed. A parallel programme at an off-site or close-by venue would be explored.

The meeting venue for 2011 was not decided but Reinhard Mischke believes that an offer to host has been made by Dublin.

Journal of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Mary Christopher updated the members concerning the *Journal*.

The *Journal* continues to improve in quality and its Impact Rating (citation based) has further improved. Mary thanks those members of the Society that contribute to the Journal, either as Editorial Section Leaders, Editorial Board members, Reviewers or Authors.

The legacy archive of the journal is now online and accessible to members. All papers ever publishes in the *Journal* are now available by this method.

Mary Christopher and Karen Young have been working as Co-Editors-in-Chief of the journal during a 2-year transition period. From November 2009, Karen Young will be Editor-in-Chief, Pat McManus will take on a role as Associate Editor and Dorothy Bienzle will take over the Haematology and Immunology Section.

Website and IT activities

Ernst Leidinger the Society's IT activities over the year.

Along with Matthew Green, the website has been updated and several items of functionality and content have been added.

New elements include:

- "How to Join Us" information page including links to new member details forms, and subscription payment methods.
- Member login instructions e-mailed to new members once subscription status confirmed by treasurer.
- "Members Only Area". Self registration to this area has been closed to prevent spam and ill-intentioned submissions. Ernst will provide login details either on joining the society or on request. He has access to the current member database to confirm eligibility
- "Newsletter Archive". This archive is still missing some copies and Ernst urged members o submit their copy of any missing Newsletters.
- "Members News"

- “Latest News” including ECVCP announcements and deadlines.
- “Edit account details”
- “Resident Forum”

Future development plans for the website include

- A technical update (to Joomla v1.5) which should allow committee chairpersons to make relevant updates
- The development of exam preparation content.

Trainee Advisor and Self-Evaluation Exam Report

Ilse Schwendenwein informed the meeting that there were 32 registered resident trainees including 10 candidates for 2010. She emphasised the need for more training programs and centres to be approved by the Education and Laboratory Standards Committees.

During the current congress, a residents and trainees session was conducted to update the current situation, introduce the website “Resident Forum” and review the current structure of the examination.

IDEXX Laboratories UK continues to host and support an annual “self-evaluation examination” each year.

Other Matters

UK Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Practice Standards Scheme

Peter Graham informed the meeting that a response was made by the Society to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons during their consultation period for the 2010 Practice Standards Scheme concerning the Quality management of in-clinic analysers.

ASVCP Collaboration

Anne Provencher-Bolliger informed the meeting that as a committee member of ASVCP a suggestion had been made to improve collaboration between the Societies

Anne sought approval from the meeting to represent the Society of at the upcoming meeting of the ASVCP and to discuss ideas with them for collaborative opportunities. Ideas included:

- Joint session at annual meetings
- 1-day workshop from each society subcommittee repeated in the other region e.g. A 1-day workshop organized in the US could then be repeated in Europe at a later date (and vice-versa).
- An ESVCP representative on relevant subcommittees of the ASVCP and vice-versa

A vote was taken on the proposal to authorize Anne Provencher Bolliger to represent the interests of the Society in seeking increased collaboration with the ASVCP and it was unanimously approved.

Joint ESVCP-ECVCP sponsorship fundraising committee

Nick Carmichael re-affirmed his willingness to lead such a committee but indicated that no specific progress had been made since the last AGM.

Use of surplus funds in the interests of the Society

In Mark Pinches Treasurer’s report, he highlighted that the society was likely to generate surplus funds in 2009. After consideration of a prudent reserve fund level, he was of the opinion that there could be a surplus of up to €10,000. The Executive felt that it was important to seek ways to use this surplus to the advantage of the Society and the discipline of Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

A vote was taken on the proposal to give the Board approval to seek ways in which a surplus of up to €10,000 might be used. This proposal was passed by the meeting by majority.

The following ideas were proposed and the meeting given the opportunity to express their preferences by simple vote. In order of strength of support, these were:

- To develop a application, judging and award structure to allow the Society to provide **small research grants** of €1,000 - €2,000 to enable 1st or 2nd year residents the opportunity to conduct research within the aim of getting the publications necessary for their ECVCP examination candidacy. (52 Votes)
- To develop rules and eligibility criteria for **travel scholarships** and/or reduced rate conference registration for young scientists, delegates from developing nations, residents presenting cases or abstracts. (41 votes)
- To support activities relating to **ASVCP collaboration** (33 votes)
- To provide graphic design support for the Society/College **Website** (30 votes)
- To **expand and improve the membership of the society** including develop membership from veterinary technicians, nurses, students, post-graduates of related disciplines, general veterinary practitioners, veterinary nurses etc. (13 votes)
- To develop an **international assay database**. (3 votes)
- To publish a **membership directory**(2 votes)
- To provide meeting speakers with **honoraria** (0 votes)

Sponsor recognition

Peter Graham and Mark Pinches reminded the meeting of the importance of ensuring that sponsors get feedback on what happens to their funds and what benefits they have brought the sponsor and the Society. Where appropriate, their views on how they would most prefer their funds be used should be sought.

Conference recording

Mark Pinches reminded the meeting that the speaker sessions for the ESVCP congress had been recorded with the intention of publishing them as MP3 files on the Society Website. Permission was also going to be sought from the authors to include PDF versions of their PowerPoint slides on the website.

Joy Archer commented that consideration be given to the sensitivity of any material that may be presented pre-publication. It was confirmed that there was no intention to publish anything that the author had not given permission for.

Nick Carmichael suggested that a short permissions document to be drafted that authors could sign to give their permission and that such a document could state clearly exactly the authors were giving permission for.

Thanks to Mary Christopher

Joy Archer proposed a vote of thanks for the hard efforts exerted by Mary Christopher during time as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Veterinary Clinical Pathology*.

Meeting Adjourned 19:10

Meeting Minutes prepared by P. Graham, 9th October 2009

EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

ELECTIONS 2010

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR THE ECVCP BOARD

Dear Diplomates,

The year for the election of ECVCP Board Officers has arrived. We should have completed the elections by June, so at this stage we would like you to nominate candidates (including yourself if you wish) for the following posts in the list below. You can nominate more than one person for the same post. Information regarding the duties of the Officers can be found at the ESVCP web page www.esvcp.com/ECVCP. Please read the guidelines in the following page as to the procedure requirements and duties of officers.

OFFICER	Name of Diplomat(e)s
President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Councillor 1
Councillor 2

Please e-mail your list **by 1st of March 2010** to:

Peter Vajdovich (pvajdo@univet.hu) or Kostas Papasouliotis (kos.papasouliotis@bristol.ac.uk)

ECVCP Board election procedure and officer duties

1. Nominations are to be submitted between January 1 and June 30 of the election year. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a secret ballot listing of all nominees.

2. DUTIES OF THE BOARD

The Board shall have the duties and powers ordinarily delegated to the governing body of the corporation, those responsibilities given by the Constitution are as follows:

- (a) Shall organise and operate a certifying agency for diplomates of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology as provided in the constitution. The Board shall judge compliance of candidates with the general requirements of the Constitution, appoint an examination committee to operate under its supervision, and certify candidates who qualify. The Board shall make available to candidates and the interested public a detailed account of the experience and training prerequisites to all Board examinations.
- (b) Shall create and appoint members of all committees (Nominating Committee, Education Committee, Examination Committee, Laboratory Standards Committee, Science Committee), supervise their activities, and receive their reports.
- (c) Shall report to the College annually its work and activities, including a full financial statement, and shall make such interim reports as are necessary and advisable.
- (d) Shall exercise its constitutional authority in promoting and attaining the objectives of the College especially those pertaining to professional, institutional and public relations.
- (e) Shall hold a meeting at least once a year.
- (f) Shall ensure all the results of each examination are announced at the same time.

3. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1.1 The President and Vice-President shall be members elected by a majority of members voting, using secret written or electronic ballots, and shall serve for three years. The President and Vice-President may be re-elected for an additional term.

1.2 The Secretary and the Treasurer, similarly elected from the membership, shall serve for 3 years. The secretary and treasurer may be re-elected for an additional term.

1.3 The Councillors, two in number, shall be members elected in the same manner as the other officers by a majority of members voting, each to serve a term of 3 years. Councillors may be re-elected for an additional term.

1.4 Duties of the President, Past-President and Vice-President.

(a) The President shall preside over all meetings of the College and meetings of the Board, shall be a member, ex officio, of all committees, and shall perform the usual duties of such office.

(b) The Past-President shall advise the President

(c) The Vice-President shall be the President-Elect, shall be an ex officio member of all committees, shall preside at the meeting in the absence of the President, and shall succeed to the office of the President should that office be vacated.

1.5 Duties of the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Secretary shall serve as executive officer of the College. He or she shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall perform the usual duties of a secretary and such other duties as assigned by the Board. The Treasurer shall conduct the business affairs of the College, collect dues and fees, draw vouchers, pay bills and expenses, arrange for the safekeeping of College funds, keep records of all transactions and submit a yearly statement of financial affairs to the Board. Records shall be the property of the ECVCP and be available for inspection and audit. The Past Secretary and Past Treasurer shall advise the current Secretary and current Treasurer during the first year of their term.