

EVPC Newsletter

May 2008

European Veterinary Parasitology College



ATTENTION!

See pages 5-10 for
EVPC Re-Accreditation
2008!

EVPC

Number 11

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President's Address

WHY IS RE-ACCREDITATION IMPORTANT?

EVPC PRESIDENT CLAUDIO GENCHI CONSIDERS THE CHALLENGES
THAT WE MUST MEET IN MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS



At the recent European Board for Veterinary Specialization (EBVS) meeting in Brussels (to be reported in the next Newsletter), re-accreditation was a hot topic. The EBVS has approved new guidelines which seek to assure that each College under its jurisdiction is able to re-evaluate its members within a standardized framework. As the EVPC begins its re-accreditation process this year, Credentials Committee Chairperson Kurt Pfister and his fellow committee members have re-worked the points system presented at the Ghent GBM to conform to this new EBVS framework (please see item in this issue).

Why is re-accreditation so important? Why is it necessary to demonstrate one's continued commitment to the practice, science and teaching of Veterinary Parasitology? First of all, our

EVPC website: www.eurovetpar.org

President's Address (continued)

College was founded on a very basic, but very important principal: the need for recognised specialists in Veterinary Parasitology in Europe. This need has never been greater: vector-borne diseases are increasing, as is drug resistance; veterinary schools across Europe are cutting Parasitology courses "to the bone" while pharmaceutical companies seek well-qualified scientists and researchers to take on the challenge of developing new control strategies. We must be able to demonstrate excellence in our field and re-accreditation is an important step in this direction.

I also feel that our College, like other European specialist Colleges, must be able to meet the increasingly rigorous standards applied by the EBVS in order to retain the good reputation and credibility of our diploma. It would seem that there is a tendency for the requirements for College approval and Diplomate training in Europe to become more demanding. If we apply and demand high standards from ourselves, it can only be to our advantage, in particular towards our goal of definitive recognition.

I ask all of you to read Kurt Pfister's guidelines carefully. We have until September before the official process begins and I know that Kurt and his colleagues on the Credentials Committee are available to address any questions or doubts you may have.

Claudio Genchi, EVPC President



Left: EVPC diplomates Stig and Hervé Hoste at the Veterinary Research Institute, Ipoh.

For the full review please see **pages 15 & 16.**



Please see **pages 5-10** for the EVPC re-accreditation process 2008.

Re-Accreditation Guide

EVPC RE-ACCREDITATION

The EVPC Credentials Committee has completed the self-evaluation form that will be used for re-accreditation starting in September, 2008. Below is a point-by-point guide to the "how-why-where and whens" of the system.

Please note that the form included in this issue is for members' information only and should not be completed yet.

The Credential Committee is looking forward to receiving any questions you may have about the process and the most "frequently asked" will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter!!

Many thanks to Kurt Pfister, Robert Farkas and Mike Taylor for job well done.

Re-accreditation as a Diplomat EVPC in 2008 **Guidelines for the submission of the documents for re-accreditation (due to start in September 2008)**

For the first time since its foundation, i. e. after 5 years, the EVPC will have to start the re-accreditation procedure of all its Diplomates.

All EVPC - Diplomates appointed onto the Organising Committee or elected as *De-facto* - Diplomates have to undergo re-accreditation on the 5th anniversary of their membership (as shown in their letter of admittance to the College). Thus, this process is due to start on the 27th September 2008.

The deadline and further details for submission of the requested documents to the

Re-Accreditation Guide (continued)

Credentials Committee will be communicated to each Diplomate at least 3 months before the submission date.

The forms and address for the submission of the documents to the Credentials Committee will be sent individually to all Diplomates. **The current form is included here and is also available on the EVPC web-site, but please wait until you hear from us in case any last minute fine-tuning becomes necessary!**

As soon as you receive the request for formal application for re-accreditation beginning in September, you will be asked to fill in the forms and the supporting documentation very carefully and to send them back before the stated deadline. Late arrivals will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances.

Together with the completed self-evaluation form, the Credentials Committee will need a list of the bibliographic references of your publications, oral presentations and posters including the Impact Factor of the publications (published and/or accepted). Similarly, a list of the congresses attended must be submitted.

For quality control purposes a proportion of people will be asked for evidence to confirm their listings.

The points awarded for the criteria in the re-accreditation form are based on guidelines provided by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation.

The minimum number of points to achieve re-accreditation is 100 points within the required period of 5 years.

Make sure you are up to date with your membership fees - if these have not been paid, we will not consider your application.

A sample of the re-accreditation form is shown on pages 9-10. It consists of 6 sections: the following 2 pages present some comments to help you to fill in the form.

Some uncertainties are bound to arise and so there will be Question & Answer features in the following EVPC Newsletters and at the EVPC Annual Meeting in Bristol this September.

Re-Accreditation Guide (continued)

Period under review: 5 years starting from the date you were admitted to membership as stated on your admission letter. This will be 27th September 2003 for the initial diplomates.

Section 1:

- Only papers published in journals having an Impact Factor (IF) are accepted. The IF must be written on the attached list of references.
- First author gets the most number of points, all co-authors get the same number of points except that the last author is considered as senior author (Project leader or partner, thus 1 point more.
- Reviews: Only reviews in journals with an IF will be considered.
- Book chapters: each co-author gets the same number of points as the main author.

Section 2:

- Oral presentations (national or international congresses/meetings, etc.): only the presenter gets points.
- Posters: only the 1st author gets points.
- Congress organisation: maximum 3 people get points, all of them get the same number of points.

Section 3:

- Attendance of International/national congresses/meetings: only the indicated points will be considered, regardless of the duration of the congress.
- Attendance of College meetings: only the indicated points will be considered, regardless of the duration of the meeting.

Section 4:

- The different points for BSc/MSc/DVM should be attributed according to the local (national) scheme of qualification.
- Undergraduate lecture: 1 point per 10 lectures/academic year.
- Undergraduate practical: 1 point per 15 practical lectures/academic year.
- PhD - Student: Supervisor: 20 points per student (successfully completed within the 5 year period).

Section 5:

- Board member: 2 points per year as a member.
- Other Committees: 2 points per year as a member.
- Examination Committee: 3 points per year as a member.

Re-Accreditation Guide (continued)

Section 6:

- International Committee member: 2 points per year.
- National Committee member: 1 point per year.
- International/National Editorial Board: 2/1 point(s) per year.
- International/National Advisory Board: 2/1 point(s) per year.
- Member of professional society (please submit a copy of membership card): 4 points in total.

Section 7:

- Attendance at EVPC General Business Meetings

THE EVPC RE-ACCREDITATION FORM

ON THE FOLLOWING 2 PAGES IS A SAMPLE OF THE SELF-EVALUATION FORM THAT WILL BE USED FOR RE-ACCREDITATION OF EVPC MEMBERS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER, 2008.

Please do NOT fill in this form at this time.

PLEASE SEND ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO:

evpc@rvc.ac.uk

The Re-Accreditation Form (continued)

Section 5: Involvement in EVPC Activities			
Board Member	2 (per year)		
Examination Committee Member/examiner/exam supervisor	3 (per year)		
Member of other Committee	2 (per year)		
Exam Questions	2 (per question accepted)		

Section 6: Membership on other boards and committees			
International Committee	2 (points per year)		
National Committee	1 (point per year)		
International Journal Editor	5 (points per year)		
International Advisory Board	2 (points per year)		
International Editorial Board	2 (points per year)		
National Advisory Board	1 (point per year)		
National Editorial Board	1 (point per year)		
Member of professional society of Parasitology	4 (points per year)		

Section 7: EVPC Annual Meetings attended		
	Yes	No
Valencia 2004		
Vilnius 2005		
Parma 2006		
Ghent 2007		
Bristol 2008		

Total Points for Period			
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I confirm that I still spend at least 60% of the working week (24 hours) engaged in the practice of Veterinary Parasitology.

I confirm that I am up to date with payment of my EVPC membership fees.

I declare that the information provided above and in the supporting documentation is true and accurate.

Signed Date

What's in a Name?

Disease nomenclature in parasitology twenty years after the advent of SNO(A)PAD

It is now two decades since the principles of a standardized nomenclature of animal parasitic diseases (SNOAPAD) were launched as a guideline of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) (1). The aim of the initiative was to reduce the then prevalent heterogeneity in nomenclatural usage. The guideline's essential rule was very simple, *viz* .disease names were to be constructed by solely and uniformly adding the suffix '-osis' to the stem of the name of the parasite taxon. On this twentieth anniversary it is timely and opportune to consider what impact SNOAPAD has had on nomenclatural usage.

From the outset it was recognized that whether or not a more disciplined and uniform approach to disease nomenclature would be adopted would depend on the value placed by individual parasitologists on standardizing the names of parasitic diseases. The start was very promising. In 1990 the Council of the World Federation of Parasitologists gave full support to the concept and endorsed the SNOAPAD principles for all parasitic infections thus changing the acronym to SNO PAD (2). The WAAVP guideline has received support and criticism, as well as a degree of indifference. It is now apparent that the principles have gained greater acceptance in veterinary parasitology than in tropical medicine and medical parasitology.

In a survey of 126 books and compendia concerned with parasitology published in 21 European countries between 1990 and 2005 it was found that 73.8% adopted consistent '-osis' terminology and 26.2% used an inconsistent mixture of disease names ending in '-osis' or '-iasis' (3). The SNO PAD terminology was adopted by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE, World Organisation of Animal Health) comprising over 160 member countries but not by the World Health Organisation. It was also adopted by the Animal Health and Production Compendium of CAB International.

Journal editorials have a special authority in promoting more consistent terminological usage. A good example is provided by the *Guide for Authors of Veterinary Parasitology* which clearly recommends adoption of SNO(A)PAD in the naming of parasitic infections. However, the stance of most editorials reflects their independence (or laissez-fair attitude?) allowing either version of disease names to be used according to the penchant of the individual author. Nevertheless, most of the important veterinary parasitological textbooks in mainland Europe published in the last decade have adopted disease terminology consistent with the SNO PAD (4)(5)(6)(7)(8). More importantly, British authors too have adopted the SNO PAD-conforming disease terminology in the second

What's in a Name? (continued)

(1996) and third editions (2007) of their book *Veterinary Parasitology* (9)(10). This is an appropriate response to the unwarranted concern of other British authors that adoption of the principles of SNO PAD 'may corrupt a fundamental tenet of the English language' (11).

It is recognized that there are a relatively small number of '-iasis' terms, largely in the field of tropical medicine - such as leishmaniasis, giardiasis, schistosomiasis, taeniasis, filariasis, etc. -, that are used much more commonly than their SNO PAD-conforming alternatives (leishmaniosis, etc.). It is unlikely that this practice will be discontinued just for the sake of uniformity.

The conscious use of disease names ending in '-osis', corresponding to the SNO PAD principles, is recommended to all members of the European Veterinary Parasitology College. This will further enhance the benefits gained in teaching the discipline and in more effective use of online data-retrieval services (12). However, we must be prepared for a chronic cohabitation with nomenclatural inconsistency and acceptance of terms with alternative spellings.

Tibor Kassai

References

- (1) Kassai, T., Cordero del Campillo, M., Euzeby, J., Gaafar, S., Hiepe, Th., Himonas, C. A. 1988. Standardized Nomenclature of Animal Parasitic Diseases (SNO PAD). *Vet. Parasitol.* 29. 299-326.
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- (8) Schnieder, T. (editor): *Veterinärmedizinische Parasitologie*. 2006. Sixth edition. Parey in MVS Medizinverlage, Stuttgart
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- (10) Taylor, M. A., Coop, R. L., Wall, R. L. 2007. *Veterinary Parasitology*. Third edition. Blackwell Publishing Ltd. Oxford
- (11) Ashford, R.W. 1994. A plea for consistency; reply. *Parasitol. Today.* 10. 143.
- (12) Kassai, T. 2006. The impact on database searching arising from inconsistency in the nomenclature of parasitic diseases. *Vet. Parasitol.* 138. 358-361.

NEWS

EVPC Member Wins Coveted Fulbright Senior Scholarship



***Above:* Dr Robin B. Gasser, Professor in Parasitology and Associate Dean International - receiver of a Fulbright Senior Scholarship 2008**

Dr. Robin B Gasser, Professor in Parasitology and Associate Dean International, at the Faculty of Veterinary Science has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Senior Scholarship.

He is one of four talented Australians to be recognised as a Fulbright Senior Scholar in 2008. The award will enable him to visit a number of institutions in the USA, including the California Institute of Technology (Caltech, Pasadena) and the Genome Sequencing Center (Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis), to research aspects of parasite genomics.

Parasites cause devastating diseases in humans and animals worldwide. The control of economically important parasites has relied heavily on the use of chemical compounds (anti-parasitic drugs). The excessive and uncontrolled use of these compounds has led to significant

News (continued)

drug resistance problems, so that many treatments are no longer effective. New and improved methods of treatment, diagnosis and control are needed.

Robin's research, '*Parasite genomics: toward new intervention strategies*', will utilise advanced technologies and concepts to gain improved insights into the molecular biology of parasites and their interactions with their hosts.

"We will work toward developing novel intervention strategies for parasites using cutting-edge advances in genomics and bioinformatics," said Professor Gasser. "The project will provide a unique technology platform and a skills base in parasite genomics and will generate significant fundamental research results, leading to applied and biotechnological outcomes, such as the development of drugs and diagnostic tools."

Parasites affect billions of humans and animals worldwide. For example, the morbidity from parasitic nematodes (worms) is substantial and surpasses diabetes and lung cancer in disability adjusted life years (DALY). Billions of dollars are also lost annually in the agricultural sectors due to the impact of parasitic diseases in animals and plants.

"The long-term prospects and opportunities of my research include the development of diagnostic tests and/or anti-parasitic compounds, based on a better understanding

of parasite genomes, host-parasite relationships and the molecular biology of the parasites themselves. Hence, there are substantial gains to be made by improving our knowledge of such neglected pathogens."

Professor Gasser said he had chosen to further his research in the USA to be able to access new technologies, skills and know-how: "While considerable expertise in infectious diseases exists in Australia, there is limited investment in cutting-edge genomic technologies and model systems which allow exciting fundamental investigations and biotechnological outcomes."

The 2008 Scholars were announced on Thursday 13 March at the annual Fulbright Presentation Dinner at Winthrop Hall at the University of Western Australia by Australian-American Fulbright Commission Executive Director, Mr Mark Darby. Mr Darby commented: "The 2008 successful scholars truly demonstrate the breadth and diversity in research amongst Australia's brightest."

Domenico Otranto

Ipoh Conference Report

Novel Approaches to the Control of Helminth Parasites of Livestock (NA5)
Ipoh, Malaysia: 26-29 February 2008



Above: EVPC diplomates Stig Thamsborg and Hervé Hoste at the Veterinary Research Institute, Ipoh

The 5th of this series of biennial international workshops was hosted by the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine and the Veterinary Research Institute in the pleasant setting of Ipoh, Malaysia's 'Bougainvillea City' surrounded by craggy limestone hills. The 105 participants represented seventeen countries as far-ranging as Mexico and Mongolia. A strong local delegation included some well-informed livestock farmers who raised very pertinent questions. The emphasis was mostly on gastro-intestinal nematodes of small ruminants.

Two-hour sessions each comprising a 30 min plenary paper followed by 90 min of discussion proved to be a lively and productive format in which old beliefs were challenged, new ideas put forward, current trends analysed and constructive debate flourished. Topics covered included: diagnostic techniques, targeted treatment, managing refugia, vaccines and immunology,

Ipoh Conference Report (continued)

anthelmintic resistance, practical solutions for smallholders and marker assisted selection for parasite resistance.

In this age of rapid technological advance your reviewer was particularly struck by the consensus view that, despite its many deficiencies, the McMaster egg-counting technique remains the most useful diagnostic tool for many purposes. Efforts to find an equally versatile but more informative replacement include faecal odour analysis! At the other end of the scientific spectrum, the disappointing protective response provided by recombinant nematode-gut antigens has stimulated studies into the quaternary configuration of the natural molecules revealing a beautiful complexity and putative structural function.

It is impossible to summarise the meeting in this short report, but EVPC Residents and other interested members should view the plenary papers in a special issue of Tropical Biomedicine on www.msptm.org/proceeding_journal.html.

The next workshop (NA6) will be held in association with the next ICOPA meeting in Melbourne. It will be well worthwhile setting aside a couple of extra days in your diaries for this.

Dennis Jacobs

Bristol Reminder

EVPC Annual Meeting, Bristol

EVPC 2008 will take place on Thursday 18th September

This is followed on **Friday 19th September** by a joint meeting of the British Association of Veterinary Parasitology (BAVP) and Irish Society for Parasitology (ISP) to which all EVPC members are welcome. (Details in February Newsletter.)

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION 30th June.

Registration forms available on :

www.eurovetpar.org

Bristol Reminder (continued)

18th September 2008:

- General business meeting (9:30-11:00h)
- Coffee (11:00-11:30h)
- Members' Forum: designing residency programmes (11:30-12:15h);
- Question and answer session: re- accreditation: (12:15-12:45h).
- Lunch (12:45-14:00h)

EVPC Annual Symposium 'Parasite control and climate change' (14:00-17:30h):

- Professor S. Mas-Coma, University of Valencia, Spain, Effects of climate and global changes on animal and zoonotic helminthoses, with emphasis on fasciolosis and schistosomosis.
- Dr Fiona Kenyon & Neil Sargison, Moredun Research Institute, Scotland
Clinical observations on the possible effects of climate change on sheep nematode parasitism.
- Professor Claudio Genchi, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy,
Climate and vector borne diseases in Europe, the example of *Dirofilaria* infection
- Dr Frederic Beugnet, Merial Animal Health Ltd, Lyon, France,
Emerging arthropod borne diseases in carnivores.
- Dr Sue Shaw, School of Clinical Veterinary Science, University of Bristol, UK,
Canine leishmaniosis in the UK: a disease waiting for a vector?
- Professor Philip Mellor, Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, UK,
Bluetongue

CONFERENCE DINNER (evening)

19th September 2008:

- 9:00-15:00 BAVP/ISP Oral communications (EVPC members welcome to contribute)

DIARY DATES 2008

NKVet Symposium (Nordic Committee for Veterinary Scientific Cooperation): Parasite infections of domestic animals in the Nordic countries - emerging threats and challenges

September 8-9, 2008

Helsinki, Finland

Veterinary parasitology is an applied life science discipline with a utilitarian viewpoint, aiming at benefiting the health and welfare of host animal species, including man, by study and control of parasitic infections. The Symposium is designed to attract and benefit both veterinary practitioners and administrators as well as scientists.

We have a few highly distinguished keynote speakers who plan to give their topics a more in-depth than just topical treatment:

- Bruno Gottstein, University of Bern, topics *Echinococcus*, *Neospora*, *Besnoitia*
- Richard Wall, University of Bristol, topics entomopathogenic fungi and effects of anti-parasitics on dung degradation.

• Susankutz, University of Calgary (not confirmed yet), topics climate and global change effects on Arctic parasites.

In addition, local heroes/stars/idols will strengthen the Nordic perspective

The symposium will cover:

1. Overview: new parasites or changes in infection patterns
 - establishment of new parasites and vectors in the Nordic countries
 - spread of parasites to new areas
 - parasite-host-environment interactions
2. Occurrence of zoonotic parasites - emerging issues
3. Increased transport of animals
 - increased travel with companion animals: what should the veterinarian be aware of and what have we imported
 - import of new parasites and parasitic infections
4. Use of anthelmintics and facing the challenge of increasing resistance
 - occurrence of resistance in the Nordic countries
 - management of resistance and deworming regimes

DIARY DATES 2008

DIARY DATES 2008 (continued)

5. Parasite monitoring and network in the Nordic countries

- a number of plenary lectures to cover the main topics
- topic based workshops that are introduced by 2-4 short oral presentations
- two poster sessions

International Equine Parasite Drug Resistance Workshop

July 31- August 1, 2008
Copenhagen, Denmark

For the first time in 10 years, an international workshop focussing specifically on equine nematode infections will take place at the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Copenhagen.

In this workshop we will discuss the issues involved in the design, analysis and interpretation of the faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT) in horses.

In addition, we will discuss the current state of anthelmintic resistance in equine parasites, the most recent advances for in vitro diagnosis of anthelmintic resistance in cy-

athostomins, and we will highlight opportunities and research needs to develop sustainable methods for control of equine parasites.

It is hoped that the outcome of the workshop will contribute substantially to the development of World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) guidelines.

The meeting will consist of a series of presentations from invited speakers, with blocks of time reserved for discussion. Working groups will be formed and these will prepare reports for submission to the WAAVP equine parasite guidelines committee. This committee will then produce the final set of guidelines for publication in a special issue of Veterinary Parasitology.

Forms for registration and for the submission of abstracts are now available on our website:

www.vet.uga.edu/ID/conferences/equine

DIARY DATES 2008 (continued)