

# EVPC Newsletter

## April 2010

European Veterinary Parasitology College



**EVPC Munich meeting  
special!**

EVPC

**Number 17**

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**EVPC Website: [www.eurovetpar.org](http://www.eurovetpar.org)**

## EVPC 2010

The annual *General Business Meeting and Scientific Symposium* of the European Veterinary Parasitology College will be held next month in Munich.

EVPC Vice-President Kurt Pfister has organized an intense 2-day meeting in Veterinary Tropical Parasitology that promises to be cutting-edge.

The *General Business Meeting*, that will be held on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, is an important occasion to keep up-dated on developments within the college, listen to reports from the EVPC Executive Board and Committee Chairpersons and to be a part of the decision-making process for your college.

The definitive programme, general information, hotel accommodations and draft agenda for the *GBM* follow below.

***SEE YOU IN MUNICH!***

**Find the EVPC meeting programme, draft agenda  
and much more in this newsletter!**

**See pages 4-10**



**Joint Tropical Veterinary Parasitology and EVPC Annual Congress 2010**  
**Munich – Germany, 29th/30th April 2010**  
**„Advances in Tropical Veterinary Parasitology“**

**Programme**

**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> of April**

17.00 – 18.00 Registration of Participants

**Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> of April**

Chair: N.N.

08.00 – 09.00 Registration of Participants

09.00 – 09.15 Opening Address

09.15 – 10.30 J. de la Fuente: *Development of vaccines for the control of tick infestations and the transmission of pathogens*

**10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break**

11.00 – 11.40 J. Ahmed: *Host-cell-parasite interactions in Theileriosis*

11.40 – 12.00 Zati Vatansever: *Ticks and Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever: Ecology and current overview*

**12.00 – 13.30 Lunch**

Chair: N.N.

13.30 – 14.00

G. Baneth: *Canine and Feline Babesiosis - A broadening spectrum of Piroplasms*

14.00 – 14.30

G. Baneth: *New findings and challenging questions on Canine and Feline Hepatozoonosis*

14.30 – 15.15

A. Thompson: *Parasites of significance in Wildlife and as Zoonoses - some Emerging issues in the Australian and SE Asian region*

**15.15 – 15.45**

**Coffee Break**

15.45 – open

AGB – Meeting EVPC

**19.00**

**Apéro and**

**19.30**

**Gala Dinner at Vinothek “Alter Hof”**

**Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> of April**

Chair: N. N.

08.30 – 09.15

A. Tait: *Genetic analysis of African trypanosomes: Diversity & Pathogenesis*

09.15 – 09.35

P. Clausen: *Improving the management of Trypanosomosis and Trypanocide resistance in Smallholder Livestock Production systems in Tsetse-infested sub-Saharan Africa*

09.35 – 10.05

B. Bauer: *Options for sustainable Tsetse control in sub-saharan Africa*

**10.05 – 10.35**

**Coffee Break**

Chair: N. N.

10.35 – 11.00

T. Romig: *Echinococcosis in subsaharan Africa: emerging complexity*

11.00 – 12.30

Free Communications

**12.30 – 13.30**

**Lunch**

Chair: N. N.

13.30 – 14.15

M. Gramiccia: *Recent Advances in Leishmaniasis in Pet Animals: Epidemiology, Diagnostics and Prophylaxis*

14.15 – 14.45

C. Genchi: *One Health and geospatial Tools: Dirofilaria infections in a changing Environment*

**14.45 – 15.00**

**Coffee Break**

15.00 – 16.30

Residents' Forum (responsible G. Grandi)

**\*\*\* Speaking time includes discussion \*\*\***

**Joint Tropical Veterinary Parasitology and EVPC Annual Congress 2010  
Munich – Germany, 29th/30th April 2010  
„Advances in Tropical Veterinary Parasitology“**



**General Information**

Registration fee includes **2-days-ticket for Munich urban public transport**

**Social program** for accompanying persons will be organised.

**Gala dinner at “Alter Hof” – Munich historic center:** <http://www.alter-hof-muenchen.de/>

**Free contributions by Diplomates or other participants (oral presentations or posters) are welcome:**

- Only Powerpoint-presentations possible
- Please submit abstracts (only word-documents) to:  
[sekretariat@tropa.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:sekretariat@tropa.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de)
- Formatting guidelines:  
length of abstract: max. 1500 characters including spaces  
font: Arial 12pt  
titel: bold  
blank line  
authors (please underline presenting author)  
blank line  
institution  
blank line  
text
- Deadline for submission: 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2010  
Evaluation of free communications (whether poster or oral presentation) will be done thereafter

If you have any questions please contact

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**Joint Tropical Veterinary Parasitology and EVPC Annual Congress 2010  
Munich – Germany, 29th/30th April 2010  
„Advances in Tropical Veterinary Parasitology“**

## **Directions to Congress Venue**



**Kardinal Wendel House**  
Mandlstr. 23 80802 Munich

### **U3 or U6: Underground station "Münchner Freiheit"**

#### **Arrival by rail:**

From Munich Central station, take the S-Bahn to "Marienplatz" (2 stops), then change to U3 or U6 to "Münchner Freiheit" (7 minutes). The Kardinal-Wendel-House is only a short walk from there through Feilitzsch and Gunezrainerstraße (3. turning on the right) and Mandl road.

#### **Arrival by aeroplane:**

The airport is located approximately 34 km north of Munich city center. There is a S-Bahn-connection (S1 or S8) from Munich Airport to "Marienplatz" (ca. 45 minutes). At "Marienplatz" change to U3 or U6 to "Münchner Freiheit" (7 minutes). The Kardinal-Wendel-House is only a short walk from there through the Feilitzsch and Gunezrainerstraße (3. turning on the right) and Mandl road.

Location plan of congress venue and hotels:

<http://www.tropa.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de/aktuelles/news/evpc/index.html>

If you have any questions please contact

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[www.tropa.vetmed.lmu.de](http://www.tropa.vetmed.lmu.de)

## Accommodation EVPC-Meeting Munich

<p><b>Kardinal Wendel Haus (= venue)</b>  Mandlstr. 23  80802 München  room-reservations no later than 29/03/2010:  Frau Steiner  Tel +49 (089) 38 10 2 - 125  Fax +49 (089) 38 10 21 03  Email: kwh@kath-akademie-bayern.de</p> <p><a href="http://www.katholische-akademie-bayern.de/contentserv/www.katholische.de/data/media/4/skizze3.pdf">http://www.katholische-akademie-bayern.de/contentserv/www.katholische.de/data/media/4/skizze3.pdf</a></p> <p>single: 83,-€ (breakfast included)  double: 105,-€ (breakfast included)</p>	<p><b>Star Inn Hotel München Schwabing</b>  Domagkstr. 11  80807 München  Telefon: +49 (0)89 / 356 571 0  Fax: +49 (0)89 / 356 571 505  Email: muenchen.schwabing@starinnhotels.com  <a href="http://www.starinnhotels.com/de/munich-schwabing/index.php">http://www.starinnhotels.com/de/munich-schwabing/index.php</a></p> <p>single: about 66,-€  double: about 76,-€</p> <p>north of city center, big car-park free of charge,  7-minutes-tram-ride to "Münchner Freiheit"  (= closest public-transport-station to venue)</p>
<p><b>Das Nikolai Hotel</b>  Nikolai Str. 9  80802 München  Tel.: +49 / 89 / 33 06 67 23  Fax: +49 / 89 / 33 06 67 25  E-Mail: info@nikolaihotel.com  <a href="http://www.nikolaihotel.com">http://www.nikolaihotel.com</a></p> <p>single: about 130,-€ (breakfast included)  double: about 150,-€ (breakfast included)</p> <p>very close to venue</p>	<p><b>Hotel Gästehaus Englischer Garten</b>  Liebergesellstr. 8  80802 München  Tel.: +49 (089) 3 83 94-10  Fax: +49 (089) 3 83 94-133  Email: Info@HotelEnglischerGarten.de  <a href="http://www.hotelenglischergarten.de">www.hotelenglischergarten.de</a></p> <p>single: from 69,- to 169,-€  double: from 75,- to 169,-€</p> <p>very close to venue</p>
<p><b>Cosmopolitan Hotel</b>  Hohenzollernstr. 5  80801 München  Tel.: +49 (089) 38 381-0  Fax: +49 (089) 38 381-111  Email: res.cosmo@geisel-privathotels.de  <a href="http://www.cosmopolitan-hotel.de">www.cosmopolitan-hotel.de</a></p> <p>single: about 99,-€ (breakfast included)  double: about 105,-€ (breakfast included)</p> <p>about 10 minutes walk to venue</p>	<p><b>Best Western Hotel König Ludwig</b>  Hohenzollernstr. 3  80801 München  Tel.: 089 38 15 20  Fax.: 089 39 46 58  Email: info@hotelkoenigludwig.de  <a href="http://www.koenigludwig.bestwestern.de">www.koenigludwig.bestwestern.de</a></p> <p>single: about 105,-€ (breakfast included)  double: about 125,-€ (breakfast included)</p> <p>about 10 minutes walk to venue</p>
<p><b>Pension am Kaiserplatz</b>  Kaiserplatz 12  80803 München  Tel 089 34919-0  <a href="http://www.muenchen-pension.de/80803-pension-am-kaiserplatz.html">http://www.muenchen-pension.de/80803-pension-am-kaiserplatz.html</a></p> <p>single: about 31,-€ (breakfast included)  double: about 49,-€ (breakfast included)</p> <p>about 15 minutes walk to venue</p>	<p><b>Pension am Siegestor</b>  Akademiestr. 5  80799 München  Fon : 089/399550  Fax : 089/343050  siegestor@t-online.de  <a href="http://www.siegestor.com/">http://www.siegestor.com/</a></p> <p>single: from 48,- to 75,-€ (breakfast included)  double: from 65,- to 100,- € (breakfast included)</p> <p>two underground-stations from "Münchner Freiheit"  (= closest public-transport-station to venue)</p>

<p><b>H´Otello Hohenzollernstraße</b>  Hohenzollernstr. 9  80801 München  Tel.: +49 (089) 30 79 20-0  <a href="http://www.hotello.de">http://www.hotello.de</a></p> <p>single: from 111,- to 215,-€ (breakfast included)  double: same price + 15,-€ for second breakfast</p> <p>about 10 minutes walk to venue</p>	<p><b>Hotel Biederstein</b>  Keferstr. 18  80802 München  Tel.: +49 (089) 38 99 97-0  Fax: +49 (089) 38 99 97-3 89  Email: Info@HotelBiederstein.de  <a href="http://www.hotelbiederstein.de">www.hotelbiederstein.de</a></p> <p>single: from 95,- to 149,-€  double: from 105,- to 234,-€</p> <p>very close to venue</p>
<p><b>Hotel Hauser</b>  Schellingstr. 11  80799 München  Tel.: 089 28 66 75 0  Fax.: 089 28 66 75 99  Email: info@hotel-hauser.de  <a href="http://www.hotel-hauser.de">http://www.hotel-hauser.de</a></p> <p>single: from 83,- to 145,- € (breakfast included)  double: from 113,- to 195,- € (breakfast included)</p> <p>two underground-stations from “Münchner Freiheit” (= closest public-transport-station to venue)</p>	<p><b>Hotel Mercure Schwabing</b>  Leopoldstr. 120  80802 München  Tel.: +49 (089) 389 99 30  Fax: +49 (089) 34 93 44  Email: h1104@accor.com  <a href="http://www.accorhotels.com/de/hotel-1104-mercure-hotel-muenchen-schwabing/index.shtml">http://www.accorhotels.com/de/hotel-1104-mercure-hotel-muenchen-schwabing/index.shtml</a></p> <p>single: very variable  double: very variable</p> <p>about 15 minutes walk to venue</p>
<p><b>Hotel Ibis München City Nord</b>  Ungererstr. 139  80805 München  Tel. (+49)89/360830  Fax. (+49)89/363793  Email: H0996@accor.com  <a href="http://www.accorhotels.com/de/hotel-0996-ibis-muenchen-city-nord/index.shtml">http://www.accorhotels.com/de/hotel-0996-ibis-muenchen-city-nord/index.shtml</a></p> <p>single: very variable  double: very variable</p> <p>two underground-stations from “Münchner Freiheit” (= closest public-transport-station to venue)</p>	<p><b>Hotel Ibis München City</b>  Dachauer Str. 21  80335 München  Tel. (+49)89/551930  Fax. (+49)89/55193102  H1450@accor.com  <a href="http://www.accorhotels.com/de/hotel-1450-ibis-muenchen-city/index.shtml">http://www.accorhotels.com/de/hotel-1450-ibis-muenchen-city/index.shtml</a></p> <p>single: very variable  double: very variable</p> <p>close to Munich central station, underground-connection (S-Bahn + U-Bahn) to venue</p>

The given prices are only supposed to give a general idea, real prices may vary!!





# **EUROPEAN VETERINARY PARASITOLOGY COLLEGE**

## **General Business Meeting**

Munich,  
16.00-18.00, April 29th, 2010

## **DRAFT AGENDA**

**Chairman:** Anja Joachim

1. President's Report (Anja Joachim)
2. Presentation of diploma to Dr. Giulio Grandi
3. Secretary's Report (Laura Kramer)
  - a. Routine business  
                                Apologies for absence  
                                Approval of Toulouse General Business Meeting minutes  
  
*Toulouse minutes are available to view on the Members' section of the EVPC website*
  - b. Summary of Secretary's activities during past year
4. Financial reports  
  Hon. Auditor (James Duncan)  
  Treasurer (Edwin Claerebout)  
  
*A summary of the Treasurer's report is available to view on the EVPC website*
5. Reports by Committee Chairmen: Credentials Committee (Christian Bauer)  
  Education Committee (Thomas Schnieder)  
  Examination Committee (Albert Marinculic)
6. Date, place and theme of next meeting
7. Any other business

## The EVPC Board Meets Again in Vienna



The EVPC Board, including President Anja Joachim, Past-President Claudio Genchi, Vice-President Kurt Pfister, Secretary Laura Kramer and members Edwin Claerebout, Guadalupe Mirò and Domenico Otranto, held its interim meeting in Vienna on February 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> of this year. Education Committee member Thomas Schnieder also participated by invitation.

The meeting began with a kind welcome from Anja Joachim to the new Board members. Topics of discussion included an in-depth look at how the 2009 EVPC Diploma Examination had been conducted and how to assure the same high standards for the 2010 examination. The Examination Committee needs more diagnostic material for this year's exam (see appeal in this issue, page 13).

Standard Residency Training Programmes are an essential prerequisite for EBVS recognition. Thomas Schnieder, Education Committee Chairperson, lead a discussion on possible incorporation of PhD programmes in

Veterinary Parasitology into SRTPs in order to assist colleague in the academic setting to recruit Residents.

Vice-President Kurt Pfister, former Credentials Committee Chairperson, illustrated the re-accreditation activity for 2009: 11 members had applied for re-accreditation and 9 had fulfilled all requirements. Again, lack of attendance at EVPC meetings was often a deciding factor.

Other agenda items included recognition of the aims and objectives of ESCCAP (the European Scientific Counsel for Companion Animal Parasites) by the EVPC, the 2009 EVPC meeting in Munich (see pages 3-10 of this newsletter issue) and the venue for the 2010 EVPC meeting (Zagreb).

As always, Anja Joachim hosted the meeting with her exceptional hospitality, and we thank her again for a great day (and evening) in Vienna.



Oh, of course thanks also to EVPC mascot Oswald, who made our stay in Vienna much more fun!

## The EVPC has a New Diplomate

Dr. Giulio Grandi became the third diplomate by examination the European Veterinary Parasitology College. After completing his EVPC Residency Training Programme at the University of Parma Veterinary School, Dr. Grandi sat the EVPC examination in November and passed with flying colours!



*Giulio Grandi and Examination Committee members Bertrand Losson and Mark Fox.*

Dr. Grandi will be presented with the EVPC Diploma during the General Business Meeting in Munich, to be held Thursday, April 29th.

**Official  
Journal  
of the  
EVPC**



*'Veterinary Parasitology'*

# Gearing up for EVPC Examination 2010



At the EVPC board meeting in Vienna this February, it was decided that the next EVPC Examination for potential diplomats will be held at the end of November, 2010 (the definitive date and location will be announced in June).

In preparation for last year's examination, many EVPC members gave generously of their time by formulating and submitting MCQs, essay and short-answer questions. These were referenced, cross-checked, validated and archived. The Examination Committee has indicated, however, that there is still plenty of time to submit questions for the 2010 examination\*. **In particular, there is an urgent need for clinical scenarios and diagnostic material (blood smears, full mounts, histopathology, etc.).** Those members interested in submitting this material for the 2010 exam are invited to contact Bertrand Losson at [blosson@ulg.ac.be](mailto:blosson@ulg.ac.be).

**Remember: submission of material for the EVPC examination  
is worth points towards re-accreditation!**

*\*For instructions on how to formulate questions, please go to the EVPC website ([www.eurovetpar.org](http://www.eurovetpar.org) > Members' section > Guidelines for question-writers for the EVPC exam).*

## THE EVPC WEBSITE: GO THERE



<http://www.eurovetpar.org>

## 2009 WAAVP—Bayer Excellence in Research Award

*The following article was published in the December 2009 WAAVP Newsletter and Robin Gasser asked if we would be willing to publish it in the EVPC Newsletter also.*

### Robin B. Gasser

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is a great honour and delight to have been nominated and to receive this prestigious award. I sincerely thank those who nominated me and deliberated over the nominations. I must say that I was completely stunned to receive an email from Tom Kennedy (President) at around 1 a.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2009, informing me that I was the recipient. It is with great regret that I could not be in Calgary, but a packed teaching schedule in second semester (in the Southern Hemisphere) and personal circumstances prevented me from being with you at WAAVP.

As research is not a lone endeavour these days, I accept the award on behalf of our group, and express my gratitude, not only to all of the staff and students who have contributed to research in our laboratory, but also, particularly, to the many colleagues and friends internationally with whom we have had exciting and fruitful collaborations and publications over the last two decades. I am grateful to a number of mentors and co-editors. I am also sincerely grateful to many of you who have acted, as peers, in reviewing our manuscripts, grant proposals and various applications, and to the public and private funding bodies who have supported our research projects. I thank all of you. Importantly, receiving this award reflects endless support from my family members. I thank my parents, the Haralambi and my wife, Anna, and children, Constantine and Yvette, for their enormous, continuous encouragement, understanding and support.

It is amazing how time flies. After long deliberations about what to do following my graduation as a veterinarian from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Berne (1984), I took the opportunity of undertaking postgraduate studies in Parasitology in Zurich and then Melbourne (even though I had planned to become a surgeon). Johannes Eckert might have torn his hair out in the beginning, but, anyway, I did learn a few things about the biology of *Giardia*, and then went on to tackle aspects of the immunobiology of canine echinococcosis with Mike Rickard and Marshall Lightowlers in the University of Melbourne. I now had a ticket for a job, and, after a stint with Graham Mitchell at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI) of Medical Research, working on molecular aspects of schistosomes, I was appointed to the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Melbourne (1990). My time at WEHI got me really excited about molecular aspects of parasites, and it was just after Kary Mullis and his colleagues had invented the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) that this technique was starting to be used in Parasitology. It was a perfect time to start developing molecular tools for the specific identification of parasites and diagnosis of infections, together with Ian Beveridge and Neil Chilton. It took a few years to gain confidence that nuclear ribosomal spacers would provide specific genetic markers for key groups of parasitic nematodes, such as strongylids and ascaridoids. These spacers turned out to be fantastic markers for a broad range of taxonomic studies as well as developing molecular-diagnostic tools. We also assessed and then applied mutation scanning methods, such as single-strand conformation polymorphism (SSCP), for the direct display and analysis of genetic variation within and among parasites and populations. As PCR reagents became better and more reliable, we started focusing on mitochondrial genomes as sources of (independent) genetic markers for systematic and population studies of worms. Some “knock-backs” on grant proposals for fundamental discovery projects required some diversification to stay afloat, so we entered into some new areas. The governmental push meant that we started to engage in industry-linked research projects on the genomics/transcriptomics of worms, with a view toward drug target discovery in the longer term, and the development of nucleic acid-based tools. Our focus was still largely on fundamental research with the potential for applied and commercial

## Robin B. Gasser (continued)

outcomes. Entering the field of genomics has been challenging but exciting and rewarding, and has opened up many new opportunities for studying fundamental aspects of parasite biology, development, reproduction as well as host-parasite interactions at the molecular level. Most importantly, it has provided numerous students and staff with opportunities to pursue careers in small niche areas of molecular biology and bioinformatics. I am very proud of the achievements of those who have worked in our group, and it is great to see that most alumni have gone on to become great professionals and develop impressive and satisfying careers in a range of countries, including Australia, Denmark, China, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the USA and the UK. I am also particularly grateful for the great international collaborations that we have been able to enjoy through this research (See Acknowledgements).

At this point, it is extremely exciting to be in the midst of a revolution in –omics technologies. For instance, the development and application of next-generation sequencing and bioinformatic platforms are likely to change the way we look at the molecular biology of parasites. Nuclear genomic research will have major impact in many basic and applied areas of parasitology and other fields of infectious disease. Nonetheless, the costs of getting this new technology going in Veterinary Parasitology, without establishing large consortia or collaborations, is a significant challenge, given that our discipline is not always a priority for funding bodies. We need to work together to enter these areas, but, importantly, must also ensure that we sustain other, key and traditional areas of Parasitology to underpin the discipline as whole. Nonetheless, as long as our institutions don't run us down with more and more nonsensical reporting and administrative duties, "we'll be right". In spite of the global down-turn and current funding constraints in tertiary institutions, government research institutes and funding bodies, we must keep focused and remain optimistic, and strive to ensure that we are able to support the next generation of professional parasitologists. This is what we, as researchers, teachers, supervisors and mentors, do well, and we must continue to do better, to foster and support talented and committed young career scientists. I intend to focus my energy on this aspect over the next years.

In conclusion, and reflecting on my career to this point, I am glad that I took the plunge into Parasitology and am very grateful for the first opportunities that I was presented with, which have taken me on an amazing journey, not only scientifically, but also, importantly, culturally and personally (see, e.g., Fig. 1). The experiences over these two short decades have been tremendous and are almost impossible to express in words. Clearly, receiving this award was a major highlight in my career to date, and I am extremely grateful and honoured. I thank each and every one of you for your roles as peers, colleagues and/or friends in the discipline of Parasitology, and sincerely hope to catch up with you at ICOPA in Melbourne in 2010.

Robin B. Gasser

### Acknowledgements

Numerous colleagues, staff and students are thanked for their collaborations, contributions, supervision or cooperations throughout the years, including:

*Colleagues/staff:* Y.G. Abs EL-Osta, R.D. Adlard, J.C. Allan, B.A. Allsopp, G.A. Anderson, C. Arme, E. Bayer, I. Beveridge, O. Bain, the late H. Bjørn, B.L. Blagburn, D. Blair, J. Blotkamp, P. Boag, H.O. Bøgh, N.J. Bott, P.J. Brindley, S.M. Caccio, B.E. Campbell, C. Cafarchia, I.W. Caple, L.M. de Carvalho, R.M. Chalmers, L. Chappell, N.B. Chilton, C.M. Christensen, R.A. Cole, T.H. Cribb, P.S. Craig, S. D'Amelio,

## Robin B. Gasser (continued)

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