



EVPC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

Inside:
Meet the Residents
NOVA Course
and other news!

Number 19

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Editorial by the EVPC Secretary

Laura Kramer

The EVPC is coming to the end of another fruitful year of activity. Beginning with the annual meeting in Munich and ending with the successful EVPC examination for diplomate status (see President's address), the College Board and Committees have been working diligently to keep the College on the right track towards definitive recognition. The Examination Committee (Chairperson A. Marinculic, members B. Losson and M. Fox) deserves a round of applause for a job well done, as does the Credentials Committee (Chairperson S. Rehbien, members R. Farkas and C. Bauer) that is currently evaluating EVPC diplomates due for re-accreditation in 2010.

The Education Committee (former Chairperson Thomas Schnieder, Smaro Sotiraki and Carlos Hermosilla) has also been busy and has approved 2 new alternative training programmes (Bari, Italy and Nottingham, UK) and 1 new Standard Residency Programme at the University of Vienna. The college now has 14 active residents that will be sitting the Examination in the next 2-3 years.

This number, however, is still too low.

WE MUST INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE RESIDENTS IF WE ARE TO OBTAIN DEFINITIVE RECOGNITION IN 2013.

At the last annual meeting of the European Board for Veterinary Specialization (EBVS), our college was once again criticized for "the low Resident:Diplomate ratio". The EBVS cannot accept that there is such a high number of Diplomates (currently active: 157), yet such a very low number of Residents.

When you accept to become the diplomate of a European College, you are committed to training new diplomates through Alternative or Standard Residency programmes.

BE A REAL DIPLOMATE: GO TO THE EVPC WEBSITE, LOOK AT THE GUIDELINES FOR TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND APPLY!!

Editorial by the EVPC Secretary (cont.)

THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE 2009 EVPC SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM (TOULOUSE) ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN VETERINARY PARASITOLOGY
“EVPC 2009: Veterinary Parasitosis in the Mediterranean Area”. eds. M. Fraanc, L. Kramer, D. Jacobs, 2010. 174:1-36

THE EVPC EDUCATION COMMITTEE HAS A NEW CHAIRPERSON

Following T. Schnieder’s resignation from the EVPC Education Committee due to growing professional commitments, the EVPC Board nominated Arwid Dauschies (Leipzig) to the Committee and he was unanimously elected as Chairperson.



Warm thanks to Thomas for all the hard work and a hearty welcome to Arwid.

VETERINARY PARASITOLOGY IN THE NORDIC CONTEXT

Laura Kramer



Each year for the last three years, the Scandinavian NOVA initiative has organized one-week intensive courses in Advanced Veterinary Parasitology. Scientists and researchers from all over Europe participated in taking Veterinary Parasitology to a higher level for veterinarians, PhDs and post-graduate students.

In 2008, Sweden hosted "*Diagnostic measures and research methodologies applied in parasitic infections of domestic animals*" which focused on individual and group/herd diagnosis, traditional parasitological methods, immunodiagnosics, and molecular methods in diagnosis and research. In 2009, the theme in Denmark was "*Basic epidemiology, impact and pathogenicity*" and included seminars on epidemiology of endo- and ectoparasitic infections, pathogenesis and pathology, study designs, and statistical interpretation of results.

I had the honour of participating in the last course, held in Finland this past September, that brought together a great group of colleagues (including several fellow EVPC Diplomates) and students (including EVPC Residents Emmanuel Lienard and Emilie Boushira) to delve into the many facets of prevention and treatment of parasitic infections. Topics covered included anthelmintic resistance, herd management in cattle parasites (Dip EVPC Johannes Charlier) and pigs (Dip EVPC Alan Roepstorff), and a wonderful simulation of equine parasite control in a stable (thank you EVPC Resident Martin Nielsen and Dip EVPC Eva Osterman-Lind). Parasite control in companion animals and emerging parasitic diseases in northern Europe due to pet travel were covered by yours truly, while Dip EVPC Stig Thamsborg talked about sheep. The course finished up with meat inspection and zoonotic control.

VETERINARY PARASITOLOGY IN THE NORDIC CONTEXT (cont.)



Teachers and participants of NOVA Vet Par 2010 Antii, Pikka, myself and the others tasting limpets, a local delicacy

The best part of the course, however, were the presentations by the participants. The research excellence, the professionalism shown during presentation and the enthusiasm of this fantastic group of colleagues were a perfect example of what veterinary parasitology is all about.

Finally, I must thank Dip EVPC Antii Oksanen for my favorite topic of the meeting: parasites in reindeer! Yes, that's right, reindeer.

They do exist, they do pull sleds in the snow at Christmas time and they also suffer from filarial infection (*Rumenfilaria andersoni*). I couldn't have been happier.



A warm thanks to Anu Näreaho and Pikka Jokelainen for NOVA Veterinary Parasitology 2010 and please, please, do it again
p.s. If you want to see how much fun veterinary parasitologists can have, we're on Facebook (NOVA Parasitology)!

Laura Kramer

Domenico Otranto invited speaker at the Annual meeting of the Austrian Society for Tropical Medicine and Parasitology

From November 18-20, 2010 the annual meeting of the Austrian Society for Tropical Medicine and Parasitology took place in Graz, Austria. The motto of this year's meeting was "Global Health and Travel Medicine" and the list of speakers also included Prof. Domenico Otranto from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Bari, who gave a plenary lecture on canine leishmaniasis and other vector-borne diseases in the Mediterranean that attracted a lot of attention with a multitude of information also regarding zoonotic arthropod-borne helminth diseases.



Traditionally, the Austrian meeting used to be in German but in order to attract more international presenters and attendees most of the lectures were held in English. Medical and veterinary parasitologists as well as experts in travel medicine and tropical diseases from Austria, Germany, Serbia and Hungary came together to discuss issues of basic science, drug development, epidemiology and diagnosis of parasitic and other diseases. Hopefully the meeting will be able to attract more researchers and presenters of modern veterinary parasitology in the future. We will try to set up a calendar with all the relevant meetings that take place throughout the year and put it on the Website for the future!

Anja Joachim

Meet the Residents

Caroline Franziska Frey

Resident at the Institute of Parasitology, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Bern, Switzerland

My name is Caroline Frey and since 2006 I am working as an assistant at the Institute of Parasitology in Bern (IPB; head Prof. Bruno Gottstein). My supervisor for the EVPC residency is Prof. Peter Deplazes, head of the Institute of Parasitology in Zurich (IPZ). Both institutes (the IPB and the IPZ) belong to the same faculty (Vetsuisse Faculty).

I graduated as a veterinarian in Bern in 2002 and then gained practical experience working in a practice for companion animals. As it was a very lively practice that also acted as a referral practice for other vets, I got the chance to be involved in the care of critical patients and more complicated cases besides performing routine medicine and surgeries. The associated laboratory performed all routine tests in haematology, chemistry, bacteriology, and parasitology and offered me a first insight into this fascinating discipline of veterinary medicine. My time in practice was very intense with a steep learning curve in both professional and social skills. However, I missed the scientific approach and therefore decided to start a doctoral thesis at the Institute of Virology and Immunoprophylaxis (IVI) on a recombinant vaccine against Classical Swine Fever. I enjoyed the challenges of learning to perform molecular biology, cloning, sequence analyses and cell culture techniques, and working in a containment situation. I also learned to plan, and conduct, vaccination-challenge experiments in pigs, including all the necessary diagnostic tests to monitor the course and to document the results of the trials.

After my thesis I decided to stay in the field of infectious diseases and finally found my present position at the IPB. My activities here are very diverse: I am responsible for the diagnostic laboratory for veterinary parasitology (involving tasks related to our reference functions), I am teaching vet students on a regular basis, and I am responsible for the quality management of the institute. Of course, I am also involved in research focusing on various parasites and I participated in many projects and collaborations. My main interests are diagnostics and epidemiology of *Trichinella* spp. in wildlife and in pigs, *Toxoplasma gondii* in meat producing animals and in cats, and my most recent project entitled "*Tritrichomonas foetus* in cats and cattle". I truly enjoy my work at the IPB in which I can combine both my practical as well as my scientific experiences and where I can improve my professional knowledge.

The contact to practitioners, students, colleagues, and researchers from all over the world is very stimulating and encourages me to continue my career in the scientific/academic world.

Besides work, I love to be outdoors.

Together with my partner, I make long hiking tours and we spend a lot of time trying to spot wildlife. Furthermore, we both love travelling and we enjoy our experiences with other lifestyles and cultures. Meeting friends, literature and other cultural activities, as well as yoga are important counterparts to my sometimes quite busy job



Meet the Residents

MARTIN K. NIELSEN, DVM, Ph.D.

Resident at Department for Large Animal Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences,
University of Copenhagen in Denmark

My name is Martin Krarup Nielsen, and I currently serve as assistant professor at Department for Large Animal Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen in Denmark. I graduated with my DVM degree from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark in 2001. I then spent three years in equine veterinary practice before joining graduate school in 2004. I received my Ph.D. in equine parasitology at University of Copenhagen in 2007. My residency training program is taking place under the directions of Dr. Jesper Monrad, who also served as my PhD supervisor.

My research is focussed on development of diagnostic tools to better detect and measure parasite burdens in horses. We were first to develop a quantitative Real-Time PCR assay targeting an equine nematode parasite pathogen, *Strongylus vulgaris*. In addition I work with anthelmintic resistance in equine strongyle nematodes, and my main focus is now to identify and evaluate modern sustainable anthelmintic treatment regimens. Being employed at a clinical department, my duties include after hour emergency duty at the Equine Hospital at University of Copenhagen, as well as participating in clinical rotations in the hospital. Here I get full exposure to parasitological clinical cases on a daily basis. In addition to this, I serve as head of the clinical service and research laboratory, where we process parasitological procedures every single day.

My research has resulted in 40 peer-reviewed abstracts for presentations at conferences and meetings, 20 peer-reviewed publications and five more manuscripts in preparation. In addition, I am author of 35 popular articles, one book chapter and one Ph.D. thesis. As a big spare-time activity, I have lectured extensively to Danish, American, French and Finnish veterinarians and horse owners on various aspects of equine parasitology.



EVPC Diplomate new Head at the Free University of Berlin

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Institute for Parasitology and Tropical Veterinary Medicine



The **Institute for Parasitology and Tropical Veterinary Medicine** is the successor of the Institute of Parasitology at the former ‘Berliner Tierarzneyschule’ (Berlin School of Animal Medicine) where the first German chair for Veterinary Parasitology was obtained by Wilhelm Nöller in 1926. It is part of the **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine** of the Freie Universität Berlin. The **Freie Universität Berlin** (FUB)(www.fu-berlin.de) is one of the leading research institutions in Germany with 15 departments and central institutes offering over 100 programs in all subject areas. The FUB was founded by students and scholars on December 4, 1948, with the support of the American Allies and Berlin politicians as a response to the persecution of students critical of the system at the ‘Universität unter den Linden’ in the Soviet sector of the divided city of Berlin. Currently the FUB is one of only 9 German universities which succeeded in all three funding lines in the federal and state [Excellence Initiative](#).

The **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine** of the Freie Universität Berlin is currently divided into three main campuses. The primary campus with all clinical departments is located at Berlin-Zehlendorf, at the former Prussian estate “Düppel”. Some departments are located in the Dahlem and Steglitz areas. Additionally, some buildings of the former Veterinary Faculty of the Humboldt-Universität in the centre of Berlin are being used. Presently 38 professors, 97 research and teaching assistants and 253 supporting personnel are employed.



EVPC Diplomate new Head at the Free University of Berlin

(cont.)

The **Institute for Parasitology and Tropical Veterinary Medicine** is located at the primary campus of Döppel. The institute provides courses to undergraduate students in general veterinary parasitology (parasites, parasitism, host parasite interaction etc.) and special veterinary parasitology (helminthology, protozoology, entomology). Research covers a coherent continuum ranging from basic biology of parasites and their vectors, over applied sciences to clinical trials. Main research subjects are the mode of action of antiparasitic drugs, prevalence and mechanism of anthelmintic resistance, tools for parasite detection, epidemiology of livestock and pet animal parasites.

The institute has also ample experience in more than 40 years of research and training in tropical veterinary medicine. Research and development activities are focusing on diagnosis and control of emerging and re-emerging diseases, including vector-borne and zoonotic diseases. Emphasis is put on integrating best-bet disease management practices including vector control towards an improvement of livestock health and productivity, thereby increasing income and human welfare in developing countries. The institute has established and is continuing to develop fruitful collaborations with numerous national and international research groups. In the near future an EVPC standard residency programme will be established.

Since 2009 Georg von Samson-Himmelstjerna has become director of the institute. Together with the institute scientific staff members Peter-Henning Clausen, Janina Demeler and Jürgen Krücken as well as an enthusiastic team of doctoral students and technical staff he is engaged in numerous scientific research projects addressing fundamental and applied topics. The institutes infrastructure includes state of the art parasitological and molecular laboratories and animal facilities, which following the finalization of the renovation in 2011, will be suitable to keep a broad range of experimental animals from mice to cattle.



“EAST MEETS WEST”

JOINT MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN VETERINARY PARASITOLOGY COLLEGE AND THE SOUTHEASTERN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN PARASITOLOGISTS

JUNE 16th-18th, 2011

The annual EVPC General Business Meeting and Scientific Symposium will be held at the Veterinary School in Zagreb (Croatia) next June.

EVPC Diplomate Albert Marinculic is busy organizing what promises to be an interesting occasion for colleagues from different European realities to exchange experiences and knowledge.

The EVPC General Assembly, as always, is an important appointment for all College members to have their say and to participate in the running of the College.

We look forward to seeing all of you there. So, check the dates, cross them off on your calendar and look out for the April 2011 Newsletter for further information on the programme, accommodations, etc.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE 2012 EVPC ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AND SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

The EVPC Executive Board is now accepting proposals for the 2012 EVPC annual meeting. Please send your proposals to EVPC Secretary Laura Kramer at evpc@unipr.it no later than January 30th, 2011.

Wishes from the President

Dear colleagues,

The only word that comes to my mind when I look back at the past year: BUSY.

Meetings were attended; manuscripts published; conferences held; students graduated....

The EVPC activities included the annual meeting in Munich (see our last Newsletter) and the more recent examination held in Zagreb, excellently organised by Albert Marinculić and his colleagues from the Examination Committee. They did an excellent job and I would like to sincerely thank them for this. I must say they never ever complained about the amount of work that they had with the compilation of the Examination questions; however, I felt that the creation of questions was also largely their task, and I would like to take the opportunity (once again) to remind you that we can only be successful with a large number of active members who contribute to the efforts of the College. It will be the Committee's work so much easier if everyone sent case reports and questions, so please support the Examination Committee for next year's examination.

I also would like to mention the new Chair of the Education Committee, Arwid Dauschies from the Institute of Parasitology in Leipzig, Germany. He stepped up with the vote of the Board in exchange for Thomas Schnieder from Hannover.

A number of Standard and Alternative Training Programs is now in place and I am positive that we will accomplish our goal of definitive recognition in 2013. Until then, we still have a lot to do but for now the end of the year is drawing near and I wish you all a joyful Christmas time and a Happy New Year, and I hope to see you all again in good health and high spirits next year!

Anja Joachim

EVPC President



Decoration for the helminthologist:
A Christmas Tree worm....