



EVPC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011



Inside:
Examination November 2011
The new Diplomates
EVPC Annual Meeting 2012 in León, Spain
Pet Travel
New Resident
Job Offers

Number 22

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EVPC EXAMINATION

Vienna, 11-12 November, 2012



This year's Examination took place at the Institute of Parasitology, Vetmeduni Vienna.

Four candidates were examined, Manuela Schnyder from Zürich, Caroline Frey from Berne, Martin Krarup Nielsen from Copenhagen and Hany Elsheikha from Nottingham.

During the 1 ½ day examination the candidates had to answer written questions, diagnose parasites and present two of their case reports. The programme was quite dense, but on Saturday at noon time everyone went home happily: **ALL 4 CANDIDATES PASSED!**

This a great achievement, congratulations from the Examination Committee!

Anja Joachim
Mark Fox
Bertrand Losson



Examiner at work!



Candidates sitting for the written part of the Examination.

“EXPECTATION, VANITY, AMBITION OR JUST PURE STUBBORNNESS?”

An insight report from this year's Candidates

While it has been relatively easy to explain the concepts of a DVM and PhD to friends and family, the diplomate degree often becomes a larger challenge. Most people associate the term diplomate with some sort of person affiliated with some embassy somewhere, driving a large car with blue license plates and probably involved with important negotiations on behalf of the government. Attempts to explain the concepts of the residency and exams do not always help. Many people not directly involved with academia do not really see the point with having to struggle with yet another huge and demanding exam. “Does it never stop?” one friend asked. We guess the answer is no. There is always another mountain to climb. Even some of our non-veterinarian colleagues have sometimes indicated that they don't always understand us vets. “Is it really worth all that extra work?” another great friend and parasitologist asked.

And it is a lot of work. We all have full time (+) jobs with many commitments, and the residency quickly becomes a spare time activity. Preparations for the exams need to be initiated well ahead of time, and requires lots of determination throughout weekends and evenings. Friends and family will have to give –and understand - that we are preparing for this important degree kind-of-thing. At one point somewhere between memorizing *Eimeria* species infecting rabbits and learning about cytokine responses evoked by *Trichuris* infections, it can appear relevant to ask yourself the simple question: “Why?” What makes us do this? When the four of us met in Vienna for the EVPC boards, this became a natural topic of conversation. “So why are YOU doing this?” The title of this piece indicates some of the possible reasons for attempting to obtain the diplomate degree. The focus on board certifications is increasing in veterinary science, especially in the clinical disciplines such as surgery, internal medicine, theriogenology, ophthalmology etc. In many places, a board certification is one of the requirements to become faculty member. This is especially pronounced in North America, but the same trend is now seen in Europe.

As parasitologists we are not yet met with this demand, but a diplomate degree has lots of merit in veterinary science, so there can be a degree of expectation from our leaders, although many of them do not necessarily recognize the value of a board certification in parasitology. However, this is likely to gradually change in coming years.

EXPECTATION, VANITY, AMBITION ... (cont.)

The largest pressure more likely came from ourselves. Ambition is key in academia, and without ambition, nobody would have made the extra efforts required. It certainly takes a good amount of pure stubbornness to keep going at times when the amount of reading appears insurmountable. And having made it to the other side, it does feel good to put the DipEVPC acronym next to your name. So vanity appears to be a factor as well. It is our prediction that the emphasis on parasitology board certifications will increase over the coming years. In North America a veterinary parasitology college is currently under establishment in affiliation with the American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA). It is therefore very likely that board certification will become a requirement for veterinary parasitology positions in the near future.

The exam itself took place in beautiful Vienna, in the gorgeous setting of the Vetmeduni Vienna, where Prof. Anja Joachim kindly offered her institute as venue. The atmosphere was very friendly and Bertrand Losson, Mark Fox and Anja Joachim did their best to make us feel at ease and help us to support the pressure that was felt by all four of us. It was a tough but fair exam, and we all went through some stages of nerve tickling doubts whether our performance would be enough to pass the exam. The relief was immense when on Saturday by lunch time we learned that all four of us had passed. With this great feeling warming our hearts, we set out to explore Vienna, to enjoy a typical "Beisl" and to indulge in Sacher-Torte. We really enjoyed the company of each other and feel that in addition to a new title we have also earned new friends.

We are happy to have made it and look forward submit our questions for next year's exams and to eventually train our own residents.

Hany Elsheikha
Manuela Schnyder
Martin K. Nielsen
Caroline Frey



NEXT EVPC MEETING

First Announcement

The next EVPC Meeting

“The two faces of Veterinary Parasitology – from biological to clinical aspects”

will be held

In **Léon**, Spain

On the 28th September, 2012

Organizer: Francisco A. (“Paco”)
Rojo Vazquez



SAVE THE DATE!

More information will soon be available on the EVPC Website!

A NEW RESIDENT

My name is Siân Mitchell; I am employed as a veterinary investigation officer at the Carmarthen regional laboratory of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, in the UK. The VLA consists of seventeen regional laboratories / surveillance centres, situated throughout England and Wales (and one laboratory in Scotland) together with VLA Weybridge (formally the central veterinary laboratory, CVL). The work of the regional laboratories is predominantly the surveillance for disease in animals, through the diagnostic service it offers to stock keepers.

I suspect that I am a bit different to the others studying for the EVPC diplomate exams in that I am older (I graduated from the University of Glasgow veterinary school in 1984) and I am not directly involved in parasitology research. I am studying under the alternative training programme, with the help of my supervisor Dr Mark Fox of the RVC in London

My interest in parasitology began at the University of Glasgow, where I was very fortunate to be taught as a veterinary undergraduate by Profs Armour, Urquhart, Duncan, Drs Jennings and Dunn. I then stayed to study a PhD under the supervision of Prof Bogan and Dr Q McKellar on the pharmacological mediation of helminth infection in sheep.

General practice followed for 9 years (and the birth of my three daughters) before I joined the VLA in 2000. I am based at a diagnostic laboratory in south west Wales, where the farming industry is predominately cattle (dairy and beef) and sheep, with also small poultry flocks, camelids, deer and occasion animals from zoological collections for variety! Parasitological disease is a common finding.



The EVPC training programme has helped to extend my parasitological knowledge, and to gain contacts throughout Europe.



CHANGES TO PET TRAVEL RULES IN EUROPE (by Eric Morgan)

Derogations to European regulations on pet movement have been in place for some time, allowing some EU countries (UK, Ireland, Finland, Sweden and Malta) to apply stricter border controls. This is justified in order to protect their disease-free status for rabies, *Echinococcus multilocularis* and some tick-borne diseases. However, the derogations are periodically reviewed in the interests of EU harmonisation, and will change on 1st January 2012.

Thus, for example, pets (dogs, cats and ferrets) entering or re-entering the UK from other EC member states will still have to be treated against tapeworms, but this can be from 24 until 120 hours before entry, rather than 24-48 hours as before. The previous requirement to treat against ticks will be abandoned. Rabies requirements will be simplified.¹

Although this news might seem of limited direct relevance to the majority of diplomates, it is worth noting for two reasons. Around 100,000 dogs cross the UK border each year, and their owners rely on vets in Europe to apply the controls. Therefore, as specialists we should be up to date in our appreciation of the rules. Thinking more broadly, this reaction to changing epidemiological evidence perhaps points towards a more dynamic future for parasitic disease in Europe and in how we deal with it. As a formal College and a collaborating network of European researchers, the EVPC is in an important position to support assessments of changing parasite epidemiology in the context of global change. After all, no individual group has both the geographic and the taxonomic coverage to do this alone. We are, indeed, stronger together.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/06/30/new-rules-pet-passports/>

OPEN POSITION



PARASITOLOGIST

NATIONAL VETERINARY INSTITUTE (SVA), UPPSALA, SWEDEN

Healthy animals – Safe humans

SVA is a centre of expertise in veterinary medicine specializing in animal diseases and pathogens and their modes of transmission between animals, from animals to humans and within the environment.

SVA is a specialist veterinary authority catering to other authorities and the general public. SVA is the only official veterinary medical laboratory in Sweden.

Our Section for Parasitology is seeking to recruit a recognized expert in the field of veterinary parasitology for a 50% research and 50% diagnostics position. The candidate is expected to run research projects in parallel to working in the routine diagnostic laboratory.

Ongoing research projects include waterborne protozoan parasites, vector biology, *E. multilocularis*, chicken *Eimeria* vaccine and development of diagnostic methods. The laboratory is accredited and serves as the national reference laboratory for zoonotic parasites. The main activities at the laboratory include coprological and post mortem analyses of domestic animals and wildlife, *Trichinella* analyses and *Sarcoptes* serology.

PhD as well as skills and experience in parasitological diagnostics (coprology, species identifications, serology etc) are required for the position. Veterinary qualification is an advantage. You must be able to speak Swedish or be willing to learn as contacts with veterinarians, local authorities and animal owners are frequent. Fund raising and participation in common administrative and management tasks are expected. Personal qualities such as abilities in cooperation, dedication, organization skills and sense of service are important for this position.

Application along with a description of a potential parasitology research project (2 pages maximum) can be submitted to SVA until January 10th, 2012. Application is made by email to registrator@sva.se

Informal enquiries can be directed to: Head of the Department Jean-Francois Valarcher, jfvalarcher@sva.se or Head of Section Eva Osterman Lind, eva.osterman-lind@sva.se

www.sva.se

Open Position: Associate or Assistant Professor in Veterinary Parasitology

- Department of Veterinary Disease Biology, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen invites applications for a position as Associate/Assistant professor in veterinary parasitology from 1.3 2012 or as soon as possible thereafter.
- The Associate/Assistant professor's field is veterinary parasitology with particular focus on molecular parasitology in the context of population and infection biology. The associate professorship is placed within the Section for Parasitology, Health and Development, which addresses broadly parasite infections and parasitic diseases in animals and man. Within veterinary parasitology, the section works with integrated and sustainable control of parasitic diseases, and with population and infection biology of helminths in domestic animals, including epidemiology, pathogenesis, molecular genetics and diagnostics, host immunity and parasite-induced immuno-modulation.
- More information on the Section for Parasitology, Health and Development, including its profile and strategy, can be found at www.sphd.ivs.life.ku.
- **Duties**
- The Associate/Assistant professor's duties will primarily be to undertake research (including publication/academic dissemination duties) and research-based teaching (with associated examination duties). In addition to research and research-based teaching, the post also includes a duty to share knowledge with the rest of the society – including participation in the public debate. Furthermore, the Associate/Assistant professor is expected to initiate and manage research, to provide guidance and supervision of students and researchers as well as to take part in academic assessments.

Open Position: Associate or Assistant Professor in Veterinary Parasitology (cont.)

- **Qualifications - selection criteria**

- Applicants must have an academic degree within veterinary medicine (or a relevant biological discipline) and research experience with domestic animals. Applicants for a position as Associate professor must have research and teaching qualifications corresponding to what can be achieved through satisfactory appointment as an assistant professor in relation to the following subject areas:
- Molecular parasitology in domestic animals with main focus on helminth infections
- Experimental parasitology with focus on population dynamics and immunity
- Documented experience in securing comprehensive external funding for research is considered a central criteria for employment as Associate professor.
- Applicants for a position as Associate professor must have research and teaching qualifications in the above mentioned field, corresponding to what can be achieved through satisfactory appointment as Assistant professor.
- The Associate/Assistant professor is required to be enterprising by nature and to possess good interpersonal skills.
- If the applicant for the position as Associate professor has had no previous teaching experience through employment as an assistant professor or has not achieved corresponding teaching experience, the appointment will be probationary for 1½ years. Employment as assistant professor will be with a time limit of 4 years.
- Fluency in English is considered essential. The Faculty generally encourages employees who do not speak Danish to acquire a working knowledge of the language.

- **Terms of employment**

- The post will be filled according to the Agreement between the Danish Ministry of Finance and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations. The post is covered by the Protocol on Job Structure.
- Applications will be assessed according to the Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation Executive Order no 284 of 25. April 2008. Read more about the recruitment process at LIFE [here](#).
- The University of Copenhagen welcomes applications from suitably qualified candidates regardless of age, gender, race, religion or ethnic background.

Open Position: Associate or Assistant Professor in Veterinary Parasitology (cont.)

- **Questions**
- For further information about the post, please contact Professor Stig. M. Thamsborg on tel. (+45) 35332780 or smt@life.ku.dk.
- Potential applicants from outside Denmark will find information about life in Denmark (taxation, healthcare, etc) at <http://ism.ku.dk/>.
- **Application**
- Applicants shall state clearly whether the application addresses the post as Associate professor or Assistant professor.
- Apply by clicking 'Apply online' below.
- Applications – in English – must include:
 - Cover letter
 - CV with documentation of education.
 - A complete list of publications.
 - A maximum of 10 relevant scientific works which the applicant wishes to be included in the assessment.
 - Documentation for additional research qualifications.
 - Teaching portfolio (**for applicants to a position as associate professors**) ([according to University of Copenhagen's guidelines for teaching portfolios](#))
 - Teaching experience, including type (lectures, practicals, other), level (Bachelor, Master, PhD) and duration.
 - Formal pedagogic training including courses, conferences or other.
 - Evaluation of teaching by students, employers or others.
 - Leadership and/or administration of education including study and/or curricula committees, commissions or other.
 - Pedagogical development including course, teaching and exam development as well as pedagogical research.
 - Personal description of pedagogical experience, goals, methods and success in terms of student learning.
- Notes referring to the most important scientific work (2-3 pages, **for applicants both to a position as Associate professor and to a position as Assistant professor**)
- Please submit your application no later than 16.1 2012
- Only electronic applications are accepted.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues,

Another year has fled past, again.

It was another busy year for EVPC, with the annual meeting in Zagreb and the Examination in Vienna last month as two highlights of the year.

Again my sincerest thanks go to all the Diplomates, Board and Committee members of the EVPC who have supported the College to move forward and to get to the favourable position it is in now; the College is hopefully moving closer to its definitive recognition, one year ahead of schedule, thanks for everyone's input.

We have four new Diplomates in the College by Examination, congratulations again, a great achievement! In regular intervals I like to address all Diplomates and also the Associate members regarding the creation of examination questions; this is essential for the College and I still feel that this workload is carried by few members. 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 sends case reports and questions, so please support the Examination Committee for next year's examination! Thank you very much in advance.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to the supervisors of the growing number of training programmes (Standard and Alternative Programs) that are up and running. Mentoring young parasitologists is one of the major tasks that senior colleagues have and their support cannot be overestimated!

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

