

ECVP Newsletter, June 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Every year, after the EBVS AGM and before the summer holidays, Council would like to take the opportunity to provide you with all relevant news and information.



One important piece of news is regarding the administrative assistance of the ECVP. In March, after more than 10 years work for the ECVP, Julie Fitzsimmons has moved on to a new role at the University of Liverpool, which requires her full-time commitment. We are sad to see her go and wish her all the best for the future, wanting to use this opportunity to thank her wholeheartedly for her excellent work, her commitment and efficient organisational support as well as her patience with an organisation that is constantly developing and changing. We welcome **Irini Thanou**, a biologist with a Masters in Neurobiology, as our new administrative assistant. Irini is based in Athens and is pursuing her PhD whilst supporting us. Please be aware of our new email address (admin@ecvpath.org) that should be used in any communication with the ECVP Office.

Welcome to our new members

Our annual certifying examinations were held in February, as usual. A total of 10 candidates completed these successfully. Congratulations! We warmly invite you to join us to welcome our new diplomates who will receive their diplomas during our Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will take place during the Annual Conference in Lyon, on Thursday, 31.08.2017, from 17:00.

Summer School 2017 in Berlin

The ECVP/ESVP Summer School 2017 will again take place in Berlin, Germany, from Monday, 17th to Friday, 28th July. It is being organised by the pathologists from the Institute of Veterinary Pathology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Berlin. We thank the local organisers, and in particular Sophie Merz and Achim Gruber, and the Education Committee, led by Chiara Brachelente, for the excellent preparation of the event.

The 78 registered participants will enjoy a programme that is, as usual, a combination of modules that provide specific training towards exam preparation (i.e. Comprehensive Pathology) and more broad topics, such as Notifiable Diseases, as well as species- and organ-specific modules. If one of the topics is of particular interest for you and you are keen to attend, please contact the ECVP Office to investigate any last minute options. For more information on the annual programmes and location of the Summer Schools, please refer to our website at <http://www.ecvpath.org/summerschool/>.



The venue of the Summer School at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Berlin.

ECVP recognised residency training centres: regular reviewing and specific training opportunities for trainers during the Annual Conference in Lyon

In 2006, the ECVP introduced a defined system for the registration of residency training centres. At present, 49 institutions in academia, in state and private diagnostic laboratories and in industry are ECVP recognised training centres. Following EBVS requirements, we will now begin to establish a regular **reviewing process for**

training centres. As a first, fact-finding process we will gather data on the function and performance of the centres. Therefore, in the next few days, all Programme Directors will receive an email with a questionnaire that they are asked to fill in within the next few weeks (deadline: 31.07.2017). This will help us to see how centres all across Europe function and perform, and to identify specific aspects in need for support and further development. Ultimately, we want to find means to ensure sustainability through an appropriate number of established, active training centres across Europe to provide a steady flow of suitably trained veterinary pathologists.

During the Annual Conference in Helsinki in 2015, we ran a first, well-attended **“Train the trainer” session**, as a means to keep training supervisors up to date with new developments in training options and our certifying examination, and to provide a forum for active diplomates who are committed to the challenging task of training residents. This year, in Lyon, a similar session will take place. It is scheduled for Thursday, 31.08.2017, directly after the AGM, between 19:00 and 19:45, and will again be moderated by Andrea Gröne, an extremely experienced previous member of the ECVP Examination Committee and the programme director of the residency training centre in Utrecht. Attendance will be credited with **CPD points** towards the re-registration of active members.

Engagement with the ECVP as your professional body

The sustainability and visibility of our College relies on as many members as possible taking an active part in the College, by training residents towards our certifying examination, as a member in one of our various committees, by regularly attending our annual conferences and the AGM, or by making use of our CPD opportunities.

You are aware that, following EBVS Policies and Procedures, the ECVP has amended its constitution to ensure the **regular attendance of practising members at the College AGM**. This was announced and ratified at the AGM 2016 in Bologna. Accordingly, attendance at a minimum of one AGM in three years will be a requirement for all our practising diplomates from 2017 onwards. Information on attendance will first be recorded in the 2018 re-registration process; for those due to re-register in 2020, the rule will fully apply (recorded period: 2017-2019).

We regularly remind our members that the Examination Committee needs a constant supply of members. So, if you are interested in joining, please apply for a proctorship by sending a short letter of intent along with your brief CV to the ECVP Office (admin@ecvpath.org). After one year of proctorship, you will be eligible to become full member of the Examination Committee. The pay-off for this admittedly substantial 5-year commitment is your own continuous CPD and the personal network that develops from this intense teamwork experience. If you have further questions with regards to the role of a proctor or in general about the work of the Examination Committee, please have a look at the ECVP website (About us – The Council) or contact Alexandre Bidaut, the current chair of the Examination Committee (Alexandre.Bidaut@crl.com).

If you are interested in becoming more closely involved in other aspects of the College, for example by contributing through membership in one of the Committees, please contact the Council.

The EBVS as our representative to achieve a legally recognised competence status

The EBVS as the body representing all European Veterinary Specialists in the public sphere, is aiming to gain legal recognition of our specialist status. Accordingly, in November 2016, it has submitted an application towards the recognition of our diplomate statuses as level 8 competency within the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). The EBVS Board has now received feedback on the initial submission and is working towards

resubmission. For more information on this important topic, see, for example: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/european-qualifications-framework-efq>.

As diplomates of the ECVP we are all listed on the EBVS website as European Veterinary Specialists (<http://ebvs.eu/specialists>). For most of us, the personal profiles look somewhat “blank” and we would therefore encourage you to have a look and update your profile, ideally with a picture and some information.

The ECVP and its “relatives”, the ESVP, the ESTP and the ACVP

In March this year, the **ESVP** Board was joined by the ECVP President and the chairperson of the joint Scientific Committee, Laura Peña, during their meeting in Berlin. We discussed a lot of practical issues regarding future conferences, and common plans. We are now fast approaching our Annual Conference that will take place in Lyon between August 30 and September 02. This year, the ESVP and the ECVP will again be joined by the **ESTP**, for the **3rd Cutting Edge Pathology Congress**. For more information, visit the dedicated website at <https://cuttingedgepathology.eu/>. The deadline for abstract submission has already passed, but be aware that early registration ends on June 30. We are looking forward to a diverse and interesting conference, covering all aspects of our profession.

This year, Dr. Anna Barger, the current **ACVP** President, will attend our Conference. We have invited her to the AGM where she will give us an update on changes and current developments in the ACVP, an important topic for many of us, since the ACVP has changed the format of its certifying examination and is now organising online examinations for phase 1, General Pathology, at several sites in Europe. The ACVP also wants to re-animate the International Veterinary Pathology Coalition (IVPC) that was set up a few years ago. We hope to get an update on this initiative in Lyon or after the ACVP meeting in Vancouver later this year.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Lyon,
The ECVP Council