

# ECVP Newsletter



August 2021

## Introduction – Laura Peña, ECVP President

How things have progressed since our last AGM? “What things?” -one would say- Ahhh! are there other things than the pandemic itself, than being alive?

In spite of the fact that every little detail in our lives has been transformed and adapted to this weird pandemic world, the



answer is “Yes, there are many other important things”. The great news is that the ECVP Council, Committees and Task Forces have accepted the challenge of hard work in these adverse times, and we have succeeded. Webinars for trainees and diplomates, the hard-to-organize multisite exam, transition of the administrative support (thanks a lot Irini!), a future new ECVP website, interactions with other bodies and societies (EBVS, ACVP, ESVP, ESTP), the establishment of a brand-new Residents’ Committee, the organization of the hybrid 2021 Summer School in Zagreb... and many other activities coordinated by different Committees, as well as, our fortnightly online Council meetings. It is also true that we, all ECVP members and trainees, have missed the face-to-face meetings we used to have. The virtual Christmas gathering in “Zoom breakout rooms” was a very good response to this need. Only at the very last moment we joined ESVP and ESTP boards in making the decision of having the CEP Congress in September 2021 in a virtual format, and the reason was clear: we would have loved to see you all, dear ECVP diplomates and trainees, gathering together in our annual congress in a high-quality scientific environment, enjoying Veterinary Pathology “in person”, as we used to do. Especially because the 25th anniversary Task Force had very attractive and interesting plans for a physical birthday celebration... This has been moved and adapted to an online format on our website (please, visit [European College of Veterinary Pathologists – 25 years \(ecvpath.org\)](https://www.ecvpath.org)), and in a monograph ECVP history session during the CEP September meeting.

To conclude, even though COVID 19 has hit us all and our families and friends in different and, in some cases, terrible ways, things have progressed a lot since our last AGM, thanks to the efforts of many, and you can read more about them below, in this newsletter.

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## Administrative Assistant

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After more than four years, Irini Thanou has discontinued her administrative assistant position for the ECVF and will now fully focus on her scientific career. We would like to thank Irini for her great support and the very friendly collaboration in the past years.

From June 2021, Bernadeta Kieromin has taken over the role of administrative assistant. Bernadeta is originally from Poland and has been living in Ireland for over 16 years. She has a broad management and administrative experience in the University environment as she has worked for five years in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University College Dublin. Thus, she is being with our veterinary profession.

We are delighted to welcome Bernadeta in her new position and are looking forward to working with her.



*Bernadeta Kieromin*

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## The challenge of the ECVF exam during the pandemic

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The COVID pandemic has changed many aspects of our lives: personal, social, and professional. It is no surprise that this global event had a big impact on the ECVF examination.

After summer 2020, the second wave hit Europe, and it was clear that having a regular exam in a single location in Europe in February would have been unfeasible and unsafe. Thus, rescheduling of the exam to June 2021 was announced on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The usual preparatory meeting was replaced by a 5-day long Zoom TC, during which the Examination Committee (EC) was able to finalize the exam. However, it was still uncertain how and where to provide it to candidates. The main goal was to have the exam in one single location and, in addition to Ghent, two other institutions in other countries volunteered to host the exam if necessary (Paris-Alfort and Hannover).

During winter the EC and the Council closely monitored the pandemic, constantly updating the list of possible solutions and options for the exam 2021.

In March 2021, it became clear that infection rates and travel restrictions would not allow to proceed with planning the exam in one single location anywhere in Europe: Council and EC decided, that a multisite exam was the only option. Weeks of intense and strenuous work followed: finding locations, local organizers, hosting facilities, invigilators.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, two months before the exam, the multisite exam was announced and locations communicated to candidates:

- Belgium (Ghent)
- Finland (Helsinki)
- France (Alfort)
- Germany (Hannover)
- Italy (Bologna)
- Spain (Madrid)
- Sweden (Uppsala)
- Switzerland (Zürich)
- UK (Edinburgh)



In addition, the EC faced the challenge of the logistics of this unprecedented exam, to be held simultaneously in 9 locations and 3 time zones. The particularities of our exam does not allow a fully digitalized format without major changes in its structure and composition. SOPs were developed and scrupulously followed at each site. Exams were scanned, collected and distributed to EC members for correction (again, using a Zoom TC).

Council, EC, local organizers, EC representatives, and invigilators: a team of more than 50 colleagues and friends allowed 33 candidates to sit the exam, 16 of which became new diplomates. The ECVP has proven to be a big family that we must all be proud to be a part of, capable of collaborating and working together to face difficult times.

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## Virtual Cutting Edge Pathology 2021

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The fourth joint ESTP, ECVP and ESVP Cutting Edge Pathology Congress is going to take place virtually from September 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2021.

A broad spectrum of joint sessions on coronavirus-related diseases, next-generation biomarkers and interactive case presentations as well as parallel sessions held by the ECVP/ESVP and the ESTP is announced.

The IATP Satellite Symposium as well as an ECVP/ESVP resident's half day workshop will take place just before the main congress.

For more information, please visit: [Home \(cuttingedgepathology.eu\)](http://cuttingedgepathology.eu)

We very much hope to meet a lot of you virtually in September!



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## **EBVS Matters**

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Following the necessary evolution of times, great changes have been introduced in a brand-new EBVS Policies & Procedures (P&Ps) document, approved by all Colleges' representatives in two separate EBVS AGMs. This document sets a new framework for the development of important aspects of the Colleges such as novel flexible ways to prepare for the exam, attendance of diplomates to College AGMs, and some others. The ECVP had already established some of them (temporary recognition of ACVP diplomates, policy on the deadline of the second publication to obtain the necessary credentials), but some others will have to be discussed within the ECVP in a two year-period to draw up a renewed ECVP P&Ps document.

Among all EBVS Colleges, the ECVP is the third College in number of diplomates, and its participation in EBVS activities is gradually increasing. The ECVP cannot be a mere spectator of the decisions taken by others but our College has to participate actively in the EBVS discussions through its College representative (the current president or vice president) and EBVS Committee members. Besides Anja Kipar, member of the Governance and Code of Conduct Committee, we congratulate two of our diplomates for having joined in the last months the Nominations Committee (Pierre Maliver) and the Data Sharing and Best Practice Working Group (Kerstin Baiker).

We expect a very good collaboration between the ECVP and the EBVS in the coming years.

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## **Training and Internship Opportunities for Residents**

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During the past year, our bimonthly webinars dedicated to training of residents and the monthly webinar by the Task force "Innovation and new Technologies" were certainly the most important way for residents to get insight into topics outside of their training centre.

ESTP, FSTP, BSTP together with ECVP and ESVP have provided together a series of free webinars.

Numerous webinars have been offered by the Davis Thompson Foundation and many of them were made available afterwards on their YouTube Channel.

However, other, more interactive training opportunities are available for residents and initiatives in this field will hopefully increase once the pandemic situation will attenuate. Besides other Toxicologic Pathology-related training opportunities (please refer to the ESTP website, "Next Generation"), the ESTP has started an initiative to offer internships for young colleagues interested in toxicologic pathology in the pharmaceutical or agrochemical industry.

[https://www.eurotoxpath.org/nextgen/ESTP\\_Internship\\_Career\\_in\\_Toxpath.pdf](https://www.eurotoxpath.org/nextgen/ESTP_Internship_Career_in_Toxpath.pdf).

Moreover, diagnostic companies such as Laboklin and IDEXX offer possibilities to look into their daily working routine either in 1-2 day sessions or in the format of short internships .

We would like to make residents and sponsors aware of these opportunities and encourage young colleagues to get in contact with ECVP Diplomates working in these places to make use of the possibility to gain insight into the different areas of our profession.

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## Summer School 2021 – In Zagreb and via Zoom

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This year's Summer School took place from July 12<sup>th</sup> until July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021 in Zagreb, Croatia. At the first preparatory online meeting, at the beginning of this year, the third wave of the corona pandemic had just begun. Obtaining an appointment for vaccination was still unthinkable for most of us. Nevertheless, we tried to be optimistic and we hoped for decreasing incidences during summertime. We decided to deliver the Summer School 2021 as a hybrid event. This type of meeting required a lot of flexibility from the organizers. In addition, due to travel restrictions, the final list of attendees could not be confirmed until early July, which made planning even more challenging.

Topics covered during 11 days of the Summer School were: Skin Pathology by Monika Welle (University of Bern, Switzerland) and Dominique Wiener (Texas A&M University, USA), Cytology by Paula Grest and Christiane Krudewig (University of Zürich, Switzerland), Female Reproductive Pathology by Rob Foster (University of Guelph, Canada), Avian Pathology by Natàlia Majó and Toni Ramis (University of Barcelona, Spain), Cancer Biology by Achim Gruber and Robert Klopffleisch (University of Berlin, Germany), Ultrastructural Pathology by Richard Ducatelle and Koen Chiers (University of Ghent, Belgium) and a mock exam by Andrea Gröne (Utrecht University, The Netherlands), Luca Bacciarini (Bellinzona, Switzerland) and Edouard Reyes-Gomez (National Veterinary School of Alfort, France).

Additional evening sessions were also delivered: a presentation about career opportunities in toxicologic pathology by Giovanni Pellegrini (on behalf of the ESTP) and an informal virtual get-together session.

Altogether 87 young pathologists attended the Summer School. Thanks to the online solution, we had participants from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Simbabwe, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom. 28 trainees were able to attend the event on site, in particular to participate in the mock exam during the second week.

We are very grateful to all our speakers who put enormous efforts in presenting their topics and did their best to vary the theoretical parts with wake-up-calls, polls, short breaks for stretching, switching between power point slides and microscope camera, virtual histology slides, gross and histology quizzes.

We received invaluable support by Franco Guscetti from the University of Zürich, Switzerland, for getting access to digital slides all over the world.

Our local organizers in Zagreb did a tremendous job by hosting the Zoom sessions for remote participants and being wonderful hosts for attendants in Zagreb and. Altogether 5320 minutes, almost 90 hours, were hosted. Andrea, Ivan, Marko, Dunja, Ivana and Lidija without your phantastic support and huge flexibility this would not have been possible.

A big thank you to all that made this hybrid Summer School a success.



Group pictures: virtual...



...and on site in Zagreb!

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## Digital Exam starting 2022

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As a reminder, the 2022 ECVF Exam will have the General Pathology section delivered digitally using the program **ExamSoft**. The Digital Exam Task Force has made great progress in preparing the ground. This included delivering a General Pathology mock exam at the 2021 Summer School.

For the 2022 Exam, candidates taking General Pathology will be briefed up and will have a chance to test the system around November/December prior to taking the exam. Information and resources will be made available in due date on a dedicated page on the ECVF website.

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## Miscellaneous

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### CPD points for your re-registration

We would like to remind you about the following activities which account for CPD points:

- Online conferences and webinars are considered.
- Recently, we included work as reviewer for journals to activities (2 points per article). Also presentation of a webinar for our residents will give you CPD points.
- For those who find it difficult to cover 3 different categories, please be reminded that support of College activities counts too. If joining a Committee or Taskforce is not an option for you, you may always submit questions, gross photos or histology cases for the exam and support our Exam Committee.

For any questions, including requirements for submitting material for the exam, please get in touch with Bernadeta at [admin@ecvpath.org](mailto:admin@ecvpath.org).

### Call for finance auditor

Each year, the membership has to elect 2 auditors for finances at the AGM. Please come forward if you are interested. The task implies checking the accounts and transactions for the financial year 2021 and will take place in spring 2022.

### Phishing Mails: Be aware

Please be aware that phishing mails have been sent in the name of members of the ECVF Council members, asking for money. Do not react to these emails, do not click on any links or attachments and do not answer.