

ECVP Newsletter



April 2022

Introduction – Andrea Gröne, ECVP President

Welcome!

In this newsletter we would like to give you an update about tasks we have been working on since the last AGM in September 2021.

The undefendable attack on Ukraine and the unimaginable reality of a war in Europe continues to worry us deeply and our thoughts are with the people affected. Please refer to our e-mail from March 11th if you are aware of any possibilities helping Ukrainian colleagues to find work.

During our monthly virtual Council meetings our main topic was the certifying examination 2022. Please find more about this under the header “ECVP exam 2022 in Ghent”.

Following a presentation in Arnhem 2019 we started to discuss and define credentialing modalities (see the corresponding section in this newsletter “Ways to the Exam”).

Another focus of attention has been our Constitution, for which we propose several conceptual and textual changes as announced under “ECVP Constitution – what we can do better?”. We expect this to require time for explanations and discussion, therefore we decided to move the Annual General Meeting to July and have it as a virtual meeting, counting for re-registration points. The meeting in Athens would then be an Extraordinary General Meeting and allow time for other important topics.

The 2022 Summer School will be hosted again in Zagreb with an exciting program. It will be an onsite only event as a hybrid version proved to be very challenging last year for the organizers (who are all volunteers). We decided that the virtual Summer School is not an option this year because the aim of the event is to offer networking opportunities to participants and lecturers. Please note the respective paragraph in this newsletter.

The webinars for members and more specifically those for residents were continued and we are very happy and grateful to have dedicated diplomates organizing speakers covering important topics. We plan to continue this activity as the feedback is very positive. If you have suggestions for these webinars or are willing to present one yourself, please contact Bernadeta at admin@ecvpath.org

The certification as Forensic Veterinary Pathologist has now successfully been running for 2 years. Please find an update in the respective section of this newsletter.

Hopefully we will all see each other virtually at the Annual General Meeting in July and in ‘real life’ in September in Athens.

ECVP Constitution – what can we do better?

The Constitution of our College dates back to the last century. Since then, many changes and improvements have helped to keep this document up to date and to adapt it to new situations.

Legally, the ECVP is obliged to have any constitutional changes notarized, which is a costly and time-consuming process and which impairs our responsiveness towards future challenges. At the same time, having detailed and legally binding documents is an invaluable asset and ensures that the decision-making power is and remains with our membership.

Bearing this in mind, ECVP Council has established a concept for a new structure of governmental documents which are designed to reduce the need for notarized changes to a minimum while retaining the influence of membership on all changes and decisions.

We will inform membership about the details by early June via email. The suggested concept will be brought to a vote at a virtual Annual General Meeting which will be held on 6th of July from 17:00-19:00 CEST.

ECVP exam 2022 in Ghent

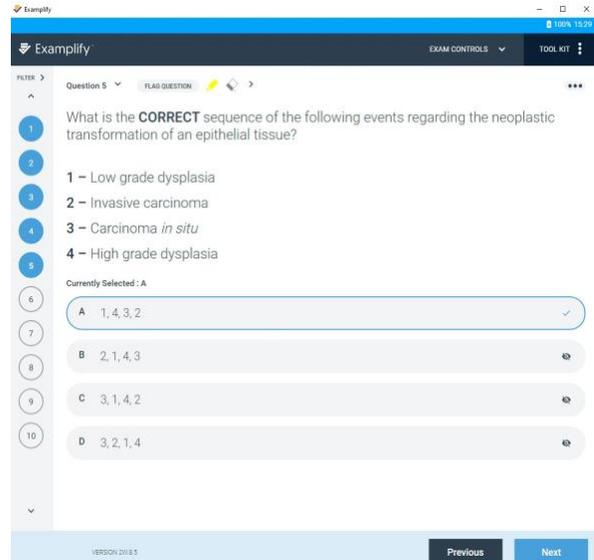
After the challenge of organizing a multiple site alternative in 2021 during the pandemic, our annual certifying examination was back to Ghent, Belgium this year and held in Het Pand on February 14-16th. Specific Covid-related measures were applied as for the exam 2021: mandatory wearing of masks for both candidates and exam committee members, adaptation of the histopathology part with both a small increase in total time and splitting the exam into two parts, self-certification document etc.



A total of 35 candidates took one or more sections of the exam and 12 of them successfully passed. Congratulations to these new diplomates and ECVP members! As before the pandemic, we warmly invite you to welcome our new colleagues during our General Meeting in Athens.

Digitization of the ECVF certifying exam: first step!

2022 marked the first step of the ECVF certifying exam digitization process with the General Pathology part taken by candidates on site, in Gent, using ExamSoft software on their own laptop. This first electronic exam ran smoothly with only minor and easily solved technical issues. Initial feedback from candidates favors this new format (the scope and types of questions remain the same). For the exam committee, digitization allowed faster grading of questions (especially multiple-choice questions), considerable reduction of paper usage and easier reading of candidates' answers (no more bad handwriting!). The next step is the 2023 exam with all subsections of Veterinary Pathology going digital!



Screen capture from a mock exam with ExamSoft

Exam matters: simplification of the application for the Veterinary Pathology section

For candidates taking Veterinary Pathology, several combinations have been possible to date regarding the choice of major and minor items. Despite the various possibilities, all candidates of the last 5 years chose SMALL and LARGE domestic animal pathology either as major or minor item. Given this situation and considering the digitization of Vet Path in 2023, the application form will become simpler for this section. Candidates will automatically take SMALL and LARGE domestic animals as the major item and will only need to choose one minor item among LABORATORY animals, EXOTIC animals and POULTRY.

Exam formats

Council asked a workgroup consisting of former and present EC chairs to evaluate the current format of the certifying examination and to advise changes if that would lead to logistical improvements without compromising the high quality. Potential changes included switching of sections or adding a third format with the possibility to take the section General Pathology after two years of residency already. After exhaustive discussion about advantages and disadvantages we decided that the format as it is at the moment with a standard format and a split format will remain. With the split format we already offer those, who for various reasons cannot prepare adequately for 5 sections, the possibility to concentrate on fewer sections. Therefore, we decided not to introduce such a third possibility.

Ways to the exam

The Council has launched a “ways to the exam” initiative aiming at reviewing the credentialing modalities to take the exam. Next to standard residency programs delivered in registered training centers, alternative routes enable candidates to get appropriate individualized training programs in different academic and professional settings. A credit-based system in alignment with European education standards and the high expectations of the EBVS and ECVP in terms of education quality is under consideration. Flexible and inclusive modular training routes would broaden the possible involvement of ECVP diplomates, especially those not affiliated to established residency training centers. To be followed.

ECVP/ESVP meeting in Athens 2022

This year’s annual ECVP meeting will be held together with the ESVP from September 7th-10th in Athens, Greece.

The Scientific Committee has put together an exciting and varied program with sessions on genetic diseases, oncoepidemiology, veterinary pathologists in biomedical research, non-human primate models, forensic pathology, and a workshop on oncology. On Wednesday 7 September, there will again be a full day dedicated to residents. During the Congress, a session on the ECVP examination is planned.



More information will be soon available on the congress website: [Annual ESVP/ECVP Congress | Annual ESVP/ECVP Congress \(frei.gr\)](#).

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all finally again in person!!

ECVP/ESVP Summer School 2022 in Zagreb, Croatia

Our 2022 edition of the Summer School will take place from July 11th-22nd 2022 and will be hosted in Zagreb, Croatia. Our aim is to bring young pathologists in training from all over Europe together again. To allow an interactive event and the possibility of exchange and networking, we plan to hold an onsite Summer School only.

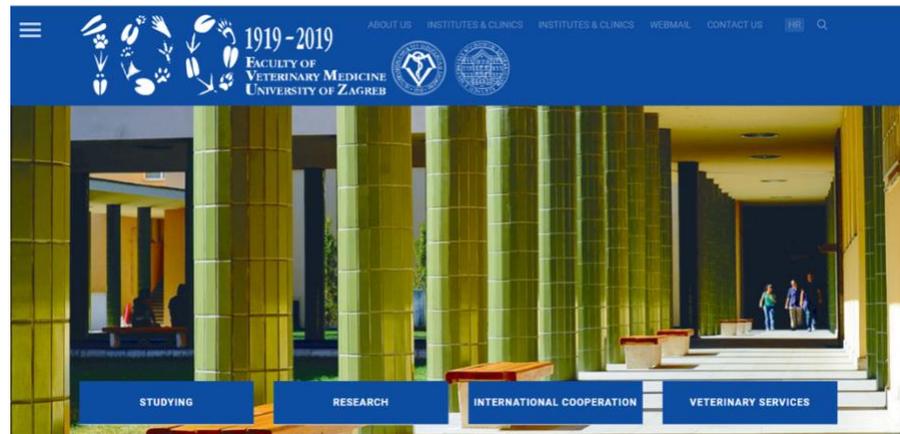


The hybrid Summer School was a compromise as traveling restrictions due to COVID were still in place and many European countries had their border closed. This hybrid format required accommodation of the needs of participants on site and online. Altogether it was feasible but was very challenging and extremely time-consuming for the organization team. Interaction and discussions were clearly reduced with questions coming only in written format through the Zoom chat.

The registration for the Summer School is open until 15 May 2022. All information can be found on our website: <https://www.ecvpath.org/summerschool/>

The Education Committee has put together an outstanding program with renowned speakers. The following topics will be covered:

- male reproductive tract (by Corrie Brown, University of Georgia, US),
- notifiable diseases (by Angele Breithaupt, Federal Research Institute for



Animal Health, Riems, Germany, und Elisabeth Liebler-Tenorio, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Jena, Germany), endocrine pathology (by Tom Rosol, Ohio University, US) and mouse and rat pathology (by Cory Brayton, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, New York, US), Comprehensive Pathology (by Sven Rottenberg, University of Bern, Switzerland, and Philipp Olias, University of Giessen, Germany) and CNS Pathology (by Andreas Beineke and Małgorzata Ciurkiewicz, University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany). Each topic will be covered for 1.5 to 2 days with theoretical lectures, gross, histology and interactive quizzes. These full day topics will be complemented by a presentation of the Taskforce Innovation and New Technologies and a presentation about Career opportunities in Toxicologic Pathology.

The local organising team with Andrea Gudan Kurilj, Ivan-Conrado Šoštarić-Zuckermann, Marko Hohšteter, Dunja Vlahović, Ivana Mihoković Buhin, Lidija Medven Zagradišnik and Doroteja Huber from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University in Zagreb, Croatia, is looking forward to welcome residents and young pathologists from all over Europe.

Update CFVP

The Certificate in Veterinary Forensic Pathology reaches its 3rd year of Life and application rounds. We would like to immensely thank Prof. Randal Munro for chairing the steering group up to 2022, providing an incredible energy and quality standard to the CVFP initiative. As in previous years, the steering group is excited to meet the new applicants and to go through the submitted cases, and finally reach the stage of the round table discussion. This year the Round table will take place physically in Athens at the Annual Meeting in September, but there will be options to attend it virtually as well.

In addition to this, following feedback from the pathologists' community, this year, together with the usual session on "forensic matters" where participants will be able to present and discuss cases, the CVFP steering group will provide a training session focused on Forensic Veterinary Pathology during the meeting in Athens.

More details to come in the next month in preparation for the Congress. Stay tuned.

Miscellaneous

Call for associates

The examination committee (EC) is still seeking to expand its pool of potential associates to ensure diversity in terms of Country, gender, and background. Currently, colleagues working in industry and toxicological pathology are especially requested, but all professional backgrounds are welcome. This is a one-year commitment during which you will be able to contribute to the exam preparation and candidate examination.

Becoming an EC member is a highly rewarding experience which allows us to be part of the heart of our college: The Exam.

Training Centers - Reapproval

All training centers who submitted their responses for reapproval will shortly hear from us. The subgroup of the Education Committee has been preparing a more comprehensive guidance about criteria for approval and re-approval of registered training centers.

Webinars

Information about webinars may be found on our webpage under <https://www.ecvpath.org/online-training-resources/>. The password is ECVP2020. Videos of previous sessions are available as well under this link.