

Minutes ECVP

Annual General Meeting

**Held on Thursday, 6 September 2018, 18:00 - 19:30h
at the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca,
Romania**

1. Welcome by the President Pierre Maliver. He especially welcomed ACVP President Krista La Perle as attending guest.

2. The Minutes of the ECVP AGM of 31 August 2017 in Lyon were acknowledged and approved.

3. New Diplomates

The new diplomates were welcomed and received their diploma:

Isabel Casanova, trained in Barcelona, Spain

Bérangère Dequeant, Nantes, France

Mutien Garigliany, Liège, Belgium

Luisa Vera Muscatello, Bologna, Italy

Laura Polledo, Nottingham, UK

Angelika Rupp, Cambridge/Glasgow, UK

Marian Taulescu, Milan, Italy.

The following new diplomates were welcomed in absence by the assembly:

Nynke Ankringa, trained in Utrecht, The Netherlands

Georgina Doria Torra, Barcelona, Spain

Johannes Junginger, Hannover, Germany

Ingo Spitzbarth, Hannover, Germany.

4. Council changes

Two nominations were received for the position of Treasurer-Elect. A ballot was organised, and Koen Chiers from Belgium was elected by the membership.

5. EBVS matters

The European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS), as parent body of all European Veterinary Colleges, previously held one Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Brussels with two representatives per College attending. This tended to slow discussions and delayed important decisions. The new approach is to hold one General Meeting in Brussels in spring and a second Extraordinary Meeting later during the year in another country. Each meeting will be attended by one representative per College. It is also being proposed to hold National Representative meetings in countries where veterinary postgraduate specialisation is not recognized in order to raise the profile of the EBVS and veterinary specialisation.

The application for recognition of a Common Training Framework (CTF) for European Veterinary Specialists within the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) is still ongoing.

The ECVP was required to submit the 5-year detailed report to the EBVS in November 2017. The review was presented at the EBVS AGM. The ECVP was considered to be a large and well-run College. Many examples of good practice were highlighted in the EBVS response, such as organising the Summer Schools, providing financial support to attend, organisation of mock examinations, educational sessions about the exam and the histology database.

Most operations and documents were considered to be in line with the EBVS Constitution and Policies and Procedures. However, the EBVS asked us to adopt several amendments. One central point of discussion at the 5-year report review resulted from EBVS regulations not allowing ACVP diplomates to act as supervisor of residents of an European College. The ECVP considers the mutual recognition between our College and the ACVP to be very important. In order to address the EBVS requirements, it is proposed to grant a temporary ECVP trainer status to ACVP diplomates.

It was pointed out by Wolfgang Baumgärtner that we should do everything in order to include the ACVP diplomates in our system.

6. ECVP Constitution

Several changes to the Constitution were necessary to comply with updates in EBVS Constitution and Policy and Procedures. All of the required constitutional changes were communicated to the membership by e-mail prior to the AGM:

An update of the designation of membership categories was necessary (to be in line with the EBVS Policies and Procedures already presented at the AGM 2017). Practising diplomates should be called certified diplomates, non-practising diplomates should be called non-certified diplomates and honorary diplomates should be called honorary members (Article 4 and following).

A veterinary qualification from an EAEVE-approved training or a waiver from the Applications Committee will be required for Examination applicants (Article 5.1b).

Approval of training centres will be granted for 5 years and re-approval will be necessary every 5 years (Article 4.1d).

Each alternate training program should be approved by the Applications Committee and the Council (Article 5.1e).

Adoption of a temporary trainer status was necessary in order to address the EBVS requests for European specialists to be involved in training only. We proposed to grant a temporary ECVP trainer status to ACVP diplomates in absence of an EBVS recognised specialist (Article 5.1f).

Changes to the ECVP Constitution may be submitted by members and the process has been defined (Article 7).

The procedure of how to call an extraordinary meeting is described (Article 10.2).

In the by-laws, annual election of 2 auditors by membership has been implemented (Article 1.8).

The use of the title of European Veterinary Specialist in Veterinary Pathology is defined in Article 4.1 of the by-laws.

Exam guideline and policies are mentioned in Article 5.1 of the by-laws.

Finally, the appeals procedure of the EBVS has been adopted and included in Appendix 3 of our by-laws.

The constitutional changes were approved by the membership without any dissenting vote.

7. Finances

A. Financial Report 2017

The finances were balanced, and a small surplus was generated in 2017. All sponsors were thanked for their contribution. Several Council and Examination Committee members had travel expenses covered by their employers, which were acknowledged as well.

Financial Statement of all accounts at 31 December 2017:

BALANCE – Overview 2017	€ Euro
ABN/AMRO cheque account	32,418.02
ABN/AMRO 1yr deposit “ <i>bus.loyal</i> ”	100,000.00
Cash	13.42
	132,431.44

CREDITS - 2017	€ Euro
Membership fees	52,654.60
Exam income (fees, hires)	22,792.35
Summer school income incl. sponsorship*	31,229.32
Bank interest	223.23
Postages	120.00
Vet Path Commission	until 31.12.2017 none received
Sum CREDITS	107,019.50

* sponsorship by Novartis, ESTP and Bayer of the Summer School 2017

EXPENSES - 2017	€ Euro
General administration	31,331.91
(incl. EBVS 7,332, insurance 1,747.83, DHL 2,299.69)	
Vet Path journal	13,894.75
Council	6,360.76
Exam expenses	14,944.93
(incl. statistical course 4,956.65)	
Exam committee	16,222.76
Summer school expenses	20,402.69
Postages	89.83
Bank and credit card costs	642.88
Sum EXPENSES	103,890.51

2017	€ Euro
Sum CREDITS	107,019.50
Sum EXPENSES	103,890.51
Balance 2017	3,128.99

B. Report of the auditors

The auditors' report of the 2017 finances was approved by the membership. Auditors Sibylle Gröters and Olivia Kershaw were acknowledged for their diligent work.

C. Election of auditors

According to the adopted constitutional changes, auditors were elected for the following year. Olivia Kershaw and Sabina Soldati were voted unanimously.

D. Budget for 2019

CREDITS	€ Euro
Membership fees	59,000
Exam income (fees, hires)	20,000
Summer school income	25,000
Sponsorship	3,000
Bank interest	200
Vet Path Commission	1,000
Sum CREDITS	108,200

EXPENSES	€ Euro
General administration (incl. EBVS + insurance)	25,000
Vet Path journal	14,000
Council	10,000
Exam expenses	16,000
Exam committee	16,000
Summer school expenses	20,000
Postages	100
Bank and credit card costs	700
Sum EXPENSES	101,800
	€ Euro
Sum CREDITS	108,200
Sum EXPENSES	101,800
Foreseen balance 2019	6,400

8. ECVF Certifying Examination

A. 2018 Examination

The 2018 Examination Committee (EC) was chaired by Alexandre Bidaut (France). The EC was composed of Giancarlo Avallone (Italy), James Baily (UK), Andreas Beineke (Germany), Catherine Botteron (Switzerland), Marie-Anne Colle (France), Gjermund Gunnes (Norway), Roberta Rasotto (UK), Pernilla Syrjä (Finland) and Judith van den Brand (The Netherlands). Anna Domenech (Spain) and Edouard Reyes Gomez (France) served as associate members (formerly called proctors). The examination took place in Ghent, Belgium, at the Het Pand. Koen Chiers and his team were thanked for excellent local organisation.

Of the 33 initial applicants, 1 candidate withdrew, and 32 candidates sat the Examination. 23 new candidates sat the Examination (14 full examination and 9 split examination) and 9 candidates resat parts. Out of 11 new diplomates, 4 candidates successfully passed the entire examination, and 7 candidates successfully completed remaining parts of the Examination. This corresponds to a passing rate of 48% of successful candidates over potential new diplomates. The ECVF has now 250 diplomates by Examination since the Examinations began in 1999.

B. 2019 Examination

For the 2019 Examination, the new EC members will be Beatriz Garcia (Spain) and Edouard Reyes Gomez (France). Roberta Rasotto will pause for one year and therefore 3 associate members will support the EC: Liv Østevik (Norway), Richard Blundell (UK) and ACVP diplomate Dirk Schaudien (Germany). The leaving members of the EC, Marie-Anne Colle and Pernilla Syrjä, were thanked for their hard work.

Members who are interested in becoming a member of the Examination Committee are asked to contact the Chair of the EC.

Following changes will be in place from the Examination 2020 onwards:

For **Veterinary Pathology**, the laboratory animal part will have a revised format to address changes in our profession and better reflect the skillsets of the pathologists in this area. The new topic distribution will be:

- 40% of questions on spontaneous background findings in laboratory animals
- 20% of questions on spontaneous infectious diseases of laboratory animal species
- 40% of questions about pathology of specific laboratory animal models of human diseases (such as transgenic, experimental and infectious models).

The updated reading list for this part will include books “Pathology of Laboratory Rodents and Rabbits” (by Barthold, Griffey and Percy); “Nonhuman Primates in Biomedical Research, Volume 2: Diseases” (by Abee, Mansfield, Tardif and Morris) and “Background Lesions in Laboratory Animals” (by E.F. McInnes). Journals comprise Veterinary Pathology, American Journal of Pathology and Comparative Medicine. Further relevant information will be made available on the ECVP homepage in due time. From 2020 onwards, the **fish section** will be discontinued in Veterinary Pathology as this option was very rarely chosen by candidates.

The following change will be implemented from 2019 onwards:

To align with other European Colleges and after requests from the EBVS, it was decided to increase the number of attempts to repeat failed exam parts from 2 attempts to 3 attempts, to be taken in the 4 consecutive years.

9. ECVP updates and Committees

A. Strategic plan

The College had to submit a strategic plan as part of the 5-year detailed report to the EBVS. It was a great opportunity for the Council to reconsider the objectives of the College for the years to come.

The Strategic plan will be regularly refined and adapted to incorporate changes and challenges, which our profession has to face in the future. This should be a living document and all members are asked to actively contribute to this strategic plan. It is available on our website in the members' area for consultation.

B. GDPR

The College received guidance by EBVS regarding the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which is in force since 25 May 2018. Membership data are only used to administer the membership status and are not given to third parties unless necessary to manage membership benefits (publisher of Veterinary Pathology and EBVS).

An e-mail was sent out in May 2018 requesting active consent from members to remain on our general distribution list to receive additional information for example our

Newsletter. A further reminder will be sent before non-respondents will be removed from the distribution list.

C. ECVP Website

The content of our Website is regularly reviewed and revised. For any suggestions please contact Valentina Zappulli or Irini Thanou (ECVP Office). We would especially appreciate contribution of new macroscopic pictures. The College is very grateful for the invaluable support received by Richard Fox for running the Webpage.

D. ECVP Newsletter

Valentina Zappulli is in charge of the Newsletter and has introduced a new layout. We remain committed to provide an annual Newsletter which highlights specific College matters, as changes to the exam format or EBVS matters. Contributions from our membership are very welcome and any members who would like to contribute are asked to get in touch.

E. Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee, consisting of Luís Luján (chair), Wolfgang Baumgärtner and Flavio Cramer, was thanked for their work. Two nominations were received for the Treasurer-Elect position. In spring 2019, nominations for a new Vice-President will be needed.

F. Applications Committee

The Applications Committee, composed of Paola Roccabianca (chair), Alexandra Malbon and Hanne Jahns, received 34 applications from new candidates to sit the ECVP certifying examination in 2019 (27 for the full exam and 7 for the split format). 11 applications were received from candidates to resit.

29 new residents were registered in 2018. 3 quick eligibility checks were performed for potential candidates.

G. CPD Re-registration Committee

The CPD Re-registration Committee, by Fatima Gärtner (chair), Elisabeth Liebler-Tenorio and Xavier Palazzi, had the high number of 135 re-registrations to review since all de facto members were required to re-register in 2018. The large majority was submitted and met the requirements. 17 members did not respond to repeated appeals to submit their documents for re-registration. An exceptional extension of the deadline was granted until 31 October 2018. For the first time, 2 references as proof of good standing in the profession were required. Many questions were received around these reference letters. This feedback has been taken into account and more guidance for choice of referees will be provided for the next re-registration.

H. Education Committee

The Education Sub-Committee for Training Centre registration, Linda Morrison (chair), Christiane Herden and Christiane Krudewig, received and are in the process of reviewing 3 training centre applications.

10. Training

A. Summer School

Another successful Summer School was organized by the Education Committee, chaired by Chiara Brachelente, together with Juan Manuel Corpa Arenas (local organizer), with support especially from Monika Hilbe who attended the Summer School for several days. From 15 to 27 July 2018, the 16th Summer School took place in Valencia.

Lectures and practical sessions took place at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of University CEU Cardenal Herrera in Alfara del Patriarca, a small town located 10 km away from Valencia. The local organizing team was composed of Juan Manuel Corpa Arenas, Joaquín Ortega Porcel, Agustín Barragán, Jorge Rosell, Estefanía Montero and Mariola Penadés. Accommodation of participants was arranged in the University Residency for the very affordable price of 40 Euro for a single room with breakfast and dinner. The Summer School registration fees were 400 Euro for ESVP members and 650 Euro for Non-ESVP members. The 16th Summer School was attended by 61 participants from 18 countries (mainly European countries, 1 participant from Israel and 2 participants from Russia). The Summer School 2019 will take place in Valencia, starting the fifth 4 year-cycle of topics.

B. Training Centre Re-registration

We have a good number of established training centres with a very successful training record. 41 out of 45 training centres contacted responded to our survey last year. We will request more information from training centres without or very low number of trainees. EBVS policies requires re-approval of training centres every 5 years, which will commence in 2019.

11. ECVP - ESVP interactions

Collaboration with the ESVP works very well. Both bodies share the financial responsibility for organising the annual congress and Summer School. One ECVP representative joins the monthly ESVP teleconferences and Pierre Maliver joined the ESVP board meeting in spring 2018 in Ljubljana. A specific ECVP Section in the ESVP Newsletter emphasises the joint activities between both organisations.

12. ECVP - ACVP interactions

ECVP President Pierre Maliver and Secretary Sandra Scholes attended the ACVP Council in Vancouver during the ACVP/ASVCP Congress in November 2017. Pierre presented the ECVP activities at the ACVP Townhall. ACVP has established a recertification process for their diplomates as well. The Strategic Planning Task Force presented the strategic plan during the Townhall. One of the 4 main goals defined is of particular interest for the entire veterinary pathology community and comprises shaping the future practice of veterinary pathology in the age of digital pathology, artificial intelligence and advanced molecular tools.

13. Veterinary Pathology Journal

The impact factor has dropped again slightly to 1,796 (from 1,996 in 2017). More good review papers and special issues are needed. Special issues are planned on “Diseases affecting conservation of threatened species” and on “Bio-defense agents and animal models”. Times to print publications are short. A survey was conducted earlier this year in order to recruit new reviewers. Efforts have been undertaken to increase clinical pathology content and a clinical pathologist (Leslie Sharkey) was added as Associate Editor.

14. Next AGM

The next AGM will take place during the Joint Congress of Veterinary Pathology (ESVP/ECVP) and Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ESVCP/ECVCP) in Arnhem, Burger’s Zoo, The Netherlands, held from 25-28 September 2019.

15. Any Other Business

Composition of the Council for the coming term:

President	Pierre Maliver
Vice-President	Laura Peña
Treasurer	Monika Hilbe
Treasurer-Elect	Koen Chiers
Secretary	Annabelle Heier
Councillor	Kerstin Baiker
Councillor	Kai-Inge Lie
Councillor	Valentina Zappulli
Past-President	Anja Kipar

The demitting Secretary Sandra Scholes was thanked for many years of diligent work and commitment for the College.

No further questions and comments were received.