

## Minutes ECVP

### Virtual Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday, 19 September 2020, 17:00 - 19:00 CEST  
Online via Zoom

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#### 1. Welcome

President Laura Peña welcomed the attendants. She gave a summary of the very difficult preceding months, impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, affecting professional and personal life of everyone.

In order to counteract lack of training opportunities, online training sessions for residents and webinars for broad audience have been set up. We have created several Task Forces to advance different matters and in order to involve as many diplomates as possible. At the EBVS, we are now represented by our Past-President Pierre Maliver on the Nominating Committee. Laura welcomed ACPV president Susan Tornquist.

**2. The Minutes of the ECVP AGM of 26 September 2019** in Arnhem, Netherlands, were approved. Of 283 attendants voting, 265 (94%) voted with yes, 14 (5%) abstained and 4 (1%) voted with no.

#### 3. New Diplomates

18 new diplomates from the following training centres successfully completed the exam in 2020 and were welcomed:

Kathrin Becker, Hannover, Germany

Sohvi Tuulikki Blatter, Bern, Switzerland

Giovanni Pietro Burrai, Bologna, Italy

Florian Chocteau, Nantes, France

Hayley Crosby-Durrani, Liverpool, UK

Eva Dervas, Zurich, Switzerland

Stefania Gasparini, Padova, Italy; Zurich, Switzerland, and Bologna, Italy

Ann-Kathrin Haverkamp, Hannover, Germany

Kristel Kegler, Hannover, Germany, and Bern, Switzerland

Sophie Labrut, Nantes, France

Marine Le Dudal, Alfort, France

Michela Levi, Bologna, Italy

Teresa Bruna Pagano, Milano, Italy

Silvia Sabattini, Bologna, Italy

Bernardo Saucedo Garnica, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Ivan-Conrado Šoštarić-Zuckermann, Zagreb, Croatia

Katie Waine, Nottingham, UK

Bérengère Wyrzykowski, Nantes, France

#### 4. ECVP Constitution : changes in By-laws

Two changes in the By-laws have been communicated by mail to members prior to the AGM.

Firstly, one sentence (highlighted in yellow) is suggested to be added to Art 1.2 of the By-laws. This should introduce the possibility to extend the term of Councillors if needed, in order to avoid that all 3 Councillors leave in the same year.

**Art 1.2** The three (3) Councillors shall be members elected in the same manner as the other officers by a majority of members voting, each to serve a term of three (3) years. At the first election, one Councillor shall be elected to serve one (1) year, one for two (2) years and one for three (3) years. In order to ensure continuity of the Council work, term of office may be extended by the Council for one (1) or two (2) years, so that every year only one of the three Councillors leaves the Council. No Councillor, having been elected for a full three (3)-year term shall be eligible for re-election as a Councillor until after a lapse of at least two (2) years following expiration of his/her term of office.

Secondly, two sentences (highlighted in yellow) are suggested to be added to Art 2.1b of the By-laws in order to introduce a regular rotation of Committee members.

**Art 2.1b.** The Council shall undertake to create and appoint members of all committees, supervise their activities, and receive their reports. Appointment of committee members of the Nominating, Applications, Education and CPD re-registration Committee is for three (3) years, with possible extension of another two (2) years. Appointment for the Examination Committee is for a term of five (5) years.

256 attendants participated in this poll: 230 (89,9%) voted with yes, 25 (9.8%) abstained and 1 member (0,4%) voted with no. The constitutional changes were thereby approved.

#### 5. Finances

##### A. Financial Report 2019

A financial statement was circulated to membership prior to the AGM. The finances were balanced and a surplus of over 15,000 Euro could be generated in 2019. All sponsors were thanked for their contribution. Several Council and Exam Committee members had travel expenses covered by their employers, which were acknowledged as well. All financial transactions have been digitalized by now.

##### Financial Statement of all accounts at 31 December 2019:

##### ACCOUNTS – Overview 2019

ABN/AMRO directors account	61,917.41 €
ABN/AMRO business year deposit	100,000.00 €
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	<b>161,917.41 €</b>

Membership fees	52,274.37 €
Exam income (fees, hires)	21,687.56 €
Summer School income	25,679.75 €
Summer School sponsors*	1,650.01 €
Summer School bursaries	2,000.00 €
Vet Path Commission (2016 & 2017)	10,833.82 €
<b>Total CREDITS</b>	<b>114,125.51 €</b>

\* sponsorship by ESTP, Roche and SVTP of the Summer School 2019

### **EXPENSES - 2019**

General administration	21,050.73 €
Vet Path journal	13,091.82 €
Council	10,154.33 €
Forensic certification	2,224.62 €
Exam Ghent	16,765.38 €
Exam preparation	10,436.07 €
Summer School	24,515.14 €
Bank & Credit card	712.33 €
<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>98,950.42 €</b>

### **BALANCE - 2019**

Sum CREDITS	114,125.51 €
Sum EXPENSES	98,950.42 €
	<b>15,175.09 €</b>

### **B. Report of the auditors**

The auditors' report of the 2019 finances was presented and auditors Olivia Kershaw and Sabina Soldati were acknowledged for their diligent work.

### **C. Election of auditors**

Olivia Kershaw and Sabina Soldati volunteered as auditors for the 2019 finances.

Membership was asked the following questions:

Do you approve the financial auditors' report for 2019?

Result: 281 members voted, thereof 273 with yes (97,2%), 7 abstentions (2.5%) and 1 with no (0.4%).

Do you discharge the treasurer?

Result: 281 members voted, thereof 273 with yes (97,2%), 7 abstentions (2.5%) and 1 with no (0.4%).

Do you discharge the Council?

Result: 281 members voted, thereof 255 with yes (90,8%), 21 abstentions (7.5%) and 5 with no (1.8%).

Do you approve the suggested auditors Olivia Kershaw and Sabina Soldati for the 2020 financial report?

Result: 281 members voted, thereof 262 with yes (93,2%), 14 abstentions (5%) and 5 with no (1.8%).

#### **D. Budget for 2021**

##### **CREDITS**

Membership fees	55,000 €
Exam income	20,000 €
Forensic certification income	5,000 €
Summer School income	25,000 €
Summer School sponsors & bursaries	3,000 €
Vet Path revenue	0 €
<b>Sum CREDITS</b>	<b>108,000 €</b>

##### **EXPENSES**

General admin. (incl. EBVS + insurance)	25,000 €
Vet Path journal	14,000 €
Council	12,000 €
Forensic certification	3,000 €
Exam Ghent	20,000 €
Exam preparation	12,000 €
Summer School	25,000 €
Bank & Credit card	700 €
<b>Sum EXPENSES</b>	<b>117,700 €</b>

Sum CREDITS	108,000 €
Sum EXPENSES	117,700 €
<b>Foreseen balance 2021</b>	<b>-9,700 €</b>

Financial development is difficult to foresee and will depend on evolvement of the pandemic situation. We foresee still some extra costs due the pandemic situation. Further additional costs will occur for development of our new webpage and digitalization of our exam.

Questions were raised regarding sustainability of finances. Some extra costs will occur only once and will not cumulate.

#### **E. Corona pandemics: impact on finances**

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic resulted in extra costs with postponing of the Cutting Edge Congress (estimated 6,500 €), cancellation of the Summer School (estimated 1500 €), in the teleconference platform (estimated 300 €). At the same time, savings were made due to cancellation of the Council meeting in September (estimated 6,000 €) and cancellation of the preparatory meeting of the Exam Committee (estimated 16,000 €).

## **7. ECVF Certifying Examination**

### **A. 2020 Examination**

The 2020 Exam Committee (EC) was chaired by Alexandre Bidaut, France (I), with Committee members Giancarlo Avallone, Italy (A), James Baily, UK (I), Andreas Beineke, Germany (A), Richard Blundell, UK (A), Anna Domenech, Spain (I), Roberta Rasotto, UK (D), Edouard Reyes Gomez, France (A), and Judith van den Brand, The Netherlands (A) with a diverse professional background. (Current employment: A = academia; D = Diagnostics; I = Industry).

As Beatriz Garcia, Spain (D), was on hold, the exam Committee was joined by 3 Associates: Charline Alleaume, France (D). Raoul Kuiper, Sweden (R) and Gabrita de Zan, Italy (A).

The examination took place in Ghent, Belgium, at the Het Pand (since 2014). Koen Chiers and his team were thanked for excellent local organisation.

39 applications were received. 21 candidates were new, with 19 sitting all 5 sections and 2 candidates splitting the exam. 18 candidates returned to the exam and sat the full exam format (11 candidates) or the split format (7 candidates). The total number of candidates was stable in comparison to previous years.

Candidates came from Belgium (1), Croatia (1), Finland (3), France (5), Germany (4), Italy (7), The Netherlands (1), Portugal (1), Spain (2), Sweden (1) Switzerland (8), United Kingdom (4) and the United States (1). Veterinary Pathology was sat by 34 and subsections chosen were lab animals (18), exotics (10) and poultry (6). Fish was not offered any more as subsection.

30 candidates sat the full exam format. Of the 19 new candidates, 8 succeeded all 5 sections, 9 candidates passed sections and 2 new candidates failed to validate 2 sections. Out of 11 resitting candidates, 6 candidates became new diplomates and 5 candidates have sections to resit. Among the candidates opting for the split format, there were 4 new diplomates.

We have 18 new diplomates (out of 35 potential new candidates corresponding to a 51% success rate) and 14 who partially passed. 8 out of 19 new candidates became diplomate at the first attempt (42% success rate).

### **B. 2020 Examination**

The 2021 EC will be chaired by Giancarlo Avallone, Italy (A) with members Andreas Beineke, Germany (A), Richard Blundell, UK (A), Anna Domenech, Spain (I), Beatriz Garcia, Spain (D), Roberta Rasotto, UK (D), Edouard Reyes Gomez, France (A). Charline Alleaume, France (D/I) and Gabrita de Zan, Italy (D) are new full members. Judith van den Brand, James Baily and Alex Bidaut left the EC in 2020.

Associates will be Sara Belluco, France (A), Jorge Martinez, Spain (A) and Dirk Schaudien, Germany (R). New potential EC members are needed.

Initial planning was for preparatory meeting near Bologna on 24-28 October 2020. However due to the evaluation of the pandemic situation, the preparatory meeting will be held virtually.

EC and Council are monitoring COVID pandemic. If major changes will occur and actions will be necessary, candidates and supervisors will be informed promptly. For the 2021 exam, withdrawal at any time before the examination date and not be considered an attempt or failure to sit. COVID safety measures include increased social distance with use of the larger room, candidate disinfection of tables and providing masks. Wearing a mask during the entire exam and signing a self-certification document is mandatory for everyone involved. One slide set will be provided per candidate for the Histopathology section. As wearing of masks will slow down the reading process, additional 20 minutes will be given and a break will be introduced: slides 1-10 (2hrs 25 min), break of 30 min and slides 11-20 (2hrs 25 min). The EC is optimistic that organization of an exam will be possible in 2021 (planned to be held from 15-17 February 2021 in Ghent, Belgium).

### **7. ECVP Certificate in Forensic Veterinary Pathology**

The Steering Group is chaired by Ranald Munro (formerly RVC London, UK), Andrea Gröne (Utrecht University, the Netherlands), Udo Hetzel (University of Zürich, Switzerland), Henrik E Jensen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Orlando Paciello (University of Naples, Italy) and Lorenzo Ressel (University of Liverpool, UK). An article has been published by the Steering Group in the Journal of Comparative Pathology, entitled "European Forensic Veterinary Pathology Comes of Age" J Comp Path. 2020 Aug;179:83-88. This paper gives some history of forensic pathology and highlights some differences between diagnostic and forensic pathology reports.

10 people expressed interest in the certificate of forensic pathology, thereof 6 applied and 5 were accepted. All 5 candidates submitted a full portfolio of 10 cases. Altogether 55 cases have been reviewed by 5 members of the steering group. Each case has been reviewed by 2 members. Cases with discordant outcome were reviewed by a third member. Feedback was given in writing to candidates for each case submitted, except for the one selected for the round table discussion.

Kerstin Baiker (Nottingham, UK), Richard Blundell (Liverpool, UK), Frauke Seehusen (Zürich, Switzerland), Leen Van Brantegem (Ghent, Belgium) and Ranieri Verin (Padova, Italy) were awarded with the Certificate in Forensic Veterinary Pathology.

### **8. Training**

The planned Summer School 2020 was cancelled due to the unforeseeable pandemic situation. We hope that the next Summer School will be possible in July 2021 in Zagreb.

Since June 2020, regular online training sessions for residents have been organised in order to support our residents. We approached different people and are very thankful to all presenters for their contributions.

More educational webinars for diplomates are in discussion. We welcome any volunteers and ideas from our membership.

## **9. Task Forces**

### **A. Task Force Innovation and New Technologies**

Members are Barbara Bacci, Kerstin Baiker, Richard Fox, Vanessa Herder, Raoul Kiuper, Josep Monné Rodríguez, Laura Polledo, Lev Stimmer and Andrea Gröne (chair). This Task Force has been created to provide a platform to share knowledge about technologies and to give contact. Information has been published on the website. Another aim is to organize educational webinars which will start soon.

### **B. Task Force Website**

The following people are involved: Valentina Zappulli (chair) and Gaia Vichi look into the content; Vanessa Herder has reactivated the picture of the month; Christiane Krudewig and Koen Chiers look into completion of the histology database. Silvia Sabattini, Richard Fox and Irini Thanou are involved into new website development.

### **C. Task Force Digital Exam**

ECVP has joined the EBVS initiative for different Colleges towards a digital version of the exam. The platform ExamSoft is used in order to provide the exam digitally. Alex Bidaut chairs the Task Force. Former and current EC members are included: James Baily, Koen Chiers, Charline Alleaume, Richard Blundell, Giancarlo Avallone and Edouard Reyes Gomez. Aim is to have a paperless onsite exam with all text in the computer instead of handwriting. Use of glass slides and microscopes will be maintained for the time being. Exam candidates should use their own laptops. Automated correction and better management of questions will be enabled. Implementation timelines are 2022 for General Pathology, 2023 for Veterinary Pathology and 2024 for Histopathology, Gross Pathology and Comprehensive Pathology. in the training. Residents will have to be trained with the software.

### **Task Force 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our College falls in this special year, therefore another Task Force was formed to plan something special. Monika Hilbe will act as chair and will be joined by Laura Peña, Valentina Zappulli and Javier Asin. The celebration is postponed and we hope that we may have a party in the coming year.

### **C. Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee was thanked for overseeing the nominations for vacant Council positions. Wolfgang Baumgärtner and Flavio Crameri were acknowledged for their outstanding contribution to the College. They were both actively involved for over 20 years in different College functions and acted both as chair of the Examination Committee and as president. Luís Luján will remain chair of the Nominating Committee and will be joined by Giovanni Pellegrini and Judith van den Brand.

#### **D. Applications Committee**

The Applications Committee, composed of Alexandra Malbon (chair), Hanne Jahns and Valentina Zappulli received 43 applications in total to sit the ECVP certifying examination in 2021. 25 applications came from new candidates (22 for the full exam and 3 for the split format). 18 applications were received from candidates to resit. During the last year, 37 new resident applications were reviewed and 9 quick eligibility checks for potential exam candidates were accomplished.

#### **E. CPD Re-registration Committee**

The CPD Re-registration Committee is composed of Xavier Palazzi (chair), Anja Schmidt and Diego Caliarì. They have had 55 re-registration files to review; the evaluation is ongoing. The form has been updated and online trainings, journal review and work on ECVP task force will be considered for credits. The Committee would like to remind that ECVP membership itself does not provide credit itself. The AGM attendance should be filled in, members should stick to the correct recertification period (the 5 years prior to the year the recertification is due). The most up-to-date form should be used and attention should be paid to requirements for referees.

The future composition of the Committee will be Xavier Palazzi (chair), Anja Schmidt and Diego Caliarì and Maria Ángeles Jiménez.

#### **F. Education Committee**

The members of the Education Sub-Committee for Training Centre registration with Linda Morrison (chair), Christiane Herden and Christiane Krudewig were acknowledged. Documents for re-approval of all training centres will be sent out after the AGM. Christiane Herden was thanked for her contribution for many years on the Committee. She will be replaced by Kerstin Baiker.

#### **11. Council changes**

The 3 leaving Councillors Kerstin Baiker, Kai-Inge Lie and Valentina Zappulli were thanked for their commitment and hard work.

The new composition of the Council, effective after the AGM will be

Laura Peña, Spain	President
Andrea Gröne, The Netherlands	Vice-President
Koen Chiers, Belgium	Treasurer
Annabelle Heier, Germany	Secretary
Alexandre Bidaut, France	Councillor
Charlotte Lempp, Germany	Councillor
Paola Roccabianca, Italy	Councillor
Giancarlo Avallone, Italy	Exam Committee Chair
Pierre Maliver, France	Past-President

#### **12. Next AGM**

The next AGM is planned during the Cutting Edge Meeting, organised jointly by ESVP, ESTP and ECVP in Torino, Italy. Provisional dates are 15-18 September 2021.

### **13. Any other business**

Monika Welle and Verena Affolter enquired on behalf of the International Society of Veterinary Dermatopathology (ISVD) about interest of ECVP membership in dermatopathology and ISVD regularly being present at the annual ESVP-ECP meetings.

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