

Minutes of the General Meeting of the European College of Equine Internal Medicine 2013

Date and time: Friday February 8th 2013, 16:50 – 18:50 hr

Venue: Mercure Grand Hotel Le Touquet

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome & Apologies for absence (Youssef Tamzali)
- 2 Treasurer's report (Gunther van Loon)
- 3 Examination Committee report (Michael Hewetson & John Keen)
- 4 Education and Credentials Committee report (Nicola Menzies-Gow)
- 5 Advanced Training Advisory Committee report (Celia Marr)
- 6 Election to the ECEIM Board
- 7 Vote on constitutional changes and changes in the bylaws
- 8 Report from the President and Board (Youssef TAMZALI)
- 9 Future ECEIM meetings
- 10 Any other business

In order to provide more detailed information given at the AGM, a pdf with presentation slides, including comments and questions is downloadable additionally from our website:

www.eceim.info/

1 Welcome & Apologies for absence (Youssef Tamzali)

Apologies were submitted by:

Armengou, Lara;	Kendall, Anne;	Sloet van Oldruitenborgh-
Collins, Niamh;	McGorum, Bruce;	Oosterbaan, Marianne;
Delesalle, Catherine;	Oey, Lydia;	Smiet, Esmee;
Henderson, Jennie;	Rendle, David;	Wijnberg, Inge D.;
Hughes, Kris;	Schoster, Angelica;	Williams, Adele

The President showed the timeline of the ECEIM, starting in 2002 when the College was established, having the 1st Congress in 2005 in Leipzig and now having it's 6th Congress in Le Touquet. As was decided at the last AGM, examination and congress will be separated from 2014 on. The exam will take place at the end of January or beginning of February annually in a fixed location. Prof. Karsten Feige has kindly confirmed that Hannover/Germany is volunteering for organizing the next ECEIM examination sessions for a number of years. The 2014 congress will be organized (in Praha) in autumn as decided on the last AGM in Edinburgh.

At this time the College has 120 Diplomates, of which are 66 by examination. The President pointed out proudly that the Diplomates by examination are now more numerous than the Founding and *de facto* Diplomates. Currently 55 Residents are enrolled, with 48 residents in



standard and 7 in alternative programmes. There are 28 ECEIM approved institutions and our Diplomates practice in 19 countries, in Europe, the Middle East, South Africa, the USA and Australia.

The president was delighted to report that the 2013 ECEIM congress had 216 delegates, comprising 88 ECEIM Diplomates, 50 Residents, 48 Non-ECEIM delegates, 3 Non-ECEIM guests, 6 Non-ECEIM speakers and 21 Sponsors. Besides 20 more ECEIM Diplomates than in 2012, the president was especially proud to welcome 19 more sponsors in comparison to the last congress and the 48 non-ECEIM Delegates which were mainly practitioners. This development is in line with the ambition of ECEIM to open up its congresses to the veterinary community in order to increase ECEIM visibility.

2 Treasurer's report (Gunther van Loon)

The treasurer gave an overview about the financial situation of the college. He was delighted to report that EBVS again has named ECEIM financial reports as best practice in comparison to other European colleges. ECEIM accounts and balances are checked professionally by PW Accountants Ltd yearly. As specified in the ECEIM constitution, the attendees were asked to vote if they wish to continue with these professionals or if they want to name two Diplomates who take the responsibility for correct financial statements. Nobody disagreed to continue with PW Accountants LTD.

The treasurer reported that – as announced – the total balance decreased about 12.800 Euro mainly due to investments in improving exam quality training and initiating an exam question bank manager group. Furthermore, the Advanced Training Advisory Committee was founded and has had its first meeting. These investments were foreseen and in summary, the total balance of ECEIM is healthy and develops as expected. There will be no change in fees for this year.

The treasurer reminded the Diplomates that ECEIM is a non-profit organization. With the congress getting bigger - inducing costs of about 90.000 Euro this year - it will be advisable to form an ECEIM associated company in order to separate congress finances from College finances. He explained that establishing trading arms of this type is common practice for non-profit organisations and greatly facilitates the organization of commercial activities like congresses and attracting sponsorship. The treasurer invited any interested Diplomate to check all financial reports and talk with him about the books during the remaining congress.

The Treasurer reminded all Diplomates that the deadline for payment of annual dues is as every year March 2013.

Questions:

Emmanuelle van Erck: How will the Video recording be budgeted?

Gunther van Loon and Celia Marr: Congress presentations as well as specialist webinars provided by the ATAC will be downloadable for free for Diplomates and Residents. For others, a pay-per-view system is planned.

3 Examination Committee report (Michael Hewetson)

The current Examination Committee consists of eight Diplomates and - ex officio – the president, Youssef Tamzali.

Michael Hewetson (Chair; Helsinki; FIN),	Lisa Katz (Dublin, IRE),
Carla Cesarini Latorre (Bellaterra, ES)	Bianca Schwarz (Überlingen, D),
Anne Courouc�-Malblanc (Nantes, F),	Monica Venner (Destedt, D),
Alexandra Imhasly (Berne, CH),	John Keen (post chair; Edinburgh, UK).

Bianca Schwarz accepted to become chair just after finalization of the 2013 examination session. It is planned that in future too, a committee member in its second year should take the chair. Since it has been proven to be very helpful to have the experience and help of the ex-chair (in this case John Keen) available in 2012/13, it is planned that ex-chairs stay within the committee for one more year. Michael Hewetson confirms that he would be willing to help Bianca while she is chairing. Jessica M ller (Hannover, Germany) and Gila Sutton (Israel) become new members, whereas Anne Courouc -Malblanc, Lisa Katz, John Keen and Monica Venner are leaving the exam committee – all of them have served for three years and Michael thanks them for their excellent work.

Michael Hewetson explained the progress towards the Exam 2013. In March 2012 the duties were assigned to the committee members. A meeting at the intended exam and congress venue at Horseland in Lille took place in June 2012. The visit made it obvious that the facilities would not be completed in early 2013. Therefore, with the help of the organising committee, the venue was switched to Le Touquet. During the two day meeting in Lille, the exam committee discussed and prepared in detail the different parts of the exam. As in the two years before, Dr Mary Ann Guglick (DipACVIM) was asked to become external reviewer for the 2013 examination too. Michael explained the important role of the external reviewer in quality assurance and verification of the examination. The committee was again very pleased with Dr Guglicks efficient and meticulous work and thanked her for her ongoing help with improving ECEIM exams.

Information for the exam candidates was put online in September 2012, the Board was updated at the pre-BEVA meeting in Birmingham mid-September and October 31st the final candidate numbers were known. Final information was given to the candidates in January 2013. The venue for the 2013 exam was the Mercure Grand Hotel at Le Touquet in France, which served as congress hotel too. The switch from Lille to Le Touquet was done fast and surprisingly swift with the Mercure hotel providing excellent facilities for the examinations.

The Examination format was the same as in 2012. 29 candidates entered the examination, of which 11 entered the General Papers only. Michael showed that the number of candidates who split their exam is still increasing. Seven new candidates sat the whole exam. There were 4 candidates for the Certifying Papers only. The amount of re-sits was 7 (4 more were eligible but did not apply).

In future, the permanent exam venue will be in Hannover/Germany. It is planned to reduce the Essays to two with the consequence that candidates have to work on both and no longer have a choice between essay subjects. This is a quality assurance measure that will improve the validity of the exam because all candidates will now be sitting the same exam as opposed to sitting variations of the same exam, essentially meaning that different candidates sit different exams through the provision of a choice of questions. Essay topics should focus on subjects that cannot be tested by using Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

or Oral Case Managements (OCMs), e.g. ethics. The essay questions as well as the OCMs should be rated by diplomats to determine passmarks. It is planned to establish an OCM bank. To prepare OCMs is especially work and time intense, so it is planned to start re-using cases for the oral part of the exam.

The content and administration of the Multiple Choice Questions were improved by the newly formed Question Bank Manager Group, which is presented by John Keen.

Questions: None

3.1 Question Bank Manager Group Report (John Keen, Edinburgh, UK)

To improve the quality of the question banks and provide better overall quality assurance of the examination process, in 2012 the ECEIM has decided to invest in advice and training input from professional medical assessment consultants. This is in line with EBVS policies and will enable ECEIM exams to get harmonisation with other worldwide speciality colleges. As a first step in enhancing ECEIM examinations, in April 2012, John Keen and Michael Hewetson attended a meeting in Brussels, organised by EBVS. To enhance exam quality it is needed to discuss specific learning objectives and definitions of an equine medicine specialist. The need to test higher levels of understanding should be addressed and the benefit of level descriptors for certain examination methods was addressed. Besides the benefits and problems with Essays and OCMs, the quality and consistency of objective assessment of MCQs were named. The information provided proved to be very helpful and John recommended the attendance of ECEIM Bank Managers at future EBVS exam meetings.

As a consequence of the enormous amount of ongoing work, a sub-committee of the exam committee was formed: the 'Question Bank Managers Group' (BMG), consisting of 5 Diplomates: John Keen (chair, UK), Scott Pirie (UK), Michael Hewetson (FIN), Anne Courouc -Malblanc (F) and Inge Wijnberg (NL). The group met in July 2012 in Edinburgh (UK) for an exam question reviewing and writing workshop, guided by professionals in human medicine with specialisation in examinations for medical general practitioners, Meiling Denny and Richard Wakeford. The aims of the meeting were to learn modern techniques of how to improve, update and manage the current question bank as well as write and improve new questions. The focus of the meeting was to improve ECEIM MCQs as a first step. John visualised on how the group is planning to improve and rate the questions in future. Reviewing question discriminatory capacity is crucial for validating the exams and with the help of specialised software should be done even retrospectively. John emphasised that the amount of work would need secretarial assistance. Finally, John Keen asked the Diplomates to please rate the general and certifying papers if they have not already done so.

Questions:

What are the question making rules for diplomats?

John Keen: new diplomates, will have to make at least 5 questions (mandatory) before July 1st and will receive 6 re-evaluation points for this effort. This includes DipACVIMs who are accepted as DipECEIMs by the E&C committee. After this question making is optional for Diplomates, and 2 points per question will be received with a maximum of 6 per year. The goal of this policy is to continue to collect question ideas from Diplomates because even if the questions are not suitable for use without modification by the Bank Managers, it is very

useful to have new topic ideas and question ideas submitted by Diplomates – preferably those who have prepared themselves for the exam recently and maybe missed topics.

4 Education and Credentials Committee report (Nicola Menzies-Gow)

The members of the current committee are Nicola Menzies-Gow (Chair; UK), René van den Hoven (A), Charlotte Sandersen (BEL), Tamarinde Laan (NL) and Constanze Fintl (NOR).

Currently, 41 residents in standard training programmes and 7 in alternative programmes are enrolled. In 2012, 12 new residents were enrolled of which 2 are following alternate training. 3 new institutions were accepted to run ECEIM training programmes, two of them with alternate programmes. At the moment there are 32 ECEIM accredited institutions, none of them needed reevaluation in 2012.

An updated version of the Training brochure with a new structure and a summarizing table of “How to become a Diplomat” will be available on the website soon. Nicola asked the supervisors to have a look at the brochure and especially at the “How to...” table with the deadlines. Institute applications and enrolments of new residents are possible at any time of the year but need to be done and approved before the intended start of the programme (as specified in the Training Brochure). For enrolments and exam applications, both - a paper copy with original signatures and a digital version is needed. However, the 1st and 2nd Resident Documentations Packs should be submitted digitally only. In the updated Training Brochure, the exact wording of the alternatives in providing evidence of training in digital imaging – as announced several times since 2009 – is included. Omitted is the possibility of exam candidates with “internationally recognised expertise”, which had historical reasons, was never used and is not more complying with EBVS rules.

Resident Documentation Pack (RDP). The first RDP should be assessed between 12 and 18 months after the start of training in Standard programmes. The RDP can be submitted to the Committee at any point. However, evaluation of the RDPs usually takes place in July/August and only RDPs arriving before 1st of July of the same year will be considered. Supervisors and residents are therefore encouraged not to leave submission to the last minute. The 2nd RDP has to be submitted before the exam application, approximately after two thirds of the training programme. A 3rd RDP must be included in the exam application. Detailed case logs always are to be included. In 2012, nine 1st RDPs and fourteen 2nd RDPs were evaluated.

In 2012, 24 exam applications reached the E&C committee. 10 candidates followed a standard training (1a candidates), 3 finished alternate programmes (1b candidates) and 11 applied to sit the general paper only (1c candidates). All of them were approved, but four 1a and two 1b candidates were just given provisional approval with an extended deadline of 31st December 2012.

Regarding Diplomat reevaluations, 15 applied for it and all were reaccredited. 2 Honorary members did not need to be reassessed due to her status. 1 Diplomat did not send the required form and was asked to do so within the next 12 months. In 2012 four ACVIM Diplomates applied for becoming ECEIM Diplomates and all were approved.

Questions:

Scott Pirie: What is a provisional exam acceptance?

Nicola Menzies-Gow: Due to exam application deadline before 1st July some programmes are not finished or papers not yet accepted. In these cases and with plausible timelines provisional acceptance might be given. The resident is responsible for fulfilling all requirements before end of an extended deadline.

Carla Cesarini: What have residents to send?

NMG: They need to follow the regulations in place when they were enrolled. If they wish they may follow updated regulations.

Carla Cesarini: On the website requirements differ

YT: Efforts to clean up the website are being undertaken; if differences are found follow Training Brochure regulations and notify the Education and Credentials of the discrepancy so it can be rectified.

Montague Saulez: Deadline was not clear - postage mark or arrival? From South Africa, duration of sending hard copies is unpredictable. Why not just digital copies?

NMG: Deadline is clarified: arrival of all documents is required before 1st July. Original signatures in exam applications are needed. Apply within or well before deadline – if something / few weeks are lacking explain how you are going to fulfill requirements and get provisional acceptance in time.

5 Advanced Training Advisory committee (Celia Marr, UK)

The members of the newly formed ATAC are Celia M Marr (Chair), Vince Gerber, Lisa Katz (2013), Derek Knottenbelt (2012), Cathy McGowan (2013), Bernhard Ohnesorge (2012/13) and – ex officio - Youssef Tamzali.

The purpose of the committee is to provide oversight and strategic advice to the Board of ECEIM to ensure the development and maintenance of an ongoing and well-coordinated high quality training and professional development for Diplomates of the College. For this purpose, a first Diplomat training day focusing on cardiology was initiated before the Le Touquet Congress. Evaluation of this specialist training is on its way. For evaluating interesting topics in future, ATAC initiated an electronic survey in January 2013, asking all ECEIM Diplomates to participate. 78 Diplomates responded to the question, which topics the next Diplomat training day should address. Highest priority was given to neurology (42.3%), followed by ophthalmology (34.6%) and clinical pathology (32.1%). Neonatology (28.2%), endocrinology (24.4%), thoracic medicine (23.1%) and gastroenterology (23.1%), dermatology (21.8%) as well as epidemiology and critical appraisal of literature (21.8%) and oncology (19.2%) followed with decreasing interest. These results specify the topics for future specialist days and will be considered in planning the programme for the next congress in Praha. However, the topics obviously depend on local committee interests and facilities too.

According to the survey, online webinars would be followed frequently by 37.2% of the Diplomates (n=78), occasionally by 56.4% and never by 6.4%. Of even higher interest would be the opportunity to follow online journal clubs: 42.3% of the Diplomates confirmed interest, 47.4% answered “maybe” and just 11.3% denied interest in joining online journal clubs. These encouraging results confirmed ATAC to start webinars in collaboration with Boehringer Ingelheim. Boehringer provides webspace and is allowed to record webinars for general practitioners that are given by ECEIM Diplomates. In return, the company will provide webspace and technical equipment for specialist training, which will be available to



ECEIM Diplomates and residents for free. However, for viewing and participating a registration several days before the webinar is needed at www.bi-academy.co.uk.

Webinars are going to be screened on specific dates, immediately followed by questions (email) and answers (verbal broadcast). Webinars will be available for viewing online. On a general practitioners level, the following webinars are planned for 2013, all at 20.30 London time:

- 10th July: Cardiac dysrhythmias, Celia Marr
- 27th July: Equine Grass Sickness, Scott Pirie
- 2th August: Practical Fluid therapy, Mark Hillyer

The following Specialist seminars are already planned too, all at 18.30 (London time):

- 17th April Clinical Focus: Equine Recurrent Uveitis,
 Claudia Hartley, DipECVO
- 17th October Research Focus: Recurrent airway obstruction: nature or nurture?
 Vince Gerber, DipECEIM, and Scott Pirie, DipECEIM
- 15th January Grand Rounds/Clinical Refresher: Head trauma in a colt
 Celia Marr, DipECEIM and
 The cranial nerves and the equine eye
 Elsa Beltran, DipECVN

Concerning the journal clubs, these will be open to ECEIM residents and diplomates and should have 12 journal club members at maximum. The first clubs are aiming to start in May/June 2013. Dr Cathy McGowan will serve as Journal Club coordinator and should be emailed by interested persons at: C.M.Mcgowan@liverpool.ac.uk.

Questions: None

6 Elections to the ECEIM Board

Due to the planned retirement of Gunther van Loon, who was already re-elected twice as treasurer, a new treasurer was needed. There was a single candidate (Bernhard Ohnesorge) standing for election as future treasurer to the ECEIM Board. The President showed the candidate's CV. Bernhard Ohnesorge is Professor of Equine Internal Medicine at the Stiftung Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover, Germany. He became ECEIM de facto Diplomate in 2003 and served in several ECEIM committees. There was a written vote by secret ballot to elect Prof. Bernhard Ohnesorge as new Treasurer. Of 68 votes 67 Diplomates confirmed that they want to elect Bernhard Ohnesorge. One vote was signed as "blanco".

Youssef Tamzali explicitly thanked Gunther van Loon for his meticulous work at the ECEIM Board not only as treasurer but as website organizer and as an always-available and extremely helpful Board member too. He mentioned that Board membership is very time consuming. Future Board members should have served in committees before applying to be elected to the Board. The President welcomed Bernhard Ohnesorge to the Board.

7 Vote on constitutional changes and changes in the bylaws

As announced and published in detail in the last newsletter, EBVS requires ECEIM to change some articles in its constitution and bylaws. The vote will be done electronically in the next weeks and Diplomates are asked to participate.

8 Report from the President and Board (Youssef TAMZALI)

The ECEIM Board in 2012 consisted of Youssef Tamzali (President), Josh Slater (Past President), Gunther van Loon (Treasurer), Kerstin Fey (Secretary), Cornélie Westermann (Vice President), and Hélène Amory (Board Member).

The president explained for new Diplomates who attended the AGM for the first time that the mission statement of ECEIM was as follows: "The mission of the ECEIM is to have an international leadership role in Equine Internal Medicine, advancing the discipline through postgraduate education, training and research to create a collaborative global community of specialists. The College will promote the highest clinical and research standards, ensure the visibility of equine internal medicine specialists and engage effectively with the wider veterinary and horse-owning communities."

To achieve this, a strategic plan 2011-2015 had been formulated by the Board, led by past president Josh Slater, and announced at the Hannover General Meeting. The president updated the Diplomates on what had been done so far and what is planned for the coming year.

For Outreach and widening participation, the collaboration with JVIM and ACVIM was enhanced. JVIM editor in Chief, Ken Hinchcliff attends the Le Touquet Congress and gives a presentation to the ECEIM residents. For strengthening relationships with ACVIM, the president attended the ACVIM Forum in Denver 2011 and New Orleans 2012 and participated in many ACVIM business meetings. He made two formal presentations aimed at introducing ECEIM to ACVIM Officers (Denver 2011, LAIM Executive Committee meeting) and ACVIM Diplomates (New Orleans 2012, Specialist Day). An ACVIM-ECEIM liaison committee met 2012 in Edinburgh for the first time and currently in Le Touquet for the second time. Attending ACVIM Officers are Allen Roussel (President LAIM), Ben Sykes (International relations) and Keith Chaffin (Chair Marketing Committee), who all announced their interest in intensified collaboration.

Ben Sykes gave a short presentation, encouraging ECEIM to apply for the newly formed possibility of becoming ACVIM associated member. Aims would be to facilitate e.g. resident exchange and mixed residencies between Europe and USA, with acceptance of supervisors on both sides. Further direct advantages can be seen in easier congress registration and special access to ACVIM workshops for ECEIM Diplomates. These may apply for ACVIM associate status individually too. Information can be found at www.acvim.org/websites/acvim/index.php?p=33.

Questions? None

The president elucidated on areas of partnership, like a formal speakers exchange in 2013 (Ken Hinchcliff at ECEIM, Josh Slater at ACVIM) and mentioned intense interactions with the ACVIM Marketing Committee (Josh Slater) as well as with the ACVIM Examination Committee (Scott Pirie). A joint ACVIM-ECEIM consensus statement was established and ECEIM will apply soon for ACVIM associate member status.



Concerning the Development Scholarship Program (DSP), time restrictions and a lack of volunteering institutions have hindered the progress. The Board and president still favour this programme in order to help colleagues in countries without ECEIM Diplomates yet. Youssef Tamzali asked for names of institutions that would volunteer in helping these colleagues to become Diplomates.

In order to develop a tighter ECEIM family, a first newsletter has been issued and should reach the Diplomates twice a year. The professionalization of examiners is under way and the ECEIM Advanced Training Advisory Committee established with the first specialist workshop done, webinars and journal clubs planned.

For enhancing the visibility of the ECEIM, several steps have been taken: collaboration with ACVIM for developing marketing strategies was initiated, an ECEIM Consensus statement is under way and an ACVIM-ECEIM joint consensus found. Sponsorship was greatly enhanced at Le Touquet and a sponsored Influenza roundtable with invited internationally renowned specialists added to the success of the Congress.

The president encouraged the Diplomates to use their title as well as ECEIM and EBVS logos. In addition he had to mention that it is not allowed for Residents to invent abbreviations or titles like ResECEIM. EBVS considers this as confusing to the public and ECEIM is required to sanction uses like this. The president asked the supervisors to block the use of ECEIM in such circumstances.

9 Future ECEIM meetings

The president was proud to announce that guidelines for ECEIM Congress organization were defined mainly thanks to H el ene Amory. A congress application procedure has been established. For 2014 Praha (Barbora Bezdekova), 2015 Helsinki (Michael Hewetson) and 2016 Utrecht (Corn elie Westermann) applied and were approved. 3 other applications from Perugia, Zurich and Oslo are in the pipeline.

Barbora Bezdekova presented Hotel Corinthia in Praha, the proposed venue for the next Congress from 6th - 8th November 2014. The facility is located 20 km from Praha Airport and just 10 minutes from Castle Vysehrad. The hotel has excellent congress facilities. Workshops and advanced education programme will be organized before congress. The favored topics of neurology and/or clinical pathology do not depend on live horses and a facility next to the beautiful city offers several great opportunities for a social programme too.

Welcome to new Diplomates

Due to time constraints, the President handed out ECEIM Diplomas to the new Diplomates during dinner time the same evening.

10 Any other business

There were no questions or remarks. The General meeting ended 18:50.