

*At the last ECEIM General Meeting held during the Hannover Congress in early February 2011, Marianne Sloet and Derek Knottenbelt were elected as the first Honorary Members of the College. This vote , proposed by the Board, was unanimous and accompanied with a long standing ovation.*

*Honorary Membership of the ECEIM can be conferred to a person who has made an exceptional contribution to the specialty of Equine Internal Medicine. The idea of a European College of Equine Internal Medicine was born in the mind of Marianne and Derek. They are without any doubt the "founding mother and father" of our College. Ten years ago they contacted a number of knowledgeable European equine internists in order to form the first nucleus of Founding Diplomates from which everything started. From the early years of College foundation they were without any doubt the driving and working forces of all regulatory, administrative and scientific activities that were built-in in order to reach the point of 'adulthood' recently acquired when the College gained Full Recognition status with EBVS.*

*Beside this exceptional institutional contribution both of them have made outstanding scientific careers with an impressive list of international publications and oral presentations in congresses. Derek is also one of if not the most prolific equine veterinary medicine textbook authors in the world! Could we dream better candidates than this winning team for conferring this prestigious "Honorary Membership" for the first time? Of course not and our young but adult College had to express his eternal recognition to the two persons who made possible through their personal enthusiasm, tenacity and dedication the transformation of a wish into reality: ECEIM existence.*

*On behalf of all ECEIM Diplomates and on my behalf I would to say once again: Thank you Marianne and Derek and Congratulations!*

*Youssef TAMZALI*