



Minutes from the ECEIM Diplomates' Meeting Liege 9th February 2008

1. Present

Marianne Sloet, Josh Slater, Gunther van Loon, Tim Brazil, Anne Courance-Malblanc, Marie-Therese Picavet, Monica Venner, Helene Amory, Karsten Feige, Bernhard Ohnesorge, Youssef Tamzali, Kerstin Fey, Caroline Hahn, Lluís Monreal, Jose Estapa Nieto, Wolfgang Scheidemann, Gerald Schusser, Tamarinde Laan, Cornelia Westermann, Inge Wijnberg, Han Van der Kolk, Marco de Bruijn, Derek Knottenbelt, Charlotte Sandersen, Meret Wehrli Eser, Vincent Gerber.

In attendance: Petr Jahn

2. Apologies

Escolastico Aguilera-Tejero, Andy Durham, Jaroslav Hanak, Connie Herholz, Des Leadon, Agnes Leblond, Bruce McGorum, Hanspeter Meier

3. Welcome.

Marianne Sloet welcomed the 27 diplomates who were present at the meeting. She reviewed some of the major landmarks in the history of the ECEIM including the first congress and examination (Leipzig, January 2005), first residents' meeting (Utrecht, January 2006) and the second congress and examination (Naas, February 2007). She was very pleased with the number of residents attending the Liege meeting and felt the programme had been well put together, covering some important topics for residents and with good speakers. She was disappointed, however, with the number of diplomates attending (27). She said that the ECEIM has 71 diplomates from a wide range of countries within Europe and outside Europe: UK – 20; Germany 7; Belgium 6; Switzerland 6; The Netherlands 6; France 4; Ireland 4; Spain 3; Denmark 2, Norway 2, Sweden 2; Austria 1, Czech 1, Israel 1, Saudi Arabia 1; USA 4.

The current committee chairs are: Examination committee - Scott Pirie; Education committee - Shaun McKane; Credentials committee - Youssef Tamzali; Congress committee - Lluís Monreal; Fiscal committee - Marianne Sloet; Nomination committee - Derek Knottenbelt. She reminded the meeting that the committees have a constant turnover and new members were always required and emphasised the importance of all diplomates actively engaging with committee work. Volunteers should make themselves known to the Secretary.

4. Secretary's Report

Josh Slater confirmed that the constitutional changes that had been approved by a vote of the Diplomates following the last meeting had been incorporated into the constitution. He reminded diplomates that the changes were to Article 7 (changes to allow electronic voting), Section 4.2 (changes to make the Credentials Committee responsible for diplomate reaccreditation) and Article 5 (changes to the publication requirements for



residents reducing the requirement to one research article and one case report/small case series/short communication. He explained that the ECEIM is now a registered company trading in Europe and registered at Companies' House in London. The ECEIM Board now have Directors' Liability insurance to indemnify against personal liability in event of claims against the College. Finally he reminded diplomates that they had been sent a notice about the EBVS ruling on the eligibility of time spent studying for a clinical PhD as part of the seven year post graduate period of experience required for de facto applications. He asked diplomates to encourage any individuals who might not have applied for the de facto process before the closing date (1.6.05) because they had been studying for a clinical PhD to contact the Secretary. He stressed that the de facto process was not being reopened: the Board wanted to be fair and transparent and make sure no-one had been disadvantaged in the de facto process. All applications would be considered by the de facto committee (which consists of the 10 founding invited diplomates). He confirmed that to the best of the Board's knowledge, none of the declined de facto candidates fell under the EBVS ruling about time spent on clinical PhDs.

5. Treasurer's Report

Gunther van Loon gave an overview of the College's finances. The College is in good financial shape, with an increase in accumulated funds from the beginning of 2006, and he felt that a sufficient financial reserve had now been reached such that the college would be able to discharge all its financial commitments in the event of a major catastrophe. The Naas Congress had generated a surplus and it was likely that the Liege meeting would come in on budget.

6. Examination Committee

Scott Pirie updated the meeting on the committee's activities. The committee is made up of Scott Pirie (chair), Tania Art, Helene Amory and Vincent Gerber. Bruce Mc Gorum, Bernhard Ohnesorge and Marianne Sloet are all retiring from the committee and will be replaced by Kris Hughes, Karsten Feige and Josh Slater. He presented a summary of the 2007 examination for which there were 27 candidates: 23 sat the General Examination - 19 passed and 4 failed; 20 passed and 3 failed the Certifying Examination; 14 passed the

Essay and 8 failed; 16 passed the Objective Case Management and 8 failed. Overall, 7 people passed all sections and became new ECEIM Diplomates; 6 passed the exam but had not met the publication requirements; 1 passed the General Examination and will come back to sit the other parts; 13 people failed on one or more parts. He concluded by reminding diplomates that the 2009 examination would be held in Barcelona immediately before the ECEIM Congress. The date had not been fixed but it was expected the examination would be held at the end of January 2009 and he hoped the examination and congress dates would be set before the end of March 2008. The format would be exactly the same as the 2006 examination. Previous questions would be posted on the ECEIM website to assist residents. He reminded diplomates that they are required to submit

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MCQs and OCMs for the 2009 examination (reminders will be sent electronically) and will be required to rate the examination questions during the Barcelona meeting.

7. Education Committee

Kerstin Fey gave the Education Committee report and passed on apologies from the other committee members (Shaun McKane and Réne van den Hoven). There are a total of 18 registered training institutions; two new institutions (Toulouse and Copenhagen) were added in 2007. There are a total of 41 registered residents (35 standard and 6 alternative residencies); 5 new residents all in standard programmes were registered in 2007 (Utrecht, Toulouse, Berne, Zurich & Edinburgh). Eight residents have completed their training programmes and are eligible to apply to sit the 2009 examination. 16 case log submissions were reviewed in 2006 of which 14 were accepted. She reported that the committee had improved its procedures to ensure quicker turn-round in 2009. She also warned the Credentials Committee that there would be several residents applying for the 2009 who had had to start their case logs using the old sheets and had completed, or would be completing, their case logs using the new sheets. There was discussion in response to her question about the desirability of allowing residents to log cases seen in practice unsupervised by a Diplomate. She explained that the Committee were concerned that some residents were not able to complete the target of 600 diplomate-supervised cases. Derek Knottenbelt explained that this should not be allowed during a residency but was acceptable once the residency had been completed. Josh Slater felt this was a muddle and asked the Education Committee to produce statistics on how many residents were on target with their case logs and whether case recording was being manipulated to meet targets, ahead of a discussion on case log targets by the Board and the Committee.

Action: Education Committee to produce summary statistics for how well residents are meeting their case log numbers (deadline April 10th).

8 Credentials Committee

Youssef Tamzali presented the Credentials Committee report. The committee consists of Youssef Tamzali (outgoing chair – retires Feb 08), Gerald Schusser (incoming chair from Feb 08), Andy Durham and Charlotte Sanderson (new member – starts Feb 08). He reviewed the functions of the committee (establish examination credentials; review and approve examination candidate applications; review diplomate re-accreditation applications) and that the annual cycle begins in March, with applications reviewed in July/August and cycle completion in October. He reminded diplomates that candidates can only enter the examination once they have completed their publication requirements and said that a number of papers had been rejected this year because they did not relate to equine internal medicine. In response to a question about whether candidates could be allowed to enter the examination if they had not completed their publications by the June deadline, he explained this was not allowable and reminded diplomates that the ECEIM rules on the requirement for publications to be fulfilled before approval for exam entry had been approved by a vote of the diplomates in 2006 to bring ECEIM in line with



EBVS regulations. He said that the committee would always try to assist candidates and that if a candidate had a paper near completion or awaiting review when the deadline was due, the committee should be notified and a dialogue opened. There was further discussion about the wording of the regulation about papers that are acceptable as 'original research papers', specifically that case series of less than 20 cases are not allowable. There was concern amongst the diplomates that the definition of 'case series' needs further attention since whilst this rule might be appropriate in some circumstances, e.g. observational and/or descriptive data collected from a series of clinical cases, it might not be appropriate in others, e.g. experimental work carried using horses (examples here include treadmill and exercise physiology experiments, airway physiology experiments, cardiac physiology experiments). The meeting agreed that the diplomates and Credentials Committee should consider this ruling further and diplomates should contact Gerald Schusser with ideas for consideration.

Action: Credentials Committee to receive suggestions from the diplomates on this issue, collate responses and consult with the Board (deadline April 10th).

Youssef then summarised the list of approved journals and reminded diplomates that applications could be made to add journals with an impact factor of less than 0.5 to the list in order facilitate resident publications. He reminded diplomates that all journals with an impact factor of >0.5 are ECEIM-eligible and applications do not need to be made to include all such journals on the list (if such a journal is not listed the resident simply needs to include proof of the impact factor at the time of submitting credentials). He also summarised the list of approved international meetings and reminded diplomates that additional meetings could be nominated for approval by the Credentials Committee.

He concluded by outlining the diplomate re-evaluation process: submission of the required package of papers by June 30th in the year of re-evaluation is the responsibility of each diplomate and reminders will not be sent. The ten founding diplomates had been re-evaluated in 2007 and all had achieved far more than the required 100 points for successful re-accreditation (range 300-1,300) and he felt that successful re-evaluation should be easily within the grasp of a 'normal' diplomate. The following Diplomates are due for re-evaluation in 2008: H. Amory, T. Art, K. Fey, H. Gehlen C. Herholz, H. Meier, S. Nautrup-Olsen, B. Ohnesorge, S. Ricketts, G. Schusser.

9. Nominations Committee

Derek Knottenbelt reported that Marianne Sloet would be retiring as President at the end of the meeting and that Josh Slater would take over as the new President. There had been a single nomination for the Secretary post and Caroline Hahn would be taking over as the new secretary. There were two people retiring from the Board (Des Leadon and Escolastico Aguilera-Tejero). There had been four nominations and the Secretary would be sending secret ballot papers to all diplomates in the next week with a voting deadline of one month. The ballot papers would be opened by Josh Slater's secretary and counting

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would be supervised by a member of the ECVS who works at the Royal Veterinary College to ensure fair play. The results of the election would be notified to all diplomates together with a list of new committee members.

10. Any other Business

ECEIM Congress 2009. Luis Monreal gave a short overview of the Barcelona meeting planned for January 2009 and encouraged all diplomates and residents to visit the congress website for further information and to attend the meeting. The examination would precede the congress and the congress would be immediately followed by the Spanish national equine veterinary congress.

Attendance at meetings. Marianne Sloet reminded diplomates that attendance at the annual ECEIM meetings (the residents' meeting and the congress) was mandatory and she was disappointed that only a minority of diplomates were in attendance at the Liege meeting. An important role of the college is collegiality and an important way in which this is achieved is by bringing people together. She also felt it was important for the residents to network and that it was inspiring for residents to meet and discuss topics with the diplomates. She said that the Board would record and publish attendance lists for the diplomates.

ECEIM discussion forum. Tamarinde Laan asked whether a discussion forum could be set up on the ECEIM website as a resource for residents and diplomates to exchange ideas and information about cases and research. There was general agreement that this could be useful but there was concern about moderating/supervising content, content being regarded as ECEIM policy, whether it would become unwieldy and whether the website software and support the college currently pays for would be capable of supporting a forum. T Laan volunteered to act as moderator for the forum if it were to be set up. Gunther van Loon agreed to investigate whether the current ECEIM website would be capable of supporting a forum.

Action: Gunther van Loon to investigate the feasibility of the website hosting a discussion forum and report back to the Board.

Examination resit fees. There was discussion about the level of fees required to resit sections of the examination following which it was agreed that the fee to resit between one and three sections of the examination inclusive would be 500 Euro (rather than the current 850 Euro fee) and resit candidates would not have to pay the examination application fee.

Vote of thanks to the out-going President. On behalf of the all members of the College, Derek Knottenbelt thanked Marianne Sloet for her exceptional effort and commitment to the College. He reminded diplomates that the ECEIM had come into

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existence only because of her vision and determination. The diplomates joined him in a heart-felt vote of thanks for her hard work.

Josh Slater
Secretary, February 2008