

*Minutes of the General Meeting of the ECEIM held in  
Vienna, Austria  
6th February 2010*

**1. Present**

Bernhard Ohnesorge, Kerstin Fey, René van den Hoven, Tamarinde Laan, Marie-Therese Picavet, Marco de Bruijn, Sonja Berger, Scott Pirie, John Keen, Constanze Fintl, Veronica Roberts, Anna Kendall, Sara Larsdotter, Tim Mair, Michael Hewetson, David Sutton, Lidwien Verdegaal, Catherine Delesalle, Meret Wehli Eser, wolfgang Scheidemann, Gerald Schusser, Lara Armengou, Anja Cehak, José Estepa, Anne Couroucé-Malblanc, Luis Monreal, Youssef Tamzali, Marianne Sloet, Gunther van Loon, Josh Slater, Cornélie Westermann

**2. Welcome**

The ECEIM President, Josh Slater, welcomed all Diplomates who were present at the meeting. He showed a timeline of the College's history; being established in 2002, having had three Congresses so far ( 2005 in Leipzig, 2007 in Naas and 2009 in Barcelona), as well as three Resident Meetings (2006 in Utrecht, 2008 in Liege and now 2010 in Vienna). In April 2010 the EBVS AGM will decide upon the ECEIM's application for full recognition, and in 2011 the fourth Congress will take place in Hannover.

The ECEIM currently has 89 Diplomates: 10 founding Diplomates, 47 De facto Diplomates, 28 Diplomates by examination and 4 Associate Diplomates. The ECEIM Board and Committees are very pleased with the rapid expansion of the numbers of ECEIM-approved training institutions and residents in standard and alternative track programmes. There are currently 54 residents at 25 institutions. Diplomates are working in 19 countries in Europe, the Middle East, South Africa, the USA and Australia. Of our Diplomates, 69 are working in University or Industry and 20 in private practice.

Now that the ECEIM is approaching adulthood, it is necessary to have goals for the future, paying special attention to countries with small numbers of Diplomates and delivering against the College's mission of facilitating specialist training in equine internal medicine across the whole of Europe. These goals are:

- Developing training across all countries
  - with high standards, but fair and inclusive
- Facilitation of training:
  - in countries with small numbers of Diplomates
  - with alternative training programmes
  - with non-university (private practice) programmes
  - with a training opportunity database
  - with sharing mentoring and supervision
  - using the resident Listserv
  - including core topic training
  - with on-line provision of training materials

A list of training facilities has been made by the Hon Secretary. This list is not fully complete yet, so a reminder will follow to all Diplomates. The aim of the list is to provide

a resource that can be referred to by all supervisors and residents so that opportunities for training rotations can be identified and resources shared within the ECEIM community.

The ECEIM tries to cooperate in provision of training and supervision for residents in different specialisations where there are known to be difficulties in accessing appropriate supervision in some countries, e.g. clinical pathology or anaesthesia.. The principle is to help each other. This can include mentoring and supervising each other's residents. Maybe in the future some remote supervision will be possible. The Board has agreed that certain 'core' subjects which are applicable to all residents will be facilitated and have identified epidemiology as a subject that will receive support through sponsorship of an expert session delivered by Dr Tim Parkin at the Vienna meeting. Suggestions for other core subjects are welcome.

The College is considering providing the residents with access to on-line training materials coming from a North American consortium led by Colorado State University; information on this will follow. The aim is to facilitate the academic aspects of ECEIM resident training programmes in Europe.

### **3. Apologies**

Derek Knottenbelt, Conny Herholz, Gaby van Galen, Mark Hillyer, Bruce McGorum, John Pringle, Inge Wijnberg, Han van der Kolk, Robin van der Boom, Montague Saulez, Des Leadon, Jaroslav Hanak, Nicola Menzies-Gow and Charlotte Sandersen.

### **4. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last General Meeting, held in Barcelona on 30.01.2009, were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

### **5. EBVS update**

The ECEIM's application for full recognition by the EBVS has been completed and submitted to the EBVS Executive Committee. We will be informed of the outcome on April 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>. If the outcome is positive the report will be made available to all Diplomates.

### **6. Treasurer's report**

Gunther van Loon gave an overview of the College's finances. The College has a very comfortable balance. The expectation is that 2010 will generate some more income, but from 2011 onwards the balance will be reduced because of the annual exam. Fees will not increase, and available money will probably be invested in an online resident program. The Treasurer asked for any Diplomat who is having trouble with the JIVM subscription to inform him, and explained that the accounts can be looked into if required. René van den Hoven asked if there is a possibility of being sponsored by the European Commission. Marianne Sloet replied that the EBVS has tried unsuccessfully until now.

### **7. Education & Credentials Committee report**

Kerstin Fey introduced the newly formed Education & Credentials Committee: Charlotte Sandersen, Tamarinde Laan, Nicola Menzies-Gow, René van den Hoven and herself (chair). Until now, their work consisted of 18 residents' case logs, 9 resident enrolments (8 standard and 1 alternative), 18 Diplomat re-evaluations and one admission of a new institute.

Kerstin informed the residents that their first Case Log should be submitted not sooner than  $12 \pm 1$  months from the start of their programme. She asked the supervisors to update her about their actual residents in programme and their former residents which are not yet Diplomates (past programme but planning to sit the exam).

The Committee no longer requires a CD copy of files submitted for diplomate re-accréditation. The first page will have to be signed. Because most Diplomates easily acquire more than 100 points, evidence for 100 points regarding publications and presentations is sufficient. Other points, such as points for exam question input, will remain important. Only an abstract, in English, of publications and not a full copy of the paper is needed. Points for “other boards” will be given only if they are outside their own faculty.

The definition of major conferences and journals is as listed on the website. In 2010 the following Diplomates have to be re-evaluated: Shaun McKane, Nicola Menzies-Gow, Simon Peek, Charlotte Sandersen, Josh Slater, René van den Hoven, Inge Wijnberg, Lesley Young, Tim Brazil, Meret Wehrli Eser, Agneta Gustafsson, Jaroslav Hanák, Carl Fredrik Ihler, Philip Johnson, Lisa Katz and Agnès Leblond. Institute confirmation is required from Berlin, Brno, Dublin, Edinburgh, Finland, Nantes and Utrecht.

In 2010, the E&C Committee expects about 30 case logs, 20 exam applications, 15 enrolments and 16 Diplomate re-evaluations.

The aim of the Committee is to have as many new ECEIM institutions as possible and to evaluate resident case logs concerning specific case load, and to advise residents which institutions or practices they might be able to visit for unusual cases.

Youssef Tamzali asked if the conference & journal list could be expanded. Kerstin Fey felt that the list should suffice for the 100 points, but if there were any problems Diplomates could ask the E&C Committee if a specific conference or journal was OK.

## **8. Examination Committee report**

The Chair of the Committee, Scott Pirie, explained the format of the exam again: General paper (2 x 50 MCQs), Certifying MCQ (x 50), Certifying Essay (2 out of 3) and Certifying OCM (x 3). Past papers of the Essay and OCM are available on the ECEIM website. In 2009, the reviewer of the exam was Prof Dave Hodgson and the exam was held in Barcelona. Because of extreme weather conditions the exam venue was evacuated. Scott Pirie thanked all of the people who arranged this exam.

Results: 30 candidates were approved for exam entry. 3 sat the General Paper only and had a 67% pass rate. There were 9 resits, with a 56% pass rate. 4 out of 5 fulfilled the publication requirements. There were 16 new candidates (+1 that already passed General Paper). There was a 59% pass rate and 90% fulfilled the publication requirements. From 2011 the fulfilment of publication requirements will be required for exam entry. The pass rate for the exam has risen during recent years.

The Examination Committee 2011 consists of the following persons: Scott Pirie (Chair), Karsten Feige, Kris Hughes, Mike Hewetson, John Keen, Anne Courouce-Malblanc, Lisa

Katz, Monica Venner, Josh Slater (ex officio). Requirements for the 2011 exam are on the ECEIM website. The Exam Application form has to be sent to the Education and Credentials Committee before 30th of June. The exam entry form has to be sent to the Examination Committee before the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. The exam will be held in Hannover. There are approximately 1100 questions in the question bank. The Committee is currently in the process of creating a more efficient database system, with a tabulated question format. The Diplomates are required to be up-to-date with question submissions (3 per year after first year of 10).

### **9. Welcome to the new Diplomates**

Josh Slater formally welcomed the new Diplomates to the ECEIM [the new Diplomates had been presented with their certificates earlier in the meeting]. The new Diplomates are: Anna Kendall, Robin van den Boom, Gaby van Galen, Katleen Vanschandevijl, Kirstie Pickles, Lara Armengou, Anja Cehak, Sonja Berger, Lidwien Verdegaal, Catherine Delesalle, Alexandra Imhasly, Carla Cesarini Latorre, Sara Larsdotter, Imogen Henderson, Victoria Roberts, Montague Saulez and Noreen Galvin.

### **10. Nominations Committee report**

On behalf of the Nominations Committee (Bruce McGorum, Celia Marr and Bernhard Ohnesorge), Bernhard Ohnesorge explained that there are two positions to fill, one as board member to replace Caroline Hahn and one as Treasurer. Nominations for the ECEIM-Board are Constanze Fintl, Anna Kendall and Kirstie Pickles and only one nomination for Treasurer is Gunther van Loon (nominated for re-election). The CVs of all candidates will be presented. A list for secret ballot will be sent to all Diplomates, according to the constitution.

### **11. Future ECEIM meetings**

In 2011 the congress and exam will be held in Hannover. All Diplomates were asked to please think about providing a venue for 2012 onwards.

### **12. Any other business**

#### **12.1 Associate Diplomates:**

The President explained that the ECEIM has only four Associate Diplomates but many more potential Associate Diplomates (i.e. ACVIM diplomates) are working in Europe. The President was concerned that the ECEIM may not be attractive enough and that the subscription fee (which is the same as for a full Diplomate) may be a disincentive. In response to a question about voting rights and committee membership of Associates, he said that EBVS Policies and Procedures prevented Associates voting or serving on college committees. A wide ranging discussion followed with a range of opinions offered. Anna Kendall felt that more associate Diplomates would be welcome as they have good experience and much to offer. Youssef Tamzali said that it was unfair to expect Associates to pay the same price as full Diplomates. Marianne Sloet commented that the EBVS ruling had been set up because there are many ACVIM diplomates in Europe. She also believed that the credentials requirements were different between ACVIM and ECEIM with regard to publications. Luis Monreal felt that differences in numbers of publications required would not interfere with a DipACVIM serving on committees or supervising residents. Marianne Sloet offered to will ask EBVS if it would be possible to become full Diplomate after 5 years. In response to further questions about why additional publications were necessary and whether being an ACVIM diplomate brought advantages or disadvantages for training residents, the President

invited all ECEIM Diplomates to send him the names and contact details of ACVIM diplomates working in Europe whom they thought might be interested in joining the ECEIM as Associates and said he would write to those individuals and find out whether

Associate Diplomat status of the ECEIM is attractive and, if not, what would make it attractive/what makes it unattractive (e.g. subscription rates etc)..

Visibility of Diplomates within the college and to the outside world.

The Board wish to create better visibility of diplomates through the ECEIM website.

Gunther van Loon will email all Diplomates a word template document where details can be filled in such as email, areas of interest and a photo. He will make this into a pdf document on the website.