

*Minutes of the General Meeting of the ECEIM held in
Hannover Germany
4th February 2011*

1. Present

Bernhard Ohnesorge, Kerstin Fey, René van den Hoven, Tamarinde Laan, Marco de Bruijn, Sonja Berger, Scott Pirie, Constanze Fintl, Veronica Roberts, Tim Brazil, Michael Hewetson, Lidwien Verdegaal, Catherine Delesalle, Meret Wehli Eser, Wolfgang Scheidemann, Gerald Schusser, Emmanuelle van Erck, Monica Venner, Agnès Leblond, Agnès Benamou-Smith, Han van der Kolk, Inge Wijnberg, Catherine McGowan, Caroline Hahn, Esco Aguilera-Tesero, Rachael Conwell, Imogen Henderson, Noreen Galvin, Kristopher Hughes, Conny Herholz, Lisa Katz, Siv Hanche-Olsen, Jessika Müller, Colin Schwarzwald, Carl Fr. Ihler, Robin van den Boom, 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 four Congresses so far (2005 in Leipzig, 2007 in Naas, 2009 in Barcelona and now, 2011 in Hannover), as well as three Resident Meetings (2006 in Utrecht, 2008 in Liege and 2010 in Vienna). In 2012 the fifth Congress (and exam) will take place in Edinburgh.

The ECEIM currently has 92 Diplomates of which 38 are Diplomat by exam. The ECEIM Board and Committees are very pleased with the numbers of ECEIM-approved training institutions (31) and residents in standard (41) and alternative track (9) programmes. The president said that the alternative track programme was considered important by EBVS and the college needs to find ways of facilitating alternative track training programmes. Diplomates who have ideas about how to make the alternative track easier were encouraged to share these ideas with the Education and Credentials Committee. ECEIM Diplomates are working in 19 countries in Europe, the Middle East, South Africa, the USA and Australia.

The 2011 ECEIM congress in Hannover had an attendance of 134 delegates, with 50 Diplomates, 34 residents and 45 practitioners and 5 students. The president said that attendance at General Meetings by Diplomates is mandatory as it is an EBVS requirement. EBVS Policies and Procedures specify a requirement for minimum attendance by Diplomates at college General Meetings and also specify that this must be checked during Diplomat re-evaluation; any Diplomates who have not attended sufficient General Meetings cannot pass re-evaluation. In line with EBVS Policies and Procedures the minimum attendance by Diplomates at ECEIM's General Meetings will be 2/5. This will be checked by the Education and Credentials committee using a sign-up register which will be circulated at each General Meeting.

3. Apologies

Alexandra Imhasly, Des Leadon, Derek Knottenbelt, Bruce McGorum, Hélène Amory, Marco Hermann, John Pringle, Gaby van Galen, Vince Gerber, Sara Larsdotter and Nicola Menzies-Gow, Conny Herholz, Mark Hillyer, Robin van den Boom, Anne Couroucée-Malblanc, Montague Saulez and Charlotte Sandersen.

4. Treasurer's report

The treasurer Gunther van Loon gave an overview of the College's finances. The College's finances are healthy and in line with ECEIM Board's financial strategy and reserves policy. The year 2010 has generated about 25.000 €. From 2011 onwards the balance will be reduced because of the effect of running an annual exam, with less candidates per year and higher costs because of one extra meeting per year of the Exam Committee. The exam entry fee is lowered from 850 € to 700 €.

5. Examination Committee report

The Chair of the Committee, Scott Pirie, introduced the Exam Committee consisting of himself, Karsten Feige, Kris Hughes, Mike Hewetson, John Keen, Anne Couroucée-Malblanc, Lisa Katz and Josh Slater (ex officio). This year three committee members are Diplomate by exam and he commented that over time the strategy was to have the committee composed entirely, or in the majority, of Diplomates by examination rather than the de facto route. The external reviewer of 2011 was Dr. Mary-Anne Guglich (ACVIM). The format that was used until now, General paper (2 x 50 MCQs), Certifying MCQ (x 50), Certifying Essay (2 out of 3) and Certifying OCM (x 3) has been changed for the OCM. Due to the large numbers of candidates the amount of OCM cases was reduced from 3 to 2, being held in a parallel track. Objectivity was ensured and agreement checked. Thirty candidates were approved for exam entry. Two sat the General Paper only. There were 12 resits, and 16 new candidates (including one that already passed General Paper). The amount of new candidates has been similar every year until now. The success rate of 2005 was 40%, 2007 was 50% and 2009 was 58%. The results for 2011 are not yet available.

Scott Pirie announced that he had now completed his term as Examination Committee chair and will rotate off after the Hannover meeting. He thanked everybody for the job they have done, including Jessika Müller from Hannover, and said that the Examination Committee would be in very safe hands under its new Chair John Keen (University of Edinburgh).

6. Education & Credentials Committee report

Kerstin Fey introduced the Education & Credentials Committee: Charlotte Sanderson, Tamarinde Laan, Nicola Menzies-Gow, René van den Hoven and herself (chair). She explained the tasks of the Committee:

- Institute and Programme registration and re-evaluation
- Residents enrolment, including internship confirmation, resident documentation pack control, exam applications,
- Diplomate Re-Evaluation
- Evaluation of Journals and Conferences

KF said that from now on, there's no deadline for enrolment. The programme can start after enrolment. The first resident documentation pack (RDP) needs to be sent in after one year of supervised training in the Standard programme. The second RDP should be sent before or with the exam application (no later than June 30th). RDP's need to be accompanied by signed case logs. In 2010 nine first and nine second RDP's were sent in. KF asked residents and their supervisors to ensure that they use the latest versions of the forms from the ECEIM website and not to use previous versions.

Diplomate re-evaluations had been mainly without problems. The E&C Committee asks all Diplomates to list publications only up to 100 points: there is no point continuing to list publications once the 100 point ceiling has been crossed because this is the maximum number of points that can be collected in this section. KF announced that the system of

exam items will change, and asked Diplomates to check the website before entering their re-evaluation and use the newest forms for this item too. Diplomates to re-evaluate in 2011 are: Keith Edward Baptiste, Michael Hewetson, Tamarinde Laan, Veronique Lacombe, Colin Schwarzwald and Gila Sutton.

7. Nomination Committee Report

Following a call for nominations to all Diplomates, the Nomination Committee, Derek Knottenbelt, Bernhard Ohnesorge and Bruce McGorum, nominated three candidates for the election to the ECEIM Board: Shaun McKane, Gerald Schusser and Helène Amory. An election was held by secret ballot of all Diplomates present at the General Meeting and the new Board Member elected was Helène Amory. The President congratulated Dr Amory on her success and welcomed her to the ECEIM Board. He thanked the unsuccessful candidates for their nomination and said he hoped they would stand for election again in the future.

8. EBVS Matters

In April 2010 at the EBVS AGFM, ECEIM achieved full recognition by EBVS. This is an outstanding accomplishment for a first attempt and the President congratulated all those who had been involved in preparing the application. There were some small changes required by EBVS to bring the ECEIM constitution and bylaws in line with EBVS Policies and Procedures. For example, the membership categories are not according to EBVS P&P, ACVIM Diplomates have been 'Associate Diplomates' until now, but the Associate Member category is reserved for non-veterinary scientists who could make a significant contribution to ECEIM. ACVIM Diplomates can apply for Full Diplomate from now on providing they are working in Europe and/or can make a significant contribution to the work of the ECEIM and that their credentials meet (or exceed) those of the ECEIM.

A vote at the General Meeting was required to make the required constitutional and bylaws changes. The details of the required changes had been sent to the Diplomates three months ago by email and the changes were accepted by unanimous vote of the Diplomates present at the General Meeting.

9. Election for Honorary Members

The Board had received two recommendations for Honorary Membership and fully supported these. The President asked the Meeting to vote for approval that Marianne Sloet and Derek Knottenbelt to become Honorary Members and this was done unanimously. Their role has been crucial to the College and they are thanked again for this commitment. The president noted that he could not think of two more worthy recipients of the inaugural award of Honorary Membership of the ECEIM.

10. President's and Board's Report

The president Josh Slater introduced the Board 2010-2011: Josh Slater (President), Marianne Sloet (Past President), Youssef Tamzali (President Elect), Gunther van Loon (Treasurer), Cornélie Westermann (Secretary), Constanze Fintl (Board member).

He reminded Diplomates that according to EBVS rules Diplomates must attend the General Meeting and that the minimum attendance required is at least 2 out of 5 for each Diplomate to be positively re-evaluated.

The President explained that the ECEIM's strategy for Board and committee membership was to operate an 'escalator' system in which a Diplomate starts as Committee member, is then eligible to become a Board member and after this can become a member of the

Nomination Committee. This system should ensure that committee and Board members have appropriate experience for their particular role in the college. He encouraged Diplomates to continue to volunteer to serve on the committees. The President explained the need of more visibility of ECEIM Diplomates, as well as the college, within the veterinary profession and to the general public. Raising ECEIM profile can be achieved by updating the website with profiling information and an up to date calendar and by Diplomates using the ECEIM and EBVS logo on websites, email, correspondence and business cards. Information of how to obtain the EBVS logo can be obtained through the secretary Cornélie Westermann.

Then he showed the mission statement of ECEIM: The mission of the ECEIM is to have an **international leadership role** in Equine Internal Medicine, advancing the discipline through post graduate **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.

In order to obtain the mission statement a strategic plan 2011-2015 has been made by the Board and committee chairs and will be developed further in the next years. The strategic plan has three aims and the headlines are as follows:

Aim1: Outreach and widening participation

- extending standard and alternative track training opportunities in Europe and beyond

Aim 2: Development of the ECEIM family

- resident training and support
- resident assessment
- specialist development for diplomates

Aim 3: Visibility of the ECEIM

- working with ACVIM and JVIM
- visibility to veterinary community and public

The president asked the General Meeting to send in ideas for the College to the Secretary as well as questions related to “What can the College do for you as a Specialist”.

11. Next Congress and Exam

The next Congress and exam will be held in Edinburgh, in the oldest medical institute of Europe. The exact dates will be put on the website as soon as possible but it is anticipated the congress will be held during the first week in February 2012.

The General Meeting is asked to think about hosting a congress and if willing to do so, to email the Secretary.

12. New Diplomates

Rachael Conwell, Siv Hanche-Olsen and Jessika Müller were welcomed as new Diplomates and received their Diploma.

13. Inauguration of the new ECEIM President

Youssef Tamzali was inaugurated as new President of the ECEIM. The out-going President Josh Slater said that Dr Tamzali was taking over the presidency at an exciting time in the college’s development and that he was confident that the college would benefit from Dr Tamzali’s vision and leadership.

14. Any other business

Han van der Kolk had a question about the Bylaws art. 4.6. The Treasurer Gunther van Loon explained that we have professional auditors in the form of accountants of the UK. The financial reports were fully approved by these accountants and UK government. EBVS has mentioned ECEIM as “best practice” in financial reporting system. The President reassured Dr van der Kolk that all ECEIM accounting practices complied with UK law and were scrupulously conducted. However, he said that in future General Meetings the formality of appointing the professional auditors (PW Accountants) by vote of the Diplomates would be observed.

Inge Wijnberg had two suggestions. She asked to change all voting by hand into voting on paper or electronically, because of privacy in these matters. This suggestion was positively accepted by the Board. Second, she suggested that ECEIM examinations should be subjected to statistical analysis as many Universities do. The President answered that this is already done, but can always be done better, and a new exam question system is being thought of.

Tim Brazil asked if next Congresses could be paid through Paypal instead of transferring. The costs to do so are high, but the Congress committee will think about this.