

# ECBHM NEWS

AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF BOVINE HEALTH MANAGEMENT

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

14<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM WAVLD  
MADRID, SPAIN  
17 - 20 JUNE 2009

15<sup>TH</sup> FECAVA EUROCONGRESS  
LILLE, FRANCE  
27 – 29 Nov. 2009

EUROPEAN BUIATRICS FORUM  
MARSEILLES, FRANCE  
1 – 3 DEC. 2009

6<sup>TH</sup> ECBHM AGM  
MARSEILLES, FRANCE  
1 – 3 DEC. 2009

## **A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Since our AGM in Budapest, in July 2008, the ECBHM has made significant progress in the context of milestones laid down by the EBVS. We completed our first examinations in Munich, in August 2008, initiated Diplomate re-certification and completed the “almost de-facto” process.

I would like to thank all those who worked on our committees and particular thanks to Mireille Meylan and the Credentials Committee for the extraordinary effort they have put in over the last year.

Significantly, following the recent EBVS meeting in Brussels, we have decided to submit an application for full recognition as a College in November 2009.

President-elect João Cannas da Silva and I look forward to meeting you all at our next **AGM in Marseille, in December.**

*Michael Doherty*

## **CREDENTIALS EVALUATION 2009**

Six residents have completed their residency training and submitted their application for the certifying examination this year.

Three of the candidates fulfill all requirements and could be definitively accepted to sit the 2009 examination; three candidates have been accepted conditionally (pending e.g. full acceptance of one publication). Thus, we expect six candidates, having completed a formal ECBHM residency program, to take the certifying examination this year. *Mireille Meylan*

## **SECOND ECBHM CERTIFYING EXAMINATION**

The second Certifying Examination of the ECBHM will be held in Munich during the week of **24<sup>th</sup> August 2009**. As a result from the experience with last year's examination and the subsequent feedback from the candidates some minor amendments were made to the examination process. The general setup, however, will remain unchanged, with a combination of written, practical and oral components, which will ensure that the breadth, as well as the depth of the knowledge of the candidates is sufficiently tested. Specific information on the examination process can be found in the amended Training Brochure on the website of the ECBHM. This year's examination is expected to be taken by 6 residents as well as 14 candidates that entered the process via the “almost-de-facto” application. *Ingrid Lorenz*

## **RESIDENT'S WORKSHOP 2009 - MUNICH**

As a newcomer to the Resident's Workshop, I was not sure what to expect when leaving Dublin on a wet February afternoon, however, I was not disappointed with the experience. The first two days of the course were focused on nutrition as Dr. Finbar Mulligan guided us through a ruminant digestion review, energy and protein digestion, voluntary feed intakes, concentrate feeds, major minerals and trace elements and conducting a nutritional audit, amongst other topics. Mrs. Jutta Heisler's excellent organization ensured that for every new lecture there was a new caffeine and sugar rush waiting outside the door to keep us on our toes. On the practical side of things there was condition scoring and resident presentations. On the final day Dr. Ingrid Lorenz reviewed calf health covering colostrum and passive transfer, cerebral disorders and a review of physiology and therapy of neonatal calf diarrhoea. It was not all work, as there was time to sample the hospitality of Munich, which included an excellent traditional Bavarian meal washed down with unpronounceable strong beer!

*Tim Geraghty – ECBHM Resident, University College Dublin*

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## FOCUS ON BOVINE MASTITIS: KNOWLEDGE INTO PRACTICE

EDITED BY LUKE O'GRADY  
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CONTRIBUTIONS FROM  
ECBHM DIPLOMATES

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 ECBHM  
European College of Bovine Health Management

## “ALMOST-DE-FACTO” PROCESS

The “almost-de-facto” process, developed to allow for colleagues having just not fulfilled the conditions for de-facto recognition to join the College, was completed in early 2009. The Credentials Committee evaluated thirty-one applications. Fourteen candidates have been accepted to sit the examination in 2009, and six candidates chose to take the examination in 2010.

## INCREASE IN THE INCIDENCE OF A BLEEDING DISORDER IN YOUNG CALVES

During the past two years, there has been a surge of bleeding disorders in young calves in addition to the “usual” number of cattle of different age groups with such disorders. While the first cases came from the area surrounding the Clinic for Ruminants, Munich, there are now reports of clusters from various regions of Germany, as well as France, Belgium, and Scotland. The clinical picture comprises the typical signs of a bleeding disorder, e.g. cutaneous and subscleral haemorrhages, petechiae, faeces containing various amounts of blood. In all affected calves leukocytopenia of various intensity and pronounced thrombocytopenia can be demonstrated

from the beginning of the clinical course. Aplastic anaemia becomes apparent only after substantial blood losses have occurred. Tests for BVDV antibodies invariably yielded positive results, as all dams of affected calves had been vaccinated.

Most of the calves die or have to be euthanized because their condition deteriorates despite intensive supportive treatment and repeated blood transfusions.

The cause(s) of the disease is/are still unknown. A simple genetic origin of the disease seems unlikely since the disease has occurred in calves of various breeds and crosses.

Wolfgang Klee

## CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

### 14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD)

To be held in Madrid, Spain.  
17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
<http://www.wavld2009.com>

### 15<sup>th</sup> FECAVA Eurocongress

Special session dedicated to Residents of Veterinary Specialists Colleges, to be held in Lille, France.  
27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
<http://www.fecavaille2009.com>

### European Buiatrics Forum

To be held in Marseille, France.  
1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009  
<http://www.buiatricsforum.com>

## RE-CERTIFICATION

Eighteen Diplomates had to be re-certified by the end of 2008. Fifteen of them submitted their credentials and could be successfully re-certified.

The deadline for submission of the necessary documents for Diplomates to be re-certified in 2009 will be **December 31, 2009**. A revised version of the re-certification application form will be available on the homepage of the College in the course of summer 2009.

The criteria for re-certification have been presented at the Annual General Meeting last year in Budapest. These criteria remain unchanged (see document on the homepage of the College). Please note that the submission of examination questions is a mandatory category, i.e. no Diplomate can be re-certified without having submitted questions for the certifying examination.

## CALL FOR EXAM QUESTIONS

Because the College is in the lucky situation of having 20 candidates for the 2009 examination, it will be of utmost importance to have a large pool of examination questions in order to set up a good examination. Therefore, we encourage **all Diplomates**, especially those who will seek re-certification in 2009, to submit examination questions before **July 1st, 2009**.