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EDITORIAL

THE YEAR 2000 IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE. A milestone it has been, but only one along the way. For all that we have had built on past efforts, and all that we are will continue to grow with our labours. It has also been a year of highs and lows. The two most important events of the year were the immensely successful WCVD4 and the publication of the sixth edition of *Small Animal Dermatology*. WCVD4 is amply covered elsewhere in this bulletin. Danny Scott, Bill Miller and Craig Griffin have done us proud again. The new edition is a tour de force through veterinary dermatology and will remain the standard text. It cannot be long before two volumes are necessary! Most of us probably take for granted the vast amount of work in producing this volume. The authors deserve our admiration and thanks.

The saddest note of the year was the death of Ulli Runge-Harms. Ulli had been working with us in Edinburgh when she was killed in a car crash near Inverness. Ulli was a keen practitioner of dermatology and was studying for the ECVD diploma. Her generosity of spirit and infectious enthusiasm will be well remembered by all that met her through work, at congresses and on ESAVS courses. She leaves a husband and two young sons and all our thoughts remain with them.

Elections to the ESVD Board

Candidates are invited to put their names forward for election to the ESVD Board in 2001. Nominees must submit their names, aims and qualifications for board membership to the ESVD secretary **not later than 6 weeks after receiving this Bulletin**. Candidates must be fluent in English, the official language of the ESVD, and should have been full members for at least two years before nomination.

For further information please contact:

Antonella Vercelli, ESVD Secretary, Corso Traiano 99/D, I - 20129 TORINO, Italy.

Tel. - ++39 011 613987

Fax. - ++39 011 317 3763

email - tarver@venturanet.it

ESVD AGM Report

BECAUSE OF WCVD4 THERE WAS NO ESVD CONGRESS THIS YEAR. The ESVD constitution requires an AGM be held each in Europe, and so the 2000 AGM was duly convened at the British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group (BVDSG) meeting at the Crown hotel in Harrogate on 17th October 2000, Harrogate. 26 ESVD members were present, including all the board members bar Antonella Vercelli.

President's address

The AGM was opened by Dominique Heripret, who described the success of WCVD4 in San Francisco. He also thanked the board of the BVDSG for their hospitality.

Treasurer's report

Trevor Whitbread commented on the accounts from 1st January up to 31st December 1999. Although the income was high in 1999, the trend is downhill. The Helsinki meeting made a good profit, 20% of which will go to the local organisers, 40% will go to the ECVD and 40% to the ESVD. There is a problem with non or late paying members, which costs the society money. There is small income from Blackwell's, who publish *Veterinary Dermatology*, but this will cost more in 2001 because of the extra two issues. Overall, a rise in the membership fee for 2002 will be necessary.

Meeting and travel expenses were similar to 1998. *Veterinary Dermatology* is the single biggest expense. Bank charges have been reduced, although credit card payments attract a 5% surcharge. In 1999 three winners of the ESVD Grant were reimbursed. American members continue to use the US bank account, which is managed by Thierry Olivery. This account is used to pay American speakers. In 2000 ESVD will receive the profits from Helsinki and from the workshops in St. Paul de Vence (4000 euro) and Cremona (500 euro). The ESVD secretary costs roughly the same as a board member, so in 2001 the post of membership secretary will be removed, reducing the board by one member.

A Visa account in Euros seems to be impossible to set up in the UK. The board will see if this is possible in the Netherlands, where it can be managed by the ESVD secretary. Automatic payments in foreign currencies are impossible at the moment.

The report for 1999 was accepted by the membership.

Membership Secretary's report

The total number of members as at 1st October 2000 is 589. This still includes some non paying members! In 2000 we had to delete 45 members, all of whom, bar three, for non-payment of membership fees. 47 new members joined in 2000. The number of non- or late paying members is a concern.

Seven new full members were elected at the AGM. These were: Franca Galeotti, Italy - Federico Leone, Italy - Astrid Thelen, Germany - Michaela Austel, Germany - Christian Collinot, France - John Hutt, UK - Adi Nelli, UK.

This means the ESVD now has 198 Full Members. Full Members have full voting rights and after two years can be elected to the board. Dr David Lloyd was concerned about declining membership. He suggested the ESVD should undertake more public relations. A new website, which will be linked to the ECVD website, is on its way, which may help.

Publication Secretary's Report

Chiara Noli thanked Dr. David Lloyd, former editor in chief of *Veterinary Dermatology*, for his enthusiasm and hard work over the past 10 years. A special report on *Veterinary Dermatology* is in this Bulletin. The bulletin is now regularly published twice a year and Chiara thanked the editor Tim Nuttall. Members were encouraged to contribute to their bulletin (see contact details on front page).

Any Other Business

The new constitutions have now been sent out. Dr. E.J. Tjalsma asked if the names of the members who passed the ECVD part I exam could be published in the bulletin. He also asked what is the official position of the ESVD board regarding the alternate route to the ECVD diploma. Dominique Heripret replied that the ESVD aims to promote dermatology to all veterinarians in Europe. The ECVD is responsible for the postgraduate training, and therefore the alternate route is their remit. The ESVD is not notified by the ECVD who passed the part I exam, but the names could be passed to the editor for publication. The bulletin is both for and by all members, and is quite happy to publish material from members and from the ECVD. Dominique Heripret closed the AGM and thanked the members for their contribution. The next AGM will be held at the 17th ESVD Annual Congress in Copenhagen on Thursday 27th September 2001 at 16.00 hours.

European Society of Veterinary Dermatology Research Award

THE ESVD AIMS TO ENCOURAGE HIGH STANDARDS in all aspects of veterinary dermatology, including the development of research studies. An annual grant is awarded by the ESVD for basic or clinical research in veterinary dermatology. Each grant is for 5,000 Euro. Proposals for consideration by the grant awarding committee should be submitted by 1st April 2001. The award will be granted at the AGM of the Society in Copenhagen on September 27th, 2001. Projects will ordinarily be of one to two years duration, with a maximum of three years. Applicants will be expected to propose a study of scientific merit applicable to veterinary dermatology. Preference will be given to novel proposals, including the development of pilot studies, but applications for support of an identifiable component of ongoing

research will be considered. It is not the intention to provide funds for single items of capital expenditure. The funds are solely for research expenses and cannot be used for travel or accommodation at any meetings. Use of experimental animals must conform to animal welfare regulations. Successful applicants will be expected to submit their results for publication in *Veterinary Dermatology* and present their findings to ESVD members at the annual congress.

Request for application guidelines and research proposals (four copies) should be sent to:
Dr. Chiara Noli, Via Sismondi 62, 20133 Milano, Italy.

WINNER OF 2000 ESVD RESEARCH AWARD

The winners of this years research award are Alessandra Fondati, Luis Ferrer and Dolores Fondevila with their proposal **Role of the eosinophil granule major basic protein (MBP) in the pathogenesis of feline eosinophilic skin diseases.** CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Veterinary Dermatology News

As David Lloyd Retires...

AFTER 10 YEARS OF DEDICATED WORK, Prof. David Lloyd is stepping down as editor in chief. *Veterinary Dermatology* was his brainchild and he has worked enthusiastically since the beginning as it has grown to become a highly respected international journal. We all owe David a great deal and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Ian Mason Starts...

Ian Mason will follow him as new editor in chief having already gained much experience as European co-editor. We all wish him well and trust that *Veterinary Dermatology* will continue to grow and develop under his guidance. Ross Bond and Karen Moriello remain as European and US co-editors respectively.

WCVD4 Supplement

For the first time a supplement to *Veterinary Dermatology* contained all the scientific proceedings, as well as the free communications and poster abstracts, from WCVD4 in San Francisco. This supplement, completely sponsored by Pfizer, ensures that members who could not attend can peruse the proceedings in the comfort of their own home.

Tony Stannard - In memoriam

In 2000 a monograph of equine dermatology was published as a special issue. This was dedicated to Tony Stannard, who passed away in 1997. It was possible thanks to the great efforts of Claudia von Tscharner, Gail Kurkle and Julie Yager, who reviewed and edited the enormous amount of material on equine dermatology collected by

Tony Stannard during his lifetime. This will stand as a monument to Tony's efforts in this field and ensure all will benefit from his experience in the future.

Two more Issues each year and a website too!

From 2001 onwards *Veterinary Dermatology* will go from four to six issues per year. This will help speed publication of submitted articles and keep readers up to date. The actual impact factor of *Veterinary Dermatology* is 0.833, ranked 34th out of 129 veterinary journals. Finally, *Veterinary Dermatology* is going on line. It is now included in the journal searching list of Medline. Electronic subscriptions are also available. Whole articles and abstracts of most cited references may be downloaded directly from the web. For more information visit the web page - <http://www.blackwell-science.com/vde>

Other websites

You may also like to visit these sites:

- ESVD Website - <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/Guests/EuroSocVetDerm/esvd.htm>
- British Small Animal Veterinary Association - <http://www.bsava.com>
- British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group - <http://www.vet.ed.ac.uk/bvdsg>
- <http://www.vetagenda.com/> - an invaluable source of information for veterinary meetings
- Online journal updates - <http://www.rpmanager.cx>
- Medline searches - Pubmed - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi>
- Grateful Med - <http://igm.nlm.nih.gov>

World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology in San Francisco: My, oh my!

by *Emmanuel Bensignor* (Paris, France)

'Hi guys!' Back from the States in 'old Europe', I have to admit that this congress was a real success: a magnificent city to live in (at least for a few days), a great hotel, a good scientific program, lots of friends from all over the world and even an earthquake the day following the congress!

As usual, the quality and the professionalism of the whole organization impressed me. The social events were very successful, particularly the 'Streets of San Francisco' evening, with many styles of cuisine to try (as a typical Frenchman I had thought it impossible to find good food in US) and excellent wines to drink (and even I have to admit Californian wines are just wonderful).

The eclectic scientific program was full of first-class lectures for everybody: general practitioner or dermatology specialist. I was particularly impressed by the high quality of the lecturers, particularly Thierry Olivry on pemphigus, Verena Affolter on vasculitis or Manon Paradis on melatonin, and others I don't have room to mention. The 'old and the new' of veterinary dermatology were well represented in the short communication sessions, with many young speakers from all over the world - a lot of ideas to pick up and take back to the clinic.

I hope that the next WCVD, to be held in 2004 in Vienna, will be as enthusiastically received as this one.

International Society of Veterinary Dermatology

by *Jaume Altinira* (Spain)

THE FIRST MEETING of the newly created International Society of Veterinary Dermatology took place on the pre-congress day of the fourth World Congress Of Veterinary Dermatology, in San Francisco, on August 30th. The sessions were chaired by Drs. T.L. Gross and J. Mansell and covered both 'classic controversies' as well as more recently recognised patterns in veterinary dermatopathology. Much of the day was given over to discussing several fascinating inflammatory processes that specifically affect different follicular structures in various animal species. These included Feline Sebaceous Adenitis/Mural Folliculitis by Claudia von Tscharner; Alopecia Areata/Pseudopelade by Thierry Olivry and Equine Linear Dermatoses by Dr. P. Ginn. In addition, Dr. J. Mansell presented a case with a T-cell rich B-cell lymphoma and Dr. E. Walder discussed her approach to the nasal pyoderma/discoid lupus pattern. This was a very promising start for a young ISVD. It was a very productive get together where one couldn't leave without something new - and isn't that what it's about?

The ISVD web pages are at <http://isvd.myfsb.com>

WCVD4 - The Residents' Day

by *Didier Pin* (France)

THE 4th WORLD CONGRESS of Veterinary Dermatology took place in the beautiful and historic city of San Francisco from 30th August to 2nd September. As usual, the first day was devoted to the residents - this year the European residents joined the North Americans at their residents' forum. The morning was fully occupied with short communications by residents describing some of their research.

Here are some of their conclusions:

- Clindamycin at a dosage of 11mg/kg, given orally every 24 hours is a moderately effective antibiotic when selected empirically for the treatment for canine superficial pyoderma. It is important that the clinical response is re-evaluated 14 and 28 days after initiating therapy.
- Zileuton (a 5-lipoxygenase inhibitor) at 2 mg/kg, given orally three times daily for four weeks significantly decreased erythema in atopic dogs but had no effect on pruritus. Zileuton was well tolerated and no adverse clinical signs were noted. One dog developed mild ALT elevation, which resolved within one week of discontinuation of therapy.
- As yet no systematic investigations of the spectral characteristics of melanin from normal or neoplastic domestic animal tissues have been performed. Preliminary results indicate that electron paramagnetic resonance can be used to characterise melanin from canine melanoma.
- The performance of a RAST and two different ELISA allergy tests in horses with suspected atopic diseases were characterised by low sensitivity. None of the tests reliably detected allergen hypersensitivity compared to IDST and should not replace IDST.
- Administration of oral melatonin daily for 28 days does not alter thyroid or adrenocortical activity in normal dogs. Screening tests for hypothyroidism (total and free thyroxine concentrations, endogenous TSH concentrations) and Cushing's disease (ACTH stimulation testing, endogenous ACTH concentrations) are not affected by oral therapy.
- Pre-treatment with a 1% hydrocortisone leave-on conditioner weakly reduces wheal diameter in IgE-mediated immediate phase reactions and does not reduce the clinical and histological parameters of late phase reactions. The demonstration that this conditioner is effective in the prevention or treatment of IgE-mediated dermatoses awaits blinded and controlled clinical trials.

The afternoon was given over to basic science including cell biology, the extracellular matrix, the hair follicle and its diseases and cornification and its disorders. All these subjects are well covered, but new presentations always contain some new or previously unclear information.

All in all, it was an excellent study day. It was great to meet the ACVD residents in such a friendly atmosphere. Many thanks to the organisers, the speakers and the sponsors.

ESVD Immunology Workshop St. Paul de Vence, 23rd-26th March 2000

by *Johan van Leuwen* (Belgium)

ROUGHLY 50 OF US GATHERED at the beautiful and luxurious Mas d'Artigny in Provence. All came to learn about immunological mechanisms and investigative techniques in dermatology. And did we get our monies worth!

Verena Affolter started with a detailed explanation of the use of monoclonal antibodies in histopathology. She followed this with illustrations of immunoprecipitation, immunoblotting, flow cytometry and immunohistochemistry. Thierry Olivry then discussed techniques used in the study of basement membrane diseases. Current concepts and new thoughts on allergic skin disease were discussed in the light of recent studies on the skin immune system. Thierry Olivry illustrated an overview of the pathomechanisms of autoimmune disease with, not only scientifically exciting but also artistically beautiful, pictures of immunofluorescence staining. Jan Rybnicek presented results of research into the pathogenesis of sebaceous adenitis that suggest it is not an autoimmune disease.

The workshop finished with discussions of erythema multiforme, vasculitis, lupus, and lymphocytic and histiocytic proliferative diseases.

The availability of monoclonal antibodies and evolution of techniques is a powerful tool for research. It also opens new perspectives for the practitioner. In the near future, the use of antibody-based assays and immunohistochemistry will greatly enhance our diagnostic capabilities.

The speakers took us on a magical journey through immunodermatology, giving us an insight on a molecular scale of the systems that rule the world of the cell. Well organised, great lectures and beautiful surroundings. Thanks to Zeineb, Verena, Thierry and Jan!

British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group Autumn Meeting

by *Silvia Colombo* (The University of Edinburgh
Hospital for Small Animals)

THE BVDSG AUTUMN MEETING was held in Harrogate, in England, on the 7th and 8th October 2000. Harrogate is a small town in Northern Yorkshire that was a popular spa during Victorian times. A medicinal sulphur spring, discovered there in 1517, can still be tasted in the Royal Pump Room, which is now a museum. There are many other beautiful Victorian buildings and gardens to admire, and the Turkish Baths are still open to the public today. The Crown Hotel, where the meeting took

place, is an old hotel perfectly suited to the Victorian atmosphere of the town, and we were able to appreciate both the good and the bad aspects of it.

Dr. Kelly Credille from Texas University gave some really excellent presentations on cornification and its disorders, sebaceous glands and sebum production, and on the hair follicle and associated diseases. Her concepts on dyskeratosis and apoptosis, which she renamed individual necrosis of keratinocytes, provoked some very active discussion among the group.

Dr. Desmond Tobin from Bradford University, UK, eloquently described current theories on pigmentation and hair follicle cycling in humans. Dr. Zeineb Alhaidari's talk was a practically oriented review of disorders of pigmentation in people and animals, and Dr. Chiara Noli explained how to get very useful information from the trichogram, a quick, easy and frequently overlooked diagnostic test.

We also had the opportunity to hear the results of two research projects, one on staphylococcal adhesion to canine corneocytes, presented by Peter Forsythe, and one on the distribution of melatonin receptors, presented by Andrew Carter, both from the University of Edinburgh. In the short communication session Dr. Geneviève Marignac, from France, presented a case series of sex hormones imbalances associated with *Malassezia pachydermatis*. Despite all this, we still had the energy to dance the night away to (old) Abba songs on Saturday evening. The organising committee deserves our thanks for finding four very good speakers and organising such a profitable and enjoyable weekend.

All is not quiet on the Eastern Front

by *Alex Koutinas*
(Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)

ON THE 11-12th MARCH 2000 the Companion Animal Medicine Clinic of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki together with the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society organised the first seminar/wet lab on small animal dermatology ever held in Greece.

The seminar was held at the Teaching Hospital where 50 practitioners from all over Greece got a good boost in dermatology during an exhausting weekend. Chiara Noli was the invited speaker and performed very well. The other speakers were Alex Koutinas, M.Papadogiannakis and D.Tontis. This was a very successful meeting that gives us the hope and courage to do it all again - perhaps on an annual basis. Margreet Vroom will speak at the next seminar/wet-lab, to be held at the Vet School in Thessaloniki on 27th and 28th of January 2001.

The meeting is organised by Clinic of Companion Animal Medicine and the Hellenic Vet Society, and sponsored by Pfizer.

Future ESVD Workshops

22nd-26th May 2001 *Dermatopathology*
(with wetlab); London, England

- Speakers: Verena Affolter
Claudia von Tscharner, Julie Yager
- Local organiser: David Lloyd
- Maximum 30 participants

July 2001 *Feline Dermatology*
(with practicals); Amsterdam, Netherlands

- Speakers: To be confirmed
- Local organisers: Mieke Leistra, Jacqueline Sinke
- Maximum 30 participants

July 2002 *Clinical Pathology*
(with wetlab); Nantes, France

- Speakers: To be confirmed
- Local organisers: Patrick Bourdeau
Dominique Heripret
- Maximum 30 participants

October 2002 *Equine Dermatology*
(with practicals); Sweden

- Speakers: Janet Littlewood, Stephen White
- Local organiser: Kerstin Bergvall

December 2002 *Exotic Dermatology*
Utrecht, The Netherlands

- Speakers: To be confirmed
- Local organisers: Nico Schoemaker
Jacqueline Sinke
- Maximum 30 participants

2003 *Skin Biology* (with wet lab); Reichnu, Switzerland

- Speakers: To be confirmed
- Local organiser: Claudia von Tscharner
- Maximum 30 participants

2003 *Canine Dermatology* Copenhagen, Denmark

- Speakers: To be confirmed
- Local organiser: Flemming Kristensen
- Maximum 30 participants

Future ESVD-ECVD Congresses

The 17th ESVD-ECVD Annual Congress will take place in Copenhagen from 27th-29th of September 2001. Among other treats will be a special opening of the world famous Tivoli gardens, all thanks to the organising committee lead by Flemming Kristensen.

In 2002 ESVD-ECVD will convene from 26th-28th September in Nice, organiser Zeineb Alhaidari and in October 2003 in Gran Canaria. The World Congress in 2004 will take place in Vienna and in 2005 ESVD-ECVD will meet in Chalkidiki, Greece (organiser Alex Koutinas).

Dermatology Meetings in Spain

AVEPA are holding the following CE courses in 2001:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| • Endocrinology | 10-11 th February
17-18 th March | Oviedo
Zaragoza |
| • Dermatology | 11-12 th February
24-25 th March
26-27 th May | Madrid
Valencia
Bilbao |
| • Laboratory work | 24-25 th February
3-4 th March | Seville
Tenerife |

Further details from:

AVEPA Secretariat, Av. Republica Argentina 21-25,
E-08023 BARCELONA. Tel. - (34) 93 4187312;
fax. - (34) 93 4183979; www.avepa.es

Please note that these meetings are in Spanish.

Dermatology Meetings in Eire

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| • Dermatology II | January (date tba) | Kilkenny |
| • Wound management | February (date tba) | Venue tba |

Further details from:

Dr. Michael Woods, Primrose Hill Veterinary Clinic,
Tivoli Road, Dunloughre, Co. Dublin, Eire.
Tel. - (353) 1 2803303; email - mikewoods@tinet.ie;
www.ireland.oil.lemivalhq/icava.htm

Magic Bullets in Dermatology - New Drugs to Use and Abuse!

British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group Meeting
4th April 2001, International Convention Centre,
Birmingham, England.

Pentoxifylline: Peter J. Forsythe, University of Edinburgh
Tetracycline/niacinamide: Andrew W. Carter, University of
Edinburgh

Cyclosporin: Eric Guaguère, Lomme, France
Staphylococci and vaccines: Anke Hendricks, Royal
Veterinary College

Drugs for Leishmaniasis: Susan E. Shaw, University of
Bristol

Novel forms of allergen immunotherapy: Joe Unsworth,
Southmead Hospital, Bristol

- FEES: £30 for BVD5G members; £50 for non-members, includes coffee, tea breaks and lunch and proceedings.
- REGISTRATION: Karen Bates, Class Events, 20 Magnus Drive, Hatch Warren, Basingstoke, Hants., RG22 4TX, UK. Tel +44 (0)1256 325464, fax +44 (0)1256 346975, email: classEvents@msn.com
- ABSTRACTS ARE WELCOME: please contact Tim Nuttall (see front page) for further details

Dermatology Meetings in Italy

25.2.2001 Leishmaniasis

23.9.2001 *Cutaneous signs of systemic diseases*

Organized by SIDEV (Italian Society of Veterinary Dermatology)
c/o SCIVAC - tel. (39)372-460.440 (Miss Catia Arisi)

All meetings are in Italian and are free for SIDEV Members (lunch included).
Meetings will take place at Palazzo Treccchi in Cremona.

2001 AAVD/ACVD Annual Meeting

Next years AAVD/ACVD meeting will be on 5th-8th April 2001 in Norfolk, Virginia.

Online details, programme, registration information and abstract submission forms can be found at:

<http://www.vetmed.iastate.edu/anits/aavd/norfolk.html>

The deadline for submission of the abstracts is 15th January 2001. Abstracts can be submitted by regular or electronic mail (see below).

If you have questions about the meeting, please contact the Programme Chair, Dr. Jim Noxon - noxon@iastate.edu

For questions about the abstracts (suitability of studies, etc.), please contact Dr. Reid Garfield - txdermvvet@yahoo.com

For questions regarding electronic submission, please contact the ACVD secretary: Ms. Alexis Borich - itichypet@aol.com

We are looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

AAVD/ACVD Program Committee:

Jim Noxon (Chair 2001)

Thierry Olivry

Hilary Jackson

Reid Garfield

Cindy Donnelly

Skin Biology en Français

The French Veterinary Dermatology Study Group will hold its fifth specialised course in skin biology in Lyon from 25th - 27th January 2001. The course is designed for those specialising in dermatology, whether they be clinicians, specialists, academics or residents. Leading dermatologists in various fields will present cutting edge material. Places are limited to 30 to encourage open discussion. The course is accredited by ECVD. **Please note that all lectures will be in French.**

Programme

- *D.Dhommily*: Régulation moléculaire de la différenciation de la peau et des phanères au cours de l'embryogénèse
- *J.Kanitakis*: Différenciation épidermique et kératinisation
- *M.J.Staquet*: Molécules de l'adhérence cellulaire
- *M.Haftok*: Couche cornée et desquamation
- *G.Serre*: La corneodesmosome: identification, caractérisation et fonctions
- *Ph.Bernard*: La JDE: structure et fonctions
- *D.Schmitt*: Le système immunitaire cutané
- *C.Dezutter-Dumhurant*: La cellule de Langerhans
- *J.Vinc*: Activation kératinocytaire et cytokines épidermiques
- *L.Misery*: Vascularisation et innervation cutanées
- *R.Garnou*: Conjonctif et collagènes
Les fibres élastique.

Registration

CNVSA members: 1900 FFR HT (VAT excluded)
2053,20 FFR TTC (VAT included)

Non-members: 2300 FFR HT
2511,60 FFR TTC

Tarifs comprenant photocopies complètes, déjeuners et dîner du Vendredi (26/01/00) soir. Renseignements - Christelle, CNVSA 40 Rue de Berri, 75008 Paris, France. Tél. +33 1 53 83 91 60 **AFVAC**

Derm Diploma Study Group

The Dip Derm Study Group is an informal group of people studying for their diploma examinations in dermatology (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons or European College of Veterinary Dermatology). We meet roughly every two months to discuss and review one area of the Diploma Curriculum. Five meetings have been held so far at the Royal Veterinary College in London, the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh, with participants coming from Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

Meetings usually run from 9.00-17.00 on Saturday and 9.00-15.30 on Sunday, depending on flight times etc. Each meeting consists of presentations by participants, discussion and histopathology sessions.

The next meeting is scheduled for the Royal Veterinary College in London on 16th-17th December and will cover therapeutics. Anyone interested in coming or receiving email notification of future meetings should contact Andrew Carter (see below) for details.

Andrew W Carter BVSc Cert VD MRCVS, University of Edinburgh Hospital for Small Animals, Easter Bush Veterinary Centre, Easter Bush, Midlothian, EH25 9RG, UK.

Tel: +44 (0)131 650 7650; Fax: +44 (0)131 650 7652; Email: AWCarter@Email.MSN.com

Allergy Watch

RALF MUELLER responded to the call in the last bulletin and has kindly provided comments on some recent publications on allergic diseases. Allergy is something we see almost every day, and there are exciting developments in the human literature worth keeping an eye on.

- Kazemi-Shirazi, L. *et al.* Quantitative IgE inhibition experiments with purified recombinant allergens indicate pollen-derived allergens as the sensitizing agents responsible for many forms of plant food allergy. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* 2000, **105**, 116-125.
This study shows a high level of inhibition of binding to food allergens with human serum IgE pre-incubated with pollen allergens. No reduction in binding to pollen allergens was seen when sera were incubated with food allergens. This suggests that pollen allergens may maintain or even elicit some food allergies in humans.
- Brooke-Barham, J. *et al.* Addition of eicosapentaenoic acid to γ -linolenic acid-supplemented diets prevents serum arachidonic acid accumulation in humans. *American Society for Nutritional Sciences*, 2000, 1925-1931.
This study shows that, in humans, a combination of ω 3 and ω 6 fatty acids has the desired clinical effect of decreasing inflammatory eicosanoid production without a concurrent increase in arachidonic acid levels. These effects were more pronounced than supplementation with just one type of fatty acid.

- Von Mutius, E. The environmental predictors of allergic disease. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* 2000, **105**, 9-19.
Nice summary of risk factors for allergic disease in humans.
- Yoshino, T. *et al.* Impaired responses of peripheral blood mononuclear cells to staphylococcal superantigen in patients with severe atopic dermatitis: A role of T-cell apoptosis. *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* 2000, **114**, 281-288.
PBMC proliferative responses to *Staphylococcus enterotoxin B* were compared in normal, mildly atopic and severely atopic humans. Severe atopics showed marked suppression of, and mild atopics increased, PBMC proliferation. An increase in apoptotic cells was detected with special markers in PBMCs from severe atopics and may explain these findings. This study may offer an explanation for the contradictory findings in various human studies on atopic dermatitis that did not consider the severity of the disease.
- Suphioglu, C. What are the important allergens in grass pollen that are linked to human allergic disease? *Clinical and Experimental Allergy* 2000, **30**, 1335-1341.
This editorial illustrates the complexity of pollen allergens and the problems we face when isolating and evaluating them.

North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine Residency in Veterinary Dermatology

Position available: July 1 2001

The NCSU-CVM Dermatology Residency Program is intended to provide advanced clinical and investigative training in veterinary and comparative dermatology. The duration of the program will be 2 years with an optional third year, and is designed to fulfill the credentials required for Board certification in both the American and European Colleges of Veterinary Dermatology.

The ideal applicant will have interests in both clinical and investigative dermatology and preference may be given to the candidate who demonstrates an interest in pursuing graduate studies in the field of immunology after completing the residency.

In addition to training in clinical dermatology practice, the resident will receive individual tutoring in immunology and dermatohistopathology weekly. One half day a week is dedicated to journal club and dermatohistopathology review, and provision is made for blocks of non clinical instruction concentrating on writing, reading and research. The successful applicant will also be expected to attend courses on evidence based medicine (biostatistics) and ethics.

For administrative purposes all residents will be appointed as graduate students.

For further information on the NCSU CVM Dermatology Service: <http://www.cvm.ncsu.edu/VTH/derm/>

All those interested in this program should contact:

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*Further details on how to apply through the AAVC matching program can be found at:
<http://cvm.ncsu.edu/~judy/aavc1.htm>*