Bulletin ESVD

EUROPEAN SOCIETY of VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY

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EDITORIAL

It is with a strange mix of relief and regret that I write this editorial, as I have decided to stand down as Editor of the ESVD Bulletin. I edited my first bulletin in 1999 and have overseen 14 bulletins since then. Both I and the bulletin have seen many changes over the years; I have thoroughly enjoyed the job and seeing the bulletin develop into its present format. When I started, I was but a lowly post-graduate student in Edinburgh and now I'm a senior lecturer at Liverpool. Payback for promotion and a better salary, however, creeps up on you in the form of extra administrative burdens. I no longer really have time to properly edit and develop the bulletin and feel that it's time to make way for someone new with fresh ideas. That someone is Peter Forsythe, who is well known to many in Derm-land. Peter was for many years a partner in a large practice based in Thurso, in the far north of Scotland. He always had an interest in dermatology and later sold up to move south and undertake a residency at the University of Edinburgh. There he gained the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Diploma in Veterinary Dermatology and completed a research project looking a bacterial adherence to keratinocytes. He now combines private practice with teaching at the University of Glasgow, living in Ayrshire with his lovely wife Sheila and delightful children George, Hamish and Alastair. Peter also claims that dermatology merely pays for his real passion of sailing.

The recent annual congress in Greece was great. I much preferred the less-cluttered programme and the integration of the scientific sessions with the free communications; though there was less material overall, my lasting impression is that I took much more in. I also attended every session and stayed awake throughout. The latter is a bit of first for me – it could have been the invigorating sea air, but reduced alcohol consumption (from avoiding the distinctly ropey wine) must have helped. In fairness, a blend of traditional Greek varieties and modern approaches has produced some excellent wines in recent years, although at the other extreme I have a bottle of a 1944 vintage red wine that I'll report on as soon as I find an occasion fitting for its provenance.

No doubt that Chalkidiki was hot, at least to those from less-favoured northern European climates; several folk were heard to comment how strange swimming without a wetsuit felt. Many delegates were further shocked to see Englishmen presenting and chairing in, can you believe it, open shirts without ties! Open shirts might be appropriate for a sartorially relaxed Frenchman, but there are limits chaps; it is a rule of western civilisation that from baked deserts to steaming jungles Englishmen always dress as for a damp March in Morecambe.

Finally a personal anecdote – at school I was a passionate Sherlock Holmes fan and I've recently re-read the stories after a gap of some 20 years. One fact that passed me by at the time was that one of the tales (The Blanched Soldier) hinges on a derm problem; pityriasis versicolor in a soldier returning from the Boer War. Conan Doyle was a doctor, trained in Edinburgh; was he also a closet dermoid?

Best wishes,
Tim Nuttall

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Introduction

We live at a time of rapid and profound change in all aspects of our lives. This dynamic flux is reflected across the whole of Europe in pressures on everyday working life in practice, especially in response to the increased expectations of pet owners. Clients are becoming used to high levels of service in retail outlets, the consumer is king, and the Internet makes everyone an instant expert.

So at this time it is imperative for members of the veterinary profession to stay ahead of the game and to retain their prowess in both the diagnosis and management of clinical disease. This is particularly so in the realm of dermatology.

The European Society of Veterinary for Dermatology provides veterinarians – especially those who devote much of their working lives to the treatment of dermal problems and the restoration of healthy skin – with a constant source of up-to-date information, education and expertise. We at Hill's Pet Nutrition are delighted to be able to support the ESVD in the different facets of its CPD endeavours – its congress and its publications – and hope this latest ESVD Bulletin will be widely read and serve to underpin our mutual principles of enriching the special relationship that people have with their pets.

David Watson, BVetMed, MRCVS.
Director of Professional Veterinary Affairs, Hill's Europe.

New full members

The new full members elected at the AGM in Chalkidiki are:

- Pilar Brazis, Spain
- Anke Hendricks, UK (by way of Germany)
- Astrid Mayr, Austria
- Marianne Mellgren, Sweden
- Debora Trenti, France
- Laura Ordeix, Italy
- Cesar Yotti Alvarez, Spain

Applications forms for full membership are published each year in the ESVD Annual Report. Completed applications must be submitted at least 60 days before the AGM.

AGM notes

Trevor Whitbread, the treasurer, reported that in the near future ESVD will become a charity with a limited liability of £1. Information about this change was circulated in the bulletin and on the website in 2004 and 2005. The main difference in the structure of the ESVD is that charitable status stops the board being personally liable for losses if they should occur for example due to unforeseen circumstances affecting the annual congress. The annual ESVD and congress balances and turnover are published in full in the annual reports. Suffice here to say that ESVD finances are in a healthy position. There was no congress turnover/balance for 2004/2005 as the WCVD held in 2004 is a separate organisation. There was also a proposal to close the US account to save administrative time and costs. This is a small account mainly held for US members, but they can now subscribe through the VISA facility. If you have any comments, please send them to the treasurer@esvd.org. Please see the separate note on membership fees from Trevor later in this bulletin and please ensure prompt payment to make everyone's life easier. Membership is extraordinarily good value, when you consider that a subscription to Veterinary Dermatology alone would otherwise cost £551 (€799).

The membership secretary reported that there are 489 members at present and 66 members who have not renewed their membership in 2005 so far (the comparable figures for 2004 are 518 and 48 respectively). There seems to be a flurry of new members for congress and workshops to take advantage of the reduced registration fees but many of these new members don't renew. Healthy membership is obviously vital to the well-being of the society, and flyers have been produced for key target meetings and other events to publicise the advantages of membership.

The list of members will be produced as a separate document to avoid over-cramming the annual report. Thanks to Hills, it is now possible to include photos, but only six have been received so far. Go on; don't be shy… Adobe® Photoshop® can work wonders. Send your pictures to Trevor Whitbread by email attachment to treasurer@esvd.org

Verena Affolter and Joan Rest suggested that ESVD could use some of its funds to support younger vets studying dermatology to attend workshops and congress. This would help fulfil the aim of the society to promote the study and development of veterinary dermatology as a discipline. The suggestion was welcomed by the board and will be discussed.

Annual congress – Lisboa, 7th–9th September 2006

From next year ESVD will retain a professional congress organiser. This should expedite the whole process of organising and running these meetings, taking a load off the responsible board members, and ensuring some continuity. Margreet Vroom and Luc Beco, as well as the local teams, deserve particular thanks for their recent efforts. The conference management team are:

- Conference Agency Maastricht, Forum 45, 6229 GV Maastricht, The Netherlands
  or PO Box 1402, 6201 BK Maastricht, The Netherlands.
- Tel: +31 43-361 91 92; fax: +31 43-361 90 20; Email: info@conferenceagency.com;
  internet: www.conferenceagency.com

The 21st Annual Congress of ESVD–ECVD will take place in Lisboa (Lisbon), Portugal, 7th–9th September 2006 at the Corinthia Alfa Hotel. The themes are 'consensus and controversies' and 'diagnosis and therapy'. As at congress this year there will be two streams: a continuing education programme; and a scientific programme with keynote speakers and free communications. Topics include allergic skin disease, endocrinology, bacterial, fungal and viral skin diseases, parasitic skin diseases and immuno-parasitology, and skin diseases associated with systemic conditions.

Further information is available on the congress website at www.esvd2006.org. Online registration will be available soon. The deadline for the early, cheaper, registration fee is **15th May 2006**. The deadline to guarantee hotel accommodation is the **30th July 2006**.

Abstracts (maximum 250 words) for free communications and posters are welcome. Abstracts should be complete and include the final results – to say that results will be discussed is not acceptable. The submission deadline is the **1st March 2006**. Please see the website (www.esvd2006.org) for further information and submission instructions. The abstract author(s) must register by the **1st April 2006**.

The hotel and conference venue is just 7km from Lisbon International Airport and looks superb – see www.corinthiahotels.com and follow the links to Lisbon. It is within walking distance of two major shopping malls, Lisbon Zoo and five minutes by taxi from the historic city centre. Lisbon is one of Europe's most historic and prestigious capital cities. Standing majestically on seven hills astride the Tagus, it has, over 800 years, blended an astonishing variety of cultural influences from all over the world. Portugal is well renowned for its beaches, mountains, historic sites, seafood, fine wines and (hint to the organisers here) vintage and single quinta ports.

ISVD meeting

The next annual ISVD meeting will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, Wednesday September 6th, 2006. It will be organized in conjunction with the annual meeting of the ESVD/ECVD. Portugal is a wonderful country to visit and in September the weather is very pleasant. We are excited to be able to have this meeting in the beautiful city of Lisbon.

At this point we would like to send out our first announcement to solicit abstracts for the meeting. The deadline for submission is February 15th, 2006. To prepare and submit an abstract, please refer to 'guidelines for authors' on our website (www.isvd.org). The abstract can be sent to Verena Affolter:

Verena Affolter Dr.med.vet., Dipl. ECVP, PhD, Associate Professor for Clincial Dermatopathology, Veterinary Medicine – PMI, University California Davis, Haring Hall – Room 1126, Davis, CA 95616, USA.

Residents' Day

The ESVD–ECVD residents' day will be held on the 6th September 2006. There will be keynote sessions on topical dermatology and practical approaches to publishing etc., opportunities for residents to present their own work and the traditional evening out. Full details will be published in the April Bulletin. For further information please contact Ana Oliveira (ana.oliveira@ed.ac.uk).

AGM in 2008

The ESVD constitution states that an annual AGM should be held in Europe. In 2008 there are no plans for an ESVD congress as WCVD6 will take place in Hong Kong. Previously, the AGM was held at another European meeting. In 2000 for instance, when WCVD4 took place in San Francisco, the British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group hosted the AGM at its autumn meeting in November. However, it might be possible to hold a smaller ESVD event in 2008 if enough members wish to go to that instead of WCVD6. A decision must be made in April, so please let Luc Beco (education-meetings@esvd.org) know what you think as soon as possible.

Don't forget to check our websites on a regular basis:

ESVD – www.esvd.org ECVD – www.ecvd.org
Veterinary Dermatology – www.blackwellpublishing.com/vde

Letter from the Treasurer; membership fees are due now!

Dear Members,

The heat of the summer is becoming a memory and we are heading into winter now. I am afraid it is that time of year again to renew subscriptions for ESVD. As you know, the Society publishes its own journal (Veterinary Dermatology), regular bulletins and other communications during the year and we also arrange a number of workshops for members. In addition, we have an annual Congress with presentations by experts in various aspects of Veterinary Dermatology catering for all levels of expertise. The congress is an opportunity to meet colleagues with similar interests to discuss problem cases, novel therapies and other professional matters. It is also of course an opportunity to enjoy oneself at a number of social events arranged for each congress.

Included with this bulletin is the membership fees payment form. Please remember to return this to the treasurer before **1st January 2006**. Everyone is encouraged to renew membership subscriptions as soon as possible. Non- or late-payment costs the society a fair sum. Members not paying on time will not receive Veterinary Dermatology until the fees are settled.

Early renewal of your subscription using the attached forms will allow you to continue to take advantage of all of these benefits of membership. Please fill the forms out carefully and extremely legibly. Different countries write numbers in slightly different ways and this can be confusing particularly with Visa payment. Please take care with this and give all the information that is asked for. Take particular care if paying by bank transfer to make sure that we know who the bank transfer is from otherwise we cannot credit the money to your membership.

A small number of members each year have difficulty with their membership renewal. Up to 30 memberships are linked to bank transfers BUT we have no information about the members' identity! This can manifest itself in a number of ways including the lack of delivery of out journal, Veterinary Dermatology, failure to receive bulletins and possibly annual reports and occasionally omission from the membership list in the annual report. With any organisation, it is always possible that this is due to an administrative error but the vast majority of these problems are associated with payment of membership by bank transfer. Whenever a bank transfer is credited to our account, the bank in Luxembourg sends us details taken from the transfer order. The most important part of the detail, from our point of view, is the name of the member for whom the payment is being made. There are 20–30 bank transfers every year that have no indication at all as to the membership which should be credited. I do not know whether this is the fault of the member not filling in the form in sufficient detail or whether it is the member's bank that does not forward the appropriate details. Irrespective of the cause, some members pay their subscription but we cannot identify who they are. I would ask you to make sure when filling out bank transfer details to include your name in as many places as appears to be necessary to get the appropriate details through to us. If you do not receive Veterinary Dermatology within a reasonable time from the beginning of the year, then please contact us to check if we have received a membership fee from you.

There have been some administrative errors in keeping the list of full members up to date and this has regrettably led to some members not having an opportunity to vote or stand in the elections. It would be helpful if members could keep us up to date with their email addresses – please send them to treasurer@esvd.org.

Don't forget, the 2006 Congress is in Lisbon in Portugal and our hosts have planned an excellent meeting with some fantastic excellent social events.

Trevor Whitbread
ESVD Treasurer, Abbey Veterinary Services,
89 Queen Street, Newton Abbot,
Devon,TQ12 2AB, UK.

ESVD workshops

Immunology: 28th February–2nd March 2006

Local organiser: **Tim Nuttall**
Speakers: **Peter Hill, Michael Day and Tim Nuttall**

This workshop will take place at Coombe Lodge Hotel in Somerset. It is just 5 miles (8km) from Bristol International Airport, which has good connections to a variety of European cities.

Tuesday 28th February

09.00–10.30	Review of the skin immune system:
	Cells of the immune system
	CD markers, adhesion molecules, PAMPs, TLRs etc.
	Antibodies
	Cytokines and chemokines
	Immunodeficiency syndromes
10.30–11.00	Coffee
11.00–12.30	Adverse food reactions
	GIT immune system
	Oral tolerance
	IDAT and serology to food antigens
	Hydrolysed diets
12.30–13.30	Lunch
13.30–15.00	Pathogenesis of atopic dermatitis
	Role of T-cells, cytokines and chemokines
	Biological activity of environmental allergens
	Role of micro-organisms
15.00–15.45	Allergen specific tests
15.45–16.15	Coffee
16.15–17.45	Immunity to cutaneous microorganisms
	Adherence, transferrin, defensins etc.
	Hypersensitivity to staphylococci and Malassezia
	Superantigens
	Hygiene hypothesis and development of the immune system

Wednesday 1st March

09.00–09.45	Immune-mediated diseases
	Introduction and pathomechanisms
	Mechanisms of drug reactions
09.45–10.30	Pemphigus complex
10.30–11.00	Coffee

Wednesday 1st March (Continued)

11.00–12.30	Immune-mediated blistering diseases
12.30–13.30	Lunch
13.30–14.15	Diseases of the hair follicle (inc. sebaceous adenitis, alopecia areata, pseudo-pelade, mural folliculitis)
14.15–15.00	Vasculitis and vasculopathies (including DLE, SLE, dermatomyositis)
15.00–15.30	Coffee
15.30–16.15	Erythema multiforme-TEN complex
16.15–17.00	Histiocytic and lymphocytic proliferative diseases

Thursday 2nd March

09.00–09.45	Immunodiagnostics:
	Introduction
	Reagents (Mabs/Pabs etc.)
	Serology (ANA, RF, cold agglutinins, Coombs etc.)
	Immunoblotting
09.45–10.30	Histopathology and Immunohistochemistry
10.30–11.00	Coffee
11.00–11.45	Assessing immune function
	Flow cytometry
	In vitro functional tests (PBMCs proliferation, mast cell and basophil release tests, cytotoxic T-cell assays, oxidative burst, phagocytosis etc.)
11.45–12.30	Therapeutics:
	Glucocorticoids
	'Traditional' immunomodulating and immunosuppressive agents
12.30–13.30	Lunch
13.30–14.15	'New' immunomodulating and immunosuppressive agents
14.15–15.00	Allergen specific immunotherapy
15.00	Coffee and depart

Price: ESVD members – €600. **Non ESVD members** – €750 (NB ESVD membership is only €110). Registration fees include all accommodation, meals and proceedings. Maximum 40 delegates.
Registration: please contact Dr Tim Nuttall, The University of Liverpool Small Animal Hospital, Crown Street, Liverpool, L7 7EX, UK. Tel. +44 151 794 4290; fax +44 151 794 4304; Email timn@liv.ac.uk

Endocrinology: 8th–10th June 2006

Local organisers: **Luc Béco, Dominique Héripret and Jacques Fontaine**

This workshop will be held in the beautiful Belgian town of Spa, in the Thermes de Spa complex. The centre has a wonderful view over the city and more than 800m² of outdoor and indoor pools (see www.thermesdespa.com and www.ardenne-bleue.be for more details). The speakers are A. Beckers (Belgium), Luc Beco (Belgium), S. Daminet (Belgium), A. Deconinck (Belgium), Jacques Fontaine (Belgium), Dominique Heripret (France), Lars Mecklenburg (Germany), R. Neiger R. (Germany), J. Saunders (Belgium) and J. Verstegen (USA). The topics include:

- Hair follicle morphogenesis: anatomy and molecular control
- Hair follicle pathology: non inflammatory alopecia
- Endocrinology and blood tests: endocrine measurements
- Sexual pattern baldness in man
- Sex hormones and alopecia in dog: the uncontroversial part
- Non inflammatory alopecia in dog: the controversial part
- Androstenedione, Melatonin, Prolactin, MSH...
- The normal thyroid gland in dog: pathophysiology
- Hypothyroidism in the dog: clinical aspect, diagnosis, treatments, follow up
- Thyroid dysfunction in man: clinical aspect, diagnosis, treatments, follow up
- Pituitary and adrenal gland physiology
- The adrenal gland: pathophysiology
- Hyperadrenocorticism in dogs: clinical aspect, diagnosis, treatments and difficulties
- Diagnostic imaging and endocrinology
- Medical and surgical treatments of hyperadrenocorticism in dog
- Hyperadrenocorticism in cat
- Cushing's disease in horses
- Adrenal disorders in ferrets
- Cushing's disease in man

There is a maximum of 50 delegates.

Price: €750 (4 nights single room)
€700 (4 nights sharing double room)
€650 (2 nights single room)
€600 (2 nights sharing double room)

The fees include registration, proceedings, accommodation, meals and half-day entry to the spas.

Registration:
Please contact Luc Beco: Av Reine Astrid, B–4900 Spa, Belgium; Email: luc.beco@skynet.be

Canine Dermatology: 6th–20th October 2006

Local organiser: **Dr. Ralf Mueller**

This workshop will take place in a picturesque Bavarian village near Munich from the 16th to the 20th of October 2006 and will cover a wide array of topics in canine dermatology, including infections, allergies, otitis externa and immune-mediated skin diseases. The speakers are Dr. Craig Griffin and Dr. Wayne Rosenkrantz from California/USA, Dr. Sonya Bettenay and Dr. Ralf Mueller from Germany and Dr. Chiara Noli from Italy. Case examples will be used extensively to illustrate and emphasise critical diagnostic and therapeutic points. The emphasis will be on the 'hands-on' practical and problem-based approach. The aim of this workshop is to provide information that can be applied in daily practice. The workshop will be limited to 40 participants to allow ample interaction with the speakers.

Price: €900.

This includes all meals and accommodation from Sunday night to Friday afternoon.

Registration: please contact Dr. Ralf Mueller, Medizinische Tierklinik, Veterinärstr. 13,

80539 München, Germany.
Email: ralf.mueller@med.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de.

Tumours of the skin – 2007

Local organiser: **Monika Welle**

2005 ESVD Research Award

The winner of this year's ESVD research award is Monika Welle with a project entitled 'Immunohistochemical and mRNA localisation of GnRH, LH and FSH in canine skin'.

Apply now for an ESVD Research Grant!

ESVD wishes to encourage high standards in all aspects of veterinary dermatology and to promote the development of related research. Therefore, an annual research grant is awarded by the ESVD for basic or clinical research in veterinary dermatology. **The value of this grant has been increased to €10,000.**

Ordinarily projects are expected to be of one to two years' duration. Applicants are expected to propose a project of scientific merit that is applicable to veterinary dermatology. Grants are evaluated on scientific merit, feasibility and usefulness. Guidelines for preparation of the grant application are available at www.esvd.org (follow the research link) or from the ESVD Grant Secretary.

Four copies of the research proposal should be sent to the current ESVD Publications and Grant Secretary at the address below. The deadline is the 1st April 2006.

Dr. Ralf Mueller,
Medizinische Tierklinik,
Veterinaerstr. 13,
80539 München,
Germany.
Email: publications-grants@esvd.org

Previous award winners

- 2003 Petra Roosje; Investigations on the immunopathogenesis of recurrent urticaria in horses.

Immunoglobulin E-bearing cells and mast cells in skin biopsies of horses with urticaria

Rufenacht, S., Marti, E., Von Tscharner, C., Doherr, M.G., Forster, U., Welle, M. and Roosje, P.J. (2005) Veterinary Dermatology 16: 94–101.

The pathogenesis of equine urticaria is not well understood. In man, urticaria has been associated with immunological and nonimmunological mechanisms leading to the release of various mediators by mast cells. Skin biopsies of 32 horses with a history of urticaria were stained with toluidine blue, a double-labelling method for chymase and tryptase, and immunohistochemistry for immunoglobulin (Ig)E. These horses were compared with horses with pemphigus foliaceus, insect bite hypersensitivity and control horses with healthy skin. Neither formalin fixation time nor biopsy site influenced the staining methods. No chymase-positive cells were found. In all groups of horses, cells staining with toluidine blue and for tryptase and IgE were found in the epidermis and hair follicle papilla and significantly more positively staining cells were observed in the subepidermal dermis compared with the deep dermis. Horses with urticaria had significantly more IgE-bearing cells in the subepidermal dermis than control horses. However, horses with urticaria had significantly fewer toluidine-blue-stained mast cells in both subepidermal and deep dermis compared with the insect bite hypersensitivity and pemphigus foliaceus groups. This study suggests that IgE-mediated reactions play a role in the pathogenesis of urticaria.

- 2004 Claude Favrot 'Evaluation of formalin fixed, paraffin-embedded tissues from canine and feline squamous cell carcinoma for papillomavirus DNA'. Dr Favrot has had one paper accepted and a further paper submitted for publication. Abstracts describing his results were presented at the ESVD–ECVD Congress in 2005 at Chalkidiki.

Detection of novel papillomaviruses in canine mucosal, cutaneous and *in situ* squamous cell carcinoma

Favrot, C., Zaugg, N., Nespeca, G. Hauser, B. and Ackerman, M.

Papillomavirus (PV) DNA is frequently demonstrated in samples of human skin squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). However, the role of these viruses in the development of such cancers in canines remains controversial. While approximately 100 human PVs are known, only a single canine PV (canine oral PV [COPV]) has been identified and studied extensively. Therefore, we applied a narrow range PCR, suitable for the detection of classic canine and feline PVs, as well as a broad range PCR, which has been used for the detection of various novel PVs in humans, in order to analyse 42 paraffin embedded samples representing three different forms of canine SCCs (mucosal, cutaneous and in situ SCC). Ten samples of skin tissues with various no-neoplastic conditions served as controls. While none of the negative controls reacted positively, PV DNA was discovered in 21% of the tested SCC samples. Interestingly the classical COPV was amplified from only one sample, whilst the other positive cases were associated with a variety of thus far unknown PVs. This study suggests that a significant fraction of canine SCC is infected with PVs and that a genetic variety of canine PVs exists. Therefore, these results will facilitate the future study of the role of PVs in the development of canine skin cancers.

Detection of novel papillomaviruses in paraffin-embedded samples of feline invasive and *in situ* squamous cell carcinoma

Favrot, C., Nespeca, Grest, P., Rosenkrantz, W. and Ackerman, M.

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is, after basal cell carcinoma, is the second most common cancer of the skin in humans. Very similar skin cancers are observed in feline medicine. Human SCC has been linked to a variety of causative associations, including papillomavirus (PV) infection. Whereas close to 100 human PV types have been isolated and completely sequenced, only a single feline PV is known. However, its association with feline SCC has been discussed controversially. The purpose of the present study was to detect and partially characterise PV DNA in 43 samples representing different types (invasive and *in situ*) of feline SCC. Two different types of PCR-assays, a narrow and a broad range PCR, were applied in order to extend the range of targeted PVs as far as possible. Indeed, PV DNA was detected in 18% of samples representing invasive SCC and 25% of samples representing in situ SCC, whereas 11 non-tumoural control samples were negative. For the first time PV DNA has been detected in association with feline invasive SCC. Interestingly, the classical feline PV was demonstrated in only one sample. Moreover, sequencing of the amplification products strongly suggested that a number of novel feline PVs had been detected. We conclude that the future use of the technique applied here will contribute to further insights into the pathogenesis of papilloma-associated diseases in felines, while virological studies will help to better characterise these novel viruses.

Ulli Runge Harms Award

The 2005 Ulli Runge Harms award was given to Dr Ariane Neuber for her studies on IgG responses to *Staphylococcus intermedius* in dogs.

Summary

The aim of this study was to characterise the immunoglobulin (Ig) G response in dogs to antigens from six different isolates of *Staphylococcus intermedius* from clinical cases. The staphylococcal proteins were separated by sodium dodecyl sulphate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), eletrophoretically transferred onto a membrane and subjected to immunoblotting with canine serum. Gels containing separated proteins from the six isolates revealed 29 to 33 distinct bands with molecular weights ranging from 20–230 Kd. All canine sera contained IgG that recognised 12–24 bands (mean 17), regardless of whether or not the dogs had pyoderma. The recognised proteins had molecular weights ranging from 20–198 Kd but the majority of antigens were below 75 Kd. The most intense band in all six isolates had a molecular weight of 28–29 Kd. The antibody response to the six strains was essentially similar with the exception of a significantly higher number of bands in isolate 2 compared to isolate 6 ($p<0.05$) and occasional differences in the intensity of individual bands. Thus, both healthy dogs and those with pyoderma mount an IgG response to multiple antigens in *S. intermedius*. This immune response does not appear to be protective and only differs marginally between the isolates tested.

The Ulli Runge Harms Award Application

The award is called Ulli Runge Harms award to commemorate Dr. Ulli Runge Harms, a colleague whose enthusiasm and determination for specialisation in veterinary dermatology was exemplary.

1. The URH Award will be given as an inspiration and support to veterinary surgeons pursuing specialisation in veterinary dermatology. The award will be given at the annual ESVD congress as part of a formal ceremony, starting in 2003.
2. Candidates should have been in general practice for a minimum of one year before enrolling in a residency programme acknowledged by the ECVD. The prize is awarded for an outstanding contribution (free communication, poster, paper or project report) produced as part of the residency programme.
3. Candidates can apply for the award or be proposed by ESVD members. This application together with supporting documents (see attached form) should reach the award committee at least two months prior to the annual ESVD congress.
4. The award consists of a certificate provided by the award committee and free registration for the annual ESVD meeting. It will be awarded to the applicant judged by the committee to have submitted the most outstanding contribution.
5. A fund, the URH Award Fund, will provide support for the recipient's travel and accommodation costs for the annual meeting. This additional support would be subject to the individual award winner's needs and the availability of funds and would be made at the discretion of the award committee. The award fund is sponsored by Virbac Laboratories who have generously agreed to provide support during the first five years of the award (2003–2008).
6. The award committee will consist of three ESVD members. The current members of the award committee are David Lloyd, David Grant and Patricia Wehrhahn. Please send nominations/applications to:

David H. Lloyd,
61 St Albans Road East,
Hatfield,
Hertfordshire,
AL10 0EJ, UK.
Email: david-lloyd@ntlworld.com

The Ulli Runge Harms Award

APPLICATION FORM

Surname: First name(s):

Address:

Town/City: Postcode:

Country:

Telephone number:

Email address:

Nature of submission (circle): free communication, poster, paper or project report

Title:

ECVD Residency details

Institution:

Address:

Dates:

Supervisor:

Practice prior to residency

Name of practice:

Address:

Telephone number: Dates:

I certify that I fulfil the requirements of the Ulli Runge Harms Award. I worked in the above practice and am an approved ECVD resident in the above institution. The work I am submitting was produced as part of my residency programme.

Name: Signature: Date:

Supervisor's name: Signature: Date:

Veterinary Dermatology News

Impact factor

I am delighted to forward some excellent news; the 2004 Impact Factors are out and Veterinary Dermatology has come out at 1.263 and the journal is now ranked 21/123 in the veterinary sciences category. This is up from 1.068 and 23rd place in 2003 and is a great achievement, one that we can be very proud of and that we should publicise. We should highlight it on all relevant marketing material and encourage our colleagues to submit their best work to the journal.

To put the ranking into its proper perspective, Veterinary Dermatology is now ranked above Veterinary Record, Research in Veterinary Science and Journal of Small Animal Practice (the big three UK journals), and above American Journal of Veterinary Research and Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association (two big US journals). We are also above Veterinary Pathology and only just behind the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, which is the big US multidisciplinary journal. I think our next target should be to get ahead of JAVMA – because that journal takes a number of papers that would be very suitable for Veterinary Dermatology. The only other journal above us that provides any competition is Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology, but it looks as though we have a way to go before we can catch that one.

Electronic submission

Veterinary dermatology now has an electronic submission system, which has greatly eased the process of submitting, reviewing and publishing papers. All papers should now be submitted through the Editorial Manager™ electronic submission site, which can be found at https/www.editorialmanager.com/vetderm/. The site includes full registration and login details, author tutorials and guidelines for improving image quality. There are also extensive help pages for when you get stuck. The system is, however, very straightforward to use.

Thank you(s)

All this could not be achieved without a great deal of excellent work by authors, editors (particular thanks are due to Peter Hill, Rosanna Marsella and David McEwan Jenkinson), reviewers, translators, board members and Blackwells, our publishers. Thank you to everyone and well done.

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Abstract Watch

Correlation of disease evolution with progressive inflammatory cell activation and migration in the IL-4 transgenic mouse model of atopic dermatitis. Chen L, Martinez O, Venkataramani P, Lin S-X, Prabhakar BS, Chan LS. *Clinical and Experimental Immunology* 2005; 139: 189–201.

Transgenic mice, with a gene construct for IL-4, over several weeks after birth develop a chronic, pruritic inflammatory skin disease that closely resembles human atopic dermatitis in terms of histological, serological and bacteriological characteristics. In this study the activation status and surface markers of various leukocytes was analysed using flow cytometry, immunofluorescence and T-cell proliferation assays. The disease process from before onset, in early and then late skin disease was followed. As the disease progressed the proliferative responses to mitogens and superantigens was positively correlated. The number of lymphoid organ T-cells expressing surface markers for activation and co-stimulation progressively increased. This was accompanied by a reduction in the number of T-cells in the secondary lymphoid organs (spleen and skin draining lymph nodes) while T-cells infiltrating the skin increased incrementally. The number of dendritic antigen presenting cells, macrophages and NK cells increased in the lymphoid organs. In conclusion there seems to be a progressive migration of activated inflammatory cells into the skin from the secondary lymphoid organs that may allow some explanation of the pathology of human AD. Sequential analysis of the immune response in humans is problematic due to ethical reasons and is also limited in naturally occurring canine AD to some extent for similar reasons.

Proliferative pododermatitis (Canker) with intralesional spirochetes in three horses.
Nagamine CM, Castro F, Buchanan B, Schumacher J, Craig LE.
Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation 2005; 17: 269–271.

Canker is a chronic hyperproliferative, suppurative, pyogranulomatous pododermatitis of the frog, bars and sole and in some cases the adjacent hoof wall. Lesions are grossly soft white cauliflower like proliferations associated with a foul smelling caseous exudate. Spirochetes have been detected in various pedal conditions in large animals including papillomatous pastern pododermatitis together with Pelodera, bovine digital dermatitis (papillomatous digital dermatitis) and contagious ovine digital dermatitis (CODD), also termed severe virulent footrot. It is presumed that the organisms, detected with a modified Steiner stain, are Treponemes but they have not been fully characterised. Their role in equine and other conditions is the subject of interest given that all these pedal conditions are difficult to manage.

Effect of *Mycobacterium* vaccae on cytokine responses in children with atopic dermatitis.
Hadley EA, Smillie FI, Turner MA, Custovic A, Woodcock A, Arkwright PD.
Clinical and Experimental Immunology 2005; 140: 101–108.

The aim of this study was to test the hypothesis that administration of *M. vaccae* to children with atopic dermatitis suppresses Th-2 cytokine activity and promotes transforming growth factor (TGF)-β immunomodulatory activity. Methods used included assays for interleukin -4, IL-5 and TGF-β and interferon (IFN)-γ in resting and stimulated peripheral mononuclear blood cells; and a cDNA expression array, which detected transcripts for various cytokines. There were no changes in Th2 type or TGF-β activity but there was a substantial increase in Th1-type activity. Interestingly the administration of *M. vaccae* was associated with clinical improvement but this was seen over a three month period while the increase in Th1-type activity was seen after one month and was not sustained. This study reflects the complexity of the pathogenesis of human AD and the need to study the effects of *M. vaccae* as an immunomodulatory agent on purified regulatory T-cells. This is an interesting area of future research and may warrant consideration of similar immunomodulatory therapy in veterinary patients, particularly with canine AD, in certain circumstances.

The mode of topical immunomodulators in the immunological network of atopic dermatitis.
Novak N, Kwiek B, Bieber T.
Clinical and Experimental Dermatology 2005; 30: 160–164.

A short review by some of the leading research workers in this field on the activity of topical immunomodulators (TIMs) consisting of products containing tacrolimus and pimecrolimus. In this review paper the authors consider the anti-inflammatory and anti-allergic properties of TIMs on effector cells in AD including mast cells, basophils, eosinophils, keratinocytes, dendritic cells, and their influence in certain situations their effects in bacterial infections and on pruritus.

Animal models of epidermolysis bullosa – targets for gene therapy. (Editorial)
Jiang Q-J, Uitto J.
Journal of Investigative Dermatology 2005; 124: xi–xiii.

A mutation in bovine keratin 5 causing epidermolysis bullosa simplex, transmitted by a mosaic sire.
Ford CA et al.
Journal of Investigative Dermatology 2005; 124:1170–1176.

Inherited junctional epidermolysis bullosa in the German Pointer: establishment of a large animal model.
Capt A, et al.
Journal of Investigative Dermatology 2005; 124: 530–535.

Epidermolysis bullosa (EB) is a rare condition in veterinary species but it is estimated to affect 5,000 people in the UK and 500,000 worldwide – see web site for more details including research programs: http://www.debra.org.uk/index.htm. In this issue of JID there is an editorial that reviews the reports of EB in various animal species with a view to using them as models for gene therapy. There are two reports of naturally occurring disease in the dog and cattle. In the latter the cows were Friesian/Jersey crossbred – sometimes called a Kiwicross. Through a sire-testing scheme in New Zealand it was noted that up to 17 calves were born with signs consistent with EB. Light microscopy revealed subbasilar and suprabasilar clefting in skin sections. Electron microscopy revealed cleft formation within the basal keratinocytes and tonofilament aggregation consistent with EB simplex – using the human classification of the disease complex. DNA analysis of the bovine keratin 5 gene was based on the human keratin 5 gene sequence and this led to amplification of a mutant keratin 5 gene allele in the affected calves. The sire was clinically unaffected and this was presumed to be due to reduced frequency of the mutant allele that was formed de novo, in various tissues – that is a mosaic presentation. In human EB simplex gene mutations associated with the disease also include keratin 5, and also keratin 14, integrin $\alpha 4$ and plectin. There are several reports of EB in cattle with all describing a disease similar to EB simplex. This is the first report to identify a mutant gene associated with the disease in cattle. Currently gene therapy models use mice so there is interest in large animal models when they become available. Sperm from this bull has been stored for any future research on this disease.

The effect of immunosuppression with Cyclosporin A on the development of sheep scab.
Huntley JF et al.
Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology 2005; 127: 323–332.

Dr Huntley's group have been studying sheep scab and particularly with Dr Van Den Broek looked at the cutaneous response to infestation. The mites on contact with the skin elicit a brisk inflammatory response with eosinophils predominating. This is followed by an influx of mast cells, T-cells and dendritic cells, consistent with a Th2 response. In the majority of cases mite infestation is associated with an eosinophilic (allergic) dermatitis, followed by resolution of skin lesions over 6–10 weeks, with the subsequent development of a protective immune response. The question posed in this study related to the inflammatory cell infiltrate – is it part of the protective immune response of the host or is it initiated by the mite for its survival? Suppression of the infiltrate with daily administration of 5mg/kg intravenous cyclosporin A may exacerbate or ameliorate the mite numbers and skin lesions. During the six-week study sheep receiving cyclosporin and infested with mites had depressed numbers of mites and skin lesions compared with untreated controls. Local and systemic eosinophil responses, and circulating mite-specific IgG responses were similarly depressed. However the T-cell response was not abrogated – indeed there was some increase in numbers of such cells including T helper cells, $\gamma\delta$T-cells, and also dendritic cells. It is usually assumed that cyclosporin will abrogate T cell responses so the findings in this report are intriguing. It is unknown if the drug has direct anti-sheep scab mite activity. Alternatively the lack of reduction in T cells may have been due to using cyclosporin after infestation was initiated and the immune response had already been established. It is conjectural but it may be the case that the immense inflammatory response initiated by the feeding behaviour of the mites elicits a response that leads to damage to the integrity of the epidermis. This allows extrusion of a fluid exudate from the epidermis onto the skin surface to be consumed by the mites. Understanding this host-parasite interaction may be important in establishing new methods of control, particularly with a view to vaccination.

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Alternate Route Residency

At the Annual General Meeting of the College in Chalkidiki, Greece on 10 September 2005, the College's members approved proposals to strengthen training procedures for persons studying to take the Diploma Examination by the Alternate Route. Amongst other changes, The Alternate Route Qualifying Examination (ARQE) of the College will be phased out. The last date on which people could have submitted their credentials for sitting the examination was 30th Sept 2006. Those people whose credentials are accepted must pass the examination before or in 2011.

The amended Alternate Route is active immediately. Persons wishing to have further information on studying for Diplomate status by the College's amended Alternate Route programme should, in the first instance, contact the Chair of the Education and Credentials Committee, currently Dr Rosario Cerundolo (cerundol@vet.upenn.edu); after 1st January 2006 please contact the new Chair of the E&C Committee, Dr Ralf Mueller (ralf.mueller@med.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de).

Title Abuse

The President of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology would like to remind all persons who have successfully passed the Alternate Route Part I examination of the ECVD (now termed the 'Alternate Route Qualifying Examination'), that the College does not allow the use of any title in relation to this examination whatsoever. The use, in any way, of titles such as 'ECVD Certificate Holder', 'ECVD Part I Diploma Holder', 'ECVD Alternate Route Qualifying Examination Holder' etc. is therefore absolutely forbidden by the College.

K.L. Thoday, President ECVD

Dermatology Residencies Available

Please check the ECVD web site (www.ecvd.org) under 'General Information' for the details of approved ECVD residencies and the positions available.

Course/Seminar Accreditation

Those interested in having a course or seminar accredited by the ECVD Education Committee should check the ECVD web site (www.ecvd.org) under 'General Information'.

Admission of non-ECVD Diplomates

Guidelines are available for admission to the ECVD for Diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology and Dermatology fellows of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists who practice in Europe. Please check the ECVD web site (http://www.ecvd.org) under 'General Information'.