

Editor: PETER J FORSYTHE BVM&S DVD MRCVS
DERMATOLOGY REFERRAL SERVICE
528 PAISLEY ROAD WEST
GLASGOW G51 1RN
Tel +441414274257 Email peter.forsythe@btconnect.com

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EDITORIAL

As the new editor of the ESVD Bulletin my first duty, on behalf of all of us, is to thank Tim Nuttall for his great contribution as Bulletin editor for the past seven or so years. Tim's will be a hard act to follow and I am quite sure that my editorial column will not be as informative and erudite as Tim's but I'll endeavour to do my best! Tim kindly introduced me in his last editorial but for those of you who may have missed it, and do not know me, here is a very brief resume of your new Bulletin editor. A "Sassenach" (slightly derogatory Celtic term for someone born in Southern Scotland or England) by birth, I trained in Edinburgh and spent the first 14 years of my veterinary career happily involved in mixed general practice in the far North of Scotland. An acute mid life crisis in the late 90's resulted in the selling of my share of the practice partnership, and leaving to do what turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable residency in dermatology at Edinburgh. For the past five years, I have run an increasingly busy referral practice in the friendly and exciting, if rather damp, city of Glasgow. In between times, time is mainly spent as a taxi service driving three teenage boys to various sporting and cultural activities but to be truthful; my long suffering wife Sheila bears the brunt of this activity!

The Bulletin has gone from strength to strength under Tim's editorship and I hope to continue to develop it in the same way. As Tim has previously stated, the Bulletin has two main functions. It acts as a source of information with details of forthcoming meetings and events, the abstract watch, for which thanks go to Aiden Foster, and ECVD matters. However, the Bulletin should also serve as a forum for the ESVD membership; a role that it does not seem to fulfil particularly well. From the nature of discussions around the bar at meetings there are plenty of issues that might benefit from an airing, so please, don't be shy, if you have any comments or criticisms to make about the art and science of veterinary dermatology, whether relating to practice or education, your letters would be most welcome. Please email me if you have any suggestions as to how this form of communication could be encouraged.

21st Annual Congress of the ESVD – ECVD on Veterinary Dermatology

7th – 9th September 2006

Corinthia Alfa Hotel, Lisbon, Portugal

The 21st ESVD-ECVD will be held in Lisbon in September. This promises to be another excellent meeting with a packed scientific and continuing education program. As I look out of the window and see the Scottish "April showers" of sleet and snow, the pleasant autumn climate of Lisbon seems a particularly pleasurable prospect. With the attractions of fantastic architecture such as the Mosteiro dos Jeronimos, the Fatima Sanctuary, the Royal Palace and the Basilica in Mafra along with the outdoor pleasures of the Estoril Coast and the Botanical Gardens there are a wealth of attractions for those who wish a break from dermatology. As someone interested in ships and the sea, I am particularly looking forward to visiting the Museu da Marinha. It features over 17,000 items of the sea and 1,500 ship drawings. I can't wait!

Continued on page 3


Introduction

Hill's Pet Nutrition is committed to being a loyal and trustworthy partner to the veterinary profession, such that together we may aim to enhance the special relationship and emotional bond between people and their pets.

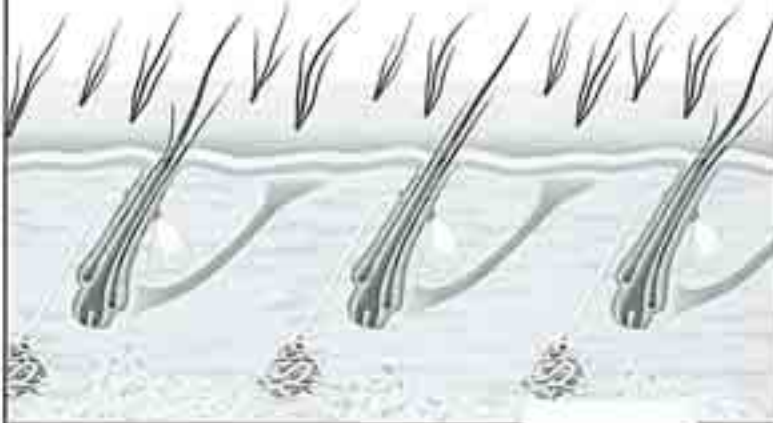
Our mission is to provide dogs and cats with nutritious, balanced diets, so that they may all lead active and healthy lifestyles. Equally important to us is helping veterinary professionals to keep up to date with the latest developments in clinical nutrition specifically as it applies to their own areas of expertise

As part of our commitment, Hill's is delighted to again be supporting the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology and we look forward to a continued and mutually rewarding partnership with the Society throughout 2006.

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

Do you know  ?

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Clinically proven to reduce signs of food allergy and itchy in just 28 days:

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ESVD-ECVD Congress Topics

Specialized programme: "CONSENSUS AND CONTROVERSIES" (4 half-days)

Allergic skin disease (Sub-chairperson: R.E.W. Halliwell)
 Endocrinology (Sub-chairperson: D. Heripret)
 Immuno-parasitology (Sub-chairperson: M.C. Cadiergues)
 Bacterial skin diseases (Sub-chairperson: D.H. Lloyd)

Continuing Education programme: "DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY" (6 half-days)

Allergic skin disease (Sub-chairperson: R.E.W. Halliwell)
 Endocrinology (Sub-chairperson: D. Heripret)
 Bacterial skin diseases (Sub-chairperson: D.H. Lloyd)
 Viral skin infections in dogs and cats (Sub-chairperson: C. Favrot)
 Skin conditions associated with systemic disease (Sub-chairperson: E. Teske)
 Parasitic and fungal skin diseases (Sub-chairperson: D.N. Carlotti)

Programme

Wednesday 6 September 2006

ESVD Board Meeting: 15.00-19.00, Corinthia Alfa Hotel
 ECVD Board Meeting: 09.00-19.00, Corinthia Alfa Hotel

The Long-term Gold partners of ESVD / ECVD are:



Thursday 7 September 2006

Continuing Education Programme

08:00 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:45	Endocrinology
09:45 - 10:30	Endocrinology
10:30 - 11:15	Commercial exhibition/Posters
11:15 - 12:00	Endocrinology
12:00 - 12:45	Endocrinology
12:45 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:15	Viral diseases
15:15 - 16:00	Viral diseases
16:00 - 16:45	Commercial exhibition/Posters
16:45 - 17:30	Viral diseases
17:30 - 18:15	Viral diseases
20:00	Welcome reception

Scientific Programme

08:00 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:45	Allergic skin disease
09:45 - 10:30	Allergic skin disease
10:30 - 11:15	Commercial exhibition/Posters
11:15 - 12:00	Allergic skin disease
12:00 - 12:45	Allergic skin disease
12:45 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:15	Free Communications
15:15 - 16:00	Free Communications
16:00 - 16:45	Commercial exhibition/Posters
16:45 - 17:30	Free Communications
17:30 - 18:15	Free Communications
20:00	Welcome reception

Friday 8 September 2006

Continuing Education Programme

09:00 - 09:45	Allergic skin disease
09:45 - 10:30	Allergic skin disease
10:30 - 11:15	Commercial exhibition/Posters
11:15 - 12:00	Allergic skin disease
12:00 - 12:45	Allergic skin disease
12:45 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:15	Bacterial skin diseases
15:15 - 16:00	Bacterial skin diseases
16:00 - 16:45	Commercial exhibition/Posters
16:45 - 17:30	Bacterial skin diseases
17:30 - 18:15	Bacterial skin diseases
20:00	Dinner Dance

Scientific Programme

09:00 - 09:45	Endocrinology
09:45 - 10:30	Endocrinology
10:30 - 11:15	Commercial exhibition/Posters
11:15 - 12:00	Endocrinology
12:00 - 12:45	Endocrinology
12:45 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:15	Immuno-parasitology
15:15 - 16:00	Immuno-parasitology
16:00 - 16:45	Commercial exhibition/Posters
16:45 - 17:30	Immuno-parasitology
17:30 - 18:15	Immuno-parasitology
20:00	Dinner Dance

Saturday 9 September 2006

Continuing Education Programme

09:00 - 09:45	Skin conditions associated with systemic diseases
09:45 - 10:30	Skin conditions associated with systemic diseases
10:30 - 11:15	Commercial exhibition/Posters
11:15 - 12:00	Skin conditions associated with systemic diseases
12:00 - 12:45	Skin conditions associated with systemic diseases
12:45 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:15	Parasitic and fungal skin diseases
15:15 - 16:00	Parasitic and fungal skin diseases
16:00 - 16:45	Commercial exhibition/Posters
16:45 - 17:30	Parasitic and fungal skin diseases
17:30 - 18:15	Parasitic and fungal skin diseases

Scientific Programme

09:00 - 09:45	Free Communications
09:45 - 10:30	Free Communications
10:30 - 11:15	Commercial exhibition/Posters
11:15 - 12:00	Free Communications
12:00 - 12:45	Free Communications
12:45 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:15	Bacterial skin diseases
15:15 - 16:00	Bacterial skin diseases
16:00 - 16:45	Commercial exhibition/Posters
16:45 - 17:30	Bacterial skin diseases
17:30 - 18:15	Bacterial skin diseases

Further information about the congress is available on the congress website www.esvd2006.org

12th Residents Day Programme - 21st Annual ESVD-ECVD Congress

Corinthia Alfa Hotel

Wednesday 6 September 2006

Programme

08:30	Welcome address by the Sponsors IAMS and BAYER
09:00	The epidermal basement membrane: structure and function Thierry Olivry, DrVet, PhD, DipACVD, Dip ECVD
10:30	Coffee-break
11:00	The epidermal basement membrane: animal pathology Thierry Olivry, DrVet, PhD, DipACVD, Dip ECVD
12:30	Introduction to the education and credentials committees of the ECVD Ralf S. Mueller Dr.med.vet. Dr. habil. DipACVD, FACVSc
13:00	Lunch (sponsored by IAMS and Bayer for all registered residents)
14:00	Scientific writing: reducing the stress Dr J. R. Rest, RCVS Specialist in Veterinary Pathology
15:00	Case Presentations by the Residents

Meeting kindly sponsored by IAMS and BAYER

On-Line access to Veterinary Dermatology

By now you are probably already aware that as one of the benefits of your membership of the European Society for Veterinary Dermatology you are now entitled to access Veterinary Dermatology online through Blackwell Synergy. By now, you should have received an individual access code and access instructions from Blackwell Publishing on how to do this. If not you will need to email membershipservices@blackwellpublishing.com. If you have already received the codes it is a relatively simple matter to go to www.blackwell-synergy.com and firstly register and then activate your account.

Report on 20th Annual Congress of the ESVD – ECVD, Chalkidiki, Greece

This year's 20th Annual Congress of the ESVD – ECVD was held in Chalkidiki, Greece. Chalkidiki comprises three peninsulas on the north Aegean coast of Macedonia with over 500 km of white sandy beaches. Given this idyllic setting it was little wonder the congress was very well attended by delegates from all over the world.

On arriving at Thessalonica airport our weary legs were swiftly transported to the resort one hour away. The Athos/Palini Hotel Resort was ideal for a congress of this nature with all facilities in easy walking distance of each other and most importantly, the beach and pool were but a short stroll away (quite handy for those leisurely lunch breaks).

A welcome party on the deck of the Athos Hotel awaited the hungry delegates; the smorgasbord of Greek culinary delights and complimentary drink went down a treat. The second night brought a Greek barbeque on the beach sponsored by Novartis. The highlight of the night was the Greek dancing group that not only entertained but also managed to coerce many delegates into attempting the moves.

Choice of topics covered in lectures was comprehensive, informative and included a state of the art scientific program. The inclusion of the free communications within the scientific program stream was well received by most delegates.

Dr Carlotti standing in for Dr Koch, who was unable to be with us due to illness, delivered the final lecture of the congress on treatment of keratinisation disorders. Dr Koch sent a message of greetings and assurances that he would be seeing us all in Lisbon. A date, which I think most of us, will have already marked off in our diaries particularly if this latest congress is anything to go by.

Vanessa Schmidt

Future ESVD Workshops

Dermatology and endocrinology workshop

June 8th-10th 2006

Spa, Belgium

Speakers: A Beckers (B), L. Beco (B), S. Daminet (B), A. De Coninck (B), J. Fontaine (B), D. Heripret (F), L. Mecklenburg (D), R Neiger (D), J. Saunders (B), J. Verstegen (USA)
Local Organizer: L. Beco, J. Fontaine, D. Heripret

Scientific programme

Hair Follicle structure, function and pathology. Non inflammatory alopecia.

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.

Thyroid gland physiology and pathophysiology. Canine hypothyroidism. Thyroid dysfunction in man. Pituitary and adrenal gland physiology. Canine and feline hyperadrenocorticism. Cushing's disease in horses and adrenal disorders in ferrets. Human Cushing's disease.

The venue is the "Thermes de Spa". This magnificent new complex, with a view over "Les Fagnes" and the city, is a combination of the ancient and modern. It will take you aboard for a wonderful and relaxing trip "through the water". You will learn to appreciate all the virtues of thermoludism in more than 800m² of outdoor and indoor pools. This modern and innovative concept, open to everybody, for a few hours or an entire day, is exceptional and relaxing.

<http://www.thermesdespa.com>

<http://www.ardenne-bleue.be>

Price: between 600 €(2 nights: double room) - 750 € (4 nights: single room) all inclusive

For more information: <http://www.esvd.org> (education)

Canine Dermatology Workshop

October 16th-20th 2006

Kochel, Bavaria, Germany

This workshop is ideal for veterinarians interested in canine skin diseases and how to apply the scientific knowledge of the pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment in daily practice for the benefit of their patients and owners. Speakers are Dr. Sonya Bettenay (G), Dr. Craig Griffin (USA), Dr. Ralf Mueller (G), Dr. Chiara Noli (I) and Dr. Wayne Rosenkrantz (USA). All the speakers have extensive practical experience and will share their expertise with the limited number of participants (Maximum of 40).

Programme

Day 1 – Cutaneous anatomy, physiology and immunology, recognition and interpretation of cutaneous lesions, bacterial pyoderma, cytology and cutaneous leishmaniasis.

Day 2 – Atopic dermatitis, cutaneous adverse food reactions and flea allergy dermatitis.

Day 3 – Pathogenesis and clinical signs of otitis externa; medical and surgical treatment of otitis externa; ear cleaning and case examples.

Day 4 – How to get the most out of skin biopsies; pemphigus and lupus; immunomodulatory and immunosuppressive therapy; case examples.

Day 5 – Case examples – putting it all together.

Kochel is situated in the Bavarian Alps. The surrounding forests, mountains and the Lake of Kochel are suitable for more advanced hiking as well as leisure walks. The Lake of Kochel offers sailing, rowing and other water sports. The "Trimini-Center" is a nearby adventure indoor and outdoor pool, where sauna and massage are also available. The hotel "Post" in Kochel is a historic building in Southern Bavaria and was erected in the 14th century. At the time, it served as a hotel and horse exchange station for travellers and goods between Munich in Germany and Innsbruck in Austria. The Post has developed into a renowned hotel and restaurant offering international as well as Bavarian food (<http://www.posthotel-kochel.de>). The meeting room is in the hotel. We will focus on practical dermatology and illustrate the relevant points of each lecture with many interactive case examples from 9 to 5.30 every day, coffee breaks and lunch will be in the hotel right next to the meeting rooms.

For registration please contact Dr. Ralf Mueller, Veterinärstr. 13, 80539 München, Germany, email:

Ralf.Mueller@med.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de,

Registration forms may be downloaded from <http://www.esvd.org/education.html>.

4 nights single room 950 €, double room 900 €. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee breaks and 5 nights (from Sunday night to Friday morning) are inclusive.

Infectious Diseases in Veterinary Dermatology

May 10th-12th 2007

Lübeck, Germany

Venue: Scandic Hotel

Local organizers: Monica LINEK and Claude FAVROT

Speakers

Ross Bond, Anke Hendricks, Louis Ferrer, Monika Linek, Patrick Bordeaux and Claude Favrot.

Provisional programme

Topics covered include skin flora and cutaneous ecobiology; toll-like receptors, PAMPS and innate and adaptive immunity, staphylococci: virulence, and hypersensitivity disorders; mycobacteriosis, antibiotic resistance, dermatophytosis, Malassezia infection and its association with atopic dermatitis; Leishmaniasis immunopathology; new parasitic diseases and cutaneous viral infections in man and animals.

Price : 4 nights accommodation: 670 € (ESVD members) - 770 € (non ESVD members)

More information and provisional program on <http://www.esvd.org> (education)

Oncology Workshop

July 5th – 7th 2007

Berne, Switzerland

Speakers: Prof. Ivan Stamenkovic, Dr. Eliane Müller, Dr. Silvia Rüfenacht, Dr. Carla Rohrer, Dr. Katja Melzer, Prof. Monika Welle, Prof. Renato Pannizzon, Prof. Karsten Feige, Prof. Annemaria Kristensen, Dr. Verena Affolter and Prof. Maja Suter.

Programme includes general principles of oncogenesis; immune system tumour cell interaction, angiogenesis and lymphangiogenesis, contribution of epidermal stem cells to skin tumours, round cell tumours, epithelial skin tumours, human melanomas, equine skin tumours, clinical and therapeutic aspects of skin tumours, cytology of skin tumours including practical work and cutaneous paraneoplastic syndromes in dogs and cats. In addition, there will be a slide seminar covering clinical and pathological correlation of skin tumours.

For further information please contact: monika.welle@itpa.unibe.ch

Future dermatology meetings

Australian College of Veterinary Scientists' Annual Science Week Meeting

July 6th – 8th 2006

Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia

Dermatology Programme

The Dermatology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists is presenting over 2 days. The theme for the first day is the influence of behavioural/psychological factors in dermatology, and we are privileged to have two expert guest speakers for this day: an international speaker from New Zealand, Dr Brian Broom who is a Specialist Allergist and Psychotherapist in the human field, speaking on the influence of psychological factors on allergies in people; and an Australian Veterinary Behavioural Specialist, Kirsti Seksel who will speak on psychological influences to allergic conditions in animals. Some specific conditions will be discussed, including psychogenic alopecia in cats, feather plucking in birds, and acral lick lesions in dogs.

The second day will focus on the diagnosis and management of allergies, and will concentrate more on atopic dermatitis, pharmacotherapy options for management of atopic dermatitis (including cyclosporine in dogs & cats), allergen avoidance, and various aspects of allergens and allergen specific immunotherapy.

Other attractions

The Queensland Gold Coast is ideal location for holidaying – lots of sunshine, world renowned beaches, great restaurants, and theme, wildlife and national parks amongst the many attractions. It's a great location for a concurrent holiday, with or without the family.

For further information contact the Secretary of the Dermatology Chapter Mandy Burrows on a.burrows@ Murdoch.edu.au; or visit the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists' website: www.acvs.org.au

Dermatopathology Workshop

An Interactive Approach to Veterinary Dermatopathology

September 2nd 2006

Edinburgh, Scotland

The International Society for Veterinary Dermatopathology in association with the 24th Annual Meeting of the European Society of Veterinary Pathology is holding a full day workshop covering structure and function of the epidermis and the hair follicle followed by an interactive approach to the diagnosis of diseases affecting these structures. Preview of slides will be available on the internet by July 1, 2006 for registered attendees.

Registration fee for ISVD members \$ 90.00 (~ € 75.00)

Registrations fee for non-members \$ 120.00 (~ € 100.00)

The registration form and further details about the ISVD are available at www.isvd.org

Attendance is limited to 50 people who are accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

For further information, please contact monika.welle@itpa.unibe.ch

British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group Autumn Meeting

November 11th-12th 2006

Thistle Hotel, East Midlands Airport

This year's topic will be parasitic skin diseases and nationally and internationally renowned speakers including Adri van den Broek, Ross Bond, Peter Webb, Tony Burns, Joan Rest, Trevor Whitbread, Chris Chesney, Marie Christine Cadiergues, Silvia Colombo, Janet Littlewood and Murry Corke will cover a variety of subjects, including parasite host immunology, the immunology of flea allergy dermatitis, comparative parasitology and histopathology, leishmaniasis and large animal and equine parasitology.

There will be ample time for discussion amongst delegates during on-site coffee breaks, lunch and the Gala Dinner. An early-bird discount will be available and more details will be published closer to the time of the meeting.

Further information can be obtained from the BVDSG website <http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~timn/Index.HTM> or from Julien Poublon at Lady Dane Veterinary Centre, Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UR, tel. (01795) 590225, mobile - 07764 302324, julienpoublon@hotmail.com

World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology

The World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology Association in collaboration with the Hong Kong Veterinary Association and the Asian Society of Veterinary Dermatology is proud to announce the 6th World Congress for Veterinary Dermatology to be held in Hong Kong on the 19th to 22nd of November 2008.

Come and be part of this superb international scientific event focused on veterinary dermatology and complemented by a unique and festive social program in luxurious and friendly Hong Kong, the perfect gateway to exotic Asia.

Featuring:

- World renowned speakers reporting the most recent scientific advances in veterinary dermatology
- Comprehensive and advanced tiers of continuing education with translation into Japanese, Cantonese and Korean languages
- The elegant, modern and spectacular Hong Kong Convention Centre overlooking the memorable awe inspiring Hong Kong harbour.
- An exciting social program featuring the diverse riches of delicious Asian cuisine, the memorable theatre of the traditional Lion Dance and a gala dinner
- Exotic Hong Kong: from Disneyland to Tai Chi and Chinese cooking classes; from Cantonese opera to hiking and kayaking tours in breathtaking landscapes
- Unrivalled tax free shopping from world famous international brands to unique local products in traditional Asian street markets.
- Post conference tours to China; see the historic Great Wall; visit Cambodia, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand or Australia.

Join us for this once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Asia and witness the timeless fusion of Chinese and British colonial heritage. Come and share the diverse and unique culture in the dramatic crossroads city of Hong Kong where East meets West!

Veterinary Dermatology News

Veterinary Dermatology to publish Advances in Veterinary Dermatology 6

The 6th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology will be held in Hong Kong in 2008. The Editors and Board of Veterinary Dermatology are delighted that the Boards of the World Congress and the World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology Association have agreed that the proceedings will be published in the Journal. This is to the mutual benefit of both parties. It will ensure some excellent reviews and cutting-edge research papers for the journal and also ensure that the papers are published in a journal with a good, and increasing, impact factor.

Joan Rest
Cambridge
March 2006

Report on ESVD immunology workshop

Before attending the ESVD course on Cutaneous Immunology I thought I'd better re-read Ian Tizard's 'Veterinary Immunology' 4th edition of 1992 which was the text I read for my RCVS certificate. I like books and our house has books in pretty much every room from classic novels to sci-fi to abstruse tomes on antique glass and the history of cycling, gardening and cookery. Oddly the only book I have ever managed to read three times is the afore-mentioned Tizard. Not because of any innate fascination for, or appreciation of, its contents or literary merits but because I find it impossible to a) understand and b) remember. Immunology moves on at such a pace that Tizard was on to second messengers in 1992, now there are three. The nice compartmentalisation of humoral and cell-mediated immunity is no longer so clear cut and interleukins and clusters of differentiation have multiplied without limit. Result being that I wasn't as well prepared as I might have been for three days of immunological assault from Messrs. Nuttall, Day and Hill.

Coombe Lodge on the Mendips is a 1920's mock Elizabethan manor house built with tobacco money by the Wills family and we were well looked after during our stay. On arrival most of us heard the story of the receptionist's guinea pig which had recently succumbed to a mystery skin disease that made it scratch and bleed, had racked up £60 worth of testing and finally been euthanased despite not apparently having stumbled inadvertently across any ivermectin. Was it just me who was bemused? David, the guy who has the lease for Coombe Lodge, is the President of the British Crysanthemum Society and has a dream to restore the original 2 acre walled garden, greenhouses and pineapple pit to their former glory and house the National Crysanthemum collection. I shall be back in May to take up his offer of some spray cysanths for my allotment.

There were 12 nationalities represented from most of Europe, Israel and Canada which made for some fascinating conversations. The course was oversubscribed with 40 delegates and many more bewailing their late applications being rejected. Day 1 was an update on the current understanding of cutaneous immunity, gut immunity and aetiopathogenesis of atopic dermatitis. Day 2 was on autoimmunity mechanisms and disease states and day 3 was immunodiagnostic testing and therapy. Dr Nuttall wins the battle of the references, giving us 427! In the proceedings, that's my bedtime reading sorted for the next decade.

I enjoyed my three days and thanks should go to Tim Nuttall for making it all happen.

Catherine Fraser

Abstract Watch

Many thanks to Aiden Foster for contributing this abstract watch (Editor).

Sprito F, Capt A, Del Rio M, Larcher F, Guaguère E, Danos O, Meneguzzi (2006) Sustained phenotypic reversion of junctional epidermolysis bullosa dog keratinocytes: establishment of an immunocompetent animal model for cutaneous gene therapy. *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications* 339, 769-778.

Epidermolysis bullosa (EB) was mentioned in the previous bulletin in abstract watch. In this paper there is a report on a naturally occurring form of junctional EB found in the German Short-haired pointer associated with a mutation in the laminin 5 gene that is essential for epidermal basal keratinocyte attachment. Keratinocytes were cultured and transfected with a MuLV-based vector linked with recombinant laminin $\alpha 3$ cDNA. The keratinocytes reverted morphology and functional behaviour to that of a normal keratinocyte. Furthermore once grafted onto SCID mice the reverted phenotype was permanently maintained, with the generation of a differentiated and stratified epithelium. This animal model provides a research tool for further gene therapy strategies before they are tried in human patients.

Esche C, Stellato C, Beck LA (2005) Chemokines: key players in innate and adaptive immunity. *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* 125, 615-628.

This article reviews the role of chemokines with particular respect to their activity within defence against various microbes including viruses, bacteria and protozoa. Activities including leucocyte recruitment, microbicidal activity, polarization of CD4+ T cells and effects on structural cells, are reviewed.

Sra KK, Torres G, Rady P, Hughes TK, Payne DA, Tying SK (2005) Molecular diagnosis of infectious diseases in dermatology. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* 53, 749-765.

This large paper from the "Blue Journal" gives an illustrated overview of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) but then goes on to cover the ligase chain reaction (LGR), transcription-mediated and nucleic acid sequence-based amplification methods (TMA, NASBA). Furthermore these techniques are being used for the detection of mycobacteria and rickettsial spp., viral, parasite (Leishmania) and fungal pathogens, where they are infecting the skin. Molecular techniques are also important for the detection of genetic material associated with resistance – for example the *mecA* gene for antibiotic resistance in methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. Other techniques reviewed

include signal amplification and branched chain DNA assays, particularly for viral infection. The topic of DNA microarray technology is briefly reviewed. The attraction of these techniques includes speed with high specificity and sensitivity of detection, but on the down side is the relative expense and need for skilled technical input with expensive hardware. In the future it is likely that they will have an important role to play in detecting resistance factors, and genotyping will allow epidemiological studies to be carried out.

Mutasim DE, Bilic M, Hawayek LH, Pipitone MA, Sluzevich JC (2005) Immunobullous diseases: Periodic synopsis. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* 52, 1029-1043.

This periodic synopsis is a slightly potted brief review of the recent (human) literature looking at various aspects of pemphigus foliaceus, pemphigus vulgaris, paraneoplastic pemphigus, pemphigus gestationis, IgA pemphigus, bullous SLE, mucous membrane pemphigoid, bullous pemphigoid, epidermolysis bullosa acquisita, dermatitis herpetiformis, linear IgA disease. It covers clinical findings and diagnosis, epidemiology, pathophysiology, and treatment.

Kollisch *et al* (2005) Various members of the Toll-like receptor family contribute to the innate immune response of human epidermal keratinocytes. *Immunology* 114, 531-541.

A variety of innate immune mechanisms including epidermal keratinocytes protect the skin from infection. Toll-like receptors are important pattern recognition molecules that activate the nuclear factor κ B (NK- α B) pathway leading to the production of antimicrobial and antiviral cytokines, chemokines and peptides. In this study human keratinocytes were either harvested from neonatal foreskins for culture or used as fresh whole epidermis cell suspension, and compared with an immortalised human keratinocyte cell line (HaCaT). The cell cultures were stimulated with various ligands for Toll receptors (TLRs) and the constitutive and stimulated expression of the TLRs monitored by detection of TLRs by PCR and by detection of IL-8. The chemokine IL-8 is expressed under regulation by NK- α B. Of the various TLRs 1 to 9 there was detection of TLR2, 3 and 5 – previous studies from this lab had only detected TLR2. In summary their findings point to potential for human keratinocytes to express functional TLRs that could respond to various microbial factors, with upregulation of inflammatory pathways such as production of IL-8, as part of the antimicrobial defence barrier of the skin.

Oaklander AL, Siegel SM (2005) Cutaneous innervation: form and function. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* 53, 1027-1037.

Another review article that covers somatosensory innervation of the skin including mechanoreception, chemoreception, thermoreception and a little on the transducers of itch. There is also an overview of the efferent and trophic functions of the afferent neurons including innervation of sebaceous glands and eccrine sweat glands, arrector pili muscles and of blood vessels.

Simpson EL, Hanifin JN (2005) Atopic dermatitis: periodic synopsis. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* 53, 115-128.

In this review of the literature readers should recognise one of the foremost experts on human atopic dermatitis (AD) and given that veterinary dermatologists deal with many canine atopic cases this review should be of interest. It covers: nomenclature, diagnosis, epidemiology, risk factors, cost of care, quality of life, genetics, pathogenesis, immunologic and flare factors, food allergy, therapeutics, and prevention. The article consists of brief synopses of numerous recent publications.

Bonkobara *et al* (2005) Canine Epidermal Langerhans Cells Express α and γ but not β Chains of High-Affinity IgE Receptor. *Veterinary Research Communications* 29, 499 – 505.

In this study canine epidermal cells were isolated with immunomagnetic beads carrying an anti-canine CD1a mAb to purify isolation of Langerhans cells (LC). The purity in terms of mast cell contamination was checked by using PCR examination for chymase and tryptase proteinases. The LC were then examined for mRNA for the Fc ϵ RI genes for α , β , and γ chains of the receptor. The β chain was not detected and in this regard dog and human keratinocytes may be similar with expression of α and γ chains but not β chain genes. While in mouse LC there is only expression of the γ chain gene by epidermal LC. Consequently it was concluded that this type of gene expression may support the hypothesis that canine LCs may take part in allergic responses with binding of allergens to the receptor proteins for presentation to T cells.

Philipp *et al* (2005) Polymorphisms within the canine MLPH gene are associated with dilute coat color in dogs. *BMC (BioMedCentral) Genetics* 6: 34.

The dilute coat colors of the Doberman pinscher and other breeds is a well recognised condition and in some dogs may be associated with substantial alopecia (Color dilution alopecia or CDA). In humans and mice there are at least three well defined genes involved in the phenotype of color coat variation including myosin Va MYO5A, RAB27A, and melanophilin (MLPH). These genes are all involved in the melanosomes transport complex so with affected individuals there will be aberrant accumulation of melanosomes and pigment in the hair shaft.

In this study the MLPH gene in dogs was isolated and sequenced. Mutation analysis was carried out on material from six Doberman and five German pinschers. Some 48 sequence variations were identified but no single polymorphism was identified as a cause for the dilute phenotype. It was concluded that coat color dilution is caused by one or more

mutations within or near the MLPH gene in several dog breeds. Such genetic studies may help to select against the genes associated with CDA.

Maizels RM (2005) Infections and allergy – helminths, hygiene and host immune regulation. *Current Opinion in Immunology* 17, 656-661.

Rick Maizels has studied nematode infection and immunology for many years and in this review highlights some of the roles for Treg cells, which influence the activity of other T cells, particularly in the context of allergic conditions and helminth infestation. It may be the case that the interplay of Treg and T cells leads to allergic conditions with an inflammatory response involving Th2 cells. Meanwhile individuals infested with nematodes and trematodes seem to have Th2 cells upregulated but often have persistent infection and apparently are less at risk of developing allergic conditions. Helminth infection may also be associated with the downregulation of Th1 immune responses seen in autoimmune conditions. The complex interaction of T reg cells with T cells and dendritic cells and the role of host genetic factors may influence the immune system response when exposed to allergens or helminth infection. It would seem that T reg cells have some role in the cross over from the suppressive helminth-infected environment to the reactive allergic response.

Breathnach R *et al* (2006) Increased leukotrienes B4 production, complement C3 conversion and acid hydrolase enzyme concentrations in different leucocyte sub-populations of dogs with atopic dermatitis. *The Veterinary Journal* 171, 106-113.

Breathnach R *et al* (2006) Characterization of certain inflammatory variables in the peripheral blood of clinically healthy dogs. *The Veterinary Journal* 171, 98-105.

Bloom P (2006) Atopic dermatitis in dogs – hitting the moving target (Editorial). *The Veterinary Journal* 171, 16-17. In these three articles there is an editorial by Paul Bloom on the work of Rory Breathnach and colleagues in Dublin. In these studies there is a focus on the modulation of the inflammatory response in canine atopic dermatitis (AD) using peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and polymorphonuclear cells (PMNs). Cells were initially isolated from normal healthy dogs and stimulated with zymosan. Immunoprecipitation methods were used to measure the conversion of complement C3 to C3b; and release of β -glucuronidase, β -galactosidase and *N*-acetyl- β -glucosaminidase, as examples of lysosomal enzymes, were measured spectrophotometrically. Cells were stimulated with A23187 to produce leukotriene B4. Cells were also assayed for production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in response to administration of zymosan. Compared with healthy dogs, dogs with AD had significantly greater production of C3b, LTB4, and intracellular β -glucuronidase and β -galactosidase. There was also faster and greater production of ROS, although not statistically significant. This work would imply that there might be a need to re-explore the modification of leukotriene production – notably with leukotriene antagonists – because they seem to be part of the inflammatory process in canine AD.

Jolles *et al* (2005) Clinical uses of intravenous immunoglobulin. *Clinical and Experimental Immunology* 142, 1-11. There is growing evidence for the efficacy of this therapeutic option for various skin diseases. This review includes coverage of, amongst many other diseases, pemphigus vulgaris, toxic epidermal necrolysis, and Kawasaki disease (an acquired vasculitis in children). There is also a brief section on mode of action that may interest veterinary clinicians.

26 January 2006
Dr Aiden P Foster

ECVD Corner

www.ecvd.org

Dermatology Residency Available

Please check the ECVD web site under "ECVD Residency" in the folder "ECVD Residency positions" 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 under "General Information".

Admission of non-ECVD Diplomates

Guidelines are available for admission to the ECVD for American Diplomates and Fellows of the Australian College of Veterinary Sciences (Dermatology) who have returned to work in Europe. Please check the ECVD web site under "General Information".



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 exam 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.

R. Cerundolo
President ECVD

Alternate Route Entrance Examination

This examination will now only be offered to people already enrolled on the previous Alternate Route. It will take place annually as required with the last chance to pass this examination being in 2011. Those people interested in taking the alternate route entrance examination should check the ECVD web site under "ECVD Residency" in the folder "Alternate Route Residency Programme" which has full details of the current Alternate Route. This has no associated intermediate examination.

Examination For Diplomate Status 2008

Notification is hereby given that the eleventh examination for Diplomate status of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology will be held in June/July 2008. There are currently three possible routes by which to apply to sit the Diploma Examination:

- 1) By completion of an approved ECVD residency program;
- 2) By following the Alternate Route Residency Programme "Chalkidiki Rules".
- 3) By passing the "alternate route entrance examination" (last time for submitting credentials for the ARQE is 30th September 2006) followed by further study. Candidates proposing to take this route should contact the Chair of the Education & Credential Committee to be advised on the appropriate training. At the Annual General Meeting of the College in 1997, it was decided that dermatology certificates awarded by other bodies will not be accepted in place of the ARQE.

A fee (please check it on the ECVD web site before submitting your credentials) will be charged for considering the applicant's credentials and sitting the examination. This is payable in advance of application and is non-refundable in the event that the applicant's credentials are not approved.

Further information can be found on the ECVD web site. All people who satisfy the required criteria, prior to submitting the application, should check the ECVD web site for the latest information (web pages are routinely updated) on the examination and instruction for payment of the fee. Information can also be obtained from the following people:

- Chairman ECVD Education & Credential Committee: matters regarding the residency program and the credentials process. (Currently: Dr Ralf Mueller, e-mail: Ralf.Mueller@med.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de);
- Chairman ECVD Diploma Examination Committee: matters regarding the examination (Currently: Dr. Thierry Olivry, e-mail: Thierry_Olivry@ncsu.edu).

All applications must be received by 30th September 2007 using the official application form (available from the ECVD web site) together with the application fee and sent to the Chairman of the Education & Credential Committee).

Without exception, incomplete or late applications will not be processed or reviewed. The decision of the Credentials Committee will be reported to the applicants by 31st December 2007.

Dr Ralf Mueller
Chairman ECVD Education & Credentials Committee