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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Autumn 2007 edition of the ESVD Bulletin although as I write this it feels like summer has finally reached Scotland after a somewhat dismal year. The last two weeks have seen clear blue skies, with temperatures in the mid teens (centigrade that is) and massive hatches of all sorts of biting and otherwise irritating insects. This doesn't bode well for the elimination of Bluetongue from our shores. Unfortunately, there is less time to enjoy this good weather as the university year has started and in addition to our (happily) steadily increasing caseload, we have veterinary undergraduates attending the practice for two days a week for their dermatology rotation. Thankfully, for the future of the veterinary profession, the vast majority of students indicate that they would like to go into mixed (farm and pet) practice despite my descriptions of the joys of 3.00am calvings. I too started my career in mixed general practice and had no idea at that time that I would end up working in such a specialised field. Indeed, one of the great attractions of our profession is that we do have the opportunity and choice to change direction and pursue avenues that interest us. Unfortunately, this can also create difficulties because often, by the time we are aware that we wish to make a change, families and practice partnerships can make such a change both emotionally and financially very challenging. On this note, one of the perennial gripes and topics of conversation heard at meetings is that the demands placed on personal and professional life in obtaining diplomate status in veterinary dermatology are too great for those with family and practice commitments and that the specialisation route should be an easier one. Having given up a partnership in mixed practice to undertake a residency training and moved wife and family to a somewhat uncertain future, I can vouch for the demands that are placed both emotionally and financially. However, it also became clear there is no better way to train than by undertaking a residency with one or two mentors in a centre of excellence and that the sacrifices that have to be made are the cost of specialisation and are more than worth the end result. To accommodate those that are unable to undertake a full time, standard residency training programme, the ECVD Alternate Route residency programme is still available. The different training options could potentially cause some confusion and Dr's Rosario Cerundolo and Ralph Mueller have been kind enough to summarise the latest information on the various ECVD training programmes in this issue of the Bulletin and of course further information may be found on the ECVD website www.ecvd.org.

This is a fairly packed edition of the Bulletin with the usual features of the Abstract Watch, ECVD Corner, and information on forthcoming meetings, including the latest announcement relating to WCVD6. In addition, there is information on several grants and awards including the newly created Hugo Schindelka Award. This prestigious award is for scholarship and excellence in the field of Veterinary Dermatology.

Enjoy this addition and please remember that your letters, suggestions for useful websites and other contributions are very welcome. Feel free to email me at bulletineditor@esvd.org or peter.forsythe@btconnect.com.

Don't forget to check out the ESVD website www.esvd.org

Report from ESVD AGM in Congress Center Mainz

14th September 2007

President

Chiara Noli opened the meeting and thanked the local organising committee for preparing such a successful congress. The substantial support of the long term commercial partners Janssen, Bayer and Royal Canin; together with other sponsors was much appreciated.

Treasurer & Membership reports

A detailed overview of the budget was provided. As our society has recently changed its status (charity and limited company), it is no longer necessary to secure large funds to cover the financial consequences of a cancelled or unsuccessful congress. Members should be aware that the board is seeking means of using some of the funds for promoting veterinary dermatology and this would include partly a larger ESVD grant and, subject to further discussion, possible support for all members to attend the annual congress dinner in 2009. Suggestions of the members are welcome.

The current membership stands at 523 members. Correspondence with the membership via email was being considered but some 30–40 messages bounce on any general email – this may reflect errors in collation of email addresses or members failing to update the membership list.

Full Members

Margreet Vroom welcomed the new Full members:
 Merit Ricklin Gutzwiller
 Sylvia Wilhelm
 Alicia Fernandez
 Rob Hilton
 Noemi Tarpataki
 Monika Welle

Publications, Grants and Awards

Ralf Mueller thanked Peter Forsythe for compiling the ESVD Bulletin and Hills for supporting publication of the Bulletin, annual report and membership list. The journal *Veterinary Dermatology* has been given a higher ranking within veterinary titles and a higher citation index. ISI Journal Citation Reports® Ranking: 2006: 24/128 (Veterinary Sciences); Impact Factor: 1.398.

The ESVD research grant applications were all from Germany and of the three studies the one with the highest ranking was from Dr Monika Linek and colleagues for a project entitled: "Development of a structured educational program for the management of

canine atopic dermatitis. Randomised and controlled intervention study on this structured educational program on owners of dogs affected by canine atopic dermatitis"

In future the grant may be awarded to more than one study if deemed suitable and the award will be increased from €10,000 to €15,000 for 2008.

Submissions from general practice were particularly to be encouraged. For further details on the ESVD Research grant see the website www.esvd.org or email Dr Claude Favrot at publications-grants@esvd.org.

Ulli Runge Harms Award

Virbac were thanked for their support of this award which was given to Dr. Giordana Zarra and presented by Dr Alain Mondon, Virbac and Dr. Patricia Werhahn.

Meetings and Workshops

Luc Beco thanked the local organising committee for making the Mainz congress a great success with over 500 delegates from 31 countries registered. There had been considerable positive feedback from the meeting reflecting the quality of the two scientific streams, the social programme and the setting of the commercial exhibition.

Luc reported that the first workshop on "Infectious diseases in veterinary dermatology" was held in Lübeck (Germany). This new workshop was a success with 33 participants attending a very interesting program delivered by five excellent lecturers. Thanks to the local organizers Monika Linek and Claude Favrot both the scientific and social programme were of a very high standard.

The *Oncology workshop* was also fully booked. Bern (Switzerland) was the venue for a very interesting program. Superb facilities were available for slide viewing seminars and ten different speakers gave updated information on cutaneous oncology. Despite the busy scientific programme, there was also the chance to explore the beautiful city of Bern. Thank you to Monika Welle and the other local organizers for making this workshop such a success.

Ana Rostafer gave an illustrated presentation about Bled in Slovenia which will host the 2009 congress 17–19th September.

Future venues for the 2010 congress may include Italy and Brussels in 2011.

Dr Kristian Pedersen gave an illustrated presentation on the forthcoming Sixth World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology

Elections

Margreet Vroom announced that the elections had been run with some 161 full members able to vote. Chiara Nofi would become past president and Aiden Foster was to become president based on the results of the postal ballot. Trevor Whitbread and Ralf Mueller were retiring from the board and with Margreet were thanked for their combined many years of service to the ESVD and board.

New members joining Luc Beco (who remains as meeting secretary) were Ian Mason as treasurer, Claude Favrot as publications and grant secretary, and Christine Löwenstein as secretary.

AOB

Dr Anke Hendricks announced that the British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group have kindly agreed to host the next ESVD AGM at East Midlands Airport, UK, to be held on September 13–14th 2008.

Dr Terrill Eckert and Dr Hans Koch expressed concerns about some difficulties experienced by the local organising committee in making the arrangements for the congress. The President, Aiden Foster, reassured the meeting that these inconveniences were taken care of and better congress guidelines are in the process of being prepared, in order to avoid such problems in the future.

The meeting was closed by Aiden Foster as new president and thanks offered to all those involved in the organisation of a successful congress and the members were thanked for attending the AGM.

Report from the ECVD resident's day of the 22nd annual congress of the ESVD–ECVD

Many thanks must be extended to the speakers, sponsors and organisers of the ECVD/ESVD residents' day which was held at Advena Europa Hotel, Mainz, Germany, on the 15th September 2007. The event was well attended by residents from all over the globe. The day started bright and early with head of the ECVD education committee, Dr Ralf Mueller discussing the updated protocol and requirements of residents working towards the European diploma. This made certain that we were all awake and attentive for the remainder of the day. This was followed by an excellent update on cutaneous adverse reactions to food by our sponsor, Eukanuba.

The main lectures focused on epidermal renewal; structure and function, and equine histopathology which are both areas of major interest for the numerous residents that attended the day. We were very fortunate to have the company of renowned specialists in these subjects, Professor Maja Suter and Professor Claudia von Tscharner. After lunch, Dr Anette Löffler talked in depth about writing up case reports and Sylvie Wilhelm and Meret Ricklin Gutzwiller discussed how they had recently passed the exams. We were all ears! All residents were extremely grateful to the speakers whom kindly gave up their own time to share their knowledge and experience with us.

The day ended with five unusual case reports by our fellow residents. It is always of great interest to hear of others experiences, particularly with new or unusual presentations of disease. This goes towards broadening our knowledge of dermatological diseases and therapies and also gives us a sense that we are not alone.

Particular thanks go to the organisers of the event for their time and efforts which created a very interesting and rewarding day for all; Lucia Panakova and Ursula Mayer.

Vanessa Schmidt

Future ESVD Meetings and Workshops

23rd Annual Congress of the ESVD-ECVD

17th-19th September 2009

Bled, Slovenia

As the World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology will be held in November 2008 in Hong Kong, the next Annual ESVD-ECVD Congress will be in the beautiful setting of Bled in Slovenia. For further information on Bled please look at www.bled.si

Congress venue: www.hotelibled.com

ESVD/ECVD Long Term Partners:



ESVD Workshop on Dermatological Therapy

Clinician and Pharmacologist confronted

14th-17th May 2008

Cuneo, Italy

Speakers: Doug DeBoer (USA)
Manfred Kietzmann (Germany)
Chiara Noli (Italy)

Programme

Day 1 - Wednesday 14 May 2008

8.30-9.30	Registration and welcome
9.30-10.15	M. Kietzmann: Principles of drug action, pharmacokinetics and dynamics
10.15-11.00	M. Kietzmann: Principles of drug interaction and reaction
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-13.00	M. Kietzmann: Antibiotics - the pharmacologist's perspective
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30-15.15	D. DeBoer: Antibiotics - the clinician's perspective
15.15-16.00	D. DeBoer: Immunomodulatory therapy
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
16.30-17.15	Principles of topical therapy
17.15-18.00	D. DeBoer: New trends in topical therapy
19.30-	Welcome cocktail

Day 2 - Thursday 15 May 2008

9.00-9.30	M. Kietzmann: Topical and systemic antifungal agents (mechanism of action, interaction, new molecules)
9.30-10.45	D. DeBoer: Clinical use of antifungal therapy and problem cases
10.45-11.15	Coffee Break
11.15-12.30	D. DeBoer: Treatment of demodicosis: old and new products
12.30-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	M. Kietzmann: Antiinflammatory drugs, (steroids, cyclosporine, etc.)
15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.30	D. DeBoer: Symptomatic management of atopic dermatitis and immunotherapy
17.30-	Free evening

Day 3 - Friday 16 May 2008

9.00-9.45	C. Noli: Owner Compliance
9.45-10.30	D. DeBoer: Food for skin
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-11.45	Immune-suppressive drugs M. Kietzmann
11.45-12.30	D. DeBoer: Treatment of immune-mediated and autoimmune diseases (protocols, different uses of cyclosporine)
12.30-14.00	Lunch
14.00-14.45	M. Kietzmann: Different treatment options for Cushing's (mitotane, trilostane, ketoconazole, selegiline, etc.: mechanism of action, interaction, new molecules)
14.45-15.30	D. DeBoer: Treatment of endocrine disorders, non-inflammatory alopecia
15.30-16.00	Coffee Break
16.00-16.45	C. Noli: Treatment of leishmaniasis
16.45-17.30	D. DeBoer: Treatment of keratinisation disorders
19.30-	Social Dinner

Day 4 – Saturday 17 May 2008

- 9.00–10.30 D. DeBoer: Chronic or Severe Otitis Externa: Primary Treatment, Long term Management I
- 10.30–11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00–12.30 D. DeBoer: Chronic or Severe Otitis Externa: Primary Treatment, Long term Management II

Workshop Fees

This price includes:

3? days of the workshop, proceedings, 4 nights (13.5 to 17.5) in the Hotel Lovera****, 4 Breakfasts, 7 Coffee breaks, 3 Business lunches, 1 Welcome cocktail, 1 Evening dinner

ESVD member: non ESVD member :

- single room €740
- double room €610
- single room €840
- double room €710

Extra nights can be reserved directly from the Hotel at the special rate of single €95 and double €120

Local organiser: Chiara Noli – pitnoli@iol.it

Cuneo is a town at the feet of the Alps, situated between two rivers (Cuneo means "wedge"), equidistant from the Mediterranean Sea and the Langhe, land of Barolo and Barbaresco vines. You can spend your free time strolling around the medieval centre, shopping under the arcades, walking along one of the two rivers or even hiking and biking in the mountains. Pre- or post-course tours can be organised upon request. You can find tourist information on Cuneo and surroundings at <http://turismo.provincia.cuneo.it> or <http://www.langheroero.it>

By air:

Torino airport : 100 km

Nice (France) airport : 100 km

Genova airport : 100 km

Milano all airports : 250–300 km

Busses to relative train stations are available in all airports

Shuttle bus for individuals or groups from Torino airport to the hotels available upon request (€140 each trip)

By train:

Cuneo rail station is connected to Turin (1.5h), Savona (1.5h) and Nice (France) (3h)

By car:

Highway A6 Torino–Savona

Exit CUNEO then follow signs to town

From France

Valle du Roye, tunnel of Tende, SS20 to Cuneo (100 km from Nice)

Detailed travel information, including train timetables and flight connections to Turin airport, will be provided upon registration

FOR INFORMATION OR REGISTRATIONS PLEASE CONTACT CHIARA NOLI AT THE E-MAIL ADDRESS PTNOLI@IOL.IT

Equine Dermatology September 25–28th 2008

Spa Belgium:

Speakers J Bröjer, Kerstin Bergvall, Antony Yo and Claudia Von Tschamer.

Local organizer: Luc Beco luc.beco@skynet.be

Workshop on Dermatopathology Spring 2009.

Palazzo Treccchi, Cremona, Italy

Local Organizer: Fabia Scarampella
fabia.scarampella@dermvvet.fastweb.it

Please, don't forget that the ESVD workshops are organised for small groups (max 50). If you register too late you could be refused.

The only priority is the date of registration and the ESVD membership.

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

ESVD workshops are provided to help ESVD members and resident in dermatology to improve their understanding and knowledge in veterinary dermatology. We welcome suggestions for future topics and possible venues.

Forthcoming Dermatology Meetings

BVDSG Spring Meeting

Wednesday 2nd April 2008

International Conference Centre (ICC) Birmingham

Breed-related Skin Diseases

Programme

- 9.30–10.15 Brian Catchpole: MHC class related breed differences
- 10.15–11.00 Ralf Mueller: Breed-related follicular dysplasias/dystrophies
- 11.00–11.30 Coffee and commercial exhibition
- 11.30–12.00 Jonathan Wray: Hereditary multifocal renal cystadenocarcinomas and nodular dermatofibrosis in the German shepherd dog
- 12.00–12.30 Arthur House: Anal furunculosis
- 12.30–1.00 Stephen White: Hereditary equine regional dermal asthenia
- 1.00–2.00 Lunch
- 2.00–2.30 Coffee and commercial exhibition
- 2.30–3.15 Ross Bond: Unusual breed-related skin diseases in cats (Idiopathic facial dermatitis Persians, Malassezia dermatitis Devon Rex, Urticaria pigmentosa etc)
- 3.15–4.00 Ralf Mueller: Unusual breed-related skin diseases in dogs (Ichthyosis and other scaling disorders in Golden Retrievers, German Shorthaired Pointer lupus, collagen disorders etc.)
- 4.00–4.30 Short Communications

For further details and registration please see <http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~timv/Index.HTM>

WCVD6 - Call for Abstracts

The 6th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology will take place in Hong Kong from November 19th–22nd, 2008. This event, held every 4 years, is the largest international meeting of the specialty, attracting over 1,000 delegates. We invite all scientists and clinicians associated with veterinary dermatology as well as colleagues in related disciplines such as microbiology, immunology, internal medicine, parasitology, oncology, and pathology to submit abstracts for presentation at the Congress.

The 2 categories for which abstracts are invited are:

1. Supporting Original Studies

- Major clinical basic science research studies with high impact
- Abstracts are submitted under one of the main themes of the congress (skin biology, immunology, infectious disease, therapy, parasitology, and otology)
- Authors must submit a 500-word abstract, make a 20-minute presentation at the congress and submit a manuscript of the work
- NEW for WCVD6: Manuscripts will be peer-reviewed and published in an issue of the journal *Veterinary Dermatology* in 2009. The journal has a high impact factor and manuscripts will be citable from the journal



- Authors of selected abstracts will receive a generous package of travel to and from the congress, 4 nights hotel accommodation, registration at the congress and invitations to all social events included in registration.
- *Deadline for abstract submission:* December 15th 2007

2. Free Communications and Posters

- More limited clinical or basic science research studies
- Authors must submit a 250-word abstract and make a 12 minute presentation at the congress. No manuscript is required
- No financial support/travel expenses are provided by the congress
- *Deadline for abstract submission:* January 31st 2008

Abstracts must be submitted online through the congress website at www.vetdermhongkong.com/abstract_submission.html. Complete information on abstract submission, instructions and guidelines, and examples of correctly formatted abstract, along with additional information about the Congress itself, are available online at the congress website.

All abstracts will be reviewed by a selected panel of experts. Please note that authors will be asked to identify all funding sources for their study in addition to disclosing any conflict of interest.

For further information, go to www.vetdermhongkong.com

Grants and Awards

ISVD Research Grants

The ISVD is soliciting grant proposals for the year 2008/2009.

The International Society of Veterinary Dermatopathology (ISVD) is delighted to offer another chance for members to send in grant proposals for the academic year 2008/2009. The ISVD is planning to support its members for research projects up to a total of \$5000. One or several small projects will be funded. The proposals will be reviewed blinded by a subcommittee of the board and awards will be announced at the annual meeting in 2008.

The information including guidelines for submission is available at the website www.isvd.org.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Relevance to the field of veterinary dermatopathology
- Feasibility of the project
- Quality of background information/pilot study
- Quality of the proposal

Funds are available for direct costs only. Institutional overhead costs as well as salaries for investigators and technicians will not be supported.

Please submit your proposal by January 15, 2008. Grants will be awarded by June 30, 2008.

Send 6 copies or submit electronically to:

Dr. Monika Welle
Past-President ISVD
Institute of Animal Pathology
Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Berne
Postfach
Lunggassstr. 122
CH-3001 Bern
Switzerland
monika.welle@itpa.unibe.ch

The Hugo Schindelka Award

The World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology Association invites nominations for the first presentation of The Hugo Schindelka Award. This award commemorates initiation of the scientific approach to veterinary dermatology and its establishment as a discipline in 1903 when Dr. Schindelka, a teacher at the Vienna Veterinary School, published his book, *Hautkrankheiten bei Haustieren Handbuch der Tierärztlichen Chirurgie und Geburtshilfe* (Skin Diseases of Domestic Animals). It will be presented every 4 years at the World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology, beginning with the 6th Congress in Hong Kong in 2008.



The award, a medal and monetary prize, recognises excellence in scholarship and publication in Veterinary Dermatology. Scholarship includes organisation and development of the discipline, teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in universities and within other educational systems, and the development of diagnostic and therapeutic methods, courses and teaching material.

The recipient should have published a substantial volume of high quality material relating to veterinary dermatology with a significant impact on the discipline. Research papers should include new discoveries and publication in high impact journals.

All aspects of the discipline can be included and publications can be scientific papers, popular articles, books and electronic media. Candidates for the award do not have to have a veterinary qualification.

Nominations for the first award are now invited and will be evaluated by an Award Committee established by and reporting to the WCVDA Board. Members of the WCVDA Board will not be eligible for this award. Nominations should be submitted on the official nomination form and must be received by the end of December 2007. Details of submission and the nomination form are available at www.wcvda.com.

Professor David Lloyd

Ulli Runge Harms Award 2008

The Ulli Runge Harms Award commemorates Dr. Ulli Runge Harms, a colleague whose enthusiasm and determination for specialisation in veterinary dermatology was exemplary.

- The award is made annually according to the guidelines given below. The first award was made at the ECVD-ESVD Congress in 2003.
- Funds supporting the award during its first five years of the award were generously donated by Virbac Laboratories. They have kindly agreed to continue supporting the award.
- In 2008, the award will be made at the Sixth World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology in Hong Kong, for the sixth time.

Conditions of the Award

1. The URH Award will be given as an inspiration and support to veterinary surgeons pursuing specialisation in veterinary dermatology. The award is given at the annual ESVD congress as part of a formal ceremony. In years when there is a World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology, it will be awarded at that Congress.
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 congress.
4. The award consists of a *Certificate* provided by the award committee and *free registration* for the annual ESVD meeting; in World Congress years, this free registration will be transferred to the following year. 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 a prize amounting to €1,200 for the successful applicant. The award fund is sponsored by Virbac Laboratories.
6. The award committee consists of three ESVD members. The current members of the committee are David Lloyd, David Grant and Patricia Werhahn.

Please send nominations/applications to:

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

The Ulli Runge Harms Award

APPLICATION FORM

Surname: _____ Firstname(s): _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ Postcode: _____

Country: _____

Telephone number: _____

E-mail 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 / was 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: _____

Abstract Watch

Contributed by Hilary Jackson

Perrins N, Gaudiino F, Bond R.

Carriage of Malassezia spp. yeasts in cats with diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism and neoplasia.

Medical Mycology. 2007;45(6):541–6.

The frequencies of isolation and population sizes of *Malassezia* spp. on skin and at mucosal sites in 16 cats with diabetes mellitus, 20 cats with hyperthyroidism and 8 cats with neoplasia did not vary significantly from those of healthy cats when measured with the use of contact plates and a swab technique. *M. pachydermatis* was isolated from nine sites in one cat with feline paraneoplastic alopecia and pancreatic adenocarcinoma, two cats with diabetes mellitus and five cats with hyperthyroidism. A polymerase chain reaction-restriction enzyme analysis (PCR-REA) method that differentiated the 11 species of *Malassezia* spp. was used to identify the lipid-dependent isolates that were obtained from two cats with diabetes mellitus, two cats with hyperthyroidism and one cat with multicentric lymphoma. Six isolates had PCR-REA patterns that were indistinguishable from *M. slooffiae* CBS 7956 and three matched *M. nana* CBS 9557. Our data suggests that skin and mucosal counts of *Malassezia* spp. are not routinely increased in cats with diabetes mellitus or hyperthyroidism but we report a further example of an association between feline paraneoplastic alopecia and *Malassezia* spp. proliferation. To the authors' knowledge, this is the first report of the isolation of *M. slooffiae* from feline skin.

Morgan EE, Miller WH Jr, Wagner B.

A comparison of intradermal testing and detection of allergen-specific immunoglobulin E in serum by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay in horses affected with skin hypersensitivity.

Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology. 2007 Aug 19 [Epub ahead of print]

Skin hypersensitivities (allergies) in horses are often diagnosed using clinical signs only. Intradermal testing or serological assays are diagnostic options to confirm the allergic nature of the disease and to identify the allergen(s). Our objective was to develop an allergen-specific enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) using a monoclonal antibody specific for horse IgE and to examine its potential for allergen detection in serum in comparison to intradermal testing. Intradermal testing with 61 allergen extracts was performed on 10 horses affected with skin hypersensitivity. Their sera were analyzed by ELISA for IgE antibodies to the same allergens. The kappa test of concordance was used for comparison of the results of both tests. Out of 61 allergen extracts, only two (Timothy and Quack) had kappa values greater than 0.60, suggesting a substantial agreement between skin testing and IgE ELISA. The statistical comparison of the remaining 59 allergens showed little or no concordance between the tests beyond chance. To identify parameters that may influence the sensitivity of the ELISA, the assay was modified to detect allergen-specific IgG_b and IgG(T) in serum, and the protein content in all allergen extracts was determined by SDS-PAGE. The commercial allergen extracts revealed a high variation in detectable protein. High concentrations of allergen-specific IgG in horse serum were found to compete with IgE for binding to the plates. In conclusion, an ELISA using whole serum and crude allergen preparations provides limited diagnostic information in horses. The reliable diagnosis of allergens in equine skin hypersensitivity is essential to improve allergen-specific treatments, such as hyposensitization, or the development of allergy vaccines.

Hugnet C, Lespine A, Alvinerie M.

Multiple oral dosing of ketoconazole increases dog exposure to ivermectin.

Journal of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Science. 2007; 10(3): 311–8

PURPOSE: The parasiticide ivermectin and the antimicrobial drug ketoconazole are macrolides that interact with P-glycoprotein. We investigated the effects of ketoconazole at a clinical dose on the pharmacokinetics of ivermectin, a CYP3A substrate with low hepatic clearance. **METHODS:** Beagle dogs received a single subcutaneous injection of ivermectin at 0.05 mg/kg alone (n=6) or in combination with a daily oral dose of ketoconazole 10 mg/kg over 5 days before and after ivermectin administration (n=6). The plasma kinetics of ivermectin and its metabolite were followed over 15 days by HPLC analysis. **RESULTS:** Co-administered ketoconazole induced a higher plasma concentration and longer residence time of ivermectin in dogs, leading to a substantial increase in the overall exposure of the animal to

the drug. Ketoconazole does not interfere with the production of the ivermectin metabolite but it may rather inhibit the elimination of the parental drug by interfering with P-gp transport. **CONCLUSIONS:** Multiple oral dosing of ketoconazole dramatically altered the pharmacokinetics of ivermectin in dogs leading to an increase in systemic exposure to the drug. Neurotoxicity of ivermectin means that inhibition of the P-gp function at the blood-brain barrier during polytherapy using P-gp inhibitors must be taken into consideration.

Diaz Espineira MM, Mol JA, Peeters ME, Pollak YW, Iversen L, van Dijk JE, Rijnberk A, Kooistra HS. Assessment of thyroid function in dogs with low plasma thyroxine concentration. Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine. 2007; 21(1):25–32.

BACKGROUND: Differentiation between hypothyroidism and nonthyroidal illness in dogs poses specific problems, because plasma total thyroxine (TT4) concentrations are often low in nonthyroidal illness, and plasma thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) concentrations are frequently not high in primary hypothyroidism. **HYPOTHESIS:** The serum concentrations of the common basal biochemical variables (TT4, freeT4 [fT4], and TSH) overlap between dogs with hypothyroidism and dogs with nonthyroidal illness, but, with stimulation tests and quantitative measurement of thyroidal $^{99m}\text{TcO}_4(-)$ uptake, differentiation will be possible. **ANIMALS:** In 30 dogs with low plasma TT4 concentration, the final diagnosis was based upon histopathologic examination of thyroid tissue obtained by biopsy. Fourteen dogs had primary hypothyroidism, and 13 dogs had nonthyroidal illness. Two dogs had secondary hypothyroidism, and 1 dog had metastatic thyroid cancer. **METHODS:** The diagnostic value was assessed for (1) plasma concentrations of TT4, fT4, and TSH; (2) TSH-stimulation test; (3) plasma TSH concentration after stimulation with TSH-releasing hormone (TRH); (4) occurrence of thyroglobulin antibodies (TgAbs); and (5) thyroidal $^{99m}\text{TcO}_4(-)$ uptake. **RESULTS:** Plasma concentrations of TT4, fT4, TSH, and the hormone pairs TT4/TSH and fT4/TSH overlapped in the 2 groups, whereas, with TgAbs, there was 1 false-negative result. Results of the TSH- and TRH-stimulation tests did not meet earlier established diagnostic criteria, overlapped, or both. With a quantitative measurement of thyroidal $^{99m}\text{TcO}_4(-)$ uptake, there was no overlap between dogs with primary hypothyroidism and dogs with nonthyroidal illness. **CONCLUSIONS AND CLINICAL IMPORTANCE:** The results of this study confirm earlier observations that, in dogs, accurate biochemical diagnosis of primary hypothyroidism poses specific problems. Previous studies, in which the TSH-stimulation test was used as the "gold standard" for the diagnosis of hypothyroidism may have suffered from misclassification. Quantitative measurement of thyroidal $^{99m}\text{TcO}_4(-)$ uptake has the highest discriminatory power with regard to the differentiation between primary hypothyroidism and nonthyroidal illness.

Werfel T, Ballmer-Weber B, Eigenmann PA, Niggemann B, Rancé E, Turjanmaa K, Worm M. Eczematous reactions to food in atopic eczema: position paper of the EAACI and GA2LEN. Allergy. 2007; 62(7):723–8

Food allergy and atopic eczema (AE) may occur in the same patient. Besides typical immediate types of allergic reactions (i.e. noneczematous reactions) which are observed in patients suffering from AE, it is clear that foods, such as cow's milk and hen's eggs, can directly provoke flares of AE, particularly in sensitized infants. In general, inhaled allergens and pollen-related foods are of greater importance in older children, adolescents and adults. Clinical studies have revealed that more than 50% of affected children with AE that can be exacerbated by certain foods will react with a worsening of skin eczema either alone or in addition to immediate symptoms. Adolescents and adults may also react to foods, but reactions to 'classical' food allergens, such as hen's eggs and cow's milk, are not as common as in childhood. Some patients with AE do react to pollen-associated foods. Food-induced eczema should not be neglected by the allergologist: on the one hand, food can be a relevant trigger factor of persistent moderate-to-severe AE; on the other hand, unnecessary diets which are not based on a proper diagnosis may lead to malnutrition and additional psychological stress on patients suffering from AE. Eczematous reactions to food can only be diagnosed by a thorough diagnostic procedure, taking into account the patient's history, the degree of sensitization and the clinical relevance of the sensitization. The latter has often to be proven by oral food challenges. Upon oral food challenge it is most important to evaluate the status of the skin with an established score (e.g. SCORAD, EASI) after 24 h and later because otherwise worsening of eczema will be missed.

Residency Position Available in Bordeaux (Aquitaine, France, EU).

An ECVD accredited residency position is available in Bordeaux, at Aquivet, a large polyspecialized clinic (including 4 departments run by Diplomates), under the supervision of Dr Carlotti, Dip ECVD, for a 3 year period (2008-2010).

The programme of the residency satisfies the requirements of the ECVD, providing in-depth training in veterinary dermatology and related basic and applied sciences: the activities of the Resident shall include clinical veterinary dermatology, medical dermatology, dermatopathology, clinical pathology, academic learning, clinical research and scientific writing. The training of the Resident shall last 1580 half-days.

Candidates must be authorized legally to practice veterinary medicine in the EU.

Les candidats doivent parler et écrire correctement le français.

Candidates must be fluent in written and spoken English.

A one-year internship or equivalent must have been completed by the applicants, after graduation from a veterinary school or faculty. A preliminary and voluntary stay of a few weeks at Aquivet, in 2007, would be appreciated.

The Resident shall have a liberal status and the position will be funded by sponsorship (€15000 to €20000 per year).

Applicants are invited to contact:

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Residency Programmes in Veterinary Dermatology

Dear colleagues,

Following requests from general practitioners on how to obtain a specialist title (ECVD Diploma) in our field, I would like to remind our colleagues in practice that the European College of Veterinary Dermatology (ECVD) offers two types of approved Residency Programmes:

“Standard Residency Programme”

This is designed to provide in-depth training in veterinary dermatology, related basic and applied sciences and areas of medical dermatology. The main objectives are to allow a graduate veterinarian (‘Resident’) to develop a comprehensive knowledge of the dermatological conditions of domestic animals and to meet the dermatological training requirements of the ECVD Education & Credentials Committee for sitting the ECVD Diploma examination. Two types of Residency are available: formalised and individualised.

Formalised Programmes are those offered by the parent institution on a routine and regular basis without modifications for particular applicants. Such programmes are designed and approved for a specific number of Residents at any one time and for a fixed period.

Individualised Programmes are those offered periodically or on a part-time basis by an institution. For such programmes, a detailed description must be prepared and approved by the Education Committee before each programme is begun.

The Standard Residency Programme is a full-time, non-degree period of normally 36 months of supervised training, post-graduate education and experience in the science and practice of veterinary dermatology, encompassing clinical dermatology, dermatohistopathology, and the relevant basic and applied sciences. More details about the standard residency programme are available on the ECVD web site under “ECVD Residency – Education Programmes”.

“Alternate Route Residency Programme”

Such residency is designed to allow those individuals, who cannot enroll in a Standard Residency Programme, to start a training programme and sit the ECVD Diploma examination. The required credentials are listed on the ECVD web site under “Alternate Route Residency programme”: Chalkidiki rules 2005.

According to the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) regulations, it is impossible to grant the Diploma status to colleagues in practice or at a university who have been practicing dermatology for some years, or to facilitate its process without fulfilling the current rules as detailed on the ECVD web site <http://www.ecvd.org> for standard or alternate route residents. An intermediate level of specialisation is absolutely forbidden for all Colleges by the EBVS.

Rosario Cerundolo
ECVD President

Ralf Mueller
ECVD Education & Credential Committee Chair



www.ecvd.org

ECVD examination results 2007

The following people have successfully passed the 2006 Diploma Examination of the College:
via standard residency:

- Dr Sylvia Maya Wilhelm (Switzerland)
- Dr. Pierre-Antoine Germain (France)
- Dr. Meret Rickin Gutzwiller (Switzerland)

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.

New Board (2008–2009)

Past-President: Rosario Cerundolo

President: Thierry Olivry

Vice-President: Emmanuel Bensignor

Treasurer: Richard Harvey

Secretary: Dominique Héripret

Members-at-large: Peter Hill and Anke Hendricks

R. Cerundolo
President ECVD