



EDITORIAL

Welcome to what will be the last printed, paper issue of the ESVD Bulletin. Yes, in the interests of climate change and for economic reasons, the ESVD Bulletin is moving on. From the spring 2011 issue, the Bulletin (and Annual Report) will be available online only. Initially, the plan is to keep the Bulletin in its current format as a downloadable PDF file, but there is a possibility that the publication will evolve into an ongoing, up-to-date news page on the ESVD website. This should make the dissemination of ESVD news items simpler and much more immediate and should greatly increase the scope and diversity of the publication. There will no longer be the cost restraints of inclusion of photographic material. In the past, we have appealed to you for photographs of events, unusual cases and so on, so please continue to bear this in mind.

In addition to the Bulletin evolving, the possibility of an editorial change is also being discussed. Having overseen the publication of five years' worth of Bulletins, I am happy to be put out to grass. So, if this is my last issue, thank you to everyone who has contributed and apologies to all those I have harassed over the past five years; probably all of you. On reflection of the past five years, one disappointment is that we were unable to stimulate members to air their views through these pages. Hopefully, this will be resolved in the future.

This final paper issue has all the usual features, including news on forthcoming ESVD meetings and workshops, and other dermatology meetings to be held around Europe and further afield. We also have reports on activities from various national dermatology groups around Europe. I am very grateful to Manolis Saridomichelakis, Marianne Mellgren, Dominique Heripret, Volker Wienrich, Julia Smith and Katerina Varjonen for their contributions. It should be stressed though, that despite best efforts, there are still large chunks of Europe not represented on these pages so please, support your Bulletin and send us information, reports, and photographs on dermatology activities in your country. In addition to information on meetings there is the usual Abstract Watch and I am indebted to my colleague Hilary Jackson for continuing to contribute this resource. Also, look out for information on a free-to-download special dermatology issue of the European Journal of Companion Animal Studies. There is also information on the annual Ulli Runge Harms award. This award has now been running for around 10 years. For those of you who didn't know Ulli, she was a German veterinarian with a special interest in dermatology and a determination to become a specialist. Like many with families and other commitments who find it difficult to undertake full-time residency training, she strove hard to meet the criteria to sit the ECVD board exams and spent time away from her family studying in Edinburgh, where we met. Tragically, she was killed in a car crash whilst in Scotland, leaving behind her husband and young children. The award was set up to help others in similar situations achieve their goals. The award has changed slightly now, but we are indebted to Professor David Lloyd for administrating, and Virbac for continuing to fund this award in Ulli's memory.

So, the printing deadline looms and I must wind up my inane ramblings, but not without congratulating and thanking the organising committee of the ESVD/ECVD Congress in the beautiful city of Florence. Impressions were that the Florence meeting was a great success with some 540 members attending from 39 different countries and this despite the chill winds of recession blowing around the world.

I hope you enjoy this last paper version of the Bulletin.
Peter Forsythe





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Future ESVD Meetings and Workshops

25th Annual Congress of the ESVD – ECVD

Venue: Brussels – Belgium; Congress Center, Square Brussels Meeting Center
www.Square-brussels.com

Dates: September 7–10th, 2011

We would like to invite you to join us for the 25th Congress of the European Society and College of Veterinary Dermatology in Brussels. The programme and the venue are unique.

The professional organiser for this event will be the AIM Group: www.aimgroup.eu

The ESVD would like to thank our long-term partners (ICF Italia, Merial and Royal Canin) and all the other sponsors for their great support.



ESVD Workshops

You will find details concerning our future workshops at www.esvd.org

Please pay attention to the “new” dates. Some workshops are reorganised and delayed.

Please do not forget to register early. Places are allocated, with priority given to early registrants and ESVD members. Workshops are organised for small groups of delegates (max. 50) and so if you try to register late then you might not get a place.

Where clinical signs and histopathology don't match: clinicopathological controversies

Location: Thessaloniki

Dates: May 12–14th, 2011

Speakers: Chiara Noli, Alexander Koutinas, Lluís Ferrer and Monika Welle

Local Organiser: Alexander Koutinas

Thessaloniki, having always been the epicentre of great developments, processes and events, is nowadays an economic and cultural centre, a vibrant focal point for the Balkans and a geographic landmark between the eastern and western civilisation. Although penetrated by stories of joy and sorrow of the past, today the city enjoys a vibrant urban life, enriched by the largest student community in Greece, the increasing cultural production by numerous museums, organisations and smaller urban collectives and, finally, by the exquisite physical location that through time has enabled openness and inspiration.

Thessaloniki offers its guests a great variety of entertainment and leisure choices. Stroll around the traditional markets (Kapani & Modiano), have dinner in the exquisite restaurants, take a short day-trip to one of the most important archaeological sites (Vergina, Pella, Dion, etc) or spend a day at the beach (Halkidiki area). You can find more information at:

www.lonelyplanet.com/greece/northern-greece/thessaloniki

Thessaloniki is located at the northern side of Greece, 500 km (310 miles) north of Athens. It is linked by air, train and bus with Athens and other European countries. Thessaloniki has its own international airport “Makedonia” and flights connect it with major European cities.

The on-line registration form will be available soon at www.symvoli.gr/esvd2011 and must be submitted no later than February 4th, 2011.

Contact for the workshop secretary:
esvd2011@symvoli.gr

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Thursday May 12th

Dermatohistopathological pattern analysis – Part I
(*M. Welle*)

Dermatohistopathological pattern analysis – Part II
(*M. Welle*)

How to write and read histopathology reports
(*M. Welle*)

Slide session with cases brought by the participants
(*M. Welle, L. Ferrer*)

Definition and pathogenesis of papules and pustules
(*C. Noli*)

Clinical pattern and diagnostic approach to papulopustular dermatoses until skin biopsy (*C. Noli*)
Pathologist's view of common papular and pustular diseases (*L. Ferrer*)

Case presentations of uncommon papular and pustular diseases (*C. Noli, L. Ferrer*)

Friday May 13th

Definition and pathogenesis of erosion and ulceration
(*L. Ferrer*)

Clinical patterns and diagnostic approach to erosive and ulcerative diseases until skin biopsy (*C. Noli*)

Pathologist's view of common erosive and ulcerative diseases (*L. Ferrer*)

Case presentations of uncommon erosive and ulcerative diseases (*C. Noli, L. Ferrer*)

Definition and pathogenesis of non-inflammatory alopecia (including hair cycle overview) and alopecia areata (*M. Welle*)

Clinical patterns and diagnostic approach to alopecic diseases before skin biopsy (*A. Koutinas*)

Pathologist's view of common alopecic diseases (*M. Welle*)

Case presentations of uncommon alopecic diseases (*A. Koutinas, M. Welle*)

Saturday May 14th

Definition and pathogenesis of scaling and crusting
(*A. Koutinas*)

Clinical patterns and diagnostic approach to alopecic diseases until biopsy (*A. Koutinas*)

Pathologist's view of common scaling and crusting diseases (*L. Ferrer*)

Case presentations of uncommon scaling and crusting diseases (*L. Ferrer, A. Koutinas*)

Definition and pathogenesis of skin nodules and plaques (*M. Welle*)

Cytology inflammatory and neoplastic patterns (*C. Noli*)

Clinical and diagnostic approach to nodular dermatoses (*C. Noli*)

Pathologist's view of common nodular dermatoses (*M. Welle*)

Case presentations of uncommon nodular dermatoses (*M. Welle, C. Noli*)

Workshop on cutaneous immunology

Dates: October 27–29th

Location: Hamburg, Germany

Speakers: Michael Day, Claude Favrot, Monika Linek, Ralf Mueller, Tim Nuttall

Local Organiser: Monika Linek

Welcome to Hamburg. Hamburg; the gateway to the world and centre of Northern Germany. It is very easy to reach by train, by plane and even by boat. The programme is exciting and great care will be taken to provide a supportive learning and living environment.

Come to Hamburg! We are looking forward to your visit.

For further information please contact Monika Linek: monika@linex.de

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME**Thursday October 27th**

Review of the immune system

Cells of the immune system

Role of CD markers, adhesion molecules, PAMPs, TLRs etc.

The immune system meets micro-organisms

Adherence, transferrin, defensins, PAMPs, TLRs etc.

Hypersensitivity to staphylococci and Malassezia

Superantigens

Immunity and hypersensitivity to ectoparasites

Diagnosis of "immune-mediated diseases"

Pathogenesis of canine atopic dermatitis

Adverse food reactions

Immunodiagnosics: Reagents (Mabs/Pabs) Serology

Immunoblotting, PCR and genetic assays, immune

function, flow cytometry, in vitro functional tests (PBMC

proliferation, mast cell and basophil release tests,

cytotoxic T-cell assays, oxidative burst, phagocytosis,

Elispot), histopathology and immunohistochemistry

Friday October 28th

Atopy/Hypersensitivity/Autoimmunity

Canine hypersensitivity

Feline hypersensitivity

Blistering diseases

Lupus diseases

Saturday October 29th

Special diseases

Vasculitis

EM/SSS/TEN complex

Histiocytic and lymphocytic proliferative diseases,

immune-mediated diseases of the hair follicle

Sterile pyogranuloma, immune-mediated pyodermas

Therapy of "Immune-mediated diseases"

Forthcoming Dermatology Meetings**GEDAC Annual Congress**

Venue: Poitiers

Dates: April 1–3rd

Topics: Continuing education – Therapy
Scientific programme – Alopecia
and Atopic Dermatitis

In 2011, the French Dermatology Study Group (GEDAC) will hold its annual congress in Poitiers at Futuroscope, a resort devoted to science, from 1st to 3rd April. There are direct train connections with Paris, Lille, Brussels and Bordeaux.

There will be two simultaneous programmes over the two and-a-half days.

- Continuing education: the main topic will be Therapy (how I treat) in dog, cat and exotic.
- Specialised programme:
 - the first day will be devoted to alopecia (structure and function of the hair follicle, dysplasia vs dystrophy vs atrophy, semiology, alopecia in human dermatology with emphasis on androgenic alopecia, cosmetology of alopecia)
 - the second day will be on canine and human atopy: pathophysiology theories, epidemiology, revision of diagnostic criteria and therapy. We will also have some clinical-pathology lectures and short communications

Feline dermatology

Date: June 2012

Location: Majorca, Spain

Speakers: Hilary Jackson, Laura Ordeix, Linda Frank

Local Organisers: Amparo Ortunez and Maite Verde

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

For more information and to see the provisional calendar of events, go to www.esvd.org (education).

- The main invited speakers are Thierry Olivry, Eric Guaguère, Pascal Prélaud and three human dermatologists.

The lectures will be in French.

If you wish to have more details, please contact Dominique HERIPRET (dheripret@fregis.com)

Dominique HERIPRET
GEDAC President

Annual Congress of the German Society of Veterinary Dermatology

Venue: Berlin

Dates: May 27–29th

Topic: Opportunities to maximise dermatological therapy

For the first time, the annual congress of the GSVD is in Berlin, one of the most exciting cosmopolitan centres in the world. The congress is in the Park Inn Hotel at the Alexanderplatz, directly adjacent to the historical city centre and many tourist attractions.

The topic of the congress is "Opportunities to maximise dermatological therapy". The congress concentrates on possible solutions to dermatological problems. There will be an overview of therapeutic options for a number of skin diseases. Medical treatments as well as laser and radiation therapy will be discussed. In addition to the main topic of dermatological therapy, presentations will cover aetiology, pathogens, and diagnostic methods.

Specific topics will include allergen-specific immunotherapy, glucocorticoids, ciclosporin, radiation therapy, laser therapy, behavioural therapy for allergies, ectoparasitic agents, antifungals, antibiotics, topical therapy, nutrition and special diets, vitamin and hormone administration, chemotherapy, owner compliance with allergic skin disease and others. In addition, state-of-the-art lectures about therapy of autoimmune diseases, allergies and endocrine diseases are also offered.

There will be four seminars with limited participant numbers on Friday, May 27th, starting at 1pm:

1. Cutaneous basics: the most important facts about diagnosis and therapy of skin diseases.
2. Skin disease and optimising nutrition: a session about adverse food reaction and elimination diets covering home-cooked diets with many specific tips addressing compliance, vomiting and commercial elimination diets.
3. The dermatologic laboratory: possibilities and limitations of cytologic, bacteriologic, mycologic and parasitologic laboratory tests for a variety of skin diseases.
4. Otitis externa: causes and treatment, including video-otoscopy.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Dr. Volker Wienrich
Congress president, GSVD 2011

British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group

Dilemmas in Dermatology – case studies with interactive voting

Venue: Hall 8b, ICC/NIA Birmingham (satellite meeting for BSAVA Congress)

Date: March 30th 2011

Dermatology for Small Animal Veterinarians

Venue: Online course, Massey University

Date: February – November 2011

Update your knowledge about recent advances in the management and therapy of dermatological disease in this distance course for practising veterinarians, offered in Massey University's Master of Veterinary Medicine programme. Taught by specialist Mandy Burrows BSc BVMS MACVSc FACVSc (dermatology) using a problem-based approach, this course will help you get a better outcome for your patients and expand your repertoire of techniques to help with diagnosis of skin and ear disease. Join a supportive international learning community with purpose-written lecturer notes, online case discussion and interactive problem-based exercises to explore. An optional three-day workshop with the lecturer is held in New Zealand and is also streamed online for those who cannot attend in person.

For more information about this paper visit www.mvm.massey.ac.nz

Reports from National Veterinary Dermatology Groups

The Hellenic Society of Veterinary Dermatology

The Hellenic Society of Veterinary Dermatology was established in December 2004 and currently accounts for 109 active members. Until 2009, we were arranging one meeting every year, that could have been either a one-day meeting (2004, 2005, 2006, 2008) with lectures and case presentations from local and sometimes invited speakers like Claude Favrot, or a two-day meeting (2007, 2009) with wet lab and invited speakers such as Jan Declercq and Danny Scott. All these meetings have been very successful in every aspect (scientific level, organisation, number of participants, etc).

This year, the HSVD organised a two-day meeting on canine and feline otitis held in Karditsa, on May 8th–9th. It included 15 lectures that covered all related topics (from ear anatomy to the treatment of otitis media), three sessions with case presentations, and demonstrations of procedures such as ear canal sampling for cytology and culture, myringotomy and external-middle ear flushing. More than 110 veterinarians and students of veterinary medicine, a number that almost exceeded the capacity of the auditorium, attended this meeting. Perhaps the most interesting and encouraging aspect was the active participation of colleagues that turned many lectures into truly interactive presentations.

Our next one-day meeting will take place in Thessaloniki, on December 4th 2010. The scientific programme will focus on canine and feline pododermatitis and will include seven lectures and two sessions with case presentations from local speakers. The Annual General Assembly and the elections for the new Board will also take place during this meeting and the winner of our first annual Research Award of 5,000 Euros will be announced.

Dr M. Saridomichelakis, President

The Swedish Veterinary Dermatology Study Group

As usual, the Swedes (and, of course, our colleagues from Finland and Norway) are very active in our dermatology study group. This spring we had an interesting meeting in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. The land was still covered with snow and ice in March after one of the coldest winters since the war. Lynette Cole, from Ohio, gave some excellent lectures on ear diseases. She is a great speaker and everybody who attended the meeting had some good stuff from it to bring home. The stimulating subject and good company between the lectures warmed everyone up. We

always ask a study group member to write what we call “golden parts” from every meeting. This letter goes out to all members in our group, nowadays by email of course. For those who are interested, the letter may be found on our group's website.

Our autumn meeting, a meeting with case presentations, was held early in September this year. We had the opportunity to go to England and visit Skipton in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. We were kindly sponsored by Dechra. The weather gods were on our side this time, and the sun shone every day! On arrival we had a very interesting visit to Dales Pharmaceuticals, where we learned how rigorously ingredients are handled to make the different medicines. The next day Peter Forsythe gave us his point of view on how to treat ears, and after that Peter Graham gave us an endocrine update. The case presentations are, as always, such a good way to learn and help each other with dermatology. The discussion this time concerned methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* (MRSP) and how we should manage it. We should be very careful to restrict how we use antibiotics. Several delegates described cases with MRSP successfully treated solely with topical chlorhexidine and the use of wound-healing products. Treatment of methicillin-resistant infections seems to be a very important task facing us in the future. Suffice to say that between these serious discussions we had time to try some Yorkshire beer and eat a lot of good food!

In a few days many of us are heading to Italy and the ESVD congress!

For the Swedish Veterinary Dermatology Study Group
Marianne Mellgren, President

Experiences from Florence September 23–25th 2010

It was with great anticipation I sat down in the aeroplane heading towards Florence and the dermatology congress this year. The UK skies had already turned into a rainy and grey autumn cloud and a few days of sunshine and warmth in beautiful surroundings promised to be a wonderful break.

I arrived into a sunny Florence on Wednesday afternoon. The pre-congress was ongoing, but due to my late arrival I had not registered for this and instead indulged in a tour of the Uffizi gallery. A few others had also decided on this – for a relatively small city the number of tourists was astounding. Nursing a somewhat stiff neck after staring at the frescos in the roof of the Uffizi it was time for dinner and catching up with the latest news of friends.

The congress started on Thursday morning and the registration area was a beehive. Congress registration proceeded side by side with multiple reunions and exchanges of the latest news before people streamed into the lecture halls. The programme this year was both extensive and interesting, with excellent speakers talking in both the continuing education and scientific sessions. One of the highlights of the congress for me was the first morning's genetics stream. We were updated on the intricacies of genetic research and testing, different techniques used for this, and what knowledge has already been achieved.

Infectious diseases and, at least for the practitioners from Northern Europe, the more uncommon infections, were highlighted in the continuing education sessions. During the afternoon I sneaked over to this stream with the hope that Richard Malik would be able to bring some light into the confusion I end up with when trying to sort out mycobacteria. We were well entertained by this excellent speaker and yes, at least bits and pieces of his message seem to have stuck. Life as a dermatologist in the UK seemed a lot simpler than in warmer climates though.

The welcome reception provided a taste of Italian food, wine and a lot of socialising before we ventured into the warm Florentine night for some dinner. Dining outdoors in September felt such a luxury, especially when news from home reported steady rain. Fortified after good food, wine and some sleep we returned to the congress for the next day of lectures.

The following two days were filled with equally excellent sessions covering a variety of topics. One of the more unusual topics for a dermatology congress was fish dermatology. I can't say I would really like to see fish in the consulting room following this session, but

Anna Meredith managed well to overcome our 'after congress-dinner tiredness' and make the exotic animal lectures both interesting and enjoyable.

Florence lived up to its reputation. Stunning old buildings and monuments made up an outdoor museum, all within easy walking distance to the congress venue, enabling you to sneak out for a bit of sightseeing, shopping or a tour of a gallery during lunch breaks. The social programme was very enjoyable and the sightseeing tickets with a guided tour of a palace provided by Virbac were much appreciated. I would like to thank the organisers as well as the sponsors and speakers for yet another excellent dermatology meeting!

Katerina Varjonen

ESVD matters

The 25th Annual General Meeting of ESVD, September 24th 2010, Palazzo degli Affari, Florence, Italy

The president, Aiden Foster, opened the meeting and thanked the participants for attending. This was followed by the presentation of the Ulli Runge Harms award (see Editorial page).

ESVD has been a charity since July 1st 2009 and the election of the new Board was carried out according to the Articles of Association that provide the structure to how the Society operates as a charity. At the start of the AGM four members were present and able to vote: Ralf Müller, Margreet Vroom, Trevor Whitbread and Chiara Noli. They all voted in turn for the nominated Board members Sue Paterson, Sandrine Herbelet, Ursula Mayer and Claudia Nett. They also voted for Ian Mason as returning treasurer, for Luc Beco as the new president and Aiden Foster for past president.

The new Board members were congratulated on their election and for their willingness to join the Board. The meeting was closed by Aiden Foster, who offered thanks to the Board members, especially to the three retiring Board members Claude Favrot, Christine Lowenstein and Chiara Noli for all their work for the Society, and to the members who attended the AGM.

A number of other reports were given during the AGM and the content of some of these are given elsewhere in this Bulletin. A full report on the AGM will appear in the Annual Report.

ESVD Grants and Publications

Research Grants

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 will be awarded by the ESVD for basic or clinical research in veterinary dermatology. Each grant will be for up to 15,000 Euros. Ordinarily, projects are expected to be of one to two years' duration. Applicants will be expected to propose a project of scientific merit that is applicable to veterinary dermatology.

Preference will be given to novel proposals including the development of pilot studies, but applications for support of some identifiable component of ongoing research work will be considered. It is not the intention to provide funds for single items of capital expenditure. All applications will be subject to peer review and must include background information, project aims and objectives, project design and specific methods, and budget, together with an explanation of the relevance of the proposed work to veterinary dermatology. The description of the project, excluding references and budget, shall not exceed six pages.

Successful applicants will be expected to submit their results for publication in the journal *Veterinary Dermatology* and to present their findings to ESVD members at the annual congress. The funds cannot be used for travel and accommodation at the meeting but purely for research. However, the principal awardee is entitled to one free registration at any annual ESVD congress, at which he or she will present data generated as a result of the grant. Payment of the grant will be made into a special account and a budget report will be required by the ESVD Treasurer at the end of the study. Any funds not spent must be returned to the ESVD. Any use of experimental animals must conform to local and national animal welfare regulations.

Proposals should be submitted by April 1st each year for consideration by the grant awarding committee. The successful applicant(s) will be informed as soon as a decision has been reached and the successful project applications announced at the next AGM of the Society. Annual progress reports are required and should be submitted to the current secretary at least 30 days before the Society's AGM. Research proposals (four copies) should be sent to the current ESVD grant and publications secretary. An acknowledgement will be sent.

Proposals should be prepared according to the following guidelines. Grants are evaluated on scientific merit, feasibility, and usefulness. Please note that the Society is not in a position to support the costs of institutional overheads. Submitted along with the body of the proposal, as a separate document, should be one copy of the curriculum vitae of each of the principal investigators.

Grant Awards 2010

As in 2009, the Board of the ESVD decided to fund one or possibly two projects up to 15,000 Euros each.

The Grant Officer, Claude Favrot, asked Keith Thoday, Pascal Prelaud and Trevor Whitbread to review the proposals in regard to relevance, originality, clarity of the design, feasibility, budget and ability of the applicant to carry out the project. The maximum number of marks was 300 points.

We received 11 proposals (versus 12 in 2008 and 8 in 2009) and all proposals were of a high standard.

The two best projects elected for funding were:

Intralymphatic allergen-specific immunotherapy in dogs with atopic dermatitis

Ralf Mueller, University of Munich, Germany
12,000 Euros

Markers of the development of squamous cell carcinoma in canine papillomavirus-infected tissues

Claude Favrot, University of Zurich, Switzerland
13,500 Euros

Publications

This year, our Society has published two ESVD Bulletins and the Annual Report. This would have not been possible without the financial support of Hill's and the work of Peter Forsythe. For environment protection reasons, from 2011 onwards, the Bulletins, Annual Report and Membership Directory will be available online only.

In 2009, 129 articles were received for publication in *Veterinary Dermatology* and 50% were accepted. The average number of days between reception and first decision was 43 days. The impact factor of *Veterinary Dermatology* is now 1.543. We would like to thank the editors, co-editors and reviewers for their efforts. We would also like to thank you, the authors, for sending your manuscripts.

Research and Publications officer

From the Treasurer

ESVD Financial surpluses: how much is enough?

Since ESVD became a charity, the annual ESVD accounts are audited by our accountants and the financial reports are published annually for posting on the Society's website. The unaudited figures for the year 2009–10 were presented at the recent AGM in Florence and the paperwork is currently with the auditors. These final figures will be available for members soon.

In recent years we have worked hard to generate sufficient reserves of capital to ensure that we have funds to cover the costs of an unexpected problem, such as the cancellation of an annual congress. We estimate that we need around 250k Euros for this purpose alone. Aside from the costs of congress, our annual expenditure is around 120k Euros and it is considered prudent for charities to hold approximately one year's expenditure in reserve. We also need to reserve funds for agreed improvements to members' services, such as an improved website (30k Euros has been set aside for this), and we have reserved 20k Euros for pump-priming other projects such as promotion of ESVD to dermatologists in Eastern European nations and to younger members of the profession. These reserved sums amount to 420k Euros. Currently we have some quite substantial reserves of around 530k Euros.

We are currently exploring some means of reducing our surpluses for the benefit of veterinary dermatology and our members. We have agreed to co-fund a PhD stipend with our ECVD colleagues and are currently debating other ways of dispersing some of this money. We will need to seek advice from our accountants, as the regulations governing charities may limit what we are able to do legally. We are currently considering a range of options, but rather than simply reducing fees we wish to reward loyal members of long standing. Options include discounts for attending congress or workshops, or reduced annual subscriptions. We are considering subsidising one or more of the social events, such as the congress dinner-dance, so they could be offered free or for a nominal fee for one or more years.

Ian Mason
ESVD Treasurer

The Ulli Runge Harms Award – 2011

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 ESVD–ECVD Congress in 2003.
- Funds supporting the award during its first eight years have been generously donated by Virbac Laboratories. They have kindly agreed to continue supporting the award.
- In 2011, the award will be made at the ESVD–ECVD Congress in Brussels, Belgium.

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 Application Form) should reach the award committee at least two months prior to the annual congress unless late submission has been agreed by the award committee.
4. The award consists of a **Prize**, and a **Certificate** provided by the award committee. In addition, **free registration** for the annual ESVD meeting is provided by the ESVD; in World Congress years, this free registration is 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, provides the **prize amounting to 1,300 Euros** 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 applications or nominations 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 winner 2010

The recipient of the Ulli Runge Harms Award for 2010 was Filippo de Bellis for his study on *Malassezia nana* isolates from cats. Dr de Bellis was presented with the award at the ESVD AGM in Florence. On receiving the award he said:

“I just wanted to say a big thank you for the fantastic job done by my co-workers and in particular Dr Bond for the scientific input. I have always been interested in fungal skin diseases and this study gives a contribution in their molecular biology and epidemiological aspects. I am particularly proud of winning the Ulli Runge Harms Award and I would like to thank the ESVD and Virbac for their generous contribution.”

Absence of DNA sequence diversity of the intergenic spacer 1 region in *Malassezia nana* isolates from cats.

Med Mycol. 2010 Mar;48(2):427–9.

de Bellis F, Castellá G, Cabañes FJ, Bond R.

Abstract

Malassezia nana is a recently described lipophilic yeast that has been isolated from the ear canals and skin of cats in Japan and Europe and from Brazilian cattle with or without otitis externa. Previous reports have demonstrated that significant intra-species variability exists in the DNA sequence of the intergenic spacer 1 region (IGS1), particularly amongst *M. globosa*, *M. restricta* and *M. pachydermatis*, and that certain IGS genotypes are associated with various epidemiological factors, including host disease status. In the present study, we demonstrated that the IGS1 sequences of 12 UK isolates of *M. nana* from cats and of six isolates from Spain (5 cat, 1 dog) were identical to each other and to CBS 9557, the *M. nana* type culture originally obtained from a Japanese cat with otitis externa. Further studies are needed to determine whether other genotypes of *M. nana* can be identified and associated with geographical regions and the species and disease status of mammalian hosts.

The Ulli Runge Harms Award

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The European Journal of Companion Animal Practice – special issue on dermatology

The European Journal of Companion Animal Practice (EJCAP) is very proud to present its new special issue on dermatology. All the articles can now be downloaded from www.fecava.org free of charge.

EJCAP is the official journal of FECAVA, the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations. EJCAP is published three times a year. Two issues are in hard copy. The third issue is an online issue only, devoted to one scientific topic each year. Previous special issues include a focus on ophthalmology and on zoonoses.

Contents

Allergic skin diseases in dogs and cats: an introduction

Halliwell REW

The study of allergy, and of the allergic diseases, has fascinated scientists in the medical and veterinary field for many years. The immune responses are supposed to be protective. How and why does the damaging immune response – which we term allergy – develop?

The immunopathogenesis of allergic skin diseases in dogs and cats

Halliwell REW

Hypersensitivity in veterinary medicine has been recently redefined as “Objectively reproducible clinical signs initiated by exposure to a defined stimulus at a dose tolerated by normal dogs”. A number of different types exist, broadly mediated by antibody or immunocompetent lymphoid cells. However, this represents an oversimplification, and, as exemplified especially by atopic dermatitis (AD), a complex interplay between various arms of the innate and acquired immune systems is involved.

Clinical signs and diagnosis of canine atopic dermatitis

Favrot C

Canine Atopic Dermatitis (CAD) is the most frequent canine dermatosis.

It has been defined by the International Task Force on Canine Atopic Dermatitis (ITFCAD) as a “genetically predisposed inflammatory and pruritic allergic skin disease with characteristic clinical features associated with IgE antibodies most commonly directed against environmental allergens”.

Feline atopic dermatitis: clinical signs and diagnosis

Prost C

Although feline atopy was first described more than 25 years ago, the immunopathogenesis of this disease is still not entirely understood.

It is thought to be similar to that of canine atopy. Cats can develop a variety of pruritic skin conditions including self-induced alopecia, cervico-facial pruritus and eosinophilic dermatosis (miliary dermatitis, eosinophilic plaques, eosinophilic granuloma and indolent ulcer).

Food allergy in dogs – clinical signs and diagnosis

Jackson HA

Clinicians have long recognised a dermatitis which appears to be triggered by dietary components. The first descriptions of food-induced canine dermatitis date back to 1933. However, although we make a clinical diagnosis of canine “food allergy” it is not clear at this time whether these cases are truly immunologically mediated or due to a “food intolerance”.

Food hypersensitivity in the cat

Guaguère E, Prélaud P

The term food hypersensitivity refers to all the clinical manifestations of allergy to ingested allergens (immunological mechanisms), and intolerance (non-immunological mechanisms). Few studies of the immunopathogenesis of feline food allergy have been conducted, so most immunological data are extrapolated from the human field. The list of incriminated foods varies according to local feeding habits in countries where the animals live. In cats, the most common food allergens are beef, lamb, milk, fish, tinned food and dried food.

Flea allergy in dogs: clinical signs and diagnosis

Laffort-Dassot C

Flea allergy is a very common pruritic dermatological condition in the dog. This dermatitis occurs in young adult dogs of any sex. Certain breeds may be predisposed. Clinical signs are usually more severe during the warm season. They are characterised by a pruritic erythematous papular eruption affecting the caudal aspect of the dog.

Dorsolumbar pruritus and lesions are characteristic diagnostic criteria.

Flea allergy in cats – clinical signs and diagnosis

Noli C

Fleas are the most common ectoparasites and flea bite allergy is often seen in cats. The clinical signs are represented by pruritus, excoriations, self-inflicted alopecia, manifestations of the eosinophilic granuloma complex and miliary dermatitis, which often, but not exclusively, involve the posterior dorsal and ventral part of the body. The diagnosis is obtained with the clinical presentation and response to flea control, and is supported by finding fleas, their faeces or taenia infestation, and by a positive intradermal and/or in vitro allergy test.

Microbial diseases secondary to allergic skin disease

Lloyd DH

Allergic skin diseases predispose dogs and cats to cutaneous infections including microbial overgrowth and surface, superficial and deep pyoderma, most commonly involving pathogenic staphylococci and *Malassezia pachydermatis*. These can be treated successfully with systemic and topical antimicrobial agents, but tend to recur unless the allergy is well controlled.

Flea control in flea allergic dogs and cats

Cadiergues M-C

Flea allergy dermatitis (FAD) remains the most common allergic skin disease of dogs and cats, although its frequency varies according to geographical location.

Despite the availability of safe, effective products, treating FAD remains a challenge. This challenge should be more readily overcome once both practitioner and owner(s) are entirely convinced of the diagnosis.

How to treat atopic dermatitis in dogs

Carlotti DN

This paper summarises all the aspects of the therapy of canine atopic dermatitis, particularly on a long-term basis. The principles of threshold phenomenon and summation of effects are underlined.

Treatment of the disease includes first the treatment of dermatoses which are related or secondary to atopic dermatitis: microbial infection (bacteria and *Malassezia*), flea allergy dermatitis, food reactions, keratoseborrhoeic skin disease, otitis externa and pyotraumatic dermatitis.

How to treat atopic dermatitis in cats

Vidémont E, Pin D

Therapy of atopic dermatitis (AD) can be a challenge to the clinician's therapeutic skills and selecting the best treatment plan for individual situations is an art. Cats diagnosed with AD are treated in a variety of ways depending upon the severity of clinical signs, duration or owner preference. Treatment options include allergen avoidance, treatment of aggravating factors, allergen specific immunotherapy (ASIT) and symptomatic therapy of pruritus.

Abstract watch

Potential mechanisms for the hypothesised link between sunshine, vitamin D, and food allergy in children.

J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2010 Aug; 126(2):217–22. Epub 2010 Jul 10.

Vassallo MF, Camargo CA Jr.

Division of Rheumatology, Allergy, and Immunology, Department of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass, USA.

Epidemiologic data suggest that the incidence of food allergy (FA) is increasing among children, yet a satisfactory model of its pathogenesis remains elusive. FA is the consequence of maladaptive immune responses to common and otherwise innocuous food antigens. Concurrent with the increase in FA is an epidemic of vitamin D deficiency (VDD) caused by several factors, especially decreased sunlight/UVB exposure. There is growing appreciation of the importance of the pleiotropic hormone vitamin D in the development of tolerance, immune system defences, and epithelial barrier integrity. We propose a “multiple-hit” model in which VDD in a developmentally critical period increases susceptibility to colonisation with abnormal intestinal microbial flora and gastrointestinal infections, contributing to abnormal intestinal barrier permeability and excess and inappropriate exposure of the immune system to dietary allergens. A compounding effect (and additional “hit”) of VDD is the promotion of a pro-sensitisation immune imbalance that might compromise immunologic tolerance and contribute to FA. We propose that early correction of VDD might promote mucosal immunity, healthy microbial ecology, and allergen tolerance and thereby blunt the FA epidemic in children.

Mechanism of action and clinical benefits of colloidal oatmeal for dermatologic practice.

J Drugs Dermatol. 2010 Sep;9(9):1116–20.

Cerio R, Dohil M, Jeanine D, Magina S, Mahé E, Stratigos AJ.

Department of Dermatology, Barts & The London NHS Trust, Royal London Hospital, London, UK.

Colloidal oatmeal has a long history of beneficial use in dermatology. It is a natural product that has an excellent safety record and has demonstrated efficacy for the treatment of atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, drug-induced rash and other conditions. In recent years, in vitro and in vivo studies have begun to elucidate the multiple mechanisms of action of naturally derived colloidal oatmeal. Evidence now describes its molecular mechanisms of anti-inflammatory and antihistaminic activity. The avenanthramides, a recently described component of whole oat grain, are responsible for many of these effects. Studies have demonstrated that avenanthramides can inhibit the activity of nuclear factor kappaB and the release of proinflammatory cytokines and histamine, well-known key mechanisms in the pathophysiology of inflammatory dermatoses. Topical formulations of natural colloidal oatmeal should be considered an important component of therapy for atopic dermatitis and other conditions and may allow for reduced use of corticosteroids and calcineurin inhibitors.

Missing C-terminal filaggrin expression, NFkappaB activation and hyperproliferation identify the dog as a putative model to study epidermal dysfunction in atopic dermatitis.

Exp Dermatol. 2010 Aug;19(8):e343–6.

Chervet L, Galichet A, McLean WH, Chen H, Suter MM, Roosje PJ, Müller EJ.

Filaggrin loss-of-function mutations resulting in C-terminal protein truncations are strong predisposing factors in human atopic dermatitis (AD). To assess the possibility of similar truncations in canine AD, an exclusion strategy was designed on 16 control and 18 AD dogs of various breeds. Comparative immunofluorescence microscopy was performed with an antibody raised against the canine filaggrin C-terminus and a commercial N-terminal antibody. Concurrent with human AD-like features such as generalised NFkappaB activation and hyperproliferation, four distinctive filaggrin expression patterns were identified in non-lesional skin. It was found that 10/18 AD dogs exhibited an identical pattern for both antibodies, with comparable (category I, 3/18) or reduced (category II, 7/18) expression to that of controls. In contrast, 4/18 dogs displayed aberrant large vesicles revealed by the C-terminal but not the N-terminal antibody (category III), while 4/18 showed a control-like N-terminal expression but lacked the C-terminal protein (category IV). The missing C-terminal filaggrin in category IV strongly points towards loss-of-function mutations in 4/18 (22%) of all AD dogs analysed.

Resistant pathogen-associated skin and skin-structure infections: antibiotic options.

Expert Rev Anti Infect Ther. 2010 Sep;8(9):1019–36.

Curcio D.

Instituto Sacre Cour, Infectología Institucional SRL, Buenos Aires, Argentina. djcurcio@gmail.com

Complicated skin and skin-structure infections (cSSSIs) are among the most common infections treated in the hospital setting. They are a significant clinical problem, partially owing to increasing resistance of infecting bacteria to current antibiotic therapies (nosocomial and community-acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, extended spectrum beta-lactamase-producing-Enterobacteriaceae, and multidrug-resistant [MDR] *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, among others). The optimal choice of antibacterial therapy among the few available options for infections caused by MDR pathogens is fundamental to maximise clinical effectiveness and minimise the likelihood of further resistance development. Few antimicrobial agents are currently available to treat MDR bacteria in cSSSIs. In this context, the use of new antibiotic agents (i.e., linezolid, daptomycin and tigecycline) and the optimisation of the pharmacodynamic targets of classic antibiotics (i.e., carbapenems) is one potential solution to these problems, and some of these agents are highlighted in this article. The purpose of this article is to provide clinicians with an evidence-based review of MDR pathogens causing cSSSIs, the implications of resistance to currently used drug therapy, and to identify new therapeutic options for resistant pathogens causing cSSSIs.

Streptococcal infection in dogs: a retrospective study of 393 cases.

Vet Pathol. 2010 May;47(3):387-95. Epub 2009 Dec 31.

Lamm CG, Ferguson AC, Lehenbauer TW, Love BC.

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Cathy.lamm@okstate.edu

Streptococcus spp are opportunistic pathogens that normally reside in the upper respiratory, intestinal, lower urinary, and genital tracts, but can cause localised infection or septicemia in dogs of all ages. A retrospective study of streptococcal infection in 393 dogs was conducted to identify the species of *Streptococcus* isolated, determine demographics of affected dogs, and characterise the disease processes associated with infection. The major streptococcal species isolated were *S. canis* (88 cases, 22.4%), *S. dysgalactiae* ssp *equisimilis* (13, 3.3%), and *S. equi* ssp *zooepidemicus* (4, 1.0%). Sex was not a risk factor ($P > .30$). Fetuses and neonates were more likely to have streptococcal infection than were other age groups ($P < .001$). Streptococcal septicemia was considered an important cause of abortion and neonatal death and was isolated from all samples submitted for aerobic culture from dogs in that age group. There was a seasonal trend, with dogs more likely to have streptococcal infection in summer months. In dogs for which a disease process was identified, streptococcal infection was associated with dermatitis (29 dogs), pneumonia (24 dogs), adult septicemia (13 dogs), and fetal/neonatal septicemia leading to abortion or neonatal death (16 dogs). Identification of other clinically significant bacterial, viral, fungal, and parasitic organisms was common (267 of 393 dogs, 68%), especially in dogs with dermatitis or pneumonia. Infection with *Streptococcus* spp should be considered in the differential diagnosis in cases of abortion, septicemia, dermatitis, and pneumonia in dogs. Clinical significance of isolation of streptococcal organisms should be interpreted in context of clinical signs and pathologic findings.

Hilary A. Jackson

WAVD Corner

WAVD stands for World Association for Veterinary Dermatology, which is the new name for WCVDA, the World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology Association. WAVD is a non-profit organisation, and is a federation of veterinary dermatology organisations on a worldwide basis:

- For Europe: ESVD and ECVD
- For North America: AAVD, ACVD and CAVD
- For Asia: the Asian Society of Veterinary Dermatology (ASVD), a new entry!
- For Australia and New Zealand: the Dermatology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (DCACVS), another new entry!

The Board of WAVD is composed of representatives from the constituent organisations, the officers and the past-presidents of the previous World Congresses of Veterinary Dermatology. The current officers are:

- President: Didier Noël Carlotti
- Secretary: Dr. Kenneth Kwochka
- Treasurer: Prof. David Lloyd

The roles of WAVD are:

- The organisation of the World Congresses of Veterinary Dermatology, including the selection of locations and facilities and the selection of officers and committee chairs
- Allocation of a share of the World Congress surplus to the constituent organisations
- The improvement of the knowledge and progress in veterinary dermatology in countries not represented by the constituent organisations

The next **World Veterinary Dermatology Congress** will be held in Vancouver, Canada, 24–28 July 2012. Please refer to the web page www.vetdermvancouver.com for any information. The congress will feature:

- State-of-the-Art lectures
- Supporting Reviews and Original Studies
- Advanced and General Programme
- Feline, Equine and Exotic Programme
- Cytology and Histology Wetlabs
- Workshops
- Free Communications and Posters
- Science and Industry Day with Company Symposia

- ISVD Pre-Congress meeting

We are thankful to the sponsors that have already committed to this congress:

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Chiara Noli
ESVD Representative

ECVD Corner

ECVD examination results 2010

This year, 15 candidates sat the ECVD diploma examination in Zurich (Vetsuisse Faculty). Nine candidates passed the examination, and I am very happy to introduce to you our new members who, in alphabetical order, are:

Susanne Ahman (mentor: Kerstin Bergvall)

Petra Bizikova (mentors: Thierry Olivry and Marcy Murphy)

Filippo De Bellis (mentors: Ross Bond, Anke Hendricks, Annette Loeffler)

Carla Dedola (mentor: Keith Thoday)

Domenico Santoro (mentor: Karen Campbell)

Britta Schnabl (mentor: Ralf Mueller)

Katrin Timm (mentors: Petra Roosje and Siliva Rufenacht)

Nina Thom (mentor: Monika Linek)

Giordana Zanna (mentors: Már Bardagi and Lluís Ferrer)

The ECVD is therefore growing, as we now have 82 members! If you want to contact a Diplomate, please go to the website www.ecvd.org where you can find the complete membership list.

Dermatology residency available

If you are interested in a residency, please have a look at our website www.ecvd.org and go to “ECVD residency details” where you can find out about approved ECVD programmes and any positions available.

ECVD Diplomates are now recognised in France

Since July 2010, due to the hard work of a few Diplomates, and notably Didier-Noel Carlotti, DipECVD working in France are now officially recognised as specialists.

Title abuse

The President of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology would like to remind all persons who have successfully passed the Alternative Route Part I exam of the ECVD (now named “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” etc. is therefore absolutely forbidden.

Current ECVD Board (2010–2011)

Past-President: Thierry Olivry (USA)

President: Emmanuel Bensignor

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Secretary: Monika Linek

Members at large: Jacques Fontaine and Alex Koutinas

Congresses

ECVD co-organises with ESVD a congress each year.

Next year’s congress will be in Brussels. See elsewhere in this Bulletin for more information or go to the websites www.ecvd.org and www.esvd.org

Emmanuel Bensignor

President ECVD