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**ESVP president corner**

*Wolfgang Baumgärtner*

**There is light at the end of the tunnel**

I closed my comment in the last newsletter by referring to the song by Eric Idle, a founding member of Monty Python, "Always look on the bright side of life". Actually, since then we can look more hopefully in the future. Several vaccines, have almost passed the final check and will be ready to be applied very soon. Frankly, I am convinced they will be already broadly applied when this newsletter will be published.



It is amazing how fast the scientific community generated and applied new vaccine concepts and there are more to come. Numerous other approaches are still in the pipeline and it will be interesting to see which concepts might be the solution for the future. The successful vaccine developments have also

opened the door for completely different strategies ranging from conventional to molecular sophisticated concepts. I am sure the lessons we have and are still learning from the COVID-19 pandemic will be a blueprint for coming challenges and pandemics. Moreover, how vaccine development and application was approved underlines strongly the concepts of good science and emphasis undoubtedly the need for evidence based medicine. Still it needs to be determined how long vaccine-induced protection will last, however I am sure this will also be handled in a scientific sound approach. Overall, the last months have stressed the importance of good science and evidence-based medicine not only within the scientific community but also in the broad public and among laypersons.

Vaccine development includes analysis of protection by triggering a humoral and cellular immune response and, simultaneously, considering potential vaccine related risks. The latter include various components including pathological alterations. Interestingly when you read carefully the abundant literature about COVID-19 you will easily recognize publications with a trustworthy pathological analysis, stressing the importance of excellent training in pathology and its application to new and so far not explored diseases.

Besides all the success on the vaccine front our daily life has not changed very much so far. There were times of hope in the summer and there a periods of setbacks as in late autumn and this winter with lockdowns of varying severity. It seems we already become accustomed to this new rules which limited our daily personal and professional life substantially. Frankly, maybe they are acceptable for shopping, football games and parties but they are hard to accept for training and teaching graduate students and residents. Veterinary medicine and pathology depend on theory and practical skills and especially the latter require face to face interactions and cannot be thought via TEAMS or other digital teaching tools. In





In addition, scientific networks and individual interactions and communication are difficult to accomplish via computer or when wearing masks. We are all experiencing similar problems but might have different solutions. Therefore, I strongly support the idea of our Editor-in-Chief, Sanja Aleksic-Kovacevic, to ask all contributors of the different corners of our newsletter to express, address and/or comment current problems we are facing regarding online ESVP/ECVP meetings and limitations or advantages with practical training and workshops and for how long we could work like this? I am sure the feedback from various regions in Europe could be helpful for us to reflect our own accomplishments or the lack of it and might provide some hints what could be improved or changed.

Regardless of the various concepts, we all are doing our best and I am glad that we will be vaccinated in the next months and we will get back our normal private and professional life again.

Stay healthy and think positive

Yours, Wolfgang

Other specialties will follow in the new year. Idexx UK have also agreed to invite ESVP members to join their interesting case discussions too; more details will be circulated by email about the first session in January. Does your institution have a similar event that would be of interest to ESVP members? If so, please get in contact.



Obviously, many of us are not just concerned with provision of continuing education, but undergraduate education too, in sometimes challenging circumstances. Here at Liverpool, we are using a blended approach, with some online learning and some face to face teaching; additional PPE, and smaller groups of students has allowed us to continue teaching anatomy and pathology practical classes, as well as husbandry and clinical rotations. There have been some positive outcomes to being made to “think outside the box” about what, why and how we teach what we do, and how we can best use resources. Some of these new ideas will remain after Covid-19 is hopefully long gone.... although not many of us will miss the extra PPE!

**ESVP Secretary Corner**

*Gail Leeming*

We have all missed the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones at our Congress this year. In addition to the “social distancing” the opportunity for continuing education at the congress was lost, and so the society has been trying to provide alternatives. One way of doing this is to facilitate the sharing of case discussions, or “grand rounds” events that occur at many institutions, with a wider audience. The University of Hannover has started this off, inviting us all to join their ophthamo(patho)logy rounds, and







**Treasurer's corner**

*Reinie Dijkman*

For a starting treasurer times are easy. The members are paying their fees and nothing else happens. So, what are the usual expenses that ESVP uses its money for? A large amount of money each year goes to the poster prizes and awards at the congress, and to bursaries for residents visiting the ECVP summer school. The website, with all kinds of below surface functionalities is also a regular spending post and admittedly, this has not changed this year. The face-to-face-meetings of the Council twice a year is also a regular. We had our last face-to-face-meeting in Berlin last March, and COVID-19 was already a hot topic, with everyone waiting for the first shoe to drop in their respective countries. A real-life signature was necessary at the bank, and for foreigners the German banks are an adventure in themselves. Thank you all for using the full abilities of online payment methods including the new credit card system.



She passed the European College of Veterinary Pathologist (ECVP) board exam in 2010. Elena has a special interest in oral pathology, genital and endocrine oncologic pathology. In 2018 she also had a sabbatical at UC Davis working with Professor Brian Murphy on oral pathology.

Elena is part of the ESVP board as a councillor. She would like to give her contribution to the Society through the organization of seminars for continuing education and meetings for the discussion of interesting cases. She strongly believes in the “democratization” of knowledge and in the collaboration among people and institutions. As a new member of the board is also opened to help with everything else.

Hiking, traveling, photography and handcrafting are her main activities during the free time.



**Meet ESVPs new board member**

*Elena Riccardi*

Dr Elena Riccardi graduated from the University of Milan (Italy) in 2002 and started working at the Department of Pathology, University of Milan, firstly as a student fellow of the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research, then as a PhD student and then as a pathology resident in 2004. Her research topic was focused on tumours of the genital system of the dog, mainly ovarian, testicular and prostatic cancer. In 2007 she moved to CRO Accelera S.r.l. (Nerviano, Italy) as a toxicological pathologist, becoming Head of the Pathology Department in 2014.



**Meet ESVPs new board member**

*Ivana Vucicevic,*



Dr. Ivana Vucicevic is currently teaching at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Belgrade.

In the past, she was employed in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia





within the twinning project „Institutional Capacity Building within the Veterinary Directorate “. A few years later, she was a part of the project of the World Bank named „Serbia Transitional Agriculture Reform Project “. This project was part of the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA), designed to support reforms in countries in the process of joining the EU.

In the fall of 2011, she got the opportunity to work with third-year veterinary students as a Teaching Assistant. She also gained laboratory experience working in histopathological laboratory and laboratory for TSE testing. Since then, she has been constantly involved in pathological research. Her PhD research was focused on mast cell tumors in dogs and generally, Ivana has a special interest in tumors of dog and cats.

During the free time, Ivana likes to travel, swim and research neuro-linguistic programming.

Ivana is a part of ESVP board on the councilor position and she ready to invest the necessary time and effort to fulfil her duties in the Board, for whatever tasks required. She hopes that her professional experience and education and her eagerness to contribute to the successful work of the board will help the society to achieve its mission and goals.

education at our schools and universities. However to organize high quality online workshop within ESVP meeting could be practical challenge at the moment (slides in e-classroom, virtual microscope, video presentations). Could multipart webinars be enough good a substitution in next years?

Hello,

*If I may say suggest something, I think we could benefit if we were on social media. People right now don't look for information, they expect information to come to them. Websites are great, but not a lot of people go look and check it out. How many people go and check our website? Just a thought...now that we are all going virtual, we probably should also have our own twitter account to get more visibility. Best, Pedro”*

“Hi all,

*I was thinking about Facebook as well as an additional way to spread information to people. Perhaps with a weekly update of information regarding our activities, or from associates activities as well (to be posted after the approval of the page moderator, of course).*

*I'm not a Twitter user, I know that Twitter users update it on a daily base (or minute base!) probably quite time consuming for the account manager... however that know that Facebook for example is linked to Instagram, so one can share posts on Facebook and Instagram at the same time. Don't know if it happens the same with Twitter.*

*Finally, a LinkedIn page could also be helpful I think. Speak soon J Elena.”*



### ESVP - Members talk

#### *How we would organize our next meetings?*

Data gathered worldwide are increasingly suggesting that every meeting could be hotspot for coronavirus infections. Currently we have experience with online





*"I agree with Pedro, have found several interesting webinars and courses via the announcement on social media. Would be a good idea to add them to our communications."*

### Proposal for educational activity for ESVP members

*Elena Riccardi*

This is a proposal of educational activity provided by ESVP as a source of continuing education (CPD) for members. The aim is to provide joint seminars on pathology topics or interesting cases approached from different perspective (oncology, clinical pathology, neurology, diagnostic imaging, dermatology etc..). The seminars will be organized as cases discussion (pathology only) or will involve specialists of other fields of veterinary medicine.

The calendar of the meetings will be advertised on the ESVP website and through the newsletter. The meetings will be on Teams platform.

### National Societies

#### *The Dutch Society of Pathology*

In the light of the COVID pandemic, The Dutch Society of Pathology (NVVP, [www.pathology.nl](http://www.pathology.nl)) celebrates it's 100th anniversary. This society represents human pathology, molecular pathology and veterinary pathology. The strong connection between human and veterinary pathology is the One Health approach, and this is the reason that the collaboration worked well for the last century in The Netherlands. The COVID pandemic might be the best example of the urge to join expertise. The benefit of having such a national society is having a central point of contact between colleagues and towards stakeholders and the public.

Newsletter editors: *Sanja Aleksic-Kovacevic* and *Pompei Bolfa*