

# ESVD - Celebrating 25 Years

Edited by  
David H. Lloyd

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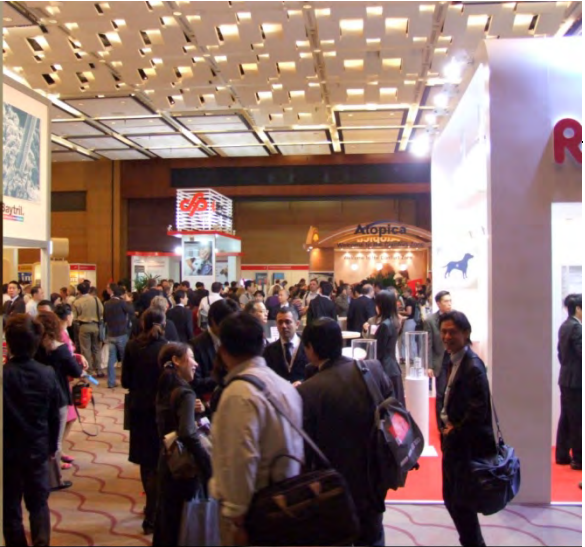
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# Foreword

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*Didier Carlotti at Traben-Trarbach in 1997*

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This is a nice book, which tells a nice story...

Once upon a time there was a group of friends, who used to travel across Europe to meet and share their passion, veterinary dermatology. They thought that friendship and brotherhood would sublimate their profound need to improve, to advance, and to promote and develop their discipline. They had to build up something. Not for themselves but indeed for their Profession and the Service to the Public.

This was a destiny. Many other clinicians and scientists understood the glorious goal and joined rapidly. This has increased and developed during the past 25 years...

These are the roots and the accomplishment of the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology and the European College of Veterinary Dermatology.

The founders and the many successors counted only on themselves, to build up these wonderful tools of scientific progress: a model for continuing education and specialization. What a wonderful adventure, in diversity but unity. Different countries, different languages, different cultures (not so different by the way!), academia, research or practice, one for all, all for one.

In considering the annual congresses, the workshops, *Veterinary Dermatology*, I am impressed, almost overwhelmed by the work accomplished.

You, who will read these lines, shall measure the past, the present and the future of this group of dedicated veterinarians - friends by nature. This book illustrates the past and the present. We will together build up the future of veterinary dermatology, with the same dedication and talent, with the same enthusiasm and friendship.

Long life to European Veterinary Dermatology!

**Didier-Noël Carlotti**  
Past-President of ESVD and ECVD

Bordeaux, August 2009

# 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE ESVD-ECVD

MAASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS SEPTEMBER 2 - 5, 1998

# 15<sup>TH</sup>



Proceedings

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# Preface

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*David Lloyd in Vienna, 2007*

This book was a concept developed when the ESVD Board set out to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of ESVD and invited the Founding members under the leadership of Hans Koch, first President of the ESVD, to bring forward some plans as to how this might be done.

The book was one of those ideas, and it aims to record the development of the Society with a focus on the early years and the processes that led to its creation. It includes chapters by all of the Founding Members, with the exception of Pierre Fourrier who, sadly, was not able to contribute. Pierre was a strong force in the early days of the ESVD, and his quiet but dynamic influence is apparent in the texts written by his co-founders and friends.

One of the aims of the book was to present the Society in images as well as text and so the authors were asked to be brief, whilst including lots of pictures. This has been more difficult than expected. Those precious photographs of the early days have often deteriorated or been mislaid. Thus the quality of the older images is sometimes poor and seems worse because we have become used to the magic of modern digital cameras. Nevertheless, I hope that readers will see the spirit of ESVD in the many pictures. It is fun to see the leaders of modern veterinary dermatology in their early years.

For me, there is a pervasive sense of comradeship and enthusiasm which emerges from the text and persists in the ESVD of today. It is clear that the ESVD is truly a family and that we greatly enjoy meeting together and learning more about our exciting discipline. Chiara Noli expresses this very nicely in her chapter which is entitled, "The ESVD family".

Indeed, I have always felt there was something very special about the skin and people who love skin. Perhaps this is why we communicate together so well. Maybe the lyrics, "See me, feel me, touch me, heal me", from "Tommy", the first rock opera, created by "The Who" in 1969, which electrified the audiences at the famous Woodstock Festival in Bethel, New York, that year should be a kind of anthem for dermatologists.

I should like to thank my dear friends and colleagues, who have contributed to this book both with text and many more with photographs, very much. The time available to put the book together has been short, everyone has been under pressure, and much of the writing has been done at a time when traditionally people are on holiday. Not that the contributors are well-known for taking time off! The saying that "if you want a job done, ask a busy person" has been proved to be true once again.

This book ends on a philosophical note with a chapter by our current ESVD President, Aiden Foster, looking forward to developments in the ESVD in the future. When there is nothing then whatever you build is more, and the dermatological vacuum in the early years certainly spurred the founding members

## Preface

in their efforts to develop the ESVD. Now that ESVD has a solid base, making the difference becomes harder.

However, the challenges we now face in dermatology, and particularly in the clinical field, are as hard as they ever have been. We have global climatic change, migration of disease vectors and new diseases promoted by increasingly rapid travel, new breeds and fashions for exotic pets, and the alarming emergence of multiresistant micro-organisms. At the same time, dermatological research is much more sophisticated and the numbers of research papers published in our field is growing rapidly. The growth of our ESVD journal, *Veterinary Dermatology*, testifies to this.

So, whilst there are more problems, there are also more solutions. Putting the two together presents yet another challenge. ESVD will develop to meet these challenges and I am sure that the Society will become stronger as it does so. I hope that our colleagues in 2034 will have as much fun looking back on the next 25 years as we have had in 2009 putting together our account of the last 25!

**David Lloyd**

Hatfield, August 2009



# Creation of the ESVD

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Hans-Joachim Koch, First President of ESVD, Tierärztliche Klinik Birkenfeld, Am Schönenwald, Birkenfeld, Germany.



“The very first European Veterinary Dermatology congress was held on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1984 in Hamburg. It was the birth of the ESVD which, since its infancy in 1984, has become one of the two largest European clinical veterinary specialty associations.

Achievement of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ESAVD provides a good moment to tell the story of how it began and what it was that led to the conception and creation of this dynamic organisation. Looking back, there is no doubt that the origin of ESVD was based first and foremost on personal friendship and passionate dedication to veterinary dermatology.

My chronicle is personal and does not cover details of the times after the first congress. It starts with a non-dermatological presentation which I gave in April 1982 at the AAHA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, USA, held in conjunction with the Congress of the WSAVA. I had been invited by “Veterinary Economics”, a journal for expert veterinary information on practice management, to present my small animal veterinary hospital in Germany which has an unusual design, based on honeycomb-like hexagons, and other remarkable features.

During this congress I met George H. Muller, the main author and editor of the first editions of “Small Animal Dermatology”, by many considered as “the bible of veterinary dermatology”. He was born as Georg Heinz Müller in Breslau, Germany (now Wroclaw, Poland) and had emigrated with his family as a young boy to the US. At the time when we met he was in private practice in Walnut Creek, California and was visiting professor for comparative dermatology at the Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, California. He spontaneously invited me and my wife, Heidi, for dinner on the next day in a Swiss restaurant which was located opposite to the congress centre. I remember being lost in the deep seats of the restaurant and listening to Dr. Muller. Within less than a day he had made well-defined plans for me and, even then, it occurred to me that he already had rather substantial ideas about what European veterinary dermatology should be like in the future.



*Dr. George Muller*

He suggested that I should train to become a

dermatologist and said that he would help me in these endeavours. I felt that becoming a dermatologist might be impossible for me since I had some difficulty even to differentiate between simple ectoparasite species. But Dr. Muller did not give in. He said that everybody could study to become a dermatologist. But he warned that once the decision to be involved in dermatology had been made, dermatology would never let go. He told me that the initial origins of veterinary dermatology in the US had come from Europe. He told me about Schindelka, a teacher at the Vienna Veterinary School, who published his book, "Hautkrankheiten bei Haustieren" (skin diseases in domestic animals), at the beginning of the 20th century, and Frank Kral, who had emigrated from Europe to the US. Frank Kral had introduced veterinary dermatology to America as a "new" discipline. As a professor for veterinary medicine at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, he had laid the basis for modern veterinary dermatology.

George Muller felt that it was time to take veterinary dermatology back to Europe where it had suffered so badly from the Second World War. He said that he had already been looking for some time for a European veterinarian who might have the potential to facilitate re-establishing veterinary dermatology in Europe.

Six months later, in October 1982, George Muller accepted an invitation to our home in Germany. I also invited a small group of veterinarians from various places in Germany who had a special interest in dermatology. These were highly recognized colleagues, amongst them Ferenc Kasa, Carla Teerling and Bärbel Beardi. George Muller presented clinical cases and diagnosed skin diseases on live animals. My colleagues and I were extraordinarily impressed and created the "Freundeskreis dermatologisch interessierter Tierärzte" (FDIT, "Circle of veterinary friends interested in dermatology"), the predecessor of the German Society of Veterinary Dermatology.



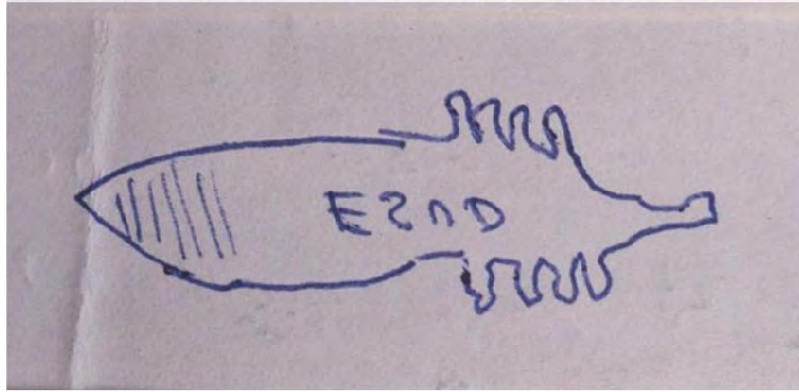
*Paris, 1983. Left to right - standing: Hans Koch, Professor Jacques Crestian (Alfort Veterinary School). Seated: Didier Carlotti, George Muller.*

In November 1983, George Muller was invited to give a two-day seminar on small animal dermatology at the Munich veterinary school. This was an excellent opportunity for us to meet again in Germany and exchange further ideas on the creation of European veterinary dermatology structures. A journey before George Muller's commitment in Munich took us through several countries. We started from our home in Germany and went to Paris, where we met with the prominent French dermatologists, Didier Carlotti and Pierre Fourrier. It was my first encounter with Dr. Carlotti. We went on to Bèze in Burgundy, where we stayed for a few days in a medieval auberge, then to Antibes, where we met with the already well-known dermatologist, Zeineb Alhaidari, and further to Florence, where we spent a day with the owner of the veterinary hospital "Clinica Veterinaria Europa", Pirano Pizzirani, his sons (three of them veterinarians!) and Alessandra Fondati, before ending our trip in Munich. I remember Dr. Muller sitting with Alessandra Fondati in the living room of the Pizzirani family and telling her about veterinary dermatology and what to do to become a dermatologist. As many know she followed his advice very successfully.

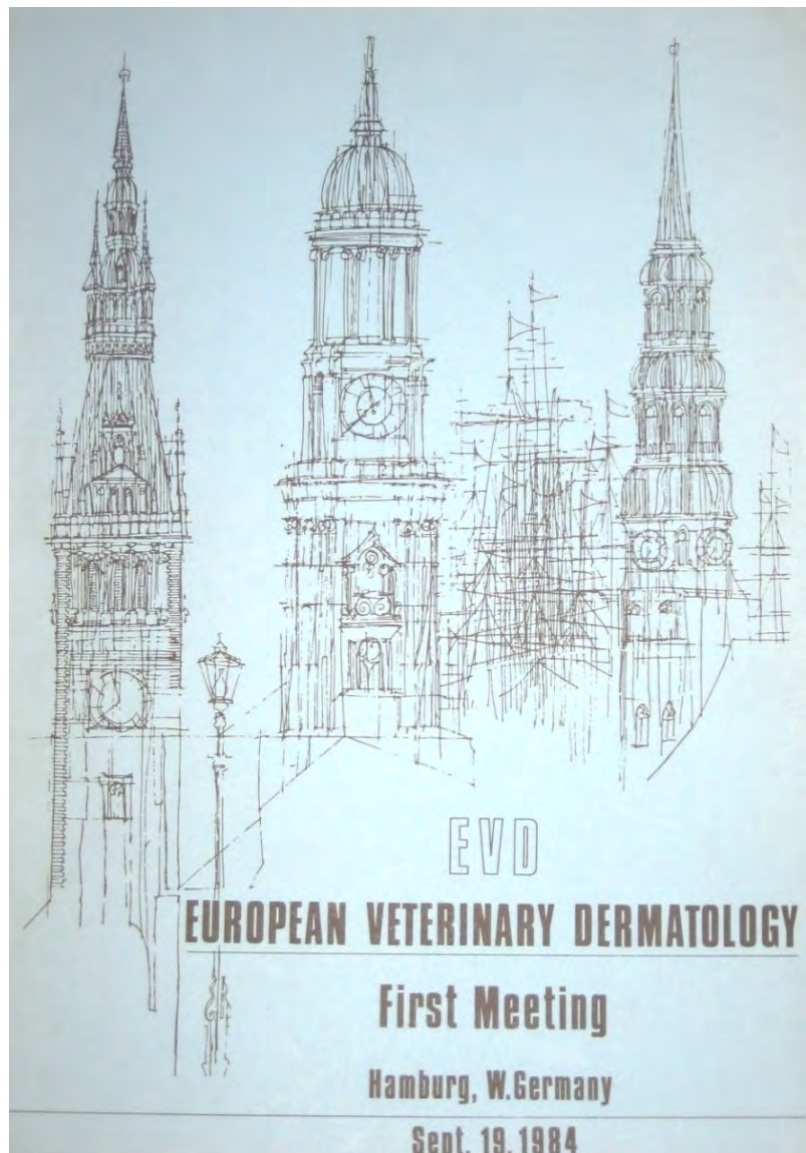
What an exciting trip! Dr. Carlotti, with all his enthusiasm and energy, boosted our morale and our will to create a European structure for veterinary dermatology. Incidentally, George Muller and I took the chance during our stay in Paris to visit the “Académie des Sciences” and search for recently disclosed scientific documents which had been classified previously and described Berger’s discovery and description of *Demodex* mites in the years 1841 and 1843. He had identified them as members of the Tardigrada but had not given them a name.

The days we spent in the medieval auberge in Burgundy were exceedingly creative. We sat in front of a wood fire and reviewed in the faint light of an oil lamp a scheme for a European equivalent to the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology. Annual congresses, financial aspects, the constitution and bylaws – many anticipated developments – were discussed. George Muller even outlined with a few brief strokes a logo for the prospective organisation which showed a *Demodex* mite, although this was never used.

We had a discussion about the name of the organization. Should it be the “European Academy of Veterinary Dermatology” like our American counterpart, or the “European Society of



*George Muller’s rapidly outlined Demodex logo drawn in September 1984*



*Cover of the proceedings of the first European Veterinary Dermatology Meeting held at the 9<sup>th</sup> WSAVA Congress in Hamburg, Germany in 1984.*

Veterinary Dermatology”? I opted for “Society”, the word “Academy” sounded strange to my European ears.

Another point for discussion was whether we should create a “European association of national veterinary dermatology groups” rather than a society with individual members. Bearing in mind that progress in the development and the numbers of members amongst veterinary dermatology groups in Europe was quite uneven, I was strongly in favour of an organisation with members independent of national origins. This would guarantee equal opportunities to individual members of the European organisation.

Dr. Carlotti and I expanded our contacts. He challenged me to arrange a dermatology meeting on the occasion of the WSAVA congress in Hamburg in 1984 and provided me a list of colleagues interested in veterinary dermatology from all over Europe. It allowed me to organize the first European Veterinary Dermatology Congress which took place on Sept. 19, 1984 in Hamburg. The congress was self funded and very costly despite the fact that only 40 to 50 delegates participated at this first meeting.

In order to learn about the status quo of veterinary dermatology in various European countries invited speakers were asked to present a short communication on a scientific subject and on the situation of veterinary dermatology in each of their home countries.

**Reports on the development and evolution of veterinary dermatology** in various European countries and in the US were presented by Ton Willemse for the Netherlands, by David Lloyd for Great Britain, by Anna Rios for Spain, by Britta Öhlen for Sweden, by me for Germany, by Ken P. Baker for Ireland, by Claudia von Tschärner for Switzerland, by Pierre Fourrier for France and by George H. Muller for the US.

**Short (scientific) communications** were given as follows: “Veterinary Dermatology Specialty Practice” by G. H. Muller (US), “Canine Atopic Dermatitis” by T. Willemse (NL), “Benzoyl peroxide treatment of pyoderma” by D. Lloyd (UK), “Squamous cell carcinoma in white cats” by A. Rios (Spain), “Zinc responsive dermatitis” by B. Öhlen (Sweden), “Zinc responsive dermatosis” by H. Rodenbeck (Germany), “Nodular Granuloma of possible fungal origin in an Irish draught horse” by K.P. Baker (Ireland), “Pemphigus in the cat” by C. von Tschärner (Switzerland), “Treatment of *Notoedres cati* with ivermectin” by B. Bigler (Switzerland), “Video about autoimmune disease” by Y. Legeay (France) and “Skin test in flea allergy dermatitis” by D. Carlotti (France).

The meeting was vivid and very successful. Never before had veterinarians with such diverse dermatological and national backgrounds exchanged information on their experience and work.

The founding assembly for the creation of ESVD took place in the evening in the Hotel Hafen, Hamburg. The concept had been thoroughly prepared by Dr. Muller and me and we invited founder members for the ESVD from central European countries in order to save travel costs for future board meetings. The founding members were Didier Carlotti and Pierre Fourrier, both from France, David Lloyd from the UK, Ton Willemse from the Netherlands, Claudia von Tschärner from Switzerland (in absentia) and me.

On his way back to San Francisco Dr. Muller wrote a personal letter to “Hans, Heidi and Dalai (our dachshund at that time)”, dated September 21, 1984. On the back of the first slide he noted:



*Ana Rios from Madrid with Horst Rodenbeck, Germany, during her lecture at the 1984 Hamburg Conference*

*Again we accomplished everything we hoped for:*

1. *formation of the ESVD*
2. *KOCH as Chairman*
3. *1985 Symposium – Paris*
4. *1986 “ Utrecht.*

This is the first document - which I know of - recording “Formation of the ESVD”.

Dr. Muller continued his interest in the fledgling ESVD. On June 16, 1985 he wrote from Walnut Creek, California:

*“I will miss being with you in Paris at the European Veterinary Dermatology Society (2<sup>nd</sup> annual ESVD meeting) – but I will be with you in my thoughts. Hope the meeting will be well attended and a success. ....*

*....Please write me and tell me how the Paris meeting went ...”*



*Above: Roofs in the delightful village of Bèze in Burgundy where plans for the development of European veterinary dermatology, including the First World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology in nearby Dijon, were developed at the Auberge de la Quatr'Heurie and around a large wooden table at Hans Koch's house, fuelled by some excellent local wines.*

*Below: George Muller outside his busy specialist dermatology clinic in Walnut Creek, California where he provided inspiration to many budding veterinary dermatologists.*



In the early years annual congresses were the main activities of ESVD. The founding members worked hard, but always full of enthusiasm and joy, and very effectively in developing the full potential of this new organisation. Close personal friendships were made and continue to thrive.

## Creation of ESVD

Many meetings were organized in our house in Burgundy. The ambiance of the old building was inspiring and helped stimulate good collaboration. The constitution and the by-laws of the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology were used as a model for our own constitution.

Our activities were soon extended to the organisation of CE-programs and the creation of the Journal of Veterinary Dermatology - a particular achievement by David Lloyd. The seeds were laid for the development of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology and the organisational structures for world congresses in veterinary dermatology. With its manifold activities ESVD helped to create a very significant market for veterinary dermatology products.

ESVD has far reaching effects on the veterinary world. ESVD members and those trained by ESVD have helped to improve the quality of life of millions of animals annually - in Europe and beyond - and continue to do so.

2009 brings a moment for gratitude in the recognition that the 25-year evolution of European Veterinary Dermatology has gone so exceptionally well and promises much more in the future.”

# International Impact of the ESVD

Invited comments by Professor Peter Ihrke of the Department of Medicine and Epidemiology, University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, representing the honorary members of the ESVD, and Professor Toshiroh Iwasaki of the Department of Veterinary Internal Medicine, Tokyo University of Agriculture & Technology, President of the newly-established Asian College of Veterinary Dermatology.

## A View from America

Veterinary dermatology began in Europe near the end of the nineteenth century. The acumen, dedication, and prescience of early pioneers led to the publication of 6 books during the first three decades of the twentieth century. Austria, Germany, and France lead. Sadly, two great wars threw veterinary dermatology in Europe into quiescence for almost 50 years. During the decades after World War II, the mantle of veterinary dermatology passed to North America.

The year 1958 marked a key development; the appointment of George Muller to the clinical faculty of Stanford University, School of Medicine. Subsequently, the publication of textbooks and the formation of the AAVD in 1964, the ACVIM-Dermatology in 1974 and the ACVD as a stand-alone College in 1982 led to rapid advances.

During the 1970s, a new vital stage in global development virtually exploded; the burgeoning rise of organized dermatology in Europe led by private practitioners in some countries and University faculty in other countries. National dermatology groups were born in England, France, Germany and then many other countries. I was privileged to view some of these developments first hand as dermatology became the most vibrant specialty discipline in Europe spreading like wild fire (fogo selvagem) and revitalizing dermatology on the world stage.



*The poster exhibition hall at the Bordeaux Congress was named after Peter Ihrke*



*The first board of the ESVD meeting in Paris in 1985. Left to right: Ton Willemse (Vice-president), Hans Koch (President), David Lloyd (Secretary), Didier Carlotti (Treasurer), Claudia von Tscherner (Meeting Secretary) and Pierre Fourrier (Membership Secretary).*

The ESVD was born during this period of incredible excitement and creativity. The surnames Koch, Carlotti, Lloyd, Fourrier, Willemse, and von Tschärner are so iconic in veterinary dermatology that given names will always be superfluous, *globally*. Conversely, in our world, the invocation of their given names needs no surname. Madonna who? Twenty-five years later, many others in Europe could readily go by just one name; I chose these as they founded, nurtured and wisely raised the ESVD. Fortunately for the ESVD, and for our world, while these giants remain connected, new giants have emerged. The ESVD remains a vibrant key player on the world stage, remembering its past, but looking towards its future. It is indeed an honour and privilege to be an honorary member.

**Professor Peter J. Ihrke, V.M.D., Dipl. A.C.V.D**

## ESVD's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

I am most pleased to know that ESVD is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. It was the year 1993 when I visited Aalborg, Denmark to attend my first ESVD annual meeting, and that was my first opportunity to familiarize myself with European culture and the ESVD itself. Even though I cannot recall the scientific topics that were presented there, I still have extremely fond memories of the tent where I experienced a wonderful traditional Gala dinner. Although I had almost no acquaintances in ESVD at that time, I was able to gain many friends in veterinary dermatology after the Gala dinner.

We, Asian veterinarians, established the Asian Society of Veterinary Dermatology (AISVD) in 2003 with the objective of improving veterinary dermatology in Asia, using ESVD as our model. Although Asia has a diverse cultural background and a rich history, we were able to find several similarities between Asia and Europe. We recognize that we have to strengthen not only the foundation of our organisation but also the individual capabilities of veterinary dermatologists.

I sincerely hope that the AISVD would follow the footsteps of ESVD and be able to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well.

**Toshiroh Iwasaki, DVM, PhD, Dip AISVD**



*The Japanese group in the tent at the wonderfully atmospheric Viking Party held at the site of the ancient Viking burial ground and settlement at Lindholm Høje near Aalborg at the ESVD 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Congress in 1993. On the left in the foreground are: Etsuko and Toshiroh Iwasaki; on the right is Professor Munetsugu Ogata, a founder of Japanese veterinary dermatology and behind him Dr. Oyamada and Dr Kurosaki.*



# The ESVD Family

Dr. Chiara Noli, Via Vocaturo 13, Peveragno (CN), Italy.

I was asked by David Lloyd to contribute to this booklet with a chapter on membership statistics – quite a dry topic. “Keep it personal!” was his most important recommendation... how can you keep statistics personal??? I will try - I hope I will not get too nostalgic.

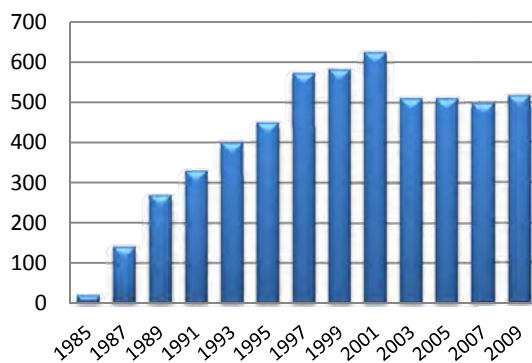
Well, I met Veterinary Dermatology exactly 20 years ago, in the autumn of 1989, in the person of Lluís Ferrer, to whom I will be forever indebted. And, as Hans Koch (another person to whom I will be forever indebted\*) recently wrote, once you meet dermatology you will never leave it. As a direct consequence, I met the ESVD one year later, on occasion of its second workshop, the one held in Barcelona on cutaneous oncology. This means I missed the first 6 years of the Society, the most exciting ones, as I discovered many years later, reading through the first Annual Reports, in preparation for this text.



*Chiara at the ESVD Skin Biology Workshop in Lyon, January 2004*



*Lluís Ferrer, organiser of the first ESVD Oncology Workshop in Barcelona in 1990*

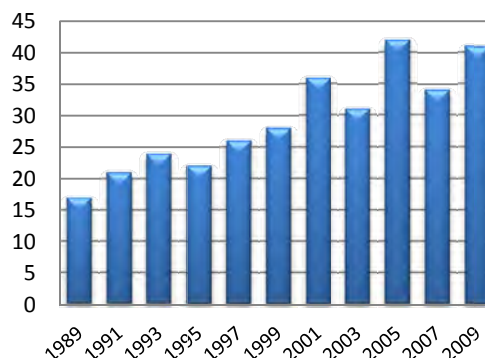


In any case, I thought these dermatologists were quite nice people, I became a member, and I attended the 1991 Congress in Luxembourg. I was then 25 years old (yes, I am 43 now, no point in hiding my age...). I really do not know how, and retrospectively I realize the circumstances were really exceptional, I ended up sitting at the gala dinner between George Muller and Bob Kirk, facing Richard Halliwell. Useless to say that I hardly ate anything, I felt like a small ant between giants (don't forget that the Muller-Kirk-Scott book was almost the only one available at that time – by the way, I had just bought it and had it autographed on that occasion). It was a very pleasant surprise to discover that they were very normal, nice people, and I think that evening probably signed my entrance in the ESVD dermatological family.

Yes, the ESVD is a big family. It started as a small family, a group of 6 motivated persons with a vision in 1984, rapidly growing to a Society of 140 persons in 1987, 270 in 1989, over 400 in 1992 to a peak of over 600 in 2001. From then onwards our number has reached a plateau of +/- 500 members. Just like bacteria. They multiply exponentially until they fill the whole Petri-plate, then they stop. I wonder if bacteria have the same fun as ESVD members....

Because we have a lot of fun! We have fun in attending congresses, we have fun in dancing disco-music of the eighties, we have fun in seeing those dear persons whom you only meet once a year at THE congress. After so many years you suddenly realize that you have become friends! Yes, because dermatologists like each other! Isn't it this special? You may wonder why I consider this special... Have you ever attended a surgeons' meeting? Had they a gun in their pocket they would shoot each other. Dermatologist no, they are always friends! I can give you an example to support my hypothesis: some years ago in Italy there were two dermatological societies. But their members went along so well together that they merged and founded only one! Another example? Well, once upon a time there were some ... ehm ... minor relational problems between the ESVD and the ECVD Boards. But can you be angry with your friends? Not possible, so we decided to stop fighting, found an agreement and since then we have a wonderful, very fruitful cooperation. My personal theory is that this is due to the fact that the majority of dermatologists are women, and women like fighting and competing less than men, but this theory is not supported by all (male) colleagues.... Anyway, the reality is that we feel like a big family.

Countries with ESVD Members



This family has, with time, acquired new, exotic members. In the beginning, in the pre-wall era (for the younger colleagues: I mean the Berlin wall, which fell in October 1989), members only came from 17 countries. Do you know that we have now members from 41 different countries? Even outside Europe, like USA and Canada, Argentina and Mexico, even India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Japan and Taiwan!

The first three colleagues from Eastern Europe joined in 1994 (two from Hungary and one from Poland). Fifteen years after there are now 22 members from Serbia, Slovakia, Romania, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Russia and Poland.... Europe is getting bigger and we hope ESVD will also follow this trend in the next years. I am very glad that the congress this 25th Anniversary Congress, will take place in an Eastern European country. I hope this will carry a good luck and that many more congresses in Eastern European Countries will follow in the future.



*Left to right: Piotr Parys, Danny Scott, Dorota Pomorska and Dorota Lopucka at the ESVD Chalkidiki Congress in September 2005. The Polish group is now amongst the strongest in Europe.*

Talking about congresses, it is astonishing to learn that there were already 140 persons attending the first meeting in 1984, when the Society had less than 50 members! And the following congresses were then bigger and bigger up to the 700+ participants (a real record) in Pisa in 1997! We may be able to perform better at the ESVD Congress next year in Florence ...

So, I am afraid that I have nearly reached the 1000 words that David allocated for my contribution. I only have another 150 words to express my admiration and thankfulness for those who had the vision 25 years ago, and for all those who contributed as Board Members, congress or workshop organizers, society members or congress participants, to create and increase this wonderful group! I think this was a (statistically) significant positive result!



*Left to right: Giovanni Ghibardo, Angelo Oseliero, Luisa Corneghiani, Silvia Colombo, Fabrizio Fabbrini, Teodora Muret, Federico Leone, Chiara Tieghi, and sitting Silvia Schiavi in the ESVD / Blackwell Science stand at the 1996 World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology in Edinburgh. The Local Organising Committee for the Pisa Congress of 1997.*

\*Footnote: by the way, there are other persons besides Lluís Ferrer and Hans Koch, whom I will be forever indebted in regards to my profession: these are Ton Willemse, Claudia von Tscharner and David Lloyd. I take advantage of this public occasion to thank them. Did you notice that 4 out of 5 are ESVD Founder Members? Would THAT maybe be statistically significant?

# Funding the ESVD

Dr. Pierre Cadot, 54-56 avenue Pierre Grenier, Boulogne Billancourt, France.

Already a board member and treasurer of GEDAC, the French dermatology study group, I was elected to the ESVD Board and became treasurer in 1988 working for nine years at the same position. It is not the most « glorious » job but everybody knows that in all activities the financial part is important so I tried to help play my part.

ESVD is a « non profit organisation » and it was essential to maintain a positive balance. At that time no reserve was available and before each ESVD Congress we had to find sponsors in order to build a good provisional budget. Fortunately, we have always received support from veterinary companies. For us it was a new job and sometimes we were in a very awkward situation to ask money like a beggar, especially for the first time. Eventually we became “fund raisers” and all board members used their connections in their own countries. Quickly good relations became established and continual sponsoring by major firms in Europe was organised in a win-win relationship.

At Board Meetings, when we prepared the next Congresses or Workshop, from my sight it was very important that the Scientific Program and also the location were as attractive as possible, so as to have a maximum of participants. Several times we had strongly argued discussions and ultimately agreed to adapt the Programme or choose another place to be sure to be able to cover fixed costs. All my friends would smile when I said that, if possible, we needed a small “profit,” sorry, “surplus”. I had two goals. The first was to build up a security reserve to provide ESVD with its own insurance in case of Congress cancellation due to airlines strikes, earthquake... But we also need funds to be able to develop new activities like workshops or for example to help with the creation of the journal, *Veterinary Dermatology*. With the surplus we created ESVD with the other associations, AAVD and CAVD, supported the “First World Congress” in Dijon in 1989.

*ESVD wine was a feature of the early society which the treasurer permitted. It was introduced by Didier Carlotti who also helped us choose the wine.*



*Pierre at the ESVD Congress in Bern in 1987*



*Pierre Cadot assisting in examination of a snake held by tutor, Max Müller (Bern), at the ESVD Workshop on Exotic Animals at Jersey Zoo in 1990*



Another part of treasurer activity was to juggle with many currencies but fortunately ESVD founder members decided to use “ECU”, the Euro forerunner. This virtual currency was used only to deal in bank to bank transfers but enabled us to unify the day to day bookkeeping and to have the same reference for all ESVD members. Nevertheless for each Congress we had to build a provisional budget with the local organisation committee with the local currency then, after conversion, do the same in ECU to be able to compare and discuss during the board meetings the different costs and results between the other locations. I am sure many “old” ESVD members remember all the problems they experienced with their banks in paying their annual fees in ECU by cheque or bank transfer, credit card being not generalized as they are now.

But in my heart all those “technical problems” are now not very important. ESVD was for me a true opportunity to meet many colleagues, not only from all European countries but also from other parts of the world and to establish strong and lasting friendships. To build ESVD all of us invested a lot of energy and enthusiasm but what we achieved speaks for itself and it was a good and great time of happiness for me. I am sure it is and will be the same with the new generation of veterinary dermatologists, who continue to develop the ESVD destiny.



*Members of the organising committee of the First World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology at the Gala Dinner and Ball at the magnificent Château de Clos de Vougeot near Dijon in Burgundy. From the left: Peter Ihrke, Craig Griffin, Ken Kwochka, Richard Halliwell, Stephen White, Richard Anderson, Claudia von Tscharnner, Pierre Cadot, Hans Koch, Ton Willemse, Didier Carlotti, Bill Schroeder and David Lloyd.*

# Educational Programme of the ESVD

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Dr. Claudia von Tscharnner, Bruehlmattweg 9, Saeriswil, Switzerland.



*Claudia at the Bern Congress which she organised in 1987*

One of the first tasks of the ESVD Board was to create the outline for a continuing education programme leading to the award of an ESVD diploma in veterinary dermatology. We decided to organise workshops with a maximum of 50 participants. Hans Koch wrote in his presidential message in the Annual Report of 1988, that the creation of an ESVD diploma would be the most exciting task to achieve within the coming years. The programme was planned to include both basic and specialized courses covering small animals, large animals and exotic species.

Didier Carlotti as president appointed David Lloyd to be responsible for the continuing education programme and Luis Ferrer to establish an ESVD dermatopathology group. This group became a forerunner of the International Society for Dermatopathology (ISVD).



*Participants at the ESVD Dermatopathology Course, at Hawkshead near London in 1987. Tutors were Claudia von Tscharnner, Thelma Lee Gross and Emily Walder. Many of the current leaders in veterinary dermatology were there*

In 1987 David Lloyd organised the first week long workshop on Veterinary Dermatopathology at the Royal Veterinary College in London, which was a great success. Participants came from all over Western Europe, from Africa and from North America.

Both pathologists and clinicians were represented amongst the participants and there was a wide spectrum of experience between them. The course included lectures and practical sessions using specially prepared slide sets. Time was also allowed for the presentation of mystery slides by the participants. Five more dermatopathology workshops have been held since then, the last one in May of this year in Cremona, Italy, organised by Fabia Scarpella.



*Dermatopathology workshop at Oaklands College, St. Albans, near London in 1991 organised by David Lloyd. Julie Yager, Tony Stannard and Claudia von Tscharnner were the tutors.*



*The 2005 Cremona Dermatopathology Workshop. Fabia Scarampella (standing) Seated from left: Julie Yager, Verena Affolter, Claudia von Tscharnner and Paola Roccabianca.*



*The tutors at Cremona in 2005: Claudia von Tscharnner, Julie Yager and Verena Affolter*



*Students at their microscopes during the 2005 Cremona Dermatopathology Workshop. The ESVD courses have always emphasised the practical component. Generous sponsorship of the courses by manufacturers of microscopes has been important, enabling students and tutors to use excellent equipment. This was especially so in the early days of ESVD further education when funds were very scarce.*

In the ESVD Bulletin, Volume 1 Number 2, published in the summer of 1989, David Lloyd published a detailed ESVD continuing education programme. This illustrates the ambitions which ESVD has had from the earliest days to help raise and establish standards of veterinary dermatology. Although the original ESVD Diploma concept was overtaken by the establishment of veterinary specialisation and the formation of the ECVD, the education programme has remained a strong part of the ESVD and continues to grow in 2009.

## ESVD CONTINUING EDUCATION

### The Need for Continuing Education

The standard of knowledge of dermatology amongst veterinarians in Europe is very variable and, in many cases, quite low. This is partly due to the lack of recognition of this subject in the veterinary school's undergraduate curricula. It is compounded by the rapid development of knowledge in the field and the difficulty in transferring this knowledge to graduates. Undergraduate teaching is improving but the financial pressures affecting the European universities make it unlikely that a high level of tuition will be a continuing disparity between the levels of teaching in different countries and schools. The problem will not be solved by refresher courses because of the lack of basic knowledge of dermatology.

### The ESVD Diploma

For these reasons the **ESVD** has established a continuing education programme which is aimed at the award of the **ESVD** Diploma in Dermatology. The Diploma course consists of a series of basic core courses which must be taken by all those wishing to obtain the Diploma. Individuals may then take one or more specialised courses dealing with individual species or groups of species. Examinations in both the basic and specialised subjects must be passed before the Diploma is awarded.

### The Courses

Course Level	Title	Duration (days)
Core	Biology of the Skin	3
	Clinical Pathology	3
	Dermatopathology	5
	Oncology	3
Specialised	Canine dermatology	5
	Feline dermatology	4
	Equine dermatology	5
	Farm animal dermatology	4
	Avian dermatology	3
	Small mammal dermatology	3
	Reptilian and amphibian dermatology	3
	Zoo and wild animal dermatology	3

This programme began with the very successful Dermatopathology course held in London in September 1987. It was not possible to hold courses in 1988 but the second basic course will be held on October 3-5 at the Lyon veterinary school. It will be a Workshop on Clinical Pathology in Dermatology. Details are given below.

### Future Plans

During 1990 basic courses in Oncology, Dermatopathology and Skin Biology are planned. The first specialist courses are planned for March 1990 in the island of Jersey on zoo and reptilian/amphibian dermatology. Details of these courses will be circulated as soon as firm arrangements have been made.

**DAVID LLOYD**, Chairman,  
**ESVD** Further Education Sub-committee

The second workshop was organized by Didier Carlotti and Jean Pierre Magnol on clinical pathology at the veterinary school in Lyon France, in October 1989 just after the First World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology in Dijon and in the following years courses in oncology (Barcelona 1990, Bern 2007), exotic animals (Jersey 1990) and skin biology (Reichenau 1991) took place.





*Workshop on clinical pathology organized in Lyon, France 1989. Tutors were Claire Marshall, from South Africa, Didier Carlotti and David Lloyd.*



*Skin Biology workshop in Reichenau Switzerland 1991 organised by Claudia von Tscharner. Maja Suter, David Lloyd and David Jenkinson were the tutors.*



*Exotic animal dermatology workshop at Jersey Zoo in 1990 organised by David Lloyd. Max Allen (left) and Ewan Ferguson at the microscope.*



*Skin Biology workshop in Lyon, 2004, organised by Zeineb Alhaidari. Magician entertaining participants at the course dinner.*

## Educational programme of ESVD

Following the courses on basic science, workshops on canine, feline and equine dermatology were organized and lately more specialized courses in immunology, therapy and infectious diseases have been established. The first workshop on otitis will take place this year (2009) in Great Britain.

I have attended many of these workshops as a speaker, an organiser and enjoyed all of them.



*Equine dermatology workshop in Spa Belgium 2008 organised by Luc Beco. Tutors were Kerstein Bergvall, Johan Bröjer, Claudia von Tscherner and Anthony Yu.*

# The initiation of the World Congresses of Veterinary Dermatology

Professor Richard E W Halliwell, 2a Ainslie Place, Edinburgh, Scotland.



*Richard in 2007*

In the late 1980's, a group of dermatologists met in a bar in Amsterdam during the Voorjaarsdagen Congress. The day's meeting had long finished, and most of the restaurants and bars had closed. Those present included David Lloyd, Hans Koch, Claudia von Tscherner and me. One of us (REWH) had most of his dermatological experience in North America, and the others in Europe. It struck us that the two continents were going their own way, with little collaboration and interaction. Progress, we agreed, would be more readily achieved by meetings on an international, or better still, a global basis.

These ideas developed as friends and colleagues met in Europe and America during the following years. The ESVD board with President, Didier Carlotti, was keen to hold the first World congress in Europe and thus on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1989, some 600 delegates from all over the world met in Dijon, France. Subsequent meetings were held in Montreal (1992), Edinburgh (1996), San Francisco (2000), Vienna (2004) and Hong Kong (2008). Attendance has grown with each Congress with 1185 delegates attending Hong Kong. The next Congress will be held in Vancouver from 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

Parallel to these events, an overarching

*The 5th World Congress was held at the Hofburg Imperial Palace in the centre of Vienna. There were magnificent chandeliers everywhere but the high ceilings allowed adequate space. Here we see part of the commercial exhibition in one of the wide corridors.*



*Hans Koch's house in Bèze, near Dijon, where plans for the 1st World Congress were made.*



## Initiation of the World congresses

organisation was created to further refine the philosophy and to oversee the planning and development of each congress - namely the World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology Association (WCVDA).

Founder Members of the WCVDA were the respective European and North American Societies (or Academies) and Colleges, namely the ESVD, the ECVD, the AAVD, the ACVD and the Canadian Academy, the CAVD. In July 2009, two new members were admitted, namely the Asian Society of Veterinary Dermatology (AiSVD) and the Dermatology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists. Other multinational organisations will surely follow thus ensuring a healthy and vibrant future for our discipline.

Thus a meeting in the unlikely setting of an Amsterdam bar spawned a whole new era for veterinary dermatology.

*Right: Gip Hoey from Canada advertising at the Hong Kong Congress for the 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress, which will be held in Vancouver, Canada in 2012.*

*Below: The Hong Kong Congress and Exhibition Centre on Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong, pictured from the Congress Hotel and looking across the busy harbour towards the Kowloon ferry terminal.*



*Richard Halliwell and Mandy Burrows in a planning meeting for the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC).*



# Creation of the journal, *Veterinary Dermatology*

Professor David Lloyd, Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Royal Veterinary College, North Mymms, UK.

In 1988, the ESVD Board recognised the need for a scientific journal dedicated to the publication of research and clinical reports on veterinary dermatology. The title, *Veterinary Dermatology*, was chosen and it was subtitled “An International Journal” to emphasise that it was targeted at authors and readership throughout the world. The language had to be English, official language of ESVD, to give it widest appeal and it was decided that it should be printed in colour and that no charges would be made to authors to encourage free use of colour images. Initially there would be four issues annually. Pierre Fourrier, chair of the ESVD Publications Committee, and I were appointed editors. Pierre took charge of the generation of advertising revenue. The ESVD Board allocated a budget for the launch of 7,500 ECU (European Currency Unit). In 1988 an ECU was approximately equivalent to one US dollar.

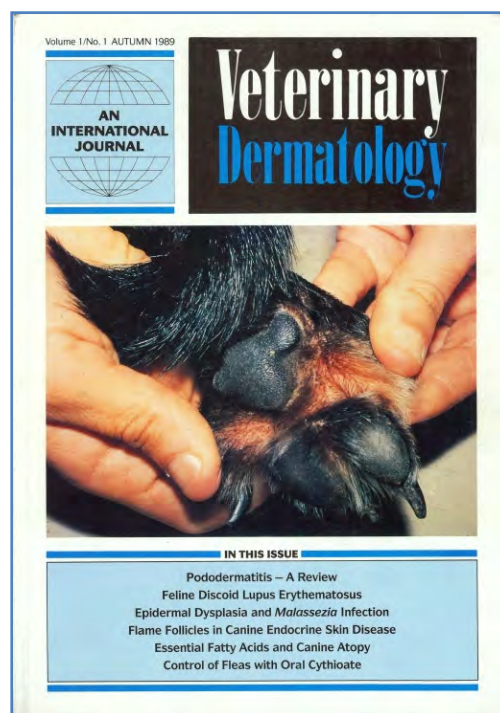
The first volume was created and produced privately with David Parkes, who organised the printing in England and enabled us to produce the journal at a price nobody else thought would be possible. Involvement of Pergamon Press, Oxford, in marketing and distribution had already been negotiated by the current ESVD President, Didier Carlotti and me. Subsequent volumes were produced through Pergamon, whose name appeared on the cover from the second volume; Pergamon met the costs of production and distribution but the journal remained the property of the ESVD.

The journal was targeted to be launched at the First World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology in Dijon in September 1989. The text was assembled by me at the Efamol Research Institute in Nova Scotia where I was generously hosted and provided with library and communication facilities by Efamol creator, Dr. David Horrobin. David Parkes ended up delivering the first issue personally at the Dijon Congress after unexpected delays.

Initially it was difficult to attract high quality papers that could be accepted for publication and a great debt of



*Pierre Fourrier, founding co-editor*

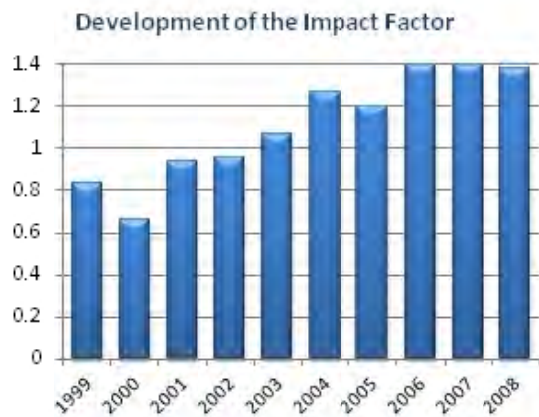


*First issue of Veterinary Dermatology*

## Creation of *Veterinary Dermatology*

gratitude is owed to the early authors who contributed to this fledgling publication. In due course, the journal became better recognised and in 2001 it was able to move to 6 issues per year. A major development was the agreement made with the American College of Veterinary Dermatology (ACVD) in 1991 to share editorship and copyright of the journal, although ownership remained with the ESVD; Carol Foil was appointed co-editor and began a very successful transatlantic co-operation. At that time both the ACVD and the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology made *Veterinary Dermatology* their official journal. It is now the official journal of seven colleges and societies of dermatology in North America, Europe, Australia and Asia.

Production and distribution of the journal continued with Pergamon, which was taken over by Elsevier in 1991, but moved to Blackwell Science in 1996 when Elsevier lost interest. Blackwell proved to be much more helpful in promoting the journal, a Japanese version produced in Japan with selected papers was initiated in 1995 and on-line publication was added as from 1997. It was decided to commission regular review articles and special issues on important topics to increase the attractiveness and citation of the journal and to help to raise the impact factor. Blackwell negotiated inclusion in the World's major listings of scientific papers, and the ISI Journal Citation Reports leading to an impact factor of 0.83 in 1999.



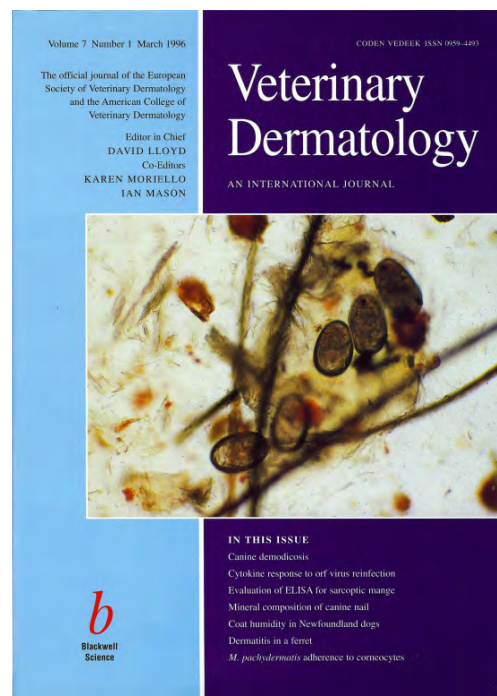
This in turn increased paper submissions enabling six issues of the journal to be produced annually from 2001.

Since the merger of Wiley and Blackwell in 2007, the journal is produced by Wiley-Blackwell, still based in Oxford. Access to material published in the journal has now been further improved by digitisation of all the back issues to volume 1 in 2008.

The increasing workload of the growing journal necessitated more editorial staff. Ian Mason was made co-editor with Carol Foil in 1994 and I became editor-in-chief. When the journal celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1999, I stepped down and Ian took my place as editor-in-chief in 2000. Subsequent editors-



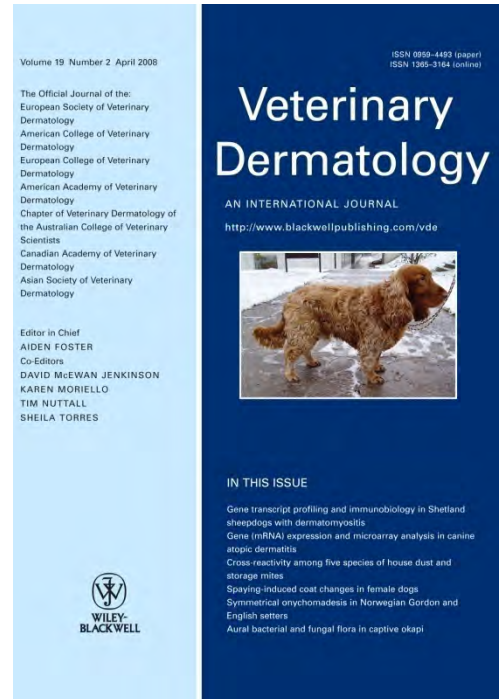
*Japanese issue of Veterinary Dermatology published in Japan by Gakusosha in 1999*



*First Blackwell issue of Veterinary Dermatology published in 1996*

in-chief have been Joan Rest (2004-6) and since 2006, Aiden Foster. Aiden has given a more complete account of the development of the journal in an editorial in Volume 20 issue 4 (August 2009).

*Veterinary Dermatology* is now well established as a prestigious world veterinary journal that is eagerly awaited every two months by members of the societies that have it as their official journal. It has been used as a model for the establishment of other specialist titles and now has an impact factor of 1.38, ranking 36<sup>th</sup> out of 134 journals in veterinary science. In 2009 it will publish the proceedings of the Sixth World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology, taking over from the separate publication of the *Advances in Veterinary Dermatology* series in book form, another important development. The volume of the current six issues continues to grow and I hope that before long we will see the journal appear as a monthly issue as it continues to act as an important organ of ESVD, fulfilling the Society's objective, "to further *scientific progress in veterinary and comparative dermatology*".



*First Wiley-Blackwell issue*

## Here's to *Veterinary Dermatology*

Marion Jowett, BSAVA, Publishing Manager, Kingsley House, Shurdington, Cheltenham, UK.

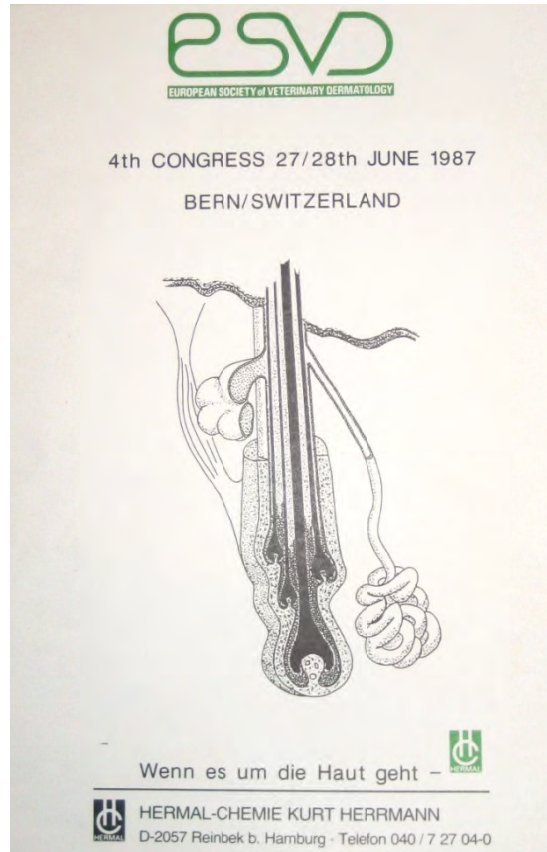
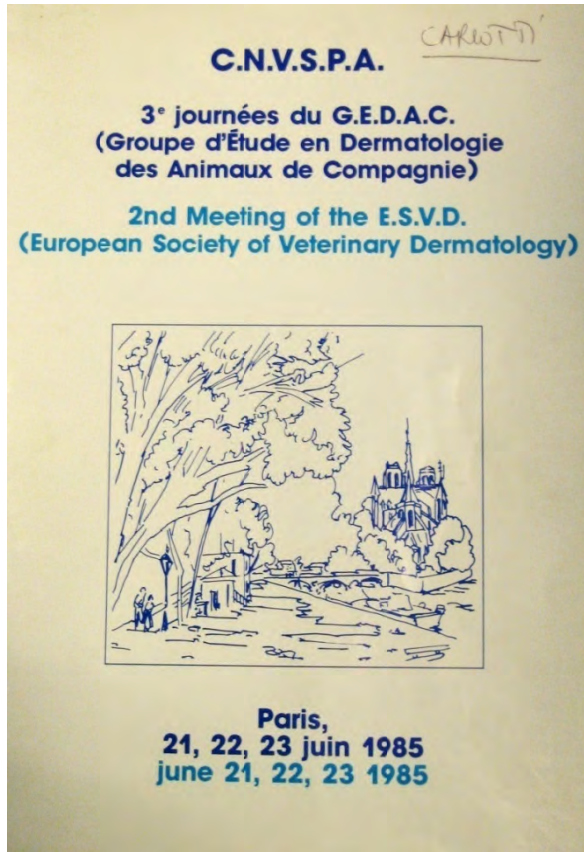
Following private production of the first issue for the First World Congress, David Lloyd approached Pergamon Press about a professional publishing and distribution deal. At that time, Pergamon was still located in the grounds of Headington Hall in Oxford, where Robert Maxwell lived -- 'Cap'n Bob's' helicopter could often be heard arriving over the office rooftops. Following a successful meeting with the Publishing Director, the journal was launched on to the international academic library scene as a quarterly publication. This heralded cooperation with ESVD that lasted through into the Elsevier years. A link with ACVD was also forged, and an American editor (Carol Foil) was installed to work alongside David. The journal featured on Pergamon stands at many international veterinary conferences, including WSAVA meetings as far apart as South Africa and Japan. I have many fond memories of ESVD meetings in Europe - from a very hot and humid Luxembourg, to the very hospitable Danes, to Bordeaux where we were wined and dined superbly at the Château Cos d'Estournel in Saint-Estèphe and treated to an amazing firework display over the chateau. I wish the Journal and the Society a very happy 25<sup>th</sup> birthday!



*Marion Jowett drinks a toast to the journal during a wine-tasting at the ESVD Bordeaux Congress in June 1994. Marion was the first Publishing Editor of Veterinary Dermatology*

# The Congresses

A selection of congress proceedings covers and images from meetings of ESVD.

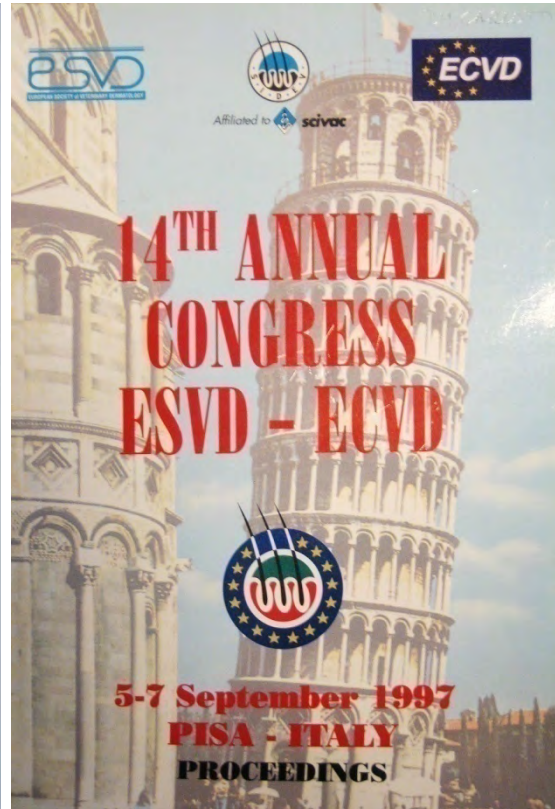
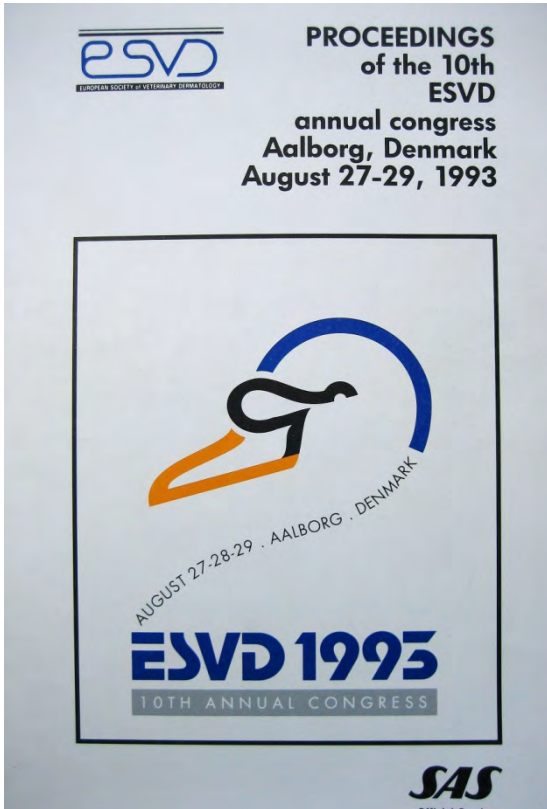


Early congresses were attached to other large meetings such as WSAVA. The first exclusively ESVD Congress was in Bern, Switzerland, in 1987. This was so successful that after the 5<sup>th</sup> (London with BSAVA) congresses were normally ESVD/ECVD in association with national dermatology groups.



Above: images from the Bern Congress.  
 Left: Claudia von Tscharner Margot Fluhr and Verena Affolter . Middle: Tony Stannard and Candace Sousa. Right: Tommy ("Robert") Thomsett.  
 On the left: Liz and Keith Thoday, Anette Loeffler, David Grant, Joan Rest, David Lloyd and Ariane Neuber at the Tenerife Congress in 2003.

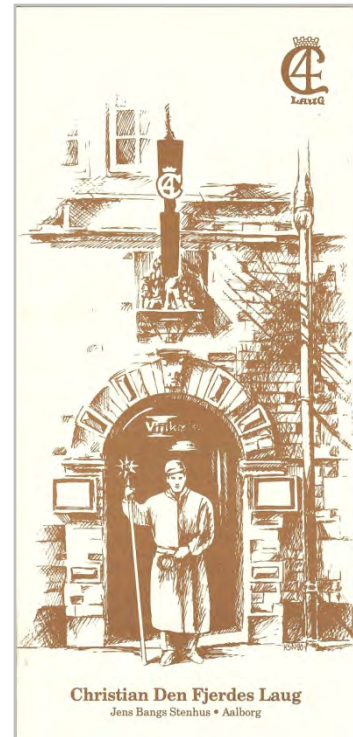


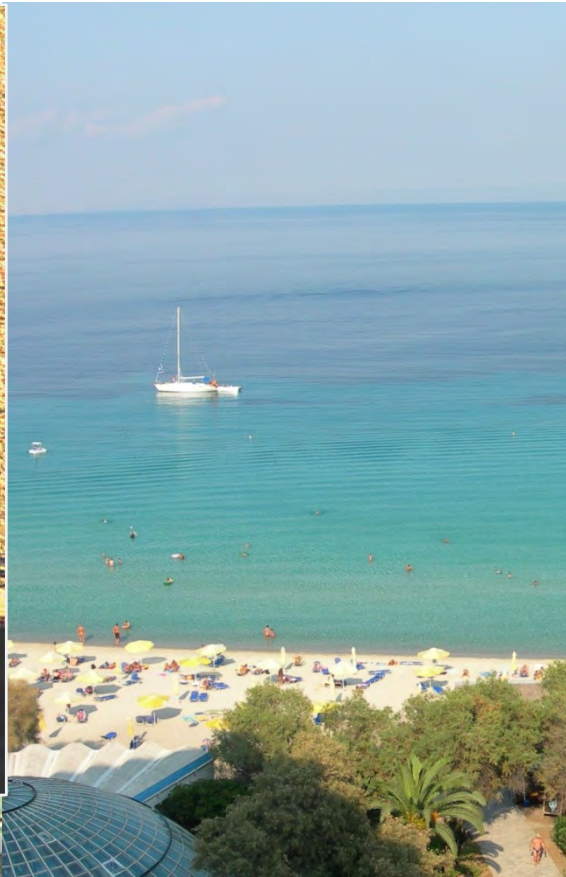
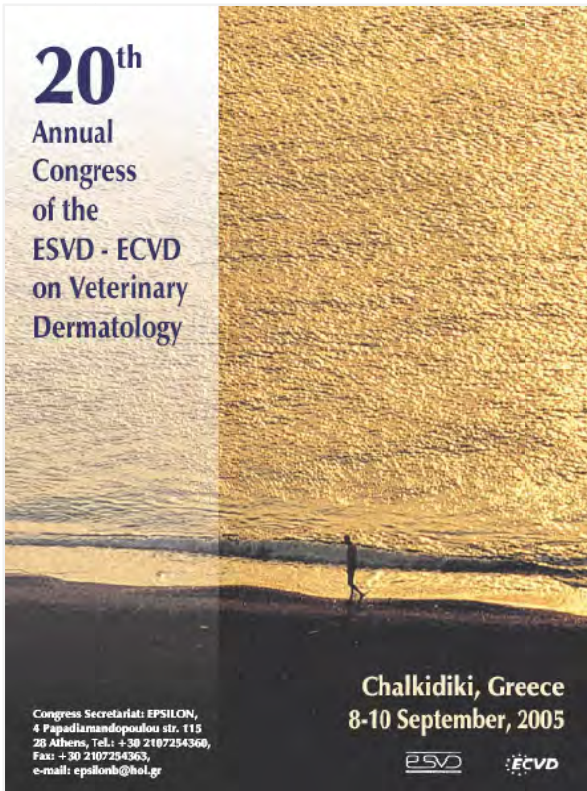


*Aalborg celebrated the ESVD 10<sup>th</sup> Congress with a Viking theme. The society had 400 members (80% of its strength in 2009), was well established and confident. Bordeaux, the following year, was special as it was the first shared ESVD-ECVD congress but is particularly memorable to many for the delicious wines and freshly cooked food served in the coffee breaks. The Pisa meeting was impressive because of the excellent participation of Italians and a delegate total exceeding 700.*



*The picture was created for the Aalborg Congress by famous Danish artist, Susanne Ussing, for sponsors, Leo Animal Health and represents the swan of Denmark and the Leo. Participants received cards with this image. Founding and board members of ESVD were admitted to the Guild of Christian 4<sup>th</sup> charity, a wonderful ceremony which focused a lot on drinking and singing.*





We celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Chalkidiki on the Aegean Sea (above). It was just as beautiful as the guide books said. Left: Commercial exhibition at Mainz in, Germany in 2007. Below left: Pierre Cadot, Hans Koch and Richard Anderson getting into Scottish culture at the World Congress in Edinburgh, 1996. Below right: lunch and networking in the commercial exhibition at the Mainz Congress.



# The Emergence of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology



*Ton at a meeting in 1985*

Professor Ton Willemse, Department of Clinical Sciences of Companion Animals, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Whereas the E.S.V.D. originated from a shared interest in veterinary dermatology and developed into a podium for dermatology meetings in Europe, the U.S.A. remained the reference for further development. In particular the existence of specialists, as structured and organized by the American College of Veterinary Dermatology, became a challenge for the board and members of the E.S.V.D.

The establishment of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology (E.C.V.D.) was proposed by the E.S.V.D. Board because of a general move within Europe to establish a firm basis for veterinary specialisation. This was being discussed within the veterinary profession and more specifically in the EU by an *ad hoc* committee of the Advisory Committee for Veterinary Training, chaired by Professor Toma. David Lloyd was a member of this ad hoc committee.

Subsequently, the structure of the E.C.V.D. was drafted by Ton Willemse and Didier Carlotti and, in addition, Didier prepared the draft Constitution of the E.C.V.D. After editing by the Board, the draft Constitution was sent to all E.S.V.D. full members for approval. The Board also decided that Luxembourg would be the registered address for the College. Moreover, the E.S.V.D. provided funding for the establishment of the College (3000 XEU in 1992) and agreed to share the profits of the Annual Congress with E.C.V.D. to provide a continuing source of funds whilst the College was growing.



**EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARY  
DERMATOLOGY**

**INFORMATION  
BROCHURE**

**COLLEGE PROFILE**

The European College of Veterinary Dermatology (ECVD) is a veterinary speciality organisation recognised by the European Community (EC) Advisory Committee for Veterinary Training (ACVT).

The ECVD was an initiative of the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology (ESVD) and resulted from discussions in the late eighties and early nineties in Europe in response to a growing demand for better specialised veterinary dermatological services and the need to harmonise certification in this area to provide improved consumer information.

Initial private initiatives were later co-ordinated by the ACVT. European legislation and control of veterinary specialisation may be established in the future.

## Emergence of the ECVD

In order to get running, it was decided that the honorary members of E.S.V.D., Peter Ihrke, Bob Kirk, George Muller and Danny Scott, all specialists of world renown, should appoint six individuals as Invited Specialists by the evaluation of the curriculum vitae of potential European candidates. They made their selections based upon the following criteria:

- to be initiators of veterinary dermatology in Europe,
- having contributed substantially to the development of veterinary dermatology in Europe by research, publications, and lectures,
- to be uncontroversial for the majority of E.S.V.D. members, by virtue of their acknowledged status within the veterinary profession,
- being full or founder member of the E.S.V.D., and practicing in Europe,
- having at least 10 years of experience in this field, and
- spending at least 60 per cent of their time in dermatology.

At the end, out of fifteen candidates, Didier Carlotti, Richard Halliwell, Hans Koch, David Lloyd, Keith Thoday and Ton Willemse were awarded the status of Invited Specialist on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1992. These invited specialists had the inaugural meeting of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology at the Linnean Society of London (Burlington House) on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1992. As the meeting was about to begin, an Irish Republican Army bomb scare in Piccadilly sealed the vicinity and isolated the meeting room in the Linnean Society with some members inside and others outside. Those who were inside wondered what was delaying Didier Carlotti and Hans Koch and did not discover until later that there had been a bomb alarm. Despite the considerably delayed start of the meeting, the agenda was followed as intended. In a secret ballot David Lloyd was chosen unanimously as the first E.C.V.D. president. Other items of this meeting included the legal registration of the College as a non-profit organization in Luxembourg, the procedure for processing *de facto* diploma applications, publication of the College constitution and information brochure, College finances, links with other organizations, and the nomination of a credentials committee.

The E.C.V.D. was born with a few hours delay.



*The first ECVD Board. Left to right: Ton Willemse, Keith Thoday, David Lloyd, Hans Koch and Didier Carlotti. Inset: Richard Halliwell.*

# Looking ahead: a New Vision for the ESVD

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Aiden P Foster, President of ESVD and Editor *Veterinary Dermatology*, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, UK.



Since its inception the membership of the ESVD has been drawn from a variety of countries and this reflects the international approach of the founder members. This is also exemplified by the range of delegates from many countries due to attend the Bled congress.



*Beautiful Lake Bled in Slovenia, former holiday home of both the Slovenian royal family and Marshal Tito, President of Yugoslavia, and location of the 2009 Annual ESVD-ECVD Congress. The congress hotel is located at the far end of the lake*

*The declared constitutional aims of the Society include:*

- To further scientific progress in veterinary and comparative dermatology
- To co-ordinate research in veterinary dermatology
- To provide an exclusive organisation for dedicated individuals who devote a significant portion of their professional activity to research, teaching, or the practice of dermatology in animals
- To further dermatological education by:
  - Encouraging adequate training in dermatology in veterinary colleges
  - Providing, by means of meetings, seminars and courses, the opportunity for graduate veterinarians to carry on advanced studies in dermatology

- To encourage and promote improved methods of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of skin diseases in animals
- To provide for the exchange of information on comparative dermatology through affiliation with human dermatology organisations

### How will the Society seek to pursue these aims in the future?

Much has been done in the past in order to pursue these aims: through the annual congresses and specialized workshops, one or more research grants are sponsored each year, and there is the journal dedicated to publish on all aspects of veterinary dermatology. The ESVD has also been involved with and supported the creation of the European College and Diploma, and the World Veterinary Dermatology Congress Association and the World Congresses.

The ESVD has recently become a charity in order to establish a secure financial organisation with a professional secretariat that can underpin the planning and organisation of the Society's principle activities - notably the congresses and workshops. The congresses, workshops and journal are ongoing activities from which the members greatly benefit.

One major challenge to pursuing these aims is that the international community of veterinarians and others who are busy in the Society, the College and the Journal is small and at times it can be difficult to plan for succession given that many of the people involved are very busy.

The quality of the education that the society is providing through the congresses has greatly improved by assigning to the ECVD Diplomates the task of drafting the congress programmes. The ECVD requires Diplomates to be members of ESVD so the relationship between the Society and the College will always be strong. In the future, the Scientific Organising Committees of the Congresses will seek to draw more on the expertise of specialists including from the human dermatology field to speak at our congresses and this will also be reflected in the commissioning of review and scientific articles in the journal from authors who can provide relevant material for the comparative study of dermatology.

All of these activities have been, and hopefully will continue to be, supported by commercial companies with interests in developing products for use in animals with dermatological conditions. In recent years many companies have merged which has raised challenges when seeking funding for clinical trials and commercial sponsorship for meetings. Even so, the Society has been well supported over the years by such sponsors particularly for the annual congresses. This support may reflect that dermatological problems are commonly observed by veterinarians in companion animal practice across the world and that owners are keen to do the best for their pets. Interestingly there seems to have been a growth in good to high quality clinical studies of various therapeutic agents supported by such sponsors. This work has and should continue to be supported by, and involve close liaison between, the companies and Society members, with ideally peer-reviewed publications in the Veterinary Dermatology journal and others as relevant.



*The Holstentor in Lübeck, location for the workshop on infectious diseases July 2007*

The advent of evidence-based veterinary medicine studies, the deployment of randomised controlled trials and consideration of the potential for conflicts of interest when particularly dealing with commercially sponsored research should not form an intimidating barrier to studying veterinary

dermatology. Rather they help to provide a framework to raise standards for all concerned and provide the best quality evidence for therapeutic interventions, and we need to be aware of what these elements of the framework involve. Consequently, multi-centre randomised clinical trials should form a major feature of future studies especially if they can be commissioned and orchestrated by organisations such as the International Taskforce on Canine Atopic Dermatitis which involves Society members, in conjunction with sponsors.

In the future the two most important areas for development are research grants and workshops.

Specialty practices and academic institutions are in an increasingly competitive market when it comes to applying for research funding. In recent years the Society has given small but growing sums of money to support such research studies. High quality substantial in-depth studies should include provision for supporting the training of PhD students and it is hoped that long term the Society can establish a research fund for substantial research projects, to include PhD and other projects.

Veterinary dermatology is growing in eastern European countries and a European society like the ESVD should take this into consideration. The ESVD, in co-operation with the ECVD, has devised a format for seminars for eastern European countries where veterinary dermatology is in its infancy. It is important that the national veterinary dermatology groups – whether they are well-established or just starting out - are supported by the Society. This can involve organising workshops, as mentioned above, in venues in such countries for those seeking high level continuing education, and introductory level seminars for those groups aiming to raise awareness and educate colleagues who are developing an interest in veterinary dermatology. Not only do such seminars potentially expand the Society membership into countries with emerging professional groups with an interest in veterinary dermatology but they also help to fulfil the aims of the society. The choice of organizing an annual congress in an eastern European country, such as Slovenia, goes in this direction. It is hoped that more congresses will be held in Eastern Europe (e.g. Prague) as the European Union becomes more unified.



*Dr. Nikša Lemo from Zagreb University lecturing at the first meeting of the Slovenian Dermatology Study Group in March 2009, held as a pre-congress event at the Slovenian Small Animal Veterinary Association meeting. It was founded in 2008 in anticipation of the ESVD-ECVD Bled Congress*

So what of the future – we are a small international community that share an interest in a discipline that is important for veterinary practice and to commercial organisations. The discipline will prosper if we work together, sharing information and collaborating on research studies. I suspect that many of us have been drawn into the discipline by the support, enthusiasm and interest bestowed on us by colleagues and (hopefully) we in turn will be willing and able to share our knowledge and enthusiasm with others.

