If all has gone to plan you should be reading this autumn bulletin before Christmas! However, you will notice that there are no reports from the Nice congress. This is not because it wasn’t worth reporting, but a change to allow us to get the bulletin out on time. With a September congress it has proved very difficult to get material submitted, edited, formatted and printed before December. We have decided, therefore, to move the congress reports to the spring bulletin. This will allow us to maintain the spring and autumn deadlines for each bulletin.

2003 ECVD-ESVD Congress – Tenerife, 4-6th September 2003

The 19th ESVD-ECVD congress will be held in Tenerife in the Canary Islands. The continuing education programme includes sessions on ear disease, nail disease, mycoses and anti-fungal therapy, candida and mould dermatology, newly recognised infectious and non-infectious dermatoses, immunomodulatory therapy and the diagnosis and treatment of pruritus. The scientific programme will include sessions on new trends in cutaneous immunology and pathology, atopic dermatitis, Leishmaniasis and other infectious diseases and new therapeutic options for cutaneous tumours. As usual there will be a comparative component with specially invited medical speakers as well as well known veterinary dermatologists.

Tenerife also offers a balmy climate with interesting geology, land and seascapes as well as interesting bird and plant life thanks to its position deep in the Gulf Stream. So forget the package holiday reputation and come ready to enjoy.

The Spanish Veterinary Dermatology Society is hosting the meeting.

Abstracts are welcome, but please note the deadline is the 1st March 2003.

For further information about the meeting or to register interest, please contact the meeting organisers:

- Mrs Luis Ferrero,
  Inter-Congrés, c/Josep Irla i Bosch, 5-7 Entlo,
  08034 Barcelona, Spain.
- Email - luis.ferrero@mccann.es

Future congresses

- 2004 – WCVD5, Vienna, Austria (see below)
- 2005 – Chaliki, Greece

WCVD5

The fifth World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology will be held from the 25-28th August 2004 in Vienna. It seems appropriate that WCVD5 should visit Vienna, where Hugo Sindelka published *Hautkrankheiten bei Haustieren* (Skin diseases of domestic animals), one of the earliest texts on veterinary dermatology. Nearly 100 years later Veterinary Dermatology is one of the most rapidly growing disciplines in Veterinary Medicine. The Fifth World Congress celebrates the beginning of a second century of Veterinary Dermatology and provides a special opportunity to meet the opinion leaders, experts and exponents from all parts of the world.  

continued p2
The clinical and scientific presentations, and the commercial exhibition, will take place in the magnificent meeting rooms and reception areas of the Hofburg – imperial palace of the former Austro-Hungarian emperors (if you don’t believe me have a look at the photos on the website – www.vetdermvienna.com).

The congress will have five main scientific themes – immunology with a focus on atopic dermatitis; therapy and immunomodulatory drugs; infectious and parasitic diseases, especially mycobacteria; skin biology and wound healing; nutrition, antioxidants and free radicals. There will also be workshops on *Leishmania, Malassezia, equine allergic dermatoses, parasitic dermatoses, genodermatoses and genetic causes of alopecia, cutaneous neoplasia and paraneoplastic syndromes, new therapies for adverse food reactions, atopic dermatitis and recurrent pyoderma, topical therapy, hypothyroidism and new dermatological diseases.*

There will be a continuing education programme on two levels: an advanced level for veterinarians with special interest in dermatology and comprehensive level for general practitioners. Topics will include diagnosis and therapy of dermatological conditions as well as special wound healing and dermatopathology sessions.

A full day dermatohistopathology session will be organized by the International Society of Veterinary Dermatopathology with clinicopathological presentations and an interactive session involving leading clinicians and pathologists.

There will also be a special Japanese programme with full translation, a full programme for veterinary nurses and technicians as well as free communication and poster sessions.

Supporting papers and abstracts are welcome. The deadline for supporting papers is November 15th 2003 and the deadline for free communications and posters is January 15th 2004.

All this, together with an extensive and very special social programme and the traditional Viennese hospitality, will enable you to bring yourself up-to-date whilst also taking time to relax and enjoy one of the most beautiful cities of Europe.

For further details see the website at www.vetdermvienna.com
To register further interest email the congress office – office@vetdermvienna.com

**ESVD Membership fees**

Included with this bulletin is the membership fees payment form. Please remember to return this to the treasurer before 1st January 2003. Everyone is encouraged to renew membership subscriptions as soon as possible. Non- or late-payment costs the society a lot of time and money. Members not paying on time will not receive Veterinary Dermatology until the fees are settled.

Pamela Silkstone has recently stepped down as membership secretary. This means that Trevor Whitbread is now handling all the membership enquiries. Receipt of Veterinary Dermatology may also take some time because of circumstances beyond our control and we ask members to be patient with membership and Veterinary Dermatology enquiries, which may take longer than normal to resolve.

It would also be helpful if members could keep us up to date with their email addresses – please send them to treasurer@esvd.org.

**New full members**
The new full members elected at the AGM in Nice are:

- Silvia Auxilia (Italy)
- Neil McEwan (UK)
- Erica Romano (Italy)
- Catherine Lafiorti (France)
- Enrica Natili (Italy)

**ESVD website – www.esvd.org**

The website continues to develop in its new format and is a great source of information and links. We hope to get the bulletin published in electronic format on the site in the near future – so keep an eye on it.

I am always happy to receive material for publication in the bulletin. This can be news, views, comments, reports and announcements. I am particularly keen to hear about national dermatology society meetings and news. Articles can be sent to me at the address above. The deadline for the spring bulletin is 15th January 2003. The Spring Bulletin should be published in April. Further communications in 2003 should include the Annual Report in June and the Autumn Bulletin in October. Please contact the membership secretary if you do not receive any of these – esvdssecretary@esvd.org
Hot topics in feline dermatology

British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group Meeting
- Hall 8b, International Convention Centre, Birmingham
- Wednesday 2nd April 2003 – prior to the 2003 British Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress
- Abstracts on any aspect of comparative dermatology are welcome – see the website for further details – pcvwww.liv.ac.uk/~timn/

Swedish Veterinary Dermatology Study Group

The SVDSG has 200 members. The group arranges two meetings each year, one in the spring and one in the autumn. In the springtime, one or two lecturers from abroad are invited, and at the second meeting, case discussions are held.

In March 2001 we discussed allergies in dogs and cats over three days. Among the speakers were Prof. Richard Halliwell, Dr. Brita Ohlén and Dr. Kerstin Bergwall. Practical sessions were also included. In November 2001 the group met in Helsingborg in the South of Sweden. Before starting the case discussions Dr. Christina Greko, from the National Veterinary Institute, lectured on the use and abuse of antibiotics from a microbiologist’s point of view. In May of 2002, together with the Swedish Veterinary Feline Study Group, the SVDSG invited Dr. Aidan Foster, Dr. Susan Dawson and Dr. Susan Shaw to speak on feline dermatology. The meeting attracted 90 participants. The next meeting will be a case discussion session where the theme will be oncology. Dr. Gunilla Kastengren-Fröberg will introduce the participants to diagnostic approaches and therapeutic options in cutaneous tumours.

The group distributes about 10 newsletters per year to the members. The letters contain reports from courses as well as information about new articles in dermatology and future national and international meetings. The SVDSG also has a small library, from which members can borrow literature, tapes and CD-ROMs.

Using herbal therapy to treat atopic dermatitis in dogs

Several centres in the UK and France are currently involved in a clinical study that is looking at a plant-based product known as P7v to see which dose has the best effect on dogs with atopic dermatitis. Two small studies have indicated that this product might be an effective treatment for atopic dermatitis, but this needs to be confirmed with a larger group of dogs.

Eligible dogs
Dogs with atopic dermatitis are being recruited at 15 sites in the UK and France. Dogs older than 18 months, of any breed, that have a history of year round pruritus and a clinical diagnosis of atopic dermatitis supported by a positive intradermal test to one or more non-seasonal allergens can be enrolled into the study.

Study arrangements
The overall duration of the study for each dog will be approximately 14 weeks with five scheduled assessments. Potential subjects will attend an enrolment visit to assess their eligibility against the study criteria. Eligible subjects will be randomly assigned to one of four dose groups. Three of these dose groups will have varying doses of the active drug and the fourth group will receive placebo treatment to see if the active drug has beneficial effects.

Assessment visits
Subjects will return to the veterinary clinic every four weeks for assessment during the 12-week dosing period. A final assessment will consist of a telephone follow-up call two weeks after the subject has stopped dosing. Costs of treatment and consultation fees will be waived during the study period. A three month open label supply of the active compound will be made available to dogs that complete the trial.

Further details
If you have any clients that would like to be involved in this study or you would like more information then please contact Phytopharm plc. Tel. - +44 (0)1480 437697; Fax. +44 (0) 1480 417090; Web - www.phytopharm.co.uk
French dermatology residency

Cabinet de dermatologie vétérinaire – Bordeaux-Mérignac (France – EU)

An ECVD residency programme is available in 2003 – 2004 at Dr. Carlotti’s specialised practice. The following text is in French:

Les candidats doivent:

• Être autorisés à exercer la médecine vétérinaire dans l’Union Européenne
• Posséder une connaissance suffisante du Français et de l’Anglais
• Satisfaire aux critères généraux des programmes de résident du Collège Européen de Dermatologie Vétérinaire
• S’engager à se présenter à l’examen du Collège Européen de Dermatologie Vétérinaire à l’issue du résidariat

La date de soumission des candidatures est fixée au 30 novembre 2002.
Les candidats sont priés de faire parvenir leur curriculum vitae à l’adresse suivante:

Cabinet de dermatologie vétérinaire,
Dr. Didier Noël Carlotti,
Héliopolis B3,
Avenue de Magudas,
F-33700 MÉRIGNAC (France – EU).

Email – dcvetderm@aol.com
Tél. – (33/0) 5 56 94 11 21
Fax. – (33/0) 5 56 24 35 95

ESVD research grant winner

There were two applications this year. Unfortunately, the reviewers were divided over their merits and therefore it was decided not to make an award this year. Members are encouraged to submit applications following the guidelines in this bulletin for next year’s award. If there are sufficient high quality applications it may be possible to make two awards.

Previous winners

Previous winners of the ESVD research grant include:


Alessandra Fondati (2000) presented her findings at the 2001 congress in Copenhagen (see the Spring Bulletin for details of the abstract).

Hilary Jackson (1999) presented her findings at the 2002 congress in Nice, and has submitted a paper to Veterinary Dermatology.

Julie Yager (1997) presented her findings at WCVD4 in San Francisco.

ECVD examination results

Luc Beco and Laura Ordeix were successful in the recent part 2 examinations held in Bern 2002 and are now diplomates of the ECVD.
Christine Lowenstein successfully passed the part 1 examination.
Congratulations!

Information for candidates wishing to proceed from the Part 1 examination to the Part 2 of the ECVD Diploma Examination

Adopted by the ECVD AGM in Copenhagen on 29th September 2001.

I – The normal route to specialisation involves a standard Residency. Such candidates take the Diploma part 2 examination following a minimum 2-year training programme. They are exempt from taking the Diploma part 1 examination. If the College so wishes, it can also choose to extend this exemption to anyone who has completed a Residency programme certified by the American College of Veterinary Dermatology.

II – The alternate route to enable an individual to proceed from the Diploma part 1 examination to take the Diploma part 2 examination will be as follows:

1 – Successfully passing the Diploma part 1 examination.

2 – The part 2 examination must be taken not less than 3 years and no more than 6 years after successfully passing the part 1 examination.

For those who passed the part 1 examination before the publication of this document, a 6 year limit applies from the date of this publication.

During this period the following criteria must be satisfied:

a – Continuing to practice dermatology for more than 50 per cent of the candidate’s time.

b – Attendance at a minimum of 6 days of meetings or courses annually, which devote a minimum of 2/3ds of the time to dermatology.

c – Spending a minimum of 130 days of observation AND supervised study at a maximum of four recognised clinical and one histopathology centres of excellence approved in advance by the Education Committee.

Clinical and histopathology trainings shall be organized as follows:

c1 – The clinical training periods must total at least 115 days and take place within the clinical structures (universities and/or practices) directly supervised by an ECVD or an ACVD Diplomate. Distance learning is therefore not recognised. Clinical training periods will be recognised only if they were organised after passing the part 1 examination at a recognised centre of excellence. Exemptions are made for those who have applied for or passed the part 1 examination before the date of acceptance of this document by the ECVD AGM.

It is up to the Diplomates as to whether they can provide such training. Primary case responsibility is an absolute requirement for the clinical training periods. However, of course, the ultimate responsibility for every case still rests with the Diplomate responsible for the training programme.

A histopathological study period is essential and must constitute a minimum of 15 days of the total study period. This training period may be directly supervised by ECVD or ACVD Diplomates or ECVP or ACVP Diplomates. Other histopathologists may be accepted provided that they are involved in cutaneous histopathology and they are suggested by an ECVD or ACVD Diplomate.
Each applicant must submit in advance to the Education Committee the list of the centres at which they propose to study and the details of their training periods after the training is complete. An ECVD diploma at one only of the centres should be requested to act as the ‘Resident Tutor’ for the whole study period. This person should act in a coordinating role and assist the applicant in checking the required documentation required by the various College Committees prior to its submission. It is up to any particular Diplomate as to whether he/she can provide such assistance.

c2 – The minimum 115 days of clinical training may be performed in several stages. If training is to be carried out in blocks of time, periods of at least 3 consecutive weeks are required. Alternatively, a study period of 1 or 2 days each week for a minimum of 40 weeks each year amounting to the prescribed 130 days, or a combination of the two, is acceptable. Additionally, the 130 days of clinical and histopathology trainings must be completed in a maximum period of 3 years.

c3 – A case log-book of 500 dermatological clinical cases of which the trainee has had primary case responsibility is also required. These may be a combination of cases seen in both the course of these clinical training periods and the every day practice of the trainee.

c4 – Bibliographic requirements: applicants are required to satisfy the bibliographic requirements applicable to other candidates which include submission of a case report of cases personally handled, each with a maximum of 1500 words which demonstrate the analytical approach of the candidate, and at least 2 papers (including one as first author) in refereed journals (at least one of which must report original research and one of which may, but does not have to be, a case report). As an alternative to the two papers, the submission of a thesis describing the research project is acceptable. This must be prepared in English, should not exceed 5000 words (excluding references, tables and figures) and should be prepared in typed, bound format. All publications must be related to dermatology.

Three copies of each paper or the thesis, together with all other required documentation must be submitted with the application, to the Chairperson of the ECVD Credentials Committee.

c5 – Scientific presentations: all applicants are required to present a minimum of six lectures/seminars, each of at least 30 minutes in length, or free communications (which may be shorter), on dermatology or topics related to dermatology. The audience may be students, veterinarians or other professionals such as biologists, zoologists or physicians.

Please note that the registration deadline to sit the Part 1 and 2 diploma exams is the 30th September in the year preceding the examinations.

Other information and documentation relating to the Alternative Route is available from the Chairpersons of the relevant ECVD committees:

ECVD Education Committee:
Dr. Chiara Noli
Via Sismondi 62
20133 Milano Italy
e-mail: ptnoli@iol.it

ECVD Credential Committee:
Dr. Rosario Cerundolo
Department of Clinical Studies, The School of Veterinary Medicine
University of Pennsylvania, Room 1119 VHP
5900 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 - USA
e-mail: cerundolo@vet.upenn.edu


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**ISVD meeting in Monterey**

The ISVD preCongress day will be held in Monterey, California, on Wednesday April 9th 2003, in conjunction with the AAVD/ACVD meeting. Abstracts are welcomed for the Brief Communication session.

The presentation will be limited to 12 minutes with 3 minutes for discussion. It should report original observations of a novel or relatively unreported condition or study, and should not have been previously published. The abstract should be a maximum of 250 words; submitted in Word or plain Text. The deadline is December 15th.

Please submit your abstract to Joanne Mansell as an email attachment – jmansell@cvm.lamu.edu

Please visit our website for more information about the ISVD:
http://www.vetcutis.freeserve.co.uk/vetcutis.freeserve.co.uk/Default.htm
ECVD workshop – Clinical Pathology

Nantes, July 9-12 2002

The veterinary school in Nantes was the site of the most recent ESVD workshop. Twenty five participants from 13 different countries had the opportunity to improve their knowledge of and approach to infectious and neoplastic skin diseases as well as other conditions. The dermatological sampling techniques used to diagnose fungal, bacterial, and parasitic diseases were described and laboratory procedures including cultures, cytological evaluation and identification demonstrated and practiced.

The theme of this workshop was definitely “Interactive”. The speakers, Emmanuel Besignier, Ross Bond, Patrick Bourdeau, Pascal Prelaud, and Erik Teske, were very informative. They all facilitated discussions for each of their topics and their enthusiasm was definitely catching. Thank you very much.

The countryside around Nantes is very beautiful and during our stay we could not help but learn about the unique qualities of the French kitchen. The cuisine was “manifique”.

A special thank you to the local organizer Patrick Bourdeau, the organizer, Dominique Heripret, and to the sponsors: Intervet, Merial and Pfizer.

Stacey Radowicz  
Dermatology for Animals  
Campbell, CA  USA

Lene Boysen  
University of Utrecht  
The Netherlands

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Dermatology meeting in Hamburg

- 3rd November 2002 – please note that this meeting will be in German.
- ASTRON Hotel Hamburg Horn, Renabahnstr. 90, 22111 Hamburg,  Tel. 040 - 65 59 70;  Fax 040 - 65 59 71 00

9:15 - 9:40  Haarfollikel - Follikulitis – Furunkulose  
L. Mecklenburg

9:40 - 10:20  Staphylokokken - Pyodermie Teil 1  
Pathogenetische Aspekte  
A. Hendricks

Pause

10:30 - 11:40  Staphylokokken - Pyodermie Teil 2  
A. Hendricks

11:40 - 12:15  Grundlagen der Lasertechnik:  
Einsatzmöglichkeiten in der Dermatologie  
P. Urban

Mittag

13:45 - 15:15  Hautpilzerkrankungen:  
Über- oder unterdiagnostiziert?  
Vielfalt der Symptomatik, Diagnostik, Behandlungen  
R. Hämmerling

Pause

15:45 - 16:30  Histiozytäre Erkrankungen:  
Vom Histiozytom bis zur malignen Histiozytose  
L. Mecklenburg

Referenten:
- Dr. Renate Hämmerling, Praxis für Dermatologie/Düsseldorf
- Dr. Anke Hendricks, Dermatologen - Referral Hospital, Horsell, CB
- Dr. Lars Mecklenburg, Service für Dermatopathologie/Hamburg
- Dr. Peter Urban, Leperszentrum Berlin

Auskünfte an
Tierärztliche Spezialisten
z.Hd. Frau Decker
Brunnenkoppel 1
22041 Hamburg
Fax 040 227 155 40
Tel 040 229 01 01
ATV Anerkennung: 5 Std.

€ 110.- / € 100.- DVG Mitglieder inkl. Mittagessen

per Scheck oder
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Kto.Nr. 03937 300 03
Dresdner Bank 200 800 00
> Dermatologie <
ESVD Workshop on Dermatological Therapy

- Cremona, Palazzo Trecchi, 6-9th November 2003 – Italy
- Speakers – Dr. Craig Griffin, Dip ACVD, San Diego, California, USA
  Prof. Manfred Kietzmann, University of Hannover, Germany
  Dr. Erasilla Pappalardo, Messina, Italy
- This course is kindly sponsored by MERIAL – thank you!

Day 1
8.30-9.30 Registration and welcome
9.30-10.30 Principles of drug action, interaction and reaction – M. Kietzmann
10.30-11.15 Principles of topical therapy, active ingredients, absorption – M. Kietzmann
11.15-11.45 Welcome Cocktail
11.45-12.30 Clinical use of topical therapy – C. Griffin
12.30-14.00 Lunch
14.00-16.00 Antibacterial therapy – M. Kietzmann
16.00-16.30 Coffee break
16.30-18.00 Treatment of pyoderma, including topical therapy and immunostimulants – C. Griffin

Day 2
8.30-9.30 Topical and systemic antifungal agents – M. Kietzmann
9.30-10.00 Problem cases and clinical use of antifungal therapy – C. Griffin
10.00-10.30 Coffee Break
10.30-12.30 Antinflammatory drugs, including steroids, antihistamines, EFAs – M. Kietzmann
12.30-14.00 Lunch
14.00-15.15 Chronic symptomatic management of atopic dermatitis and immunotherapy – C. Griffin
15.15-16.00 Hypoallergenic diets and management of food allergic dogs – C. Griffin
16.00-16.30 Coffee Break
16.30-17.30 Management of keratinization disorders – C. Griffin
17.30-18.15 Treatment of demodicosis – C. Griffin

Day 3
8.30-9.30 Behavioural drugs – M. Kietzmann
9.30-10.00 Immune-suppressive drugs – M. Kietzmann
10.00-10.30 Coffee break
11.00-12.30 Treatment of immune-mediated and autoimmune diseases – C. Griffin
12.30-14.00 Lunch
14.00-16.00 Treatment of otitis – C. Griffin
16.00-16.30 Coffee Break
16.30-17.30 Treatment of leishmaniasis – E. Pappalardo

Day 4
8.30-10.30 Treatment of noninflammatory alopecia – C. Griffin
10.30-11.00 Coffee break
11.00-12.30 Case presentations, new and special therapy tips
12.30 End of the course

For more information and registration please contact:
Dr. Chiara Noli, Strada Madonna 58, 12016 Peveragno (CN), Italy
e-mail: HYPERLINK “mailto:pitnoli@iol.it” pitnoli@iol.it

Maximum number of attendants 50. ESVD Members will have priority until July 31st 2003.
Fees include lunches and coffee breaks.
ESVD members: 400 Euro + VAT (490 Euro).
Non-ESVD members: 510 Euro + VAT (612 Euro).
ESVD Research Grant

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 is awarded by the ESVD for basic or clinical research in veterinary dermatology. Each grant is of 5,000 euro. Ordinarily projects are expected to be of one to two years duration. Applicants are expected to propose a project of scientific merit that is applicable to veterinary dermatology. Grants are evaluated on scientific merit, feasibility and usefulness. 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. Please note that the Society is not in a position to support the costs of institutional overheads. Any use of experimental animals must conform to the animal welfare regulations of the appropriate institution and country.

Proposals should be received by April 1 each year for consideration by the grant awarding committee. Research proposals (four copies) should be sent to the current ESVD Publications and Grant secretary (Dr. Chiara Neli, Viale dei Mille 26, 20129 Milano). An acknowledgement will be sent. 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 (see application guidelines below). The award will be granted at the next AGM of the Society. Payment of the grant will be made into a special account and the ESVD Treasurer will require a budget report at the end of the study. Any funds not spent must be returned to the ESVD. Annual progress reports are required and should be submitted to the current Publications and Grant Secretary at least 30 days before the Society’s AGM.

Successful applicants will be expected to submit their results for publication in Veterinary Dermatology and to present their findings to ESVD members at an ESVD Annual Congress within three years of receipt of the grant. The funds cannot be used for travel and accommodation at the meeting but purely for research. The principal grant holder, however, is entitled to free registration to the ESVD Annual Congress at which he or she will present data generated as a result of the grant.

Proposals should be prepared according to the following guidelines. As far as is practicably possible, the proposals will be evaluated anonymously. Please, therefore, include names, addresses and other identifying information only on the title page and make every effort to have no identifying information in the body of the proposal. Each principal investigator should submit one copy of their curriculum vitae with the proposal as a separate document.

This space could be YOURS!
Please submit articles.

Annual Report List of Members

Some of our members were inadvertently omitted from the list of members presented in the Annual Report. Could those involved please email the Treasurer so that they can be included in a supplementary list in the next bulletin.
Guidelines for Preparation of ESVD Grant Applications

Applications not adhering to these guidelines may be excluded from consideration.
The number of pages listed for each section is the maximum number.
Shorter proposals are acceptable and welcomed.

- **Section 1 (one page maximum)**
  
  Title page should include the project title, the name and title of the investigator,
  the institute at which the research will be performed, and the dates of the proposed project period.

- **Section 2 (one page maximum)**

  i) Provide a brief abstract with clearly stated objectives and the importance of the research,
  the experimental design and the methods to be used for achieving the stated objectives.

  ii) Specific aim(s): State in general terms the long-term objective(s) and the hypothesis to be tested.

- **Section 3 (2 pages maximum)**

  Background and significance:
  In this section, briefly review the background for the present proposal, and the gaps in knowledge
  that the proposed project will fill.

- **Section 4 (2 pages maximum)**

  Preliminary studies:
  If there are preliminary data to support the hypothesis or to demonstrate that the investigator is familiar with
  the proposed methods, they should be included. If there are no preliminary results, then this section can be omitted.

- **Section 5 (4 pages maximum)**

  i) Experimental design and methods:
  This section should contain a concise discussion of the experimental design and the procedures to be used to
  accomplish the specific aims listed above. This section should be sufficiently detailed so that feasibility may be
  judged. This section should list a brief description of resources available to investigators. It is important to
  discuss the means by which the data will be collected, analysed and interpreted, and the controls that will be
  required to allow a proper analysis. The type of statistical evaluation to be used for data analysis should be
  briefly detailed. Investigators should justify the sizes of experimental groups.

  ii) Animal use:
  Projects must fulfill the requirements of legislation in force in the country in which the work is to be performed.
  A statement to this effect should be included in the application. The applicant’s institution animal use
  committee must evaluate any project proposal involving animals and a statement to that effect should be
  included in the proposal. If pets are to be used in the project, a permission form for the owners to complete
  should be appended to the proposal.
  Unless animal care and use has been carefully addressed, a proposal cannot be considered for funding.

- **Section 6 (one page maximum)**

  A one page detailed budget should be included. The ESVD will not subsidise professional veterinary fees
  incurred by clients in the investigation of animals involved in clinical projects.

- **Section 7 (one page maximum)**

  References should be provided for Section 3 (background information) and section 4 (methods).
Abstract Watch


This paper shows a significant difference between oral immunotherapy and placebo in subjects allergic to grass pollens. Therapy also decreased the late skin response. We all have a few patients that do not tolerate their subcutaneous injections terribly well and oral immunotherapy has been used in individual cases anecdotally. This is only one of several recent studies in human medicine evaluating such an approach in a scientific fashion. Typically, oral immunotherapy uses doses much higher than those used in patients receiving subcutaneous injections. In this article, a high dose was used and was less effective than low dose therapy in some previous studies, raising the question if the use of the same low doses of subcutaneous therapy for oral immunotherapy would give the same success in small animals.


This paper is a little older, but as we reviewed it again for journal club, I found it one of the better papers explaining pemphigus antigens as well as linking clinical data to the pathogenesis.


The hygiene hypothesis is a topic of much research in human immunology currently. One of the factors thought to be involved in the pathogenesis of allergic disease is exposure to endotoxin. There is evidence for a protective as well as an aggravating role of endotoxin exposure and this article aims at elucidating the role of endotoxin's paradoxical nature of serving both as friend and foe in allergic disease.


This study evaluates cytokine gene transcripts in canine atopic dermatitis and provides further evidence for similarities between canine and human atopic dermatitis. A higher production of IL-4 correlates with what is seen in human medicine. The authors propose to further develop canine atopic dermatitis as a naturally occurring model for human disease, which, if successful, would lead to further studies and characterization of disease and hopefully help us manage our allergic patients better in the future.

We are very grateful to Ralf Mueller of Colorado State University for writing each abstract watch. The editor has no say in which abstracts he selects – honest!
Web watch

ECVD website – www.ecvd.org

This is the website for the European College of Dermatology. It is fairly new and under development, so the information is not complete and some of the links aren’t obvious. It covers the role of the ECVD, which should settle the vexed questions of how and why it differs from the ESVD. There is also a downloadable brochure that describes the accreditation and examination procedure. It is bound to get better and more informative, and should be a required stop for anyone undertaking the ECVD diploma.


This will be useful for anyone with an interest in comparative dermatology. The full version requires a yearly subscription, but a scaled down version is available after registering with www.medscape.com. You start with a clinical problem – the programme then takes you through a number of steps to identify the lesions, narrow the differential diagnosis and come to a final conclusion. The package is well thought out and constructed, intuitive throughout and the image quality is excellent. Well worth a browse, if only to identify those lesions that your colleagues ask you about...

New search engine – www.kartoo.com

Kartoo is a metasearch site. This means that it utilises several search engines to scour the web for the search terms. The results are much more comprehensive as each search engine may not find all the relevant sites by itself. For instance, whilst browsing veterinary dermatology sites, I found that each site was only recognised by 2-3 search engines on average. The HTML pages are fairly standard and will be familiar to anyone with any experience of the web. The Flash page is in another league with an interactive maps of sites showing their relationships to each other. It might be a bit slow or prone to crash with older computers though. I use it without any problems on my LAN connection at work and on my home computer (600Mhz P3; 256Mb RAM) with a dial up connection (56kps modem).

And finally...

The reason why I always include www in the site name is simple - whilst most site names are www.xyz etc., not all are. For instance, the British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group site is pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~timn. So there.

Remember to visit the ESVD site – www.esvd.org;
and WCVD5 - www.vetdermvienna.com