I'm not one normally given to decadence but must confess to having written some of this bulletin whilst taking some rays by the pool in Tenerife on a handheld computer. To some these are a great piece of kit; to others toys for boys. As for me, I'm still astounded that I can edit Word documents on something the size of a pocket calculator.

Hot topics at Tenerife

The Tenerife meeting was great with plenty of challenges, inspiration and chances to catch up and gossip. The usual reports have been solicited and will be appearing in the spring bulletin. A full report from the AGM will also be included. Please, however, feel free to send in your own comments good or bad. Hot topics this year included evidence based medicine, taking a holistic approach to patients and determining whether conditions are immune-mediated or infectious.

Judging from conversations around the bar evidence based medicine causes some confusion. In essence it is the principle of reviewing the outcome and quality of therapeutic trials to select the most efficacious treatments. This avoids relying on anecdotal data or data from trials with flawed methodology. In practice this is very difficult; most practitioners will find it hard to either conduct their own trials, especially for rare conditions, or critically review the literature. This is where evidence based reviews help. The authors of these papers select and critically review published material according to accepted standards. Authoritative statements on the relative efficacy of different treatments can then be made and used by the rest of us in everyday practice. Examples in veterinary dermatology include the International Canine Atopic Dermatitis Task Force Reports and the recent paper on the treatment of canine atopic dermatitis (Olivry, T. and Mueller, R.S. [2003] Evidence-based veterinary dermatology: a systematic review of the pharmacotherapy of canine atopic dermatitis. Veterinary Dermatology 14, 121-146). Systematic reviews like these are a considerable task for the authors and they are to be congratulated. Veterinary Dermatology has recently undertaken to publish more of these reviews in a range of topics to bring recommendations for best practice to a wider audience. For a fuller discussion of this see Karen Moriello's excellent editorial in Veterinary Dermatology 14, 119-120.

It is said that orthopaedic surgeons are interested in bones and bones alone. The rest of the animal is at best an inconvenience, at worst an irrelevance. Dermatologists have resisted this view but as we become more specialised there is a danger that we ignore the relationship of the skin to the whole animal. Several speakers emphasised that we must continue to take a holistic view to diagnosis and treatment in our patients. I recently diagnosed a porto-systemic shunt in a dog presented with perioral pyoderma (albeit with some help). My pride in my clinical acumen was tinged with some relief that I had bothered to look beyond the skin after all.

One of highlights of the meeting for me was the series of presentations by Dr. Edward Breitschwerdt of North Carolina State University. His entertaining and illuminating lectures on the role of microorganisms blurred the distinction between infectious and immune-mediated disease. He showed how the body is a balanced ecosystem and how imbalances can lead to clinical problems. The more unusual organisms, such as Babesia, Ehrlichia, Bartonella and Borrelia can mimic immune-mediated skin diseases and/or act as a trigger for these conditions. Serology and PCRs are available in Europe and US, which should encourage us to look for these organisms more often.

Finally, special thanks to James Smith of Leo Animal Health for bringing his telescope. This enabled several folk to get a superb view of Mars and the Moon after the Gala Dinner and close to Turnstones, Sanderling, Ringed Plover, Whimbrel, Cory's Shearwaters and Yellow-Legged Gulls on the beach.

continued on page 2
WCVD 5
5th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology; 25th-28th August 2004, Vienna, Austria

The world’s biggest event in Veterinary Dermatology is well on its way; be sure to find your way there too! The following Companies are leading the path to Vienna and the Fifth World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology as Sponsors:

- Principal Sponsors: Virbac, Royal Canin, Bayer, Novartis
- Major Sponsors: Vétoquinol, Hill’s, Iams, Merial, Schering-Plough and Intervet
- Supporting Sponsors: DVM

You can be sure that the best update available in the field of Veterinary Dermatology will be when we all meet in Vienna next year... and remember, this all happens in August 2004 from the 25th-28th in the magnificent splendour of Vienna’s Hofburg Conference Centre (if you don’t believe me have a look at the photos on the website – www.vetdermvienna.com). It is appropriate that WCVD5 should visit Vienna, where Hugo Schindelka published 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. WCVD5 celebrates the beginning of the second Century of Veterinary Dermatology and is a wonderful opportunity to meet opinion leaders, experts and friends from all over the world.

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 Leishmaniasis, 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. And, if that’s not enough, 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 dermato-histopathology session will be organised 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; see the submission guidelines in this bulletin. Please note that the abstracts must be submitted online – go to www.vetdermvienna.com and follow the instructions. Supporting papers must be submitted by the 15th November 2003; abstracts for free communications and posters by the 15th January 2004.

All this, together with an extensive and very special social program with 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-ECVD Congress 2005 – Chalkidiki, Greece, 8th - 10th September 2005
(not Chaldi as in the previous bulletin; apologies for the error).

The scientific programme will concentrate on Staphylococci internedus, canine allergies and allergens, feline autoimmune alopecias, follicular diseases, keratinisation disorders, leishmanioses, cutaneous inflammation and feline eosinophilic dermatoses. World respected lecturers will provide the continuing education programme with updates on exotic animal dermatology, diagnostic dilemmas in canine hypothyroidism, elimination diets, oitis externa, cytology, histopathology and other clinically important topics.

Abstracts for free communications and posters are welcomed. The submission deadline is the 1st March 2005; further details will be made available soon.

continued on page 3
ESVD-ECVD Congress 2005  continued

Delegates can also enjoy sun bathing, swimming and all aspects of Greek hospitality at the Cassandra and Athos Palace-Pallini hotel complex. The ancient city of Thessaloniki with its Macedonian remains and other sites is just 60km away. The nearby Agio Oros (Holy Mountain) is covered in Byzantine monasteries and other buildings. For further information contact the congress secretariat:

Epsilon, Papapanayotou-Vourazeris Unlimited,
4 Papadiamantopoulou Str, GR-11528, Athens, Greece.
Tel. +30 210 725 4360  Fax. +30 210 725 4363
Email fl epsilon@hol.gr

ESVD Bulletin in electronic format

We will experiment with putting the bulletin on the website as a PDF file this year. I will let members know when it’s available through the Vetderm listserv. Sending the bulletin as a PDF file by email would save substantial postage costs. Disadvantages of this approach, however, include out-of-date email addresses, ISP file size restrictions and download time, firewalls etc. We would like to hear your views on this before proceeding any further.

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 2004. The Spring Bulletin should be published in April. Further communications in 2004 should include the Annual Report in June and the Autumn Bulletin in October. Please contact the membership secretariat if you do not receive any of these – treasurer@esvd.org

ESVD Membership fees

Included with this bulletin is the membership fees payment form. Please remember to return this to the treasurer before 1st January 2004. Everyone is encouraged to renew membership subscriptions as soon as possible. Non- or late-payment costs the society a fair sum. 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 and other Abbey Veterinary Services staff are now handling all the membership enquiries and mailings. 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.

Veterinary Dermatology translations

The translation of the abstracts into French, German and Spanish adds a significant delay onto publication of papers in Veterinary Dermatology. A rough congress survey asked if not having the translations would be detrimental to yourself or colleagues. There was one response in the scientific session but almost 50% of the delegates in the continuing education thought a change would be detrimental. This issue obviously needs further thought but write in if you feel strongly either way.

Possible changes to the ESVD Congress

Changes to the structure of the ESVD congress were discussed at the AGM. There was a proposal to hold parallel plenary sessions followed by parallel free communication sessions on related topics. The continuing education stream would be abandoned in countries with strong existing continuing education programmes. This would allow more space and time for free communications but could result in reduced congress income if they fail to attract local practitioners. Views for and against were expressed at the AGM and further comments are welcome.

continued on page 4
Notice of elections to the ESVD board

The ESVD board elections for five persons will take place in 2004 by postal vote. Full members of at least 2 years standing and residing in Europe may be elected. Members are invited to offer names of possible election candidates. Nominations should be posted to the ESVD secretary by the 10th January 2004.

All eligible nominated candidates will be contacted to confirm that they are willing to stand for election and will be requested to send a complete curriculum vitae and a short CV to the ESVD secretary by the 27th February 2004.

Full members only are entitled to vote and will receive a mailing from the membership secretary by the 25th May 2004 at the latest. This will contain:

i) One large envelope pre-addressed to the ESVD secretary.
ii) A paper with name, address and country of the voting member that should be signed and placed in the large envelope.
iii) A voting form with the list of the names of the eligible members and short CV, voting is secret, so the form should be placed into a second smaller plain envelope.

Completed voting slips should be returned to the ESVD secretary by the 15th July 2004 and the results of the vote will be announced at the ESVD AGM at the WCVD in Vienna (25th August 2004).

All correspondence should be addressed to the ESVD Secretary:

Dr Aiden P. Foster MRCVS, ESVD Secretary, Department of Clinical Veterinary Science,
University of Bristol, Langford House, Langford, Somerset, BS40 5DU, United Kingdom.

New full members

The new full members approved at the ESVD AGM in Tenerife are:

Dr. Massimo Beccai - Italy
Dr. Marie Christine Cadiereguès - France
Dr. Joanna Karas-Tezza - Poland
Dr. Gustavo Machicote - Spain
Dr. Arnaud Muller - France
Dr. Ana Margarida Oliveira - Portugal
Dr. Piotr Parys - Poland
Dr. Kristine Pfahler-Jung - Germany
Dr. Manolis Saridomichelakis - Greece
Dr. Manolis Varossis - Greece

Application forms for full membership are included with the ESVD Annual report and are available on the website (www.esvd.org). Applications should be ideally submitted 60 days and not less than 30 days prior to the AGM to allow time for consideration of the entry criteria.

New Diplomates

The following persons were successful in the Part 2 Diploma examination and are thus awarded Diplomate status of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology (DipECVD). Well done!

Claude Favrot; University of Zurich, Switzerland
Neal McEwan; University of Glasgow, Scotland
Anke Hendricks; Woking, Surrey, England
Ersilia Papalardo; Catania, Italy
(previously at The Royal Veterinary College)

Statement from the President of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology

The President of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology would like to remind all persons who have successfully passed the Alternate Route Part I exam of the ECVD, that the college does not allow the use of any title in relation to this examination. The use, in any way, of titles such as “ECVD Certificate Holder” or “ECVD Part I Diploma Holder” etc. is therefore absolutely forbidden by the College.

H-J Koch, President ECVD.

Web Watch

Not many this bulletin, as I’ve been too busy to spend much time surfing cyberspace. Let me know if you come across any interesting sites.

www.polleninfo.org

This site logs pollen counts from 184 plant species in 23 European countries. The data is logged from a number of stations and updated daily. Descriptive statistics are also available. These describe the season for each species (whether starting, peak or over) and pollen distribution maps. It is an excellent resource for anyone interested in pollen aerobiology. It will also be of benefit to owners of pollen sensitive animals.

Remember to check our website – www.esvd.org
ESVD Research Grant

The 2003 ESVD Research Grant has been awarded to Dr. Petra Roosje of the Dermatology Unit, Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine, University of Bern, PO Box 8406, 3001 Bern, Switzerland for a project entitled investigations on the immunopathogenesis of recurrent urticaria in horses.

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 unrelated 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 Noli, 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 practically 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.

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.

*continued on page 6*
Guidelines for Preparation of ESVD Grant Applications  continued

- 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 accommodate 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).

The 2003 Ulli Runge Harms Award

The first winner of the URH award is Dr. Geneviève Marignac from the École Nationale Vétérinaire d’Alfort, France.

Real-time PCR as a tool for monitoring the fate of Leishmania organisms in murine models

*Marignac, G., **Fall, G., **Prina, E., **Lebastard, M., **Milon, G. and **Nicolas, L.

*Unité de Parasitologie, École Nationale Vétérinaire d’Alfort, 94704 Maisons-Alfort cedex.
**Unité d’Immunophysiologie et Parasitisme Intracellulaire, Institut Pasteur, Paris.

Parasites establish dynamic relationships with their hosts that allow their persistence. Leishmania species is a unicellular parasite that has two hosts: a telephageous insect, the sand fly and a vertebrate. Following inoculation, when and where do the amastigotes migrate from the injection site?

In the laboratory a model of infection has been established that includes our current knowledge about telephagia. 1000 metacyclic promastigotes of Leishmania major were prepared and inoculated intradermally in the centre of the right pinna of C57Bl/6 mice. Real-time PCR (PCRq) was used to quantify kineciplastic DNA (kDNA) in different sites. Leishmania organisms established in the centre of the inoculated pinna. On day 4 kDNA was detected in the periphery of the pinna and its draining lymph node. Parasite numbers increased until day 28 (10000 parasites) and then diminished until week 7. In the periphery the parasite load was always 6-150 times less than in the centre. In the tail skin, Leishmania kDNA was detected during the 7 weeks of the experiment, as early as day 4.

Is detected DNA originating from live parasites or is the DNA of dead parasites still amplified by this technique?

Murine macrophages were cultured and then infected with Leishmania amazonensis. PCRq was performed at 1h, 24h, 48h, 72h, day 5 and day 7 after the parasite was killed by aminocid esters. At 24h, there was a two fold decrease in Leishmania quantification that became undetectable at day 5.

These results confirmed the kinetics of the parasite load at the injection site and the presence of a few parasites in clinically normal distant cutaneous sites. Applications of PCRq in the detection of asymptomatic carriers are numerous in veterinary medicine and human public health.
ESVD workshop on Skin Biology

International Agency for Cancer Research (IACR), Lyon, France,
28th-30th January 2004

ESVD is organising a skin biology in Lyon at the end of January 2004. We hope that many of you will take the opportunity to attend. Each speaker is a world renowned specialist in their field and we know that they will take us on a tour through the classical and less well known aspects of skin biology: new information arises all the time. We also trust that our sponsors will help provide a welcoming nice atmosphere, and we thank them in advance. There are plenty of inexpensive hotels around the IACR that will be listed in the official announcements. If you need further information, don’t hesitate to contact me:

Dr Zeineb Alhaidari,
Clinique Vétérinaire, Cidex 248, RN 85, 06330 - Roquefort les Pins, France.
e-mail: z.alhaidari@atsat.com
fax: 33 493 77 62 48

Programme

Wednesday 28th January

8.00 – 9.00  Registration and welcome
9.00 – 10.30 Update on epidermal differentiation and keratinisation; J. Kanitakis
          (INSERM UNIT 346 “Human skin and Immunity”, Lyon, France)
10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break
11.00 – 12.00 Update on stratum corneum and desquamation; M. Haftel
          (INSERM UNIT 346 “Human skin and Immunity”, Lyon, France)
12.00 – 13.00 Update on corneodesmosin; G. Serre
          (Laboratory of Cellular Biology and Cytology, Toulouse, France)
13.00 – 14.30 Lunch
14.30 – 16.30 Update on cellular adhesion molecules; P. Rouetelle
          (Institute of Biology and Chemistry of Proteins, Lyon, France)
16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break
17.00 – 18.00 Update on epidermal cytokines and keratinocyte activation; D. Julien
          (Hôpital Edouard Herriot, Dermatology Department, Lyon, France)

Thursday 29th January

9.00 – 10.30 Update on the skin immune system; F. Berard
          (Centre Hospitalier Lyon Sud, Clinical Immunology and Allergology Unit, Lyon, France)
10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break
11.00 – 12.00 Update on the Langerhans cell; C. Dezutter-Dambuyant
          (INSERM UNIT 346 “Human skin and Immunity”, Lyon, France)
12.00 – 13.00 Update on skin vascularisation; D. Julien
          (Hôpital Edouard Herriot, Dermatology Department, Lyon, France)
13.00 – 14.30 Lunch
14.00 – 16.30 Update on skin matrix and collagens; D. Herbage
          (Institute of Biology and Chemistry of Proteins, Lyon, France)
16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break
17.00 – 18.00 Update on elastic fibers; P. Sommer
          (Institute of Biology and Chemistry of Proteins, Lyon, France)

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ESVD Workshop on Skin Biology continued

Friday 30th January

9.00 – 10.30  Derme-epidermal junction: update on hemidesmosomes; L. Borradori (Hôpital cantonal, Dermatology Department, Genève, Suisse)
10.30 – 11.00  Coffee break
11.00 – 12.00  Derme-epidermal junction: update on other structures and functions; P. Bernard (Hôpital Robert Debré, Dermatology Department, Reims, France)
12.00 – 13.00  Update on skin innervation; D. Julicic (Hôpital Edouard Herriot, Dermatology Department, Lyon, France)
13.00 – 14.30  Lunch
14.30 – 16.30  Update on the follicular unit; B. Bernard (Hair Biology Group, L'Oréal, Clichy, France)
16.30 – 17.00  Coffee break
17.00 – 18.00  Update on the follicular unit; B. Bernard (Hair Biology Group, L'Oréal, Clichy, France)

- The maximum number of attendants is 40: ESVD members will have priority until October 31st 2003.
- Registration fees (inclusive of lunch, coffee breaks and proceedings):
  ESVD members 300 euros  Non members 410 euros

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Future ESVD Workshops

2005 – Dermatopathology; Cremona, Italy  Claudia von Tscharner, Julie Yager and Verena Affolter. Local organiser – Fabia Scarampella.


Day 1 (Half day)
Review of the skin immune system

- Cells of the immune system
- Antibodies
- CD markers and adhesion molecules
- Cytokines and chemokines
- Recognised syndromes

Day 2
Pathogenesis of atopic dermatitis

- Role of T-cells, cytokines and chemokines
- Immunotherapy and tolerance
- Biological activity of environmental allergens
- New therapeutic options

Adverse food reactions

- GIT immune system
- Oral tolerance
- Hydrolysed diets
- IDAT and serology to food antigens
- Hypersensitivity to staphylococci and M灰尘

Immunity to cutaneous microorganisms

- Hygiene hypothesis and development of the immune system
- Superantigens

Day 3
Immune-mediated diseases

- Mechanisms of drug reactions
- Pemphigus complex
- Vasculitis and vasculopathies (including DLE, SLE, dermatomyositis)
- Immune-mediated blistering diseases
- Erythema multiforme complex
- Diseases of the hair follicle
- Lymphocytic proliferative diseases
- Histiocytic proliferative diseases

Day 4 (Half day)
Immunodiagnostics

- Assessing immune function
- Serology (ANA, RF, cold agglutinins etc.)
- Coombs test
- Immunoblotting
- Immunohistochemistry
- New immunomodulating and immunosuppressive agents

2006 – Endocrinology; Spa, Belgium  Local organiser – Luc Beco.

2006 – Canine Dermatology; Germany  Local organiser – Ralf Mueller.
CLIVE PROJECT REVIEW

An Introduction to the Structure & Function of Mammalian Skin

David McEwan Jenkinson

Published by CLIVE:

CLIVE Project, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Summerhall, Edinburgh EH9 1QH, UK.
Tel: 0044 131 650 6113
email clive@ed.ac.uk    http://www.clive.ed.ac.uk

This CD was written by David McEwan Jenkinson in conjunction with CLIVE (Computer Learning In Veterinary Education) at the University of Edinburgh. David McEwan Jenkinson is a well known name in the field of veterinary dermatology, in particular in relation to the biology of mammalian skin. Early on in his career, while working on the climatic physiology of large animal species, he developed a special interest in sweat gland function which led onto pioneering work into the role of the skin surface ecosystem of domestic animals in body defence. His extensive research experience is used to good effect in this CD.

The stated aims of the CD are to give an introduction to skin biology at a level suitable for the advanced school pupil and undergraduate in biology, medicine and veterinary medicine, and to provide a professional resource for veterinary and medical teachers and practitioners. The CD collates over 1000 references on skin structure and function.

The content is divided into nine major sections and each section is further subdivided into a series of tutorials. The first two sections cover the basic function of the skin and the ways in which mammalian skin is adapted to environmental pressures. The third section briefly reviews the ways in which the skin may be examined both grossly and microscopically. Basic clinical techniques such as skin scraping and flea combing are discussed but in insufficient detail for the general practitioner interested in furthering clinical skills. There are more in-depth descriptions on the taking and processing of samples for histopathology and electron microscopy. The next three sections cover the structure and function of mammalian skin in much greater detail. These sections are the jewel in the crown of what is a unique CD. Some highlights include a nice review of ontology; good detail on the structure of adult skin, including superb photomicrographs and diagrams; the structure and function of specialized regions of skin; a basic review of the skin immune system; mechanisms of skin repair and the skin defence mechanisms.

What is particularly useful about this CD is that it contains information that is simply not readily available anywhere else. For example if you want to know what a Pacinian corpuscle looks like or what it does or you need detail on the glandular structures of the eyelid, look no further. For anyone studying for RCVS Certificate or Diploma or a European Diploma in Veterinary Dermatology these sections should be on the must read list. These sections would also be of value to practitioners simply wishing to further their knowledge of skin structure and function. The last two main sections cover the behaviour and adaptation of animals to their environment. Finally, there are two further sections comprising a summary and quiz.

The CD was easy to use and navigate around. As already mentioned 1000 references have been collated and in each section, a click on the reference button brings up the references pertinent to that section. There are over 1000 illustrations, which are of good quality and include some excellent scanning electron photomicrographs of skin surface topography. Original histological material was prepared for the project. The 30 animations help to illustrate some of the concepts. A minor criticism would be that in some cases, the animations appear at the same time as expository text and it is often necessary to replay the animation a second time, having first read the text.

It is inevitable when aimed at such a diverse readership that there will be material that the more academically advanced might consider basic and conversely material that may be too advanced for school pupils studying more basic biology. However, on the whole, the CD fulfils its stated aims very well and can be recommended for anyone wishing to advance or review their knowledge of skin biology, structure and function. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy can do so by logging onto the CLIVE website.

Peter J Forsythe BVM&S DVD MRCVS
Pathologists, dermatologists and a sea view...

The Kings of Sweden and Denmark had castles facing each other across the sea. The King of Sweden said that the only thing he admired about the King of Denmark was his view. Like these Kings, clinicians and pathologists view each other across cases, occasionally sniping at each other and even indulging in open warfare.

Many pathologists have done some clinical work so clinicians are sure that pathologists chose their discipline because it is easier. The clinician therefore treats the pathologist as a subordinate not as a team member with the task of interpreting the pathology.

Pathologists claim moral superiority because they are “always right”. They love their God-like power with diagnoses of malignancy and prognoses to match. However, this clinical audit, sometimes highlighting errors and bearing unpleasant news, creates antipathy in the clinician. Some academic pathologists make the relationship worse by giving the clinician a long descriptive report but failing to summarise and interpret. The pathologist then complains that he or she is not appreciated.

There is competition for grant and sponsorship money so credit is not willingly given to another discipline. Clinicians defend ‘their’ clinical case. Plagiarism of pathology is rife. No scientific publication should include pathology critical for diagnosis or identifiable as contributed by the pathologist unless the pathologist has given permission. Young pathologists need publications for advancement or their careers and mature ones for promotion within an organisation, maintenance of specialist status and for commercial advertisement.

The good news is that the rift between dermatologists and dermatopathologists is less marked. Clinicians attend pathology lectures and vice versa. Publications tend to give due credit to different authors (but maybe a little way to go here). On the other hand, clinicians still hate the clinical audit which makes them give up favoured diagnoses. For example hypothyroidism which many pathologists consider to be a rare cause of alopecia.

Both the surgeon clinician and oncological pathologist deal in certainty. These certainties encourage people with certain psychological profiles to work in the disciplines. In contrast, dermatology is a discipline of uncertainty. One definition of maturity is the ability to live with uncertainty. Perhaps we have mature people in a mature discipline and, unlike the old Scandinavian Kings, we know that co-operation is better than war.

Joan Rest

The French may be right:
Plasma Cell Pododermatitis revisited

Plasma cell pododermatitis is a world-wide but rare condition of unknown pathogenesis without breed, age or sex predilection. Single or multiple paws may be affected and pain and treatment responses are variable.

The pathology is usually plasmacytic, as the name suggests, so leading to suggestions that plasma cell stenomatis (a reaction pattern) may be linked with the footpad pathology. However, as stenomatis is so common, concurrent findings may be fortuitous. There may be circulating immune complexes as both leukoclastic vasculitis and glomerulonephritis have been seen in some cases and hypergammaoglobulinaemia is a consistent feature.

However, as first noted by Eric Guaguere and Pascal Preuald (1991), the pathology is granulomatous rather than plasma cell rich. I have found mycobacteria in two cases and there is occasional seasonality and clustering of cases (we have been involved in an “outbreak” in six cats in a rescue household).

Guaguere and Preuald are therefore probably correct in suggesting that this a reaction pattern not a disease. The varied pathology (indicating probable cell mediated as well as humoral reactions) and varied response to treatment support this hypothesis. It is probable that the condition is an aberrant but variable host immune response to primary agents, some of which may be infections and include mycobacteria and/or viruses. One recent clinical case was in a cat with lymphocytic mural folliculitis so the footpad of the cat may represent an immunological target similar to sebaceous glands. If so, spontaneous recovery or treatment success may depend on not only the provoking agent but also the stage of disease.

As said by a Dane after the wonderful Nice Congress dinner “Sometimes I like the French; tonight is one of them.”

References and further reading


Joan Rest
Feline lymphocytic mural folliculitis (interface isthmus folliculitis or pseudopelade)

Feline lymphocytic mural folliculitis is yet another pathological entity not a single clinical disease. It occurs worldwide but the literature is sparse. The condition is characterized by infiltration of the follicular wall by lymphocytes, sometimes with pyogranulomatous inflammation of sebaceous glands and, in severe cases, follicular destruction. Mild cases are probably a form of allergic dermatitis with T-lymphocytes rather than eosinophils as the main cell (probably because the cats are plucking their hairs). It is uncertain how this relates to trigger factors but mild cases tend to recover or respond to the usual treatments for ‘milieu dermatitis’. Lymphocytic mural folliculitis can also be a response to dermatophytes.

Clinically severe cases present as alopecia or crusting or scaling disease. Auto-immunity has been reported (Olivry et al. 2000) but whether this is true of all cases is uncertain. Lymphocytic enteritis has been described in one case associated with an adverse food reaction (Declercq 2000). Feline sebaceous adenitis and mural folliculitis merge into each other and are not distinguishable.

My personal experience includes two severe cases with underlying neoplasia and three cases that responded to antibiotics alone (two with relapse on cessation of treatment on at least three occasions). I have also seen the syndrome in a diabetic cat and following a topical treatment. Coexisting auto-immune conditions are said to exist in some cases and swollen foot pads (as in plasma cell pododermatitis) were reported in one case. It has also been suggested that some cases may represent early epitheliotropic lymphoma although this could be a problem of diagnosis rather than progression.

Whether the mild and severe forms of the condition are related is unclear. The reaction pattern needs further documentation to identify triggers and to determine whether the pathology can be used to help distinguish these or assist in prognosis. In the light of our current knowledge, severe cases should have a guarded prognosis.

References

Letters to the Editor (now there’s a novelty...)

Further to my call for more participation and comments on our society and meetings, I have received two letters. I would love to get some more, so if these drive you to comment, please write in.

ESVD congress fees, commercial sponsorship and electronic bulletins
I think that one of the main reasons (apart from financial) that I have not yet attended an ESVD congress is that it is usually at the beginning of September. This generally clashes with the start of the school year and I have felt my sons needs were a priority.

I think on the whole I am in favour of the reduced fees for residents/post grad students. I am ambivalent about commercial sponsorship. I feel that as professional people we should be responsible enough not to let the content of the bulletin be influenced by commercial interests. However we (or our clients) will still be paying indirectly for the bulletin by the drugs we use. Adverts can be a useful way of alerting people to what is available on the market. It can also be a cost effective way of marketing for companies because we are a targeted group. It could be difficult, in a market economy, to argue against sponsorship/advertising.

I am quite happy to receive the bulletin by email.

Thanks for the bulletin,

Vanessa Miller (UK)

I often go to ESVD meetings although sometimes find that they aren’t very good at hitting the ‘middle ground’.

The practitioner stream is often useful for GPs and people enrolled for certificates but a little basic for dermatologists in practice; the scientific stream, in contrast, is sometimes impractical and more suitable for those about to do diplomas or doing research. I often feel that I would like to attend but then see the lecture content and change my mind.

I’m happy for residents to get reduced fees although I thought some were eligible for free registration, which probably is a bit of freeloadig! It’s nice to have meetings in places where you’d like to spend a couple of days e.g. Barcelona, Prague, Amsterdam, Lisbon (CPD City Breaks?). Its also good if the venue is relatively cheap and easy to get to, and cheapish to stay as a lot of people will be paying their own way.

I prefer a paper bulletin as it’s too easy to delete an e-mail bulletin if I’m busy. I have no problem with sponsorship of the bulletin.

Hope that helps and I hope you get other replies.

Rachel Sant (UK)
EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY
EXAMINATION FOR FULL DIPLOMATE STATUS: 2005

Notification is hereby given that the eighth examination for full Diplomate status of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology will be held in 2005.

There are two possible routes by which to apply to sit the Diploma Examination:
1) By completion of an approved ECVD residency program;
2) By passing the "alternate route part 1 examination" followed by further study. Candidates proposing to take this route should be aware that at the Annual General Meeting of the College in 1997, it was decided that dermatology certificates awarded by other bodies will not be accepted in place of the "alternate route part 1 examination".

A fee (currently 600 euro) will be charged for considering the applicant's credentials and sitting the exam. This is payable in advance of application and is non-refundable in the event that the applicant's credentials are not approved.

Further information can be found on the ECVD web site: www.ecvd.org or obtained from the following people:
- Chairman ECVD Education & Credential Committee: matters regarding the residency program and the credentials process. (Currently: Dr Rosario Cerundolo, e-mail: cerundolo@vet.upenn.edu);
- Chairman ECVD Diploma Examination Committee: matters regarding the examination (Currently: Dr. Didier Pin, e-mail: dpin_vetderm@hotmail.com).

All persons who satisfy the required criteria, prior to submitting an application, should check on the ECVD web site the latest information (web pages are routinely updated) on the examination and instruction for payment of the fee. All completed applications must be received by 30th September 2004 and sent to Dr. R. Cerundolo (Dept. of Clinical Studies, The School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, VHP3 3900 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010, USA). Without exception, incomplete or late applications will not be processed or reviewed. The decision of the Credentials Committee will be reported to the applicants by 31st December 2004.

Dr Rosario Cerundolo, Chairman ECVD Education & Credentials Committee

EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY
ALTERNATE ROUTE PART ONE EXAMINATION: 2005

Notification is hereby given that the eighth examination for the Alternate Route Part 1 Examination will be held in 2005.

In order to apply to take the examination, candidates must have:
1) Full membership of the ESVD
2) Attended a minimum of 140 hours of courses on veterinary dermatology accredited by the ECVD, which currently include the courses organised by the ESVD, the EASVS and those for the French Dermatology Certificate.
3) Attended a minimum of 3 Annual Meetings of the ESVD, or international/national dermatology meetings of equivalent status.

A fee (currently 600 euro) will be charged for consideration of the applicant's credentials and sitting the exam. This is payable in advance of application and is non-refundable in the event that the applicant's credentials are not approved.

Further information can be found on the ECVD web site: www.ecvd.org or obtained from the following people:
- Chairman ECVD Education & Credential Committee: matters regarding accreditation of courses, casebook preparation, examination guidelines and the credentials process (Currently: Dr Rosario Cerundolo, e-mail: cerundolo@vet.upenn.edu);
- Chairman ECVD Alternate Route Part 1 Examination Committee: matters regarding the examination (Currently: Dr. Jacques Fontaine, e-mail: fontaine.jacques@ping.be).

All applications must be received on the official application form (please see the ECVD web site) together with the application fee and sent to the Chairman of the Education & Credential Committee (Dr. R. Cerundolo, Dept. of Clinical Studies, The School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, VHP3 3900 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010, USA). The casebook should be sent to the Chairman of the Examination Committee (Dr. Jacques Fontaine; Avenue Brugmann 425, Bruxelles 1180, Belgium).

All the above documents must be received by 30th September 2004. Without exception, incomplete or late applications will not be processed or reviewed. The decision of the Credentials Committee will be reported to the applicants by 31st December 2004.

Dr Rosario Cerundolo, Chairman ECVD Education & Credentials Committee