Welcome to this autumn edition of the ESVD Bulletin in the Year of the Rat. I was personally interested to read that those born in this year of the Chinese calendar (1948, 1960, 1972, 1984) are hard working, innovative, good problem solvers and sociable but also love to gossip and are perhaps somewhat crafty and opportunistic in trying to achieve their goals. Apparently, we are very compatible with someone born in the year of the ox (1949, 1961, 1973, 1985) which is particularly good as I have been married to one such person for the past 22 years. I must ask her what she thinks of the accuracy of Year of the Rat personality traits. Yes, the WCVD6 in Hong Kong on 19-22 November is looming ever closer on the horizon and as you can see my research on HK and what is happening at the congress appears to have gone off at a tangent. Despite credit crunch woes and airlines going out of business there is a great deal of excitement for this meeting and if you are still somewhat equivocal about whether to commit to going, have a look at the excellent programme at www.vetdermhongkong.com and that should convince you that this is one not to be missed.

Talking of meetings, I have just returned from the Autumn meeting of the British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group. For nearly thirty years the BVDSG has organised high quality, twice yearly meetings and published excellent proceedings that have built up into a valuable reference. This meeting, covering dermatoses of the face and feet and including excellent large animal components delivered by Agnes Winter and John Reilly, was no exception. The BVDSG has a large membership but discussion at the AGM, and in the bar on the Saturday night, was how to maintain membership levels now that the RCVS Certificate in Veterinary Dermatology is coming to an end; there is no doubt that this was a major factor in the recruitment of new members. The conclusion was that the group should continue to organise meetings of a high standard and publish excellent proceedings and membership would continue to offer excellent value for money. As this was WCVD year, and there is no ESVD/ECVD congress, the ESVD AGM was held during the weekend. The ESVD Board and 14 members were present. Full details of the meeting will be published in the Annual Report but the ESVD president, Aiden Foster, thanked the Board Members for their hard work over the previous year. The treasurer, Ian Mason, discussed the complexities of running bank accounts in both Euros and Pounds Sterling and thanked Trevor Whitbread, the past treasurer, for his invaluable assistance with the handover over the past year. A report of the ESVD research grant awards (there were two of them this year) appears within these pages. Luc Beco, meetings secretary, invited everyone to Bled in Slovenia for the 2009 ESVD/ECVD Congress. The setting for the 2009 meeting looks absolutely stunning and would also be a great venue for a holiday at the same time.

Also present in this issue of the Bulletin are the usual details on forthcoming ESVD workshops. I am very pleased that my pleas and cajoling in the last issue appear not to have fallen on deaf ears and thank you to everyone from the various parts of Europe who sent in details of what is happening with veterinary dermatology in their areas. Thus, in this edition there is information on activities in the UK, Italy, France, Spain and Sweden. This is great but can still be improved upon. Come on you Germans, Portuguese, Danes and other points of the compass: what are you up to? There is also the usual Abstract watch with details on a particularly useful paper. Have you ever pondered on the difficulty of allergen selection for immunotherapy in those cases with multiple pollen reactions? Well for at least some of the answers, read on...

See you in Hong Kong.

Peter
Future ESVD Meetings and Workshops

23rd Annual Congress of the ESVD-ECVD
17th-19th September 2009
Bled, Slovenia
Golf Hotel (Sava Hoteli Bled)
Cankarjeva Cesta 6
4260 Bled
Slovenia

It is our great pleasure to announce that the 23rd Annual Congress of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology and the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology will be held in Bled, Slovenia, 17-19 September 2009. Bled (www.bled.si) has a mild, sub-Alpine climate. The ridges of the Julian and Karavanke Alps protect it from chilly northern winds. The average monthly temperature in September is 15°C, and some rainy days may be expected.

The Congress Centre of the Golf Hotel in Bled (www.hotelibled.com) is set in a quiet park and offers a panoramic view of Lake Bled. It is within walking distance of the hotels and major tourist facilities of Bled. We will do our best to make sure everyone has a great experience with the scientific and social programs.

Bled is a sure ‘must-do’ for your calendar!

We look forward to seeing you in September 2009!

For more information visit: www.esvd2009.org

ESVD Workshops 2009
Workshop on Dermatopathology
Date: 12th-15th May 2009
Location: Italy, Palazzo Trecchi, Cremona
Speakers: Verena Affolter, Claudia von Tscharner, Julie Yager
Local Organizers: Fabia Scarampella and Francesca Abramo

The ESVD Workshop on Dermatopathology is a ‘must-do’ meeting for residents and for all members who would like to update their knowledge in this fascinating field of dermatology.

Cremona is proud to host this event again in Palazzo Trecchi, one of the oldest building in the town. Come to one of the most charming towns of Northern Italy, after the lectures go for a walk in the central medieval square with the beautiful Cathedral and, the Torrazzo tower. Visit the violinmaker’s workshops and the violin museum. Sample the food and enjoy Italy in springtime!

You will find all the information pertaining to this meeting in the leaflet included with this issue of the Bulletin or at www.esvd.org/education

Workshop on Otitis
Date: October 2009
Location: United Kingdom: St Helens, Abbotsfield Referral Hospital
Local Organiser: Sue Paterson
Preliminary programme

Day 1 – Thursday
09.00 Registration
09.45 - 10.30 Anatomy of the Canine and Feline Ear
10.30 - 11.15 Examination of the external ear canal
11.15 – 11.45 Coffee
11.45 – 12.45 Cytology and Histopathology of the canine and feline ear
13.00 – 14.15 Lunch
14.15 – 15.00 Diagnostic imaging of the canine and feline ear
15.00 – 15.45 Primary causes of ear disease
15.45 – 16.15 Tea
16.15 – 17.00 Predisposing causes of otitis externa

Day 2 – Friday
09.30 – 10.15 Perpetuating causes of otitis externa (including failure of epithelial migration)
10.00 – 11.00 Otitis media, otitis interna and vestibular disease: investigation and differential diagnosis
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee
11.30 – 13.00 Neoplastic conditions of the ear pinna and canal, clinical signs, medical and surgical management
13.00 – 14.15 Lunch
14.15 – 15.00 Laser surgery of the ear
15.00 – 17.00 Practical demonstration video-otoscope and laser surgery (tea taken as required by delegates)
Day 3 – Saturday
Therapy of ear disease
Otitis externa

09.30 – 10.15 Principles of effective ear cleaning
10.15 – 11.00 Deciding when medical therapy is appropriate/ Gram positive infection
11.00 – 11.15 Coffee
11.15 – 12.15 Therapy of Gram negative infection
12.15 – 13.00 Malassezia infection/hypersensitivity
13.00 – 14.15 Lunch
14.15 – 15.00 Ototoxicity
15.00 – 15.45 Medical management of otitis media

2010

From skin biology to cutaneous diseases: epidermis and dermis: without follicles and adnexae

Date: June 2010
Location: Spa – Belgium
Speakers: Thierry OLIVRY and Keith LINDER
Local Organizer: Luc BECO

Feline dermatology

Date: Autumn 2010
Location: Majorca – Spain
Local Organizer: Amparo Ortúnez and Maite Verde

Cutaneous immunology

United Kingdom: Date and venue to be confirmed

2011

Common and not-so-common dermatological diseases of companion animals: clinicopathological controversies

Date: Spring 2011
Location: Greece, Volos
Local Organizer: Alexander Koutinas

ESVD Research Grant

The Board of the ESVD decided during the last board meeting in Mainz, Germany to fund one and possibly two projects up to 15,000 Euros each.

The Grant Officer, Claude Favrot, asked Anke Hendricks (RVC), Monika Welle (U of Berne, Switzerland) and Didier-Noël Carlotti (Bordeaux, France) to review the proposals.

We received 12 proposals, which was far in excess of previous years and each proposal was evaluated independently by the three reviewers. Projects received marks for relevance (0-20), originality (0-10), clarity of the design (0-20), feasibility (0-20), budget (0-10) and ability of the applicant to carry out the research (0-20) with a maximum mark of 300 (100 from each reviewer). None of the projects was awarded a mark below 200, indicating that all projects were of a high standard. The two projects receiving the highest marks were:

“Investigation on antimicrobial peptides in the skin of normal dogs and in sensitized high IgE atopic beagles” from Dr Domenico Santoro, University of Illinois and “The in vitro and in vivo evaluation of filaggrin expression in keratinocytes harvested from dogs with and without atopic dermatitis” from Dr Rosanna Marsella, University of Florida. These projects received marks of 257 and 261 respectively and were both elected to receive funding. Dr Santoro will receive 12,616 euros and Dr Marsella 13,843 euros.

Dr Claude Favrot

Forthcoming Dermatology Meetings

BVDSG Spring Meeting

Location: International Conference Centre, Birmingham, UK
Date: 1st April 2009
Hair today, Gone tomorrow - Alopecia

Preliminary programme

09.30 – 10.15 Why is this patient’s hair falling out?
Approach to alopecia in dogs and cats
10.15 – 11.00 Pathology of alopecia and getting good biopsies
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee and commercial exhibition
11.30 – 12.00 Alopecia X
12.00 – 12.30 Paraneoplastic Alopecia
12.30 – 13.00 Immune mediated causes of alopecia
13.00 – 14.00 Lunch
14.00 – 14.30 Coffee and commercial exhibition
14.30 – 15.15 Breed-related alopecia
15.15 – 16.00 Endocrine Alopecia
16.00 – 16.30 Abstracts
GEDAC Annual Meeting

Location: Reims, France
Date: 4-6th April 2009

GEDAC (The French group of Veterinary Dermatology) organizes an annual congress. In 2009, it will be held in Reims (the Champagne town!) only 45 minutes away from Paris by the TGV train. There will be a double program (advanced and basic level) with top level speakers including Claude Favrot, Dominique Heripret, Eric Guaguere, Didier-Noël Carlotti, Pilar Brazis, Stephen White, Patrick Bourdeau, Emmanuel Bensignor and many others. The congress language will be French, without translation.

Registration includes coffee breaks, lunches and gala dinner.

If interested contact emmanuel.bensignor@wanadoo.fr or have a look at www.afvac.com

Programme Specialise

Vendredi 4 Avril 2009
Vascularites: chez l'homme; du chien et du chat; étiopathogénie; clinique; diagnostic; traitement Courtes communications (6)

Samedi 4 avril 2009
Du mastocyte à la mastocytose
Le mastocyte
Les mastocytes chez l'homme; mastocyte et dermatites allergiques; mastocytose du chien et du chat; actualités thérapeutiques

Dimanche 5 avril 2009
Actualités en bibliographie
Clinical pathology

Programme General

Vendredi 4 avril 2009
Motifs de consultation: topographie
(chaque présentation: 15mn + 5)
Le Grifon vendéen qui sent mauvais des oreilles - Comment gérer une otite érythémato-cérumineuse
Le Jack Russel terrier qui saigne des pavillons - Comment diagnostiquer et gérer les états kératoséborrhéiques des pavillons
Le Léonberg qui a du pus dans les oreilles qui ne passe pas - Comment gérer une otite suppurée
Le labrador qui a les griffes déformées et qui tombent - Les onychodystrophies
Le malinois qui a les coussinets fendus - Les hyperkératoses palmo-plantaires

Le labrador qui a une dépigmentation de la truffe - Diagnostic différentiel des hypomélanoises de la truffe
Le chien de chasse qui a des coulées bizarres - Gérer les callosités
Déjeuner
Le cocker qui a du pus sur les lèvres - Les pyodermites cutanéo-muqueuses
Le bichon qui a des érosions scrotales - Les scrotites
La chienne qui se lèche la vulve - Les vulitides
Le caniche qui se frotte l'anus - Les anites
Mimicries

Samedi 4 avril 2009
Motif de consultation: sémiologie
Docteur, mon chien sent mauvais - Diagnostic différentiel des séborrhées
Docteur, mon chien a des pellicules - Diagnostic différentiel des états squameux du chien
Docteur, mon chat a des pellicules - Diagnostic différentiel des états squameux du chat
Le chat qui se gratte la tête - Le prurit cervico-facial félin
Le chiot qui se gratte partout mais qui n'a pas de lésions - Le prurit sine materia
Le chien qui se lèche les pattes avant - La dermatite atopique
Le chat qui se gratte, et son propriétaire aussi - Les dermatozoonoses
Déjeuner
Docteur, mon Bull terrier a des boles entre les doigts - Les pyroglycénomies stériles
Mon jeune Boxer de race a une boule rouge sur la lèvre - Les histiocytores
Mon vieux Boxer a une boule rouge sur la lèvre - Les mastocytomes
Docteur, ma chatte a des boles (sous le cou) et un ulcère (sur la lèvre) - L'ulcère atone
Le chat qui n'a plus de poils sur le ventre - L'alopécie extensive féline
Le Caniche avec un pelage clairsemé - Les dysenocrinies
Le labrador qui perd ses poils toute l'année - Les efflufmies
Le Boxer qui a des taches sur les flancs - Les dysplasies folliculaires

Dimanche 5 avril 2009
Questions en thérapeutique
Madame, il faut laver votre chat! - Utilisation des topiques dans l'espace féline
Monsieur, les antibiotiques, c'est pas deux jours par semaine - L'antibiothérapie intermittente
Mademoiselle, les anti-puces, c'est pas tous les 3 mois! - La lutte insecticide raisonnée
Comment ça, il ne se gratte plus mais il fait pipi partout? - Alternatives à la corticothérapie
Prurit: piqûre, comprimés ou traitement local? - Savoir gérer un prurit au quotidien
Otité: piqûre, comprimés ou traitement local - Savoir gérer une otite au quotidien
Pyodermites: piqûre, comprimés ou traitement local? - Savoir gérer une pyodermite au quotidien
Teigne: piqûre, comprimés ou traitement local? - Savoir gérer une dermatophytose au quotidien

SIDEV Meetings

Workshop in cutaneous oncology
30th January – 1st February 2009
Palazzo Trecchi, Cremona
Speakers: F. Abramo, C. Brachelente and P. Roccabianca

EBM and Veterinary Medicine
13th March 2009
Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri, Milan

An update on canine and feline ectoparasitoses
19th April 2009
Palazzo Trecchi, Cremona
Speakers: L. Kramer, A. Vercelli and F. Leone

ESVD Workshop on Dermatopathology
12th – 15th May 2009
Palazzo Trecchi, Cremona
Speakers: V. Affolter, C. von Tscharner and J. Yager

Updates on canine atopic dermatitis
29th – 31st May 2009
62nd SCIVAC Annual Congress, Rimini
Speakers: R. Marsella and S. Colombo

Controversies in feline dermatology
18th October 2009
Palazzo Trecchi, Cremona
Speakers: A. Fondati, C. Palestini and F. Abramo

For information regarding the above meetings please contact:
Fabia Scarampella, DVM, MSc, Dipl. ECVD
SIDEV President, Milano, Italia
fabia.scarampella@dermvet.fastwebnet.it

Veterinary Dermatology Activities In Spain
The Small Animal Veterinary Specialist’s Association of Spain (AVEPA)
AVEPA organizes a continuing education program on three levels. The language will be Spanish. Each level is repeated in 10 Spanish cities between July 2008 and September 2012.

A. Wet lab in basic dermatological techniques.
   (Cesar Yotti and Otília Ferrer)
B. General continuing education in dermatology
   (Ana Rios and Mar Bardagi)
B. High level continuing education in dermatology
   (Chiara Noli and Laura Ordeix)

For more information please visit: www.avepa.org

Southern European Veterinary Conference (SEVC)
Location: Barcelona
Date: 17th – 18th October 2008
17th October: one full day in small animal dermatology. Speakers include Ton Willemse, Maite Verde, Lluís Ferrer, Richard Harvey, and Jose Luis Gonzalez.
18th October: there will be sessions on “Ear and nose diseases” presented by G. ter Haar and Equine Dermatology presented by Dr. Knottentbelt.
All lectures at the SEVC congress will be in English and Spanish simultaneously.
For more information please visit: www.avepa.org

AVEPA Dermatology Study Group
Spring Congress
April 2009
Madrid Veterinary School
“Especialidades Veterinarias Clinicas en Animales de Compañía” Two days of dermatology with lectures, case presentations and novel therapeutics.
Report from the Swedish Veterinary Dermatology Study Group

Here up north we have a very active dermatology study group with approximately 200 members. Mainly Swedes, but we also have members from Norway, Finland and Denmark, since these countries don’t have any study groups themselves. We usually arrange two meetings every year, a bigger spring meeting with invited speakers from abroad, and a smaller meeting in the autumn with case presentations. In March this year the theme was allergies in dogs and cats. We had two excellent speakers in Peter B. Hill and Richard Halliwell and the meeting of course was a big success. The meeting was held at Hotel Hasselbacken in the Kings Hunting Park, situated on one of the islands in the middle of Stockholm.

The case meeting this year will be held in Gothenburg and apart from case presentations, we have some lectures with Swedish speakers. This year we are very up to date since the theme is the use of antibiotics and MRSA/MRSI. Last year there was an outbreak of MRSA in the biggest small animal hospital in Stockholm. A professor from the Department of Infectious Diseases/Hygiene at Sahlgrenska University Hospital as well as our best known lecturer in the topic from the Swedish Veterinary Institute will teach us how to deal with this. With 30 to 40 participants, the case meetings are informal and engaging, and are a great opportunity to present difficult unsolved (or indeed solved) cases. The presentations inevitably stimulate discussion and some good advice from colleagues. Wayne Rosenberg will come all the way from the USA to speak for two days at our next spring meeting which is definitely something to look forward to.

Apart from arranging meetings, our veterinary organisation has created a specialist examination system for members to work towards. For some 10 years we now have had a specialist exam in diseases in dogs and cats. This involves working with a supervisor, writing an article that the committee accept and sitting an examination. A “Part Two” examination in a special topic has now been created which is more rigorous. This involves working for three years partly with a specialist, publishing an article in the topic in an international journal, keeping a case log and passing a written examination. There are now eight veterinarians who have passed the specialist exam in dermatology in dogs and cats, and there are more colleagues enrolled for the exam. This is a nice way to obtain further qualifications for veterinarians that for different reasons are not able to go for a European diploma.

For the Swedish Veterinary Dermatology Study Group
Marianne Mellgren, President

Report from ESVD workshop in Cuneo

Allow me to start by saying that this insert (rambling) into the Bulletin is my attempt to inform you, the dermatological public about the recent and may I say, excellent meeting of the ESVD in Cuneo, Italy on the subject of Dermatological Therapy. This was unlike a meeting of alcoholics anonymous or dermatologists anonymous, where we all sat in a circle and mumble shamefully, “My name is Simon, and I am veterinary dermatologist”, before shrinking back into the shadows. No, this is a meeting that forces you into the light, whereupon we all realize that dermatology is the only true way to veterinary fulfillment.

The meeting took place over four days and was excellent value. I can’t recall a course of such length and depth for a mere 740 Euros (plus travel). It truly was value for money and for those of you wondering where to get your dermatological CPD, let me tell you that you won’t find better. Like a meeting of the EU Summit, it is a truly international affair with people from thirteen countries. I am afraid to say that I was the only Brit, but once people in the UK see the light, I am sure that this will change. Earlier I called myself a veterinary dermatologist; I cannot lie. This is stretching the truth somewhat when you realise that many of the people in the audience were referral dermatologists, diplomats and leaders in their field, but I have never let the truth get in the way of a good story. The main speakers were Dr. Doug DeBoer of Madison, Wisconsin Veterinary school, a world renowned physician familiar to many of you and Dr. Manfred Ketzman, an equally eminent pharmacologist from Hannover.

Doug is a superb speaker. His true talent was the ability to realise that not one country, institute or person has the key to the treatment of the vast array of conditions that we treat on a daily basis and we all learnt a lot on the course, especially the more low key delegates, such as me. Manfred is, as you would expect, very informative and knowledgeable about his subject, but also very engaging and hugely entertaining. I have to say in the UK, a German pharmacologist with a sense of humour seems a contradiction in terms, but I have met him! I now understand my ‘azoles’, although the poor chap seems convinced he is Jurgen Klinsman, the great German footballer. It is a shame, but age comes to us all and Manfred celebrated his birthday while presenting the course. I would like to acknowledge the organiser of the course, Dr Chiara Noli. Her talks on leishmaniasis, anti-parasiticides and client compliance were inspiring. They obviously worked their magic on me as I became deeply compliant by agreeing to write this review. All of us took a lot away from all the speakers.
Of course, it wasn’t ‘all work and no play’. How many of you can say you had welcome cocktails, breakfast and lunch every day and a fantastic meal out at a 1 star Michelin restaurant, all for the price of your delegate ticket? We ate one night at a trattoria in the mountains around Cuneo. This is a small eating house which serves lots of superb local dishes. To find out what they are you will have to go to the next course in Cuneo. I will say no more, other than to say, it was not fish and chips. This is part of the joy of an international meeting that helped to cement old friendships and establish new ones. Like another European institution, the Eurovision Song Contest, some piano playing and singing even took place. The UK got ‘nul points’ again, I am afraid.

I am off now now, to return to the shadows, armed with my sello tape and a blunted scalpel blade, to return to dermatological anonymity. This is until the next meeting when I can burst back into the light again. I wonder if I can convince a drug company to pay for my ticket to the World Congress in Hong Kong, if not as a dermatologist then perhaps as international correspondent?

Simon Want UK

Abstract Watch

Basis for the barrier abnormality in atopic dermatitis: Outside-inside-outside pathogenic mechanisms.

Elias PM, Hatano Y, Williams ML

Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology 2008 121(6): 1337-1343

Until quite recently, the pathogenesis of atopic dermatitis (AD) has been attributed to primary abnormalities of the immune system. Intensive study revealed the key roles played by TH1/TH2 cell dysregulation, IgE production, mast cell hyperactivity, and dendritic cell signaling in the evolution of the chronic, pruritic, inflammatory dermatosis that characterizes AD. Accordingly, current therapy has been largely directed toward ameliorating TH2-mediated inflammation and pruritus. In this review we will assess emerging evidence that inflammation in AD results from inherited and acquired insults to the barrier and the therapeutic implications of this paradigm.

Reservoirs of antimicrobial resistance in pet animals.

Lloyd DH

Clinical Infectious Diseases 2007 1;45 Suppl 2:S148-152

Increasing amounts of antimicrobials are used in pets, including substances used in human medicine (in particular, broad-spectrum agents such as clavulanate-potentiated amoxicillin-potassium clavulanate, cephalosporins, and fluoroquinolones). There is evidence that resistance to antimicrobials is growing among bacteria causing infection in pets. These bacteria include Staphylococcus intermedius and Escherichia coli, as well as other organisms of clinical importance in humans, including methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. Transmission of such organisms, particularly pathogenic staphylococci, occurs between pets, owners, and veterinary staff, and pets can act as reservoirs of such bacteria; this may have an impact on the use of antimicrobials in human medicine. There is a need to generate data regarding both the levels of carriage of such bacteria in pets and the risk factors associated with the transfer of the bacteria to humans who have contact with infected pets, as well as to improve hygiene measures in veterinary practice.
Immune response to fungal infections
Blanco JL, Garcia ME
Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology 2008 125(1-2):47-70.

The immune mechanisms of defence against fungal infections are numerous, and range from protective mechanisms that were present early in evolution (innate immunity) to sophisticated adaptive mechanisms that are induced specifically during infection and disease (adaptive immunity). The first-line innate mechanism is the presence of physical barriers in the form of skin and mucous membranes, which is complemented by cell membranes, cellular receptors and humoral factors. There has been a debate about the relative contribution of humoral and cellular immunity to host defence against fungal infections. For a long time it was considered that cell-mediated immunity (CMI) was important, but humoral immunity had little or no role. However, it is accepted now that CMI is the main mechanism of defence, but that certain types of antibody response are protective. In general, Th1-type CMI is required for clearance of a fungal infection, while Th2 immunity usually results in susceptibility to infection. Aspergillosis, which is a disease caused by the fungus Aspergillus, has been the subject of many studies, including details of the immune response. Attempts to relate aspergillosis to some form of immunosuppression in animals, as is the case with humans, have not been successful to date. The defence against Aspergillus is based on recognition of the pathogen, a rapidly deployed and highly effective innate effector phase, and a delayed but robust adaptive effector phase. Candida albicans, part of the normal microbial flora associated with mucous surfaces, can be present as congenital candidiasis or as acquired defects of cell-mediated immunity. Resistance to this yeast is associated with Th1 CMI, whereas Th2 immunity is associated with susceptibility to systemic infection. Dermatophytes produce skin alterations in humans and other animals, and the essential role of the CMI response is to destroy the fungi and produce an immunoprotective status against re-infection. The resolution of the disease is associated with a delayed hypersensitive response. There are many effective veterinary vaccines against dermatophytes. Malassezia pachydermatis is an opportunistic yeast that needs predisposing factors to cause disease, often related to an atopic status in the animal. Two species can be differentiated within the genus Cryptococcus with immunologic consequences: C. neoformans infects predominantly immunocompromised hosts, and C. gattii infects non-immunocompromised hosts. Pneumocystis is a fungus that infects only immunosuppressed individuals, inducing a host defence mechanism similar to that induced by other fungal pathogens, such as Aspergillus.

Guidelines for using pollen cross-reactivity in formulating allergen immunotherapy.

Useful paper providing guidelines for the rational formulation of allergen immunotherapy extracts based on knowledge of pollen allergen and epitope cross-reactivity.

Identification, expression and characterisation of a major salivary allergen (Cul s 1) of the biting midge Culicoides sonorensis relevant for summer eczema in horses.
Langner KF, Jarvis DL, Nimtz M, Heselhaus JE, McHolland LE, Leibold W, Drolet BS.

Salivary proteins of Culicoides biting midges are thought to play a key role in summer eczema (SE), a seasonal recurrent allergic dermatitis in horses. The present study describes the identification, expression and clinical relevance of a candidate allergen of the North American midge Culicoides sonorensis. Immunoblot analysis of midge saliva revealed a 66kDa protein (Cul s 1) that was bound by IgE from several SE-affected (SE+) horses. Further characterisation by fragmentation, mass spectrometry and bioinformatics identified Cul s 1 as maltase, an enzyme involved in sugar meal digestion. A cDNA encoding Cul s 1 was isolated and expressed as a polyhistidine-tagged fusion protein in a baculovirus/insect cell expression system. The clinical relevance of the affinity-purified recombinant Cul s 1 (rCul s 1) was investigated by immunoblotting, histamine release testing (HRT) and intradermal testing (IDT) in eight SE+ and eight control horses. Seven SE+ horses had rCul s 1-specific IgE, whereas only one control animal had IgE directed against this allergen. Furthermore, the HRT showed rCul s 1 induced basophil degranulation in samples from seven of eight SE+ horses but in none of the control animals. rCul s 1 also induced immediate (7/8), late-phase (8/8) and delayed (1/8) skin reactivity in IDT on all SE+ horses that had a positive test with the whole body extract (WBE) of C. sonorensis. None of the control horses showed immediate or delayed skin reactivity with rCul s 1, and only one control horse had a positive late-phase response, while several non-specific late-phase reactions were observed with the insect WBE. Thus, we believe rCul s 1 is the first specific salivary allergen of C. sonorensis to be described that promises to advance both in vitro and in vivo diagnosis and may contribute to the development of immunotherapy for SE in horses.

Rassnick KM, Williams LE, Kristol O, Al-Sarraf R, Baez JL, Zwahlen CH, Dank G.

OBJECTIVE: To determine clinical activity and toxic effects of lomustine when used to treat cats with mast cell tumors (MCTs). DESIGN: Retrospective case series. ANIMALS: 38 cats with measurable, histologically or cytologically confirmed MCTs treated with lomustine at a dosage > or = 50 mg/m(2). PROCEDURES: Medical records were reviewed to determine response to treatment and evidence of drug toxicoses. The Kaplan-Meier method was used to estimate remission duration. RESULTS: 26 cats had cutaneous MCTs, 7 had MCTs of the mesenteric lymph nodes, 2 had gastrointestinal tract MCTs, 2 had hepatic MCTs, and 1 had MCTs involving multiple organs. Targeted lomustine dosage was 50 mg/m(2) in 22 cats and 60 mg/m(2) in 16 cats. Median administered dosage of lomustine was 56 mg/m(2) (range, 48 to 65 mg/m(2)), and median number of doses administered was 2 (range, 1 to 12). Seven cats had a complete response and 12 had a partial response, for an overall response rate of 50%. Median response duration was 168 days (range, 25 to 727 days). The most common toxicoses were neutropenia and thrombocytopenia.

CONCLUSIONS AND CLINICAL RELEVANCE: Results suggested that lomustine had activity against MCTs in cats and was well tolerated. Further, findings suggested that treatment with lomustine should be considered for cats with MCTs for which local treatment is not an option.

ECVD examination results 2008

It is with pleasure that I wish to inform you that the following people have successfully passed the 2008 Diploma Examination of the College:

Ursula Mayer (residency: University of Munich, Germany)
Marie-Christine Calleguies (residency: Royal Veterinary College, London, UK)

Dermatology Residency Available

If interested in a residency, orient your browser to the ECVD website (www.ecvd.org) and look for “ECVD Residency” for details of approved ECVD residencies and any positions available.

Course/Seminar Accreditation

Those interested in having a course or seminar accredited by the ECVD Education Committee should check the ECVD website under “General Information”.

Title Abuse

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 (now named the “Alternate Route Qualifying Examination”), that the College does not allow the use of any title in relation to this examination whatsoever.

The use, in any way, of titles such as “ECVD Certificate Holder”, “ECVD Part I Diploma Holder”, “ECVD Alternate Route Qualifying Examination Holder” etc. is therefore absolutely forbidden by the College.
Current ECVD Board (2008-2009)
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Thierry Olivry
President ECVD