

Editor: Madeleine Campbell

Newsletter December 2017

ECAR Newsletter

Dec 2017 issue

From the President, Marijke Beltman:

WELCOME TO THE NEW ECAR DIPLOMATES!



After the ECAR examinations that took place in November in Vienna we are happy to welcome the following 8 new ECAR diplomates to the college: Stefan Bjorkman (porcine reproduction and herd health), Martin Köhne (equine), Denise Laskowski (biotechnology), Caroline Sorknes Haadem (equine), Sonia Parrilla Hernandez (equine), Karen Wagner (ruminant reproduction and herd health), Tancrede Bonte (small animals) and Katerine Kirchhoff (small animals).

Emmanuel Topie sat the exam in equine which is his second subspeciality.

Well done to all!



Update on the re-establishing of the college in Belgium

We are currently in the final stages of legally re-establishing the college in Belgium and will keep you posted to this regard. Once ECAR is re-established as a non profit organisation in Belgium this will allow us to move the accounts and introduce a more automated system to make payments of membership and exam fees easier.

New and updated website is going live soon – if you have any feedback for us or if there is anything else you like to see on the website once its live please don't hesitate to get in touch!



ECAR BOARD 2017-2020

Marijke Beltman, President

Olli Peltoniemi, Past President

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Angelika von Heimendahl



Hello from new ECAR Board member Dr. Christiane Otzdorff

My name is Dr Christiane Otzdorff, and I'm with the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich since 2005. I'm part of the Clinic for Horses – Medicine and Reproduction as well as the Clinic of Small Animal Surgery and Reproduction. I'm working now mainly in animal andrology in horses, bovine and small animals.

After finished a 2-years apprenticeship in horse breeding and husbandry I studied veterinary medicine in Giessen. Already as a veterinary student I was most interested in animal reproduction and in particular in andrology. So, I decided that I would like to get a doctoral thesis in this topic. After graduation I performed a doctoral thesis about bovine in vitro oocyte maturation in the IVF lab at the AI station in Neustadt/Aisch. In 2005 I finished the thesis and started to work in the IVF lab at the Clinic of Small Animal Surgery and Reproduction as an ECAR resident (subfield biotechnology). I was lucky to work with oocytes, sperm and embryos of many species. Since 2008 I'm an ECAR diplomate. In 2012 I took the exam to become a German national specialist in reproductive biotechnology.

Teaching takes up the main part of my work time and is also my favorite part. I enjoy teaching and that was the reason why I applied to the ECAR exam board in 2011 for the biotechnology subfield. I was a member of the ECAR exam board since 2017.

Now I'm looking forward to serve ECAR as a board member!

Hello from new ECAR Board member Dr Angelika von Heimendahl

Although of German nationality I have worked in the UK for over 25 years, first in general practice, then industry, University and now in a specialist referral clinic, still undertaking some teaching and publishing. In the last three years I have studied for a Masters in Conservation Medicine to combine reproductive knowledge with wildlife.

In my early career I specialised in bovine reproduction (ET and OPU), but then changed to small animals during my time at the Royal Vet College in London. On a European level I have been a member of the EVSSAR committee from 2005-2011, serving as its president in the last year. I have been a member of the ECAR examination board since 2011 and its president in 2016.

I will try to represent the interest of members that go on to use their speciality in practice, rather than academia. I am also aware of the difficulties of attempting a specialisation whilst having a busy life and many demands as well as having to study. I would like to enable more vets interested in reproduction from countries that do not yet have diplomates to be able to join ECAR through a mentoring system. I believe that the college has to constantly evolve and find solutions for challenges both within the European College system but also its core membership to serve its members well.





Hello from new ECAR Board member Dr. Jan Govaere

Jan Govaere, graduated from Ghent University (DVM, 2000), specialized in equine veterinary medicine (Eq Spec Vet 2004) and became a Diplomate in 2005 (ECAR). Currently he is Head of the Clinic of Reproduction of Large Animals at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Ghent University. His main responsibilities are clinical education and clinical service in the teaching hospital, furthermore he is involved in educational- and clinical research and is the driving force behind the *FoalinMare* project: Foalinmare.com
<https://biblio.ugent.be/person/801001758585>

Information for exam candidates: When to sit the exam after you have fulfilled your credential requirements.

Over the past year the ERC has been asked a number of times when a candidate has to sit the exam in relation to fulfilling the credential requirement. The Constitution and Bylaws text relating to this state the following (5.1.6):

The candidates must pass the examination within eight years of being notified that they meet the requirements for admission to the examination. The number of re-applications to sit the examination is limited to three (3) (four (4) attempts in total). Failure to pass the examination within five (5) years of the first sitting will prevent the candidate from being certified. A candidate who fails either of these requirements must resubmit his/her application to the Board of the College for re-evaluation. Additional periods of training and/or experience may be required by the Board of the College.

This means that: Once the resident has fulfilled the criteria, they have 8 years to pass the exam. However, once they sit the exam once and fail to pass, they have to pass the exam within 5 years of the first sitting. A candidate can have a maximum of 4 attempts to sit the exam.

Now, when have you actually fulfilled the criteria ?

A residency program has to be approved by the ERC. It may vary in duration from 3 to 6 years. The complete caseload is evaluated on yearly basis. At the end of your individual program, you should meet all the requirements to be eligible to sit the exam. That means that you should have enough cases for all the categories, have two papers accepted and two presentations at international congresses and substantial scientific activities. If, for some reason, you do not meet all the requirements at the end of your residency, you can contact the ERC and apply for an extension of your program. You will then be granted extra time, for example for an externship or a final decision on a paper. Once all the requirements are met, the 8 years countdown will start. Easy !

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Invitation to the Summer School 2018 in Munich

We would like to invite all interested residents to the Summer School 2018 at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich. For the first time, the Summer School will last for three days (lectures and hands-on workshops).

Dates

3.7.-6.7.2018

Venue

Clinic for Ruminants
Sonnenstraße 16
85764 Oberschleißheim

Registration

Information concerning the registration will be given in January 2018 on the ECAR website homepage. Please note that the number of attendants will be limited to 35 persons in order to keep the interactive atmosphere of the sessions and the workshops.

Preliminary Program

The summer school 2018 will start on July 3th 2018 with the fine tradition of a “Get together” in the evening. We like to invite you to Bavarian food and beverages (Don’t worry, you don’t need “Dirndls” or “Lederhosen”), at the Clinic for Ruminants.

After two days of lectures and discussions, on July 5th 2018 we will head to Hellabrunn, the zoo in Munich, to hear something about reproduction in zoo animals and how to deal with these cases as a zoo vet. We are glad to announce that the zoo vet will also give us a tour through the zoo. After that we will have dinner near Hellabrunn.

On July 6th we plan to offer hands-on workshops. It is planned that every participant can choose two workshops. You will find more information about that in January on the ECAR homepage.

For more information about the preliminary program see table below. More information on the speakers will be provided in January.

Hope to see you in Munich 2018 !!! Check out the ECAR homepage in January 2018 for more information !!!

**THE ECAR BOARD WISHES EVERYONE SEASON’S GREETINGS,
AND BEST WISHES FOR 2018!**

