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# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome

Welcome to the second Newsletter of the Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law sub-speciality of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behaviour Medicine. This newsletter is to update you on the progress being made at the College.

We would also like to solicit your continuing assistance to help us set up the AW speciality College. Existing *de facto* Diplomates are already aware of their responsibilities and we look forward to working more closely with yourselves and everyone to realise our vision. Finally, there are some notices about upcoming meetings that you may be interested in attending. Please feel free to contact us on any matter to do with the College sub-speciality.



### **XAVIER MANTECA VILANOVA**

Xavier graduated at the School of Veterinary Science of the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* in 1987 and obtained his PhD at the same university in 1992 and also where he is now a pro-

fessor in the Department of Animal Science teaching animal behaviour and welfare to vet students. He completed an MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare at the University of Edinburgh in 1992. His main areas of research are welfare assessment in ruminants and pigs, and behavioural problems in companion animals and the associated ethical and societal issues that arise from compromised animal wellbeing. He was a member of the EU Welfare Quality project where he liaised with the Latin American researcher partners. Xavier has been a member of the scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare at the European Food Safety Authority. He is currently chairman of the Animal Use and Care Committee at his University that deals with legislative compliance and ethical issues in research as well as clinical practices across all disciplines. He is vice-president of the European College Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine, a *de facto* Diplomate of the behavioural medicine sub-speciality, and a Founding Diplomate of the animal welfare, ethics and law sub-speciality. In 3 years or so he will succeed Jaume Fatjó as President of the College

## Foundation Diplomate's contact addresses

The four Foundation Diplomates of the sub-speciality Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law are: Siobhan Mullan [Siobhan.Mullan@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Siobhan.Mullan@bristol.ac.uk) (UK); Xavier Manteca [xavier.manteca@uab.es](mailto:xavier.manteca@uab.es) (Es); David Main [D.C.J.Main@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:D.C.J.Main@bristol.ac.uk) (UK); and David Morton [david.morton@alsatis.net](mailto:david.morton@alsatis.net) (UK, Fr). Xavier is the Junior Vice-President of the College (ECAWBM) and will become President in 2015. Siobhan is our (AWSSEL) representative on the Executive Board of the parent College, David Main is Chair of the Residencies and Education Committees, David Morton is Chair of the Nominations and Credentials Committee and Nancy De Briyne [nancy@fve.org](mailto:nancy@fve.org) is Deputy Executive Director of the FVE and is helping us with many things including the website. Jaume Fatjó [jaumefatjo@gmail.com](mailto:jaumefatjo@gmail.com) is President of the College.

**AWSEL Sub-Speciality**

**Nominations and Credentials Committee** (composed of the four Foundation Diplomates) and meets every 2 months. To date we have 16 *de facto* diplomates and we are very pleased to welcome the following new ones.

Sheilah Robertson (UK/USA)

Marc Vandenheede (Be)

Randi Moe (No)

Lotta Berg (Se)

**Associate Membership**

In the last issue we asked you to give us some suggestions about who should be considered for Associate Membership of AWSEL. You will recall that the specification for such persons are that they must have contributed significantly and are active in the fields of animal welfare science, ethics and law, and are internationally recognised. We are hoping that they will help in setting up the residency programmes, where, for example, there may not be a vet school. Those wishing to propose associate members should contact the Chair of the AWSEL Nominations and Credentials Committee David Morton [david.morton@alsatis.net](mailto:david.morton@alsatis.net).

**Residency and Education Committee**

The Residency Committee is currently being established to develop and then operate the residency programme. At this stage draft residency requirements are currently being developed in order to meet

the College and EBVS requirements. Residencies in other disciplines are normally funded by clinical income but given the nature of our discipline this will be less likely. However, it should be possible to develop a residency programme. It is important that our new college supports potential residents, so as part of the residency process we are including guidance to residents. This guidance will include information on available taught courses and on institutions able to offer periods of specialist experience. Once the process has been established we will seek information to develop this guidance.

**Meeting in Martigny Switzerland September 7-9)**

<http://www.esvce.org/congresses>  
The AGM will be held at 17.00hr September 7 to which all Diplomates are encouraged to attend.

The AWSEL session will be held on the Friday afternoon (7th September). The programme is:

14:00 **Deborah Temple**: A review of the use of the Welfare Quality® protocol on pig farms

14:30 **Nils Zehner**: Development of a sensor-based health monitoring system (RumiWatch)

14:45 **Emma Fabrega**: Animal emotions and welfare: develop-

ment of a test to assess cognitive bias in pigs

15:00 **Discussion**: Welfare assessment and welfare improvement in practice- where are our limits?

15:30 to 16:00: **Break**

16:00 **Patrick Pageat**: Improving animal welfare through appropriate early life experiences.

16:30 **Pete Goddard**: The welfare of wild animals: time to revisit the 'no responsibility' moral contract?

16:45 **Discussion**: Welfare improvement for ALL animals?

17:30 to 19.00 **ECAWBM Annual General Meeting**

**PERSONAL NEWS**

**Sarah Wolfensohn** received a UK national honour (OBE) recognising her work for animal welfare, particularly where animals are used in research. This honour goes back to the days when Great Britain had an Empire (Order of the British Empire) but is used today for recognising those who have made an exceptional and outstanding contribution to a particular field. ("She is now able to carry a sword in public without being arrested (smile)!!!"). Well done Sarah.

**Five Year Plan ECAWBM (WSEL)**

Just to remind you that we aim to have our sub-speciality fully recognised by the EVBS and we have until July 2016. During that time we have also to integrate fully with the parent College:

**January 2013:** Residencies identified and education plan drawn up.

**January 2014:** Roll out Residency programme

**January 2015:** Examination Committee appointed and a review of the residency programmes and first examinations

**July 2016:** EBVS audit

**Check out our website**

**<http://www.awsel.eu/>**

This is our website that already has lots of important information and that will soon contain all up-to-date information about our regulations that relate to our sub-speciality (e.g. application forms, advice, committee membership) as well as links to other sites that are of special interest e.g. ethics, international law, current news, archived newsletters, AWSELVA. We may also have a discussion forum for members and notifications of upcoming meetings (but that may be better via Linked-in - do you have a view on that?)

**Diplomate's Activities (other contributions welcome here please -Editor)**

David Morton gave a web-in-air presentation to the Australian and New Zealand Science Week about our sub-speciality. Rather than a true web-in-air, because of low connections speeds, it was done via Skype audio with a Powerpoint presentation being shown at the meeting. It covered the general set-up in the EU and the relationship between the EBVS and the Colleges, as well as the relationship between ourselves and our sister sub-speciality. It included a progress report showing where we had got to and our future plans. The requirements for becoming a *de facto* diplomate were given. The notion of "One World Welfare" akin to "One World Health" was also floated as part of an initiative to promote collaboration with other national and inter-

national colleges on a global basis. "Animals do not recognise national borders." It was seen that Colleges (called "Chapters" in the Australia and New Zealand) will need to harmonise their entry requirements, educational outcomes, and examination criteria, amongst other things. However, there is considerable opportunity for collaboration in AWSEL e.g. for residencies, for experience in different institutions, for exchanges, and for examination style, questions and moderation. Feedback afterwards suggested that there were no disagreements with these proposals, the questions remaining relate more to 'how' and 'who'! Persons will be identified who can now take this forward, and if anyone wishes to be involved we would welcome contributions.

**COLLEGE Activities** Jaume Fatjó (President) is leading the re-submission for the College to EBVS (AWSEL are involved). It is to be completed by November 2012. At the July EBVS meeting the following titles were agreed for diplomates of the ECAWBM. **Dip ECAWBM (WSEL)** European Veterinary Specialist in Welfare Science, Ethics and Law; **Dip ECAWBM (BM)** European Veterinary Specialist in Behavioural Medicine (Companion Animals). It is not clear why we lost the "A"! College website can be found at [www.ecawbm.org](http://www.ecawbm.org)

**EBVS/EAEVE/FVE news.** VetCEE, "Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe", is the new project of FVE, EBVS and EAEVE which aims to set up a middle-tier level of continuous education, between the EBVS specialisations and undergraduate veterinary training. VetCEE is specifically looking into attracting practising veterinarians and would not require the superior academic achievement and continuing research based post qualification obligations required for a specialist qualification. VetCEE is currently doing a pilot in the field of companion animals. "