

2011 EWDA REPORT

Board

The current EWDA board (2010-2012) is Thijs Kuiken (president), Paul Duff (past president), Lisa Yon (secretary), Philippe Berny (treasurer), Ursula Höfle (accounts officer), Javier Millan (website coordinator), Paul Duff and Marc Artois (newsletter editor), Ignasi Marco (student activities), Adam Michel (student representative), Vic Simpson (research advisor), Karoly Erdelyi and Marie-Pierre Ryser (eastern countries communications). They had board meetings on 16 September 2010 (at the EWDA conference) and on 28 February 2011 (teleconference).

Membership

As of July 2011, there were 156 WDA members from Europe, not including 45 from Nordic countries: Denmark (5 members), Finland (4), Iceland (1), Norway (10), and Sweden (25). Countries of origin were Austria (4), Belgium (3), Croatia (1), Cyprus (1), France (20), Germany (15), Greece (5), Hungary (1), Italy (8), Latvia (1), Lithuania (1), Netherlands (17), Poland (1), Portugal (2), Slovak Republic (2), Spain (22), Switzerland (10), Turkey (1), and U.K. (51).

Conferences

The 9th Biennial Conference of the EWDA was held on the island of Vlieland, The Netherlands, from 13 to 16 September 2010. There were over 230 participants from 25 countries, most of them from Europe—with 18 countries represented—but also from North America, the Middle East, and Africa. The theme of the conference was “Healthy wildlife, healthy people, and there were 185 scientific abstracts in total.

The 10th Biennial Conference of the EWDA in 2012 will be joined with the 61st WDA Annual International Meeting in Lyon, France, from 22 to 27 July 2012. The theme will be “Convergence in wildlife health”.

Student chapter

The current board (2010-2012) of the EWDA student chapter is Adam Michel (chair), Mariana Boadella (co-chair), Steven van Beurden (student workshop coordinator), and Josanne Verhagen (past chair).

The student chapter organized the 4th EWDA student workshop at the conference centre “Les Pensières” of the Mérieux Foundation, Veyrier-du-Lac, France from 14 to 17 April 2011. The theme of the workshop was “Infectious Disease Management”. There were 40 M.Sc. and Ph.D. students from almost 20 different countries, and 15 internationally renowned speakers.

The student chapter also organized the Third EWDA Student Mixer at and around the EWDA conference, on Vlieland. It was a multi-event consisting of a 4-hour student workshop taught by Christian Gortazar, a student mixer around drinks and snacks, and a meet-the-professors session during the conference.

Website

The EWDA website (<http://www.ewda.org>) was renewed. It includes an introduction page in Turkish. Introduction pages in other European languages are being planned.

Bulletin

Two EWDA bulletins were produced, Issue 6 in August 2010 (14 pp.) and Issue 7 in February 2011 (22 pp.).

European wildlife health network committee

Current committee members are Dolores Gavier-Widen, Christian Gortazar, Thijs Kuiken (chair), and Marie-Pierre Ryser. The long-term goals of this network are to improve exchange of information among wildlife health surveillance programmes in Europe; develop standard operating procedures for diagnostic investigation of wildlife; develop common criteria for diagnosis of wildlife disease; share specialist expertise; and provide training opportunities in wildlife health surveillance. Activities of the committee in the past year were:

- An e-mail discussion list (<http://groups.google.com/group/ewda-network>) for people involved in European wildlife health surveillance, in order to facilitate rapid exchange of information and ideas. As of August 2011, this discussion list has 147 members and has discussed 69 topics.
- Diagnosis Cards to share and spread knowledge on appropriate diagnostic methods for diseases or disease agents in wildlife. Currently, cards for avian influenza and *Trichinella* are on the EWDA website, and cards for morbillivirus, rabies, and bovine tuberculosis are in the pipeline.
- A manuscript “Establishing a European network for wildlife health surveillance” which is under review by OIE Scientific and Technical Review.

Respectfully submitted,

Thijs Kuiken.