

2012 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 teleconferences on 13 October 2011 and 3 May 2012. According to the EWDA bylaws, the positions of president, student activities, and student representative serve terms of two years, and were therefore up for election this year. A new student representative, Lidewij Wiersma, has been elected already. The people chosen for positions of president and student activities will be announced at the EWDA business meeting in Lyon.

Membership

As of June 2012, there were 181 WDA members from Europe, not including 59 from Nordic countries: Denmark (10 members), Finland (4), Iceland (2), Norway (14), and Sweden (29). Countries of origin were Andorra (1), Austria (6), Belgium (5), Croatia (3), Cyprus (1), France (21), Germany (20), Greece (3), Hungary (1), Italy (15), Latvia (1), Netherlands (18), Poland (1), Portugal (2), Spain (21), Switzerland (10), and U.K. (50). This is an increase of 35 members compared to last year.

Conferences

The 10th Biennial Conference of the EWDA in 2012 is being organized jointly with the 61st WDA Annual International Meeting in Lyon, France, from 22 to 27 July 2012. The theme is “Convergence in wildlife health”. Over 500 people have registered. The scientific programme has more than 400 scientific abstracts from over 40 countries, representing Europe, North and South America, Oceania, Africa, and Asia. The EWDA established a Student Travel Grant for students motivated to pursue a career in wildlife diseases and who will be submitting an abstract for a poster or an oral presentation. Four students will be awarded 250 euro each. The aim is to encourage students early in their career to attend the conference and to promote multinational diversity.

The 11th Biennial Conference of the EWDA is planned for 2014. It will be held in Edinburgh, U.K., and will be hosted by the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh the provisional dates are 27 July to 1st August 2014. This is an excellent venue used before for an EWDA conference and a superb meeting is anticipated.

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 EWDA student chapter also has country representatives from Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Netherlands, Norway, U.K., Republic of South Africa, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and U.S.A.

The EWDA student chapter has a Discussion E-list, an Electronic Journal Club, a Mentor Network, a Facebook Community, a CV Depository, and Science Resources. It organizes EWDA Student Mixers at each EWDA conference, Country-Based EWDA One-Day Student Symposia, and biennial Student Workshops. The 5th EWDA student workshop will be held at

the conference centre “Les Pensières” of the Mérieux Foundation, Veyrier-du-Lac, France from 11 to 14 April 2013. The theme of this workshop is “Diseases without borders: Emerging Zoonoses”.

Website

The website (<http://www.ewda.org>) is frequently updated, and now includes introduction pages in different European languages (Croatian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Turkish), EWDA annual reports since 1993, diagnostic cards for wildlife diseases, proceedings of past EWDA conferences, links to websites of research groups and associations related to wildlife diseases, job offers, training programs, and CVs of candidates looking for an opportunity in the field of wildlife health. Between July 2011 and June 2012, the website received 5838 visits from 3683 unique visitors from 139 countries around the world, mostly from Europe, North and South America, India, and Australia.

Bulletin

Issue 8 of the EWDA bulletins was produced, in December 2011, and consisted of 26 pages.

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 July 2012, there are 153 members. Between July 2011 and June 2012, 82 messages were posted on subjects including “Brucella suis biovar 2 in cattle, Belgium: link to wild boar?”, “Second area in Sweden with Echinococcus multilocularis detected in red fox”, “Dolphin morbillivirus in white-beaked dolphin, The Netherlands”, “First evidence of Crimea-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus in Spain”, and “Blackbird die-off, Germany”.
- Diagnosis Cards to share and spread knowledge on appropriate diagnostic methods for diseases or disease agents in wildlife. Currently, cards for avian influenza, Trichinella, and bovine tuberculosis are on the EWDA website, and cards for morbillivirus, rabies, and classical swine fever are in the pipeline.
- Publication of a manuscript “Establishing a European network for wildlife health surveillance” (Rev. sci. tech. Off. int. Epiz., 2011, 30 (3), 755-761).
- “APHAEA”, an EMIDA ERA-Net project (European research on emerging and major infectious diseases of livestock) started earlier this year. Its main aim is to establish a European wildlife disease network that is capable of providing reliable estimates of abundance of wildlife species and of pathogen distribution in these wildlife species. It is proposed to include members of the EWDA network in this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Thijs Kuiken.