

## **2013 EWDA REPORT JULY**

### Board

The current EWDA board (2012-2014) is Christian Gortazar (chair), Erik Angren (co-chair), Thijs Kuiken (past president), Lisa Yon (secretary), Philippe Berny (treasurer), Ursula Höfle (accounts officer), Javier Millan (website coordinator), Paul Duff and Marc Artois (newsletter editor), Becki Lawson (student activities), Lidewij Wiersma (student representative), Vic Simpson (research advisor), Karoly Erdelyi and Marie-Pierre Ryser (eastern countries communications) and Miriam Maas (member at large). They had teleconferences on 29 November 2012 and 27 March 2013. According to the EWDA bylaws, the positions of chair, student activities, and student representative serve terms of two years, and are therefore up for election in 2014.

### Membership

As of June 2013, there were 162 WDA members from Europe, not including 53 from Nordic countries: Denmark (9 members), Finland (4), Iceland (1), Norway (14), and Sweden (25). Countries of origin were Andorra (3), Austria (5), Belgium (3), Czech Republic (1), Croatia (3), France (16), Germany (23), Greece (3), Hungary (1), Italy (16), Latvia (1), Netherlands (19), Portugal (1), Spain (15), Switzerland (10), Turkey (1) and U.K. (41). This is a decrease of 19 members compared to last year (181 in July 2012).

### Conferences

The 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the EWDA will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland (UK). It will be hosted by the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh and the provisional dates are 27 July to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014. The local organizing committee is led by Anna Meredith. Mike Hutchings of SRUC has been appointed to lead the Scientific Committee. Venue and accommodation availability is confirmed, and the contract has been signed. This is an excellent venue used before for a EWDA conference and a superb meeting is anticipated.

EWDA usually has an informal meeting between the Biennial Conferences. From June 27 to 28 2013 such a meeting took place in Brescia, Italy. The venue was at the Istituto Zooprofilattico and was very nicely organized by Antonio Lavazza and colleagues, within the activities of the European grant on wildlife disease and population monitoring APHAEA (<http://aphaea.eu/>). During this meeting, discussions and reflections were focused on how to improve and harmonize wildlife disease and population monitoring in Europe.

### Student chapter

The current board (2013-2015) of the EWDA student chapter is: Lidewij Wiersma (chair), Mariella Aalto (student workshop coordinator), Janneke Schreuder (communication officer), : Adam Michel (past chair) and Steven van Beurden (past student workshop coordinator). The EWDA student chapter also has many country representatives, including several ones from outside Europe.

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 5<sup>th</sup> EWDA student workshop was hold at the conference centre “Les Pensières” of the Mérieux Foundation, Veyrier-du-Lac, France from 11 to 14 April 2013. The theme of this successful workshop was “Diseases without borders: Emerging Zoonoses”.

### Budget

As of 27 March 2013 total funds in the new EWDA account were 9,000€ Funds received from the parent organization WDA (a bit over \$1000) were spent for the organization of the abovementioned student workshop. Other EWDA expenses included the website.

### Website

Please visit the EWDA website (<http://www.ewda.org>) for news and updates.

### Bulletin

Issue 10 of the EWDA bulletin is now produced and consists of 21 pages.

### European wildlife health network committee

Current committee members are Dolores Gavier-Widen, Christian Gortazar, Thijs Kuiken (chair), Paul Tavernier and Marie-Pierre Ryser. The long-term goals of this network are to improve exchange of information among wildlife health surveillance programs 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.
- Diagnosis Cards to share and spread knowledge on appropriate diagnostic methods for diseases or disease agents in wildlife. Currently, cards for avian influenza, bluetongue, Trichinella, bovine tuberculosis and rabies are on the EWDA website, and cards for 25 others are in the pipeline, in collaboration with the EU consortium APHAEA.
- The EMIDA ERA-Net project (European research on emerging and major infectious diseases of livestock) APHAEA (harmonized Approaches in monitoring wildlife Population Health, and Ecology and Abundance) is closely associated with EWDA activities. The project aims are (1) to contribute to the development, implementation and encouragement of the use of harmonized procedures for wildlife population abundance estimation, sampling and diagnosis, both at national and European levels, in order to improve wildlife health surveillance in general; (2) to provide data on key host abundance and key pathogens in their wild hosts in selected participating countries according to harmonized procedures, in order to reliably detect geographical differences in host abundance and pathogen occurrence; (3) to enhance international collaboration expected to continue after the end of the project. 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. Many members of the EWDA network participate in this project as external partners. APHAEA is contributing to prepare new Diagnosis Cards and host Species Cards. Field surveys on the host/pathogen binomia Aujeszky's disease virus/wild boar, *Francisella tularensis*/rodents and *Echinococcus multilocularis*/red fox start in the next hunting season.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian Gortazar.