

EWDA Section Report 2015

Board

The current EWDA board (2014-2016) is Lisa Yon (President), Christian Gortazar (Past President), Erik Agren (Vice President), Karin Lemberger (Secretary), Philippe Berny (Treasurer), Marc Artois (Accounts Officer), Rogier Bodewes (Website Coordinator), Paul Duff and Lidewij Wiersma (Newsletter Editors), Steven van Beurden (Student Activities), Estelle Rousselet (Student Representative), Vic Simpson (Research Advisor), Karoly Erdelyi and Marie-Pierre Ryser Eastern Countries Communications), and Miriam Maas (Member-at-Large). They had board meetings on 26 August 2014 (at the EWDA conference) and 9 February 2015 (teleconference).

Membership

As of June 2015, there were 191 members from Europe, not including 53 from Nordic countries: Austria (6), Azerbaijan (1), Belgium (5), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (2), Cyprus (1), Estonia (2), France (16), Germany (25), Greece (4), Hungary (3), Ireland (1), Italy (8), Latvia (1), Netherlands (18), Portugal (4), Qatar (1), Romania (1), Russian Federation (2), Slovakia (1), Slovenia (1), Spain (15), Sudan (1), Switzerland (12), United Kingdom (57). This is an increase of 15 members over last year.

Student chapter

The European Student Chapter has 254 student members. The current board (2013-2015) is Estelle Rousselet (Chair), Catharina Vendl (Workshop coordinator), Jenny Lithner (Communication officer) and Lidewij Wiersma (Past-Chair). The 6th EWDA Student Workshop “Human drivers of emerging diseases” was held at “Les Pensières” of the Mérieux Foundation, Veyrier-du-Lac, France from March 26th to 29th 2015. Thirty-nine students from 18 different countries attended. For the first time, a crowdfunding project helped to fund the workshop. The student chapter is working with the North American Section to help them develop a similar event.

Bulletin

Issue 13 of the EWDA Bulletin was produced in February 2015, and consisted of 19 pages.

Website

The EWDA website (<http://www.ewda.org>) is frequently updated, and 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.

European wildlife health network committee

Current committee members are Ezio Ferroglio (Italy), Dolores Gavier-Widén (Sweden), Christian Gortázar (Spain), Thijs Kuiken (The Netherlands; Chair), Paul Tavernier (Belgium), and Marie-Pierre Ryser-Degiorgis (Switzerland). The long-term goals of this network are to improve exchange of information among wildlife health

surveillance programmes in Europe; to develop standard operating procedures for diagnostic investigation of wildlife; to develop common criteria for diagnosis of wildlife disease; to share specialist expertise; and to provide training opportunities in wildlife health surveillance.

Since July 2012, the project APHAEA ("harmonized Approaches in monitoring wildlife Population Health, And Ecology and Abundance"; www.aphaea.eu) has worked on harmonized protocols for monitoring of wildlife species and for the diagnosis of wildlife diseases. Twenty-four institutions from 19 countries contributed to APHAEA. As part of the project, ten animal "species cards" have been developed; the EWDA disease "diagnosis cards" on appropriate diagnostic methods for diseases or disease agents in wildlife have been further developed, and more cards have been added, for a total of 27 diagnosis cards. By early 2015, the EWDA e-mail discussion list on European wildlife health surveillance (<http://groups.google.com/group/ewda-network>), had 167 members. During 2014, over 160 messages were posted in this group; topics included foot rot in Alpine ibex, avian influenza in wild birds and poultry, unusual mortality of wild boar in France, and the risk of diclofenac for vultures in Europe. As APHAEA is coming to an end, the EWDA will continue efforts for harmonization of methods and networking among European wildlife health surveillance programmes.

Further activities related to the EWDA wildlife health network were:

- Workshop "African swine fever in wild boar" (jointly organized by the EWDA and the Swedish Veterinary Institute), Uppsala, Sweden, 6-7.03.2014, which resulted in a scientific article: [D. Gavier-Widén](#), [K. Ståhl](#), [A. S. Neimanis](#), [C. Hård av Segerstad](#), [C. Gortázar](#), [S. Rossi](#), 2015. African swine fever in wild boar in Europe: a notable challenge *Veterinary Record* 2015;176:199-200.
- EWDA pre-conference workshop "Taking wildlife health on the European continent-scale: a step further?" Edinburgh, UK, 25.08.2014
- Satellite Symposium "Geographical coordination of wildlife health surveillance" held in Amsterdam (NL) on 17 March 2015 during the Third International One Health Congress (IOHC 2015)
- APHAEA Final Consultation Workshop held in Utrecht (NL) on 18 March 2015

Conferences

The 11th biennial EWDA conference was held in Edinburgh, Scotland hosted by the University of Edinburgh. There were approximately 220 attendees, some of whom came from as far away as Australia. At the conference, the prestigious Ed Addison Distinguished Service Award was given to Marc Artois, in recognition of his substantial work in furthering the aims of the WDA through his teaching, research and other activities.

The next conference will be held 29 August - 2 September, 2016 hosted by the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) in Berlin. The local organiser is Gudrun Wibbelt.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Yon