

E **W** **W** **D** **A** E-zine

Health of wild Amphibians | Birds | Fish | Mammals | Reptiles

Editorial

Time for change has come: in this bulletin, several of us announce our departure from your EWDA board. But at the same time Lisa Yon presents the nominations of the new board members for the coming years (P. 14). Regarding the bulletin, Marc is resigning leaving Paul and hopefully Lidewij taking care of the publication ...We managed to publish 12 issues, this included, since October 2007, when the number 1 was released. The bulletin will remain the link announcing achievements or events that mark our way.

Traditionally, the bulletin begins with the president's corner, written, for the last time by Christian who will resign and say 'bye bye'. APHAEA, the European joint

venture largely supported by our community, presents its latest achievements and further activities (p. 4). From the Swiss, Adam introduces the fascinating world of Babesias (p. 5). For once, we explore the exotic world of the Amur leopard, in its native environment (p. 6). Again, a goodbye: the WildTech consortium gives last views on achievements after four years of European collaboration (p. 8). Shortly before, on page 7, a new group has invited us to care about small animals living close to our houses and gardens;

As usual, EWDA and students activities take place in the last pages. Finally, we hope to see you all at the Edinburgh conference at the end of August, for which you can find useful information here.

Marc and Paul

**Year 8 - Nr.12
Spring 2014**

President corner

Ciudad Real, June 2014

The value of European wildlife disease expertise

Dear members of the European section of the WDA,

This year started with shocking news from Lithuania and Poland: wild boar were found infected with African Swine Fever (ASF) virus. This put wildlife population monitoring, wildlife management, and wildlife disease surveillance on top of the agendas of the European animal health authorities. A meeting in Uppsala (thanks to the engagement of our colleagues Dolores Gavier-Widen and Thijs Kuiken, and their teams) helped to rapidly gather experts from many

countries and diverse agencies in order to Exchange knowledge and discuss possible contribution from the wildlife perspective.

However, ASF is by far not the only challenge regarding wildlife diseases in Europe. Considering conservation aspects for instance, there are fears regarding the recent licencing of the antiinflammatory drug diclofenac in some EU countries. This drug has a proven record of adverse effects on vultures in the Indian subcontinent, and fears regarding raptor conservation in Europe are justified. Another recent conservation concern is the emergence of a new variant of the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD) virus. This new variant is even more pathogenic than traditional RHD, and the impacts on wild rabbit populations in Iberia

Christian Gortázar Schmidt
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NB: as a result of current events this bulletin is a bit wild-bo(a)ring, we apologise...

are

such that the Iberian lynx, a critically endangered rabbit specialist, had the poorest reproductive success ever recorded. Regarding zoonotic pathogens, *Leishmania* still causes abun-



Wild boar at a feeding site in southern Spain, Foto: SaBio-IREC

dant human cases due to a complex network of factors which include overabundant wild lagomorphs serving as suitable hosts for both the parasite and its sandfly vector.

Fortunately, EWDA members are as active as ever in wildlife disease research, and they are increasingly involved in disease control. This involves mainly its first step, namely disease surveillance and population monitoring (see for instance the EU consortium APHAEA). However, applied wildlife disease research also involves all kinds of interventions, ranging (depending on the disease and the setting) from imaginative biosafety measures at the wildlife-livestock interface, through population control, to vaccination. Many EWDA colleagues

(follow page 3)

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are involved in these activities, covering a broad and ever growing range of diseases and epidemiological settings.

Nonetheless, there is still a long road ahead until wildlife receives the same attention as domesticated animals. There are still relatively few host-pathogen binomia (e.g. rabies virus and *Echinococcus multilocularis* in foxes, classical swine fever virus and wild boar, West Nile virus and wild birds) where wildlife is truly considered in all disease control schemes. And even so, it is surprising how little efforts are devoted to wildlife monitoring in most European countries. Wildlife and domestic animals, and sometimes human beings, are just diffe-

rent compartments available for multi-host pathogens: if one of them is neglected, disease control in the others is unlikely. I think that relevant animal health problems such as emerging ASF or endemic tuberculosis, where the role of wildlife is clear, are in some way contributing to change this.

Hopefully, the collective activities of EWDA members in research and outreach will further help to increase European awareness of the importance of wildlife diseases. The next EWDA meeting in Edinburgh will provide ample opportunities for exchange and dissemination of wildlife disease expertise. See you there!

Christian

ASF: wildlife related emerging disease (WiRED) in Europe

J.P. Duff¹ & A.M. Barlow,

African Swine Fever (ASF) has made its first incursion into EU wild boar populations in Poland and Lithuania.

It does not take a trained epidemiologist to look at the ASF outbreak map above (*with acknowledgement to Aleksey Igolkin, ASSIAH*) and be concerned at the challenge ahead. In the 6 years since ASF first occurred in wild boar in the Russian Federation, the disease has spread rapidly over a vast area, from the Black Sea to Siberia, and from Moscow to Poland. ASF is primarily controlled by biosecurity measures in domesticated pigs however this is difficult in pigs kept outdoors. In wild boar, the disease will, in the first instance, need to be controlled by hunter



pressure, culling or destruction of populations. So far in the Russian Federation, control measures in domestic pigs and boar have not brought the disease under control. Given that wild boar populations in Europe are currently high, there is a significant risk, at this point in time, that ASF will spread into Western Europe. As wildlife disease scientists many of us will be asked for advice on ASF, specifically in disease ecology, prevention, control, risk analysis and modeling.

Are we prepared for this challenge?

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Paul & Alex * see internet links p 12

Progresses in APHAEA

APHAEA¹,

APHAEA (harmonized Approaches in monitoring wildlife Population Health, and Ecology and Abundance) is a European EMIDA project closely associated with EWDA activities. The overall goal of the APHAEA project (2012-2015) is to establish a European wildlife disease network that is capable of providing reliable estimates of abundance of wildlife species, reliable estimates of pathogen distribution in these wildlife species, and accurate estimates of the risks posed by wildlife species throughout Europe for livestock and human health, caused by infectious pathogens. A more detailed description of the project objectives and work packages were given in the EWDA Bulletin June 2013 and can be found on the project website www.aphaea.eu.

A year ago, all EWDA members and APHAEA external partners were invited to take part to the 1st APHAEA Consultation Workshop held in Brescia, Italy, on 27-28 June 2013. Forty-nine people from 11 countries (Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom) attended the workshop. The program included invited lectures, presentations on APHAEA, free oral presentations by participants, few posters, and concluding presentations. Plenary discussions took place after each talk. In addition, it was

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Rodent snap-trapping demonstration

possible to take part in an early morning excursion demonstrating rodent snap-trapping demonstration in the field. Workshop related documents are available on the APHAEA project website.



Oral presentation and discussion on harmonized procedures in wildlife health research

Since then, the work related to the edition of 17 Species Cards and 31 Diagnosis Cards and proposal of harmonized protocols has progressed, and a standardized evaluation sheet has been drafted for commenting on the cards. Soon the first cards will be made available to external project partners for feedbacks. Furthermore, a questionnaire has been distributed among external project partners for a first data collection on the selected three host-pathogen pairs. Overall, 45 people from 17 European countries filled a total number of 64 questionnaires. Currently, prospective data collection is on-going in several countries. **APHAEA**

Babesia in wild ruminants



A.O. Michel¹, A. Mathis, M.P. Ryser-Degiorgis

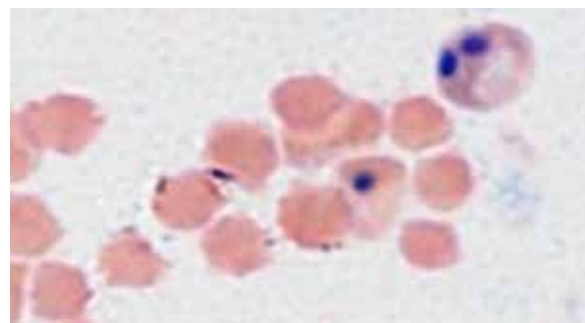
Babesia are tick-borne parasites that are increasingly considered as a threat to animal and public health. Babesiosis affects a wide range of domestic and wild mammalian hosts. Disease signs vary in severity from silent infection to acute circulatory shock with anemia, depending on susceptibility, immunity and age of the host, and on *Babesia* species and parasite load.

We carried out a country-wide survey in free-ranging indigenous wild ruminants in Switzerland, aiming at assessing the role of European free-ranging wild ruminants as maintenance mammalian hosts for *Babesia* species and at determining risk factors for infection. We collected blood from roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), Alpine chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*) and Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*) and analysed the samples by PCR and sequencing.

Detected *Babesia* species included *B. divergens*, *B. capreoli*, *Babesia* sp. EU1, *Babesia* sp. CH1 and *B. motasi*. We identified *Babesia* sp. CH1 in red deer, co-infections with multiple *Babesia* species and infection of wild Caprinae with *B. motasi* and *Babesia* sp. EU1, which represent novel findings. We showed that species of European wild ruminants can be hosts for

a range of *Babesia* species, that one individual can be simultaneously infected with more than one species of *Babesia*, and that certain species of *Babesia* are not specific to one host species. Factors significantly associated with infection were low altitude and young age. Based on documented prevalences and occurrence of clinical cases, we propose wild Caprinae as spillover or accidental hosts for *Babesia* species but wild Cervidae as mammalian reservoir hosts for *B. capreoli*, possibly *Babesia* sp. EU1 and *Babesia* sp. CH1, whereas their role regarding *B. divergens* is more elusive.

Adam



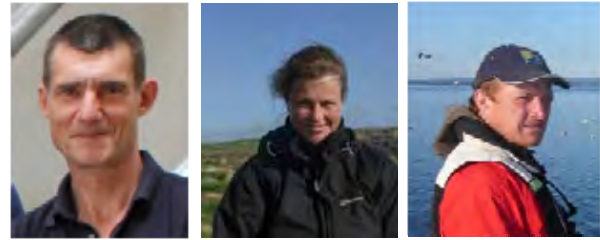
Basophilic inclusions in the erythrocytes of a chamois with pathological findings consistent with babesiosis

Reference:

Michel AO, Mathis A, Ryser-Degiorgis M-P. 2014. *Babesia* spp. in European wild ruminant species: parasite diversity and risk factors for infection. Veterinary Research: *In press*

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Disease risk analysis for an



Amur Leopard* reintroduction

J. Lewis¹, M. Gilbert² & A.J. Tomlinson³

**Panthera pardus orientalis*

The planned re-introduction programme for the Amur Leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) involves the importation of captive adult Amur Leopards from selected zoological collections into a purpose-built breeding facility, most likely to be situated within or near the proposed release area in the Russian Far East. Imported leopards would be bred under semi-natural conditions, and offspring considered for release at about 15-18 months of age.



An essential component of re-introduction planning is to construct a disease risk analysis (DRA) for the programme. The primary purpose of this DRA is to minimise the likelihood of disease arising in any of the leopards involved (imported leopards and their prog-

eny), and in any other wildlife, domesticated species, or humans in the vicinity, as a consequence of the re-introduction programme.

Wildlife Vets International (WVI) is taking responsibility for developing this DRA, based on guidelines in the recently published IUCN/OIE Manual of Procedures for Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis. The work is in conjunction with the **Wildlife Conservation Society – Russia** (WCS-Russia) and the **Zoological Society of London** (ZSL); and is being funded through WVI, largely supported by the Amur Leopard and Tiger Alliance, ALTA.

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Alexandra

Citizen-science aids disease surveillance

Tim Hopkins ¹



Across Europe, our connection with urban and suburban wildlife species commonly occurs in garden habitats. Native species under pressure from habitat loss and resource competition often rely on gardens to provide food and refuge. Given these animals exist in close proximity to humans, it is not surprising that sick and dead wildlife are regularly observed in gardens. This human-wildlife interface offers a cost-effective opportunity for wildlife disease surveillance, particularly suited to species that are positively-perceived by the public. Whilst some causes of mortality may be restricted to peri-domestic environments, others equally reflect diseases affecting those species across many habitat types. Hence, garden wildlife may act as an important proxy for monitoring wildlife disease on a national scale and citizen science schemes that harness the enthusiasm of the nature-loving public offer an effective approach.

Garden Wildlife Health (GWH) is a collaborative project led by the **Zoological Society of London (ZSL)** partnered with the **British Trust for Ornithology, Froglife** and the **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**. We solicit reports of wildlife morbidity and mortality from members of the public and obtain wildlife

carcasses to investigate causes of death. Initially, due to funding constraints, we are focussing specifically on garden birds, amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs. Whilst our primary aim is to develop our understanding of diseases of conservation concern, we also investigate pathogens of wildlife of potential significance to public, companion animal and livestock health.



Young healthy hedgehog & a Chaffinch with feed stuck to the face and fluffed up (Tony Wills)

Garden Wildlife Health builds on the work of past ZSL projects, partnered with the Garden Bird Health *initiative* and the Frog Mortality Project, both of which informed our understanding of infectious diseases that adversely impact wildlife species at a population level.

Understanding the occurrence and impact of wildlife diseases is crucial if we are to predict, prevent or mitigate future disease impacts. We appeal to the general public, veterinarians and rehabilitators to report observations of sick or dead garden wildlife to us via our website www.gardenwildlifehealth.org

Tim

¹ GWH Veterinary Co-ordinator:
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WildTech update

Duncan HANNANT¹

Until now, there has been no co-ordinated effort to monitor the spread of infectious diseases of wildlife within and between different countries in the EU. Surveillance has been largely passive in structure rather than a proactive attempt to predict and manage future disease threats across Europe. The WildTech project was established specifically to set up a technology platform that may be exploited in Europe and elsewhere as a basis for high throughput disease diagnosis in wildlife.

Summary of work performed and main results

The final 6 months of the project (July -

and the serology arrays to inform surveillance and epidemiological studies at a range of scales.

The main results and developments from the project have been:

The WildTech database has been developed. Sample data and array results are stored and accessed for epidemiological analysis that can be further developed to form part of a pan-European surveillance system.

Wildpro® (the open-access electronic encyclopaedia on the health and management of free-ranging and captive wild animals, and (re)-emerging infectious diseases), continues



The WildTech consortium and stakeholders at their final meeting and workshop, Windsor (UK), September 2013

December 2013) focused on Epidemiological Tasks. These have made use of the unique access to wildlife sample archives from across Europe provided within the project and the results obtained from sample analyses. These data sets provided the basis to demonstrate the abilities of the nucleic acid microarrays

to be updated with new pathogens as part of the WildTech project.

Effective and validated (for research purposes) high throughput microarray technology has been adapted to a commercial platform, for the detection of nucleic acid of a focused list of up to 20 infectious agents (viruses, bac-

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teria and parasites) from wild animal samples. Generic arrays for a further ~ 200 infectious agents have been incompletely validated.

Similarly, high throughput serological array technology has been developed for detection of specific antibodies in serum/blood against approximately 20 infectious agents from selected wild animal hosts; in addition to incompletely validated tests for further infectious agents.

Information has been analysed on the spatial and temporal distribution of the focused list of approximately 20 infectious agents in wild animal species in selected European countries/regions and countries outside Europe that represent potential sources of pathogen introduction into Europe.

The first systematic exploration of the effects of stochasticity in pathogen transmission and host population dynamics on the efficacy of wildlife



disease surveillance systems has been achieved. This provided the first indication that hitherto, for many wildlife disease systems, there has been an over-confidence in assessments of both the power to detect diseases and the bias and precision of prevalence estimates. This has uniquely provided us with the opportunity to develop and apply new statistical methodology for predicting an initial disease incursion (or first case of an outbreak) and the historic time course of an epidemic outbreak from cross-sectional data.

Information on the risk to human and domestic animal health from the presence and evolution of infectious agents in selected wild animal populations has been determined.

The evidence derived from these risk assessments has formed the basis of recommendations for appropriate and proportionate management and policy actions.

Management systems have been established for wildlife disease information, which are accessible to national and international animal and human health organisations, the international wildlife disease community and policy makers.

Proposals have been generated for surveillance system for wildlife diseases in Europe, which will contribute to protecting European wildlife, domestic animal and human health.

Dissemination activities remain important components of the project's development and

have been undertaken by all Partners over this reporting period.

Brought together, the new diagnostic and epidemiological surveillance tools developed under the WildTech project have contributed new methods and insights which are vital to the

standardisation of a pan-European wildlife disease surveillance system. This was the major objective of the WildTech project.

Finally, the project results will also have indirect impact on human health. By improving our capacity to detect these pathogens, we now have the potential to enable a rapid and effective response to an emerging infection, which would minimise the impact on the human population.

Dissemination strategy and outputs

We lay great emphasis on collaboration with other projects and international organisations and these form part of our active continuing dissemination after the project ends. We have

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established steady links with several projects in our priority area (e.g. EPIZONE and EDEN) and maintain active contact with OIE and EWDA. A representative of WildTech is a regular guest at the meetings of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases of the OIE. The links with other projects in this field have been broadened and there will be more collaboration exercises to undertake now WildTech is finished.

We have implemented (and continue so to do) coordinated publication activities. Now that the project has produced the final results, targeted dissemination has taken place among a wider pool of stakeholders as well, for example policy-makers, the general audience and science communication bodies.

Towards the end of the project we held a final dissemination workshop which was attended by all our stakeholders and Associated Partners.

Publications and presentations from the WildTech project can be found on the project website and newsletters:

<http://www.wildtechproject.com>

For further information please see:

<http://www.wildtechproject.com/wildtech/>

and click on:

- **Dissemination activities** ('Final Workshop' and 'GRF One Health Summit')

Or:

- **Newsletter** ('December 2013').

WildTech has linked with projects within the Health priority regarding future strategies as it now has results to discuss.

Global Risk Forum (GRF) One Health Summit in Davos, Switzerland

The first opportunity for this within the wider public arena took place in November 2013. There were two WildTech sponsored sessions at this important conference, chaired by the Coordinator and Prof T McNamara from USA (who has great experience of the wildlife/farm live-

stock/human interface regarding infectious diseases). During the four days, 390 international delegates from more than 70 countries addressed the complex interactions between human health, animal health and environmental health. WildTech presented a total of 13 oral presentations in two consecutive sessions and another 3 papers on another day. The WildTech sponsored sessions supported our specific theme related to dissemination of information and linkage of research outputs and plans with both veterinary and medical colleagues. The sessions included leaders of institutes and policy makers from around the globe.


Dissemination activities carried out after the formal finishing period of WildTech project:

One Health Security: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Biological Threats (Washington DC).

The Coordinator was invited to attend this meeting in January 2014. This was a significant opportunity to discuss the aims, objectives and significant achievements of WildTech within the One Health arena. The meeting was organised by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agencies (MSB), the Swedish National Veterinary Institute (SVA, members of this institute are Partners in WildTech), and the UPMC (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center) Center for Health Security. The meeting discussed multidisciplinary approaches to biological threats from surveillance and detection to response, and how this would impact horizon scanning for the future. Presentations and discussions were designed to determine how, as international partners, we can build one health security in coordination across the Atlantic. As a result of this meeting and the good reputation we gained from the Davos meeting in 2013, several further interactions have developed with organisations in the USA.

Duncan

Courses & trainings



The third edition of the highly successful **ANTIGONE One Health Course** will be held this year from 15 to 30 September 2014 and is now open for applications. The course will be hosted at Dr. Christian Drosten's Institute of Virology, University of Bonn, of SARS and MERS fame. The objective of this course is to equip the next generation of scientists with the holistic viewpoint required to deal with emerging infections. Participants will interact with international experts in a multitude of disciplines that make up One Health. Besides formal lectures, the course also consists of site visits, excursions, and group case studies. For more information, see attached poster, or send an email to: onehealthcourse@virology-bonn.de

University of Edinburgh

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies: **Conservation Medicine**

MSc/Diploma/Certificate by online distance learning

The R(D)SVS is the only UK veterinary school to have a specialist Exotic Animal and Wildlife Service, with an international reputation for providing veterinary education in the field of exotic and wild animal medicine. This online MVetSci programme is aimed at veterinary graduates world-wide (BVM&S or equivalent) wishing to pursue a career in this rapidly developing field. Students will gain enhanced employment opportunities in academia, research, governmental and non-governmental organisations, and consultancies.

Programme aims

The programme aim is to provide applied scientific knowledge relating to the health

relationships that occur at the interface of animals, humans and ecosystems. It offers students the chance to learn many aspects of conservation medicine, including eco-system health; species conservation; applied epidemiology; interventions for conservation medicine; wildlife disease management; conservation genetics; wild animal welfare and zoonotic diseases.

***NEW FOR 2014 ENTRANTS*:** **INTERVENTIONS MODULE** – in conjunction with the Zoological Society of London and the Wildlife Institute of India. **Location:** to be held at the Wildlife Institute of India and National Parks, India. The Interventions Module will provide practical knowledge to complement the theoretical understanding gained from other modules of the online Conservation Medicine Cert/Dip MVetSci course. Practical hands-on tuition will be carried out in the field to develop skills in human-wildlife conflict manage-

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ment, disease risk analysis and translocation techniques, disease outbreak investigation and the monitoring of the health of declining species.

Flexible learning

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Contact us on:

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Programme Director:

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One year full time study starting each Autumn, leading to an MSc qualification from the University of London.



MSc Wild Animal Health applicants require a first degree from a recognised veterinary school and learn alongside experts in the field, to acquire knowledge and skills in wild animal management and the epidemiology, treatment and control of disease.



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Web: www.rvc.ac.uk/postgrad

Web:
<http://www.zsl.org/science/postgraduate-study/>

EWDA web site, Presentations from the **Workshop on African Swine Fever on Wild Boar** that was held from 6 to 7 March 2014 at Uppsala, Sweden www.ewda.org

Federal service and phytosanitary surveillance of the Russian Federation: <http://www.fsvps.ru/fsvps/news/asf/index.html?language=en>

European Union reference laboratory for ASF: <http://>

asf-referencelab.info/asf/en/

OIE/ WAHID INTERFACE/ disease information/ Disease outbreak maps: http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Wahidhome/Home

FAO/ EMPRES (Emergency Prevention System Animal Health) ASF: http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/disease_asf.asp



Student chapter

Estelle Rousselet¹

The newly elected EWDA student chapter board has been installed!

Let us introduce ourselves

Chair: Estelle Rousselet, France

Student Workshop Coordinator: Catharina Vendl, Germany

Past-Chair: Lidewij Wiersma, the Netherlands

(from left to right on the photograph)

The past chapter board did an amazing job and the new board strives to keep improving the tools previously developed.

Our main focus will be:

- Communication with updates of our website on regular basis, a mailing list and a facebook page.

The webpage is still accessible at: <http://ewdastudent.wordpress.com/>. The membership database has been updated as well.

- Country representatives, always looking for new, highly motivated people for open positions and get them more involved. Stay tuned...

- Call for past students!!!! We are looking to create a file of EWDA SC work-

shop alumni to attract sponsors. It would be great if those of you that have attended the workshop in the past could send us their current position and a short comment on how attending the workshop helped their career. Please send this to ewdastudent@gmail.com

- The 6th EWDA Student Chapter workshop is on its way !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We have started the preparations, speakers' invitation and fund raising. Last April 2013, the workshop in Veyrier du Lac was very successful. We are working on creating an event as exciting and inspiring as the last one. The dates for the 6th EWDA student workshop are announced as an exclusive report just for you!!!! It will take place from March 26th to 29th 2015: Save the dates! The topic will be "Human drivers of emerging diseases".

Please do not forget to join our facebook group entitled 'European Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter': <http://www.facebook.com/groups/10403297125/> Please feel free to post any relevant information to our students such as job opportunities, internships, courses, symposia etc...

For any questions or suggestions for the EWDA SC, do not hesitate to contact us!

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News from the Board

Lisa Yon¹



In the past year, candidates were elected into the newly created Board positions of Vice Chair, and Member at Large. Erik Ågren was elected as the new Vice Chair, and Miriam Mass was elected as the Member at Large. In addition to these positions, Marc Artois was elected as Accounts Officer. Election of Board members is usually timed to coincide with the biennial EWDA meeting. However, these positions were added in the year between the EWDA meetings. It was therefore decided that the terms for these positions would be shortened by 1 year, so that in the future the election for these positions will be in synchrony with the timing of the election for the other Board positions.

The relationship between the EWDA and NWDA (Nordic) was clarified and agreed between both organisations, and it was agreed that:

- WDA members from Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland) are eligible for membership on the EWDA board.
- WDA members from Nordic countries have the right to vote for candidate members of the EWDA board.
- The partial refund of the membership fees from WDA members of Nordic countries will go to the NWDA.

The new EWDA bank account in France is up and running, and arrangements have been made to enable Marc Artois to sign on the account. The IBAN and SWIFT codes of the account have been sent to all Board members.

Javier Milan resigned from his position as Website Coordinator, as he has moved to a new job in Chile. This position is therefore currently open on the Board.

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Thijs Kuiken, Ursula Hoefle and Dolores Gavier-Widen formed a nominations committee, and recommended candidates for nomination for the Board positions available in the upcoming elections. The candidates for the Board positions are as follows:

WDA members were invited to submit nominations for additional candidates.

Position	2014 candidates selected by Nominations Committee
Chair	Lisa Yon
Co-chair	Erik Ågren
Secretary	Karin Lemberger
Treasure	Philippe Berny
Website-coordinator	Rogier Bodewes
Newsletter editor (to work with Paul Duff)	Lidewij Wiersma
Student activities	Steven van Beurden
Research advisor	Vic Simpson or Alessandra Gaffuri
Eastern countries communications (to work with Karoly Erdelyi)	Marie-Pierre Ryser

Work continues by Marie-Pierre Ryser and her colleagues on the Diagnosis and Species cards, and new cards will be posted on the EWDA website (see APHAE report, in this Bulletin). Ultimately, there will be 30 Diagnosis cards and 17 Species cards.

I hope to see you all at the conference in Edinburgh in August.

Lisa

Farewell to Javier

Dr Javier Millán*

Dear EWDA fellows,

Since May, I have started a new job as director of a PhD program in Conservation Medicine at Universidad Andrés Bello, in Santiago (Chile). The combination of the lack of opportunities in Spain together with the interest of Chilean Universities in recruiting qualified professionals, the emerging interest in South America in wildlife diseases and related fields, and the abundant funding opportunities that this country is offering, made me accept this interesting challenge.

This recently established, multidisciplinary PhD program was created with the aim of preparing future researchers with the tools to understand the interaction of environmental changes due to human activities with natural ecosystem (both terrestrial and marine) functions, wildlife diseases and human health. This program includes a first year of theoretical courses such as Ecology of Wildlife Diseases, Ecotoxicology, Biological Conservation, Microbiology and Parasitology, and Development and Sustainability, among others. The following years will be dedicated to the development and defense of the PhD Thesis, which can deal with a wide range of topics. Currently, the program has students from Ecuador, Venezuela, Uruguay, Guatemala, Colombia, Chile and the USA.

I hereby **invite European graduates** in diverse areas (Veterinary Sciences, Biology, Marine Biology, Environmental Sciences...) **to send their applications** for the 2015 course. The selection process will start in October, 2014, and the academic activities start in March, 2015. Though some of the courses are in English, the program is mostly in Spanish, so perhaps this is a good occasion to learn this important language! For further information, please write to dir-doctorados@unab.cl. Fellowships are available.

Thus, after 14 years as an active EWDA member (the last four years as Board mem-



ber, in charge of the website), I change my colors for those of the Latin American section. I hope nevertheless to be seeing you from conference to conference. The next meeting of the Latin American section will be held in Colombia. Doesn't it sound attractive to you?

Greetings from the far side of the world!

*Doctor en Veterinaria - DVM, PhD, Dip ECZM (Wildlife Population Health) Facultad de Ecología y Recursos Naturales Universidad Andrés Bello Santiago (Chile).

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(View details on the back: p. 16)

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh

Edinburgh conference

If you haven't already registered please do so soon and come to Scotland to enjoy our beautiful city, Scottish culture, Scottish wildlife and even some Scottish whisky. We look forward to welcoming you, and having a fantastic conference.

If you need any excuse to visit Edinburgh, it is one of the world's top ten cities, and has won more than 12 UK Best City awards. It is UNESCO's first City of Literature and its old and new towns are a world Heritage site. Edinburgh has been nicknamed the "Athens of The North" due to its many Greek neo classical style buildings. Key attractions include Edinburgh Castle, the National Gallery, St Giles Cathedral, and the National Museum of Scotland. If that isn't enough to tempt you to come, the conference will coincide with Edinburgh's world famous International Festival (8-31 August), and The Edinburgh Festival Fringe (The Fringe) which is the largest arts festival IN THE WORLD. Conference evening events include an Icebreaker party, the EWDA Auction, and a Student Mentor night. There will be an opportunity to visit the world famous Edinburgh Zoo and see the only pandas in the UK, and you will be treated to true Scottish hospitality, with the final conference

EWDA Conference 2014, Edinburgh, Scotland

25th – 29th August 2014

REGISTER NOW!

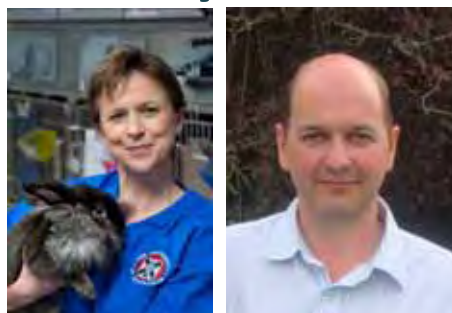
The next EWDA conference is being held in the Edinburgh, the Scottish capital, hosted by the University of Edinburgh, with the organising committee led by Professor Anna Meredith of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies and Professor Michael Hutchings, Head of Disease Systems at SRUC

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ease surveillance and wildlife pathology on Monday 25th August 2014.

All Conference information, including the scientific programme, can be found at

<http://www.apps.vet.ed.ac.uk/EWDA2014/>



Professor A. Meredith (left) & Professor M. Hutchings (right)



The conference will be held at the world class John McIntyre Conference Centre in the heart of Edinburgh. Accommodation is available on site and the conference venue is within easy walking distance of Edinburgh city centre.

(Scotland's Rural College). Registration has been open since February 2014 and closes on August 17th 2014. Early registration/booking rate ends on 30th June and you are strongly advised to register early and book your accommodation as this is limited and in high demand in Edinburgh in August, due to the International Festival held in the city.

Abstract submission has now closed and the Scientific Programme has been finalised. Sessions are: Host-Pathogen Dynamics, One Health, Control, Current Outbreaks, Disease and Conservation, Mycobacteria, Small Mammals, Screening and Surveillance, and Student and Open Sessions. There will be pre

Professor Anna Meredith

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EWDA bulletin www.ewda.org

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