



EAVLD Newsletter

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FOREWORD

Dear Colleague,

The new Board members of EAVLD, elected during our last congress in Prague are presented in this newsletter for your information.

We also continue the series of presentations of Reference Laboratories with the report from OIE Reference Laboratory for Salmonellosis, located in Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Italy.

Finally, we provide the latest news on the forthcoming International Symposium of the WAVLD in Sorrento, Italy and we provide survey results after EAVLD2016 from participants.

Members of the new EAVLD Board

President: Elena Maria Bozzetta, IZSPLV, Liguria e Valle d'Aosta, Turin, Italy

Elena Bozzetta, DVM, got her PhD in Basic Sciences and Veterinary Biotechnology at the Veterinary Faculty of Turin. She works at Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte Liguria e Valle d'Aosta since 1992, and she gained experience in the application of histopathology in both fields of animal health and food safety. She has set up and coordinates the Italian net for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies active surveillance. Since 2008 she is the Head of Department of Histopathology and rapid tests and in 2011 she was appointed Responsible of the National Reference Center for the biological screening of anabolic substances in food producing animal. In this role she coordinates activities related to Histological National Residue Control Plan for growth promoters, through the set up and validation of analytical methods, training of laboratory and field operators, preparation of risk based sampling plan. She is the scientific coordinator of national researches based on experimental studies for evaluation of lesions related to growth promoter molecules and for the development of innovative techniques (omics technologies) for the diagnosis of illegal treatments. Her field of research has widened to the set up and validation of rapid multi-screening methods applied to residues in food.





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Vice President: Eefke Weesendorp, Wageningen Bioveterinary Research, Lelystad, The Netherlands

Current position: Head of department “Diagnostics and Crisis Organisation” at Wageningen Bioveterinary Research. Experience in the field of crisis management notifiable diseases, export diagnostics, test validation, training and management of laboratory staff. Part of MT Wageningen Bioveterinary Research. Previously: Project leader viral diagnostics, Postdoc viral pig diseases. Work package leader Young EPIZONE. “EAVLD is important for me to share knowledge and exchange views. I want to share my experience in the diagnostics field and ideas to even further expand the activities of the EAVLD”.



Past President: Mirosław Polak, NVRI, Pulawy, Poland (editor)

Mirosław P. Polak, DVM, PhD, ScD. He works at the National Veterinary Research Institute, Pulawy, Poland in the Department of Virology since 1992. The head of the National Reference Laboratory for Animal TSEs with respect to rapid tests and immunoblot. His topics of interest include: animal prion diseases, glycoprotein analysis of prion protein, molecular diagnosis of animal infectious diseases with emphasis on ruminant pestiviruses, development of new diagnostic tests based on molecular biology methods. Deputy Editor-in-Chief of quarterly Journal of Veterinary Research. Scientific Secretary of NVRI since 2011, dealing with international contacts and research priorities. Member of EAVLD Board since 2012.



Secretary: Claire Ponsart, ANSES, Maisons-Alfort, France

Claire Ponsart, DVM, got her PhD in Epidemiology and Public Health in 2000. Since 2008, she developed competences in the field of health crisis management, pathogens related to the genital tract and management of sanitary status in AI centres and ET stations. She was deeply involved in the management of recent pathogen emergences as Schmallenberg virus. She became Head of Bacterial Zoonoses Unit in 2014 at Animal Health Laboratory, Anses (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety) and was appointed Responsible of the European and National Reference Laboratories for Brucellosis. In this role she coordinates reference activities related to bacterial zoonoses, as anthrax, brucellosis, chlamydiosis, glanders, tuberculosis and tularemia, through confirmatory analysis, set up of ring trials, validation of analytical methods, training of laboratory staff or preparation of scientific seminars. She is involved in research projects focusing on innovative diagnosis methods, genetic diversity of pathogens (next generation sequencing





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approaches), interactions between host and pathogens, as well as projects based on experimental studies for pathogenetic investigations.

Secretary: Peter Wragg, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Penrith, United Kingdom

Peter Wragg works for the Animal and Plant Health Agency and began his career as a laboratory technician in 1983. Having gained his Honours and Master's degrees in Biomedical Sciences, he became Laboratory Manager at the Thirsk Regional Laboratory in 2006 and the Penrith Regional Laboratory in 2012. He has a keen interest in determinative bacteriology and the challenges presented to diagnostic laboratories within the rapidly changing field of bacterial taxonomy. He chairs the APHA's 'Virtual Bacteriology Group' and is joint chair of the UK Veterinary Bacteriology Group, which seeks to share knowledge and training of veterinary bacteriology within the UK Government Laboratories. Peter attended EAVLD in 2010 and 2012, where he presented his work on Biolog identification systems.



Treasurer: Viveca Båverud, SVA, Uppsala, Sweden

Viveca Båverud, DVM, PhD, Associate professor. She works at the National Veterinary Institute (SVA) in Uppsala, Sweden as Head of Office of Quality and Quality Manager. Viveca completed her Ph. D. in 2002 and received competence as associate professor in clinical bacteriology, 2007 at Dept of Biomedical Sciences and Veterinary Public Health, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala. Between 1991 and 2007 Viveca worked as Laboratory Veterinary Officer in routine diagnostics at SVA, Dept of Bacteriology. Viveca was Head of the Dept of Bacteriology at SVA 2007-2015. Activities included were e.g. bio-preparedness and routine diagnostics (detection and typing of bacteria) by both traditional and molecular methods of many agents/diseases and antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Her research has comprised e.g. diarrhea in horses treated with antibiotics, strangles and botulism and connected to molecular biology. Viveca has been the EAVLD treasurer since 2014.





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Board member: Gudrun Overesch, ZOBA, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Bern, Switzerland

Gudrun Overesch got her DVM from the University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover, foundation, Germany. She received her PhD (Dr. med. vet.) in 1997. Afterwards she worked as veterinarian in a private microbiological diagnostic laboratory. In that time, she learned many diagnostic methods in the fields of virology, parasitology and bacteriology. Gudrun gained extensive knowledge in the area of food safety and hygiene. This knowledge included surveillance and the execution of legal actions after the diagnosis of zoonotic pathogens during her long-lasting employments at German federal diagnostic laboratories from 2000 to 2007. In 2008 Gudrun took over the leadership of the Swiss national reference laboratory for zoonotic & epizootic bacterial pathogens and antimicrobial resistance (ZOBA) at the institute of veterinary bacteriology of the University of Bern in Switzerland. At the European level, the ZOBA represents the Swiss national reference laboratory for many zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance. As a result, Gudrun is embedded in several national and international networks and will support EAVLD to her best ability given her extensive diagnostic work experience.



Board member: Pavel Bartak, State Veterinary Institute Jihlava, Czech Republic

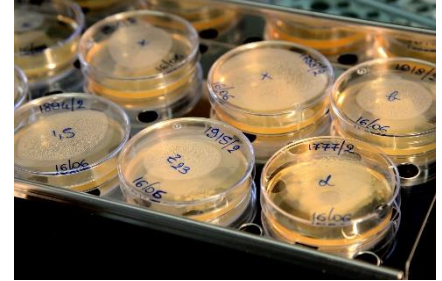
Pavel Bartak works for the State Veterinary Institute Jihlava since 1985, when he got his DVM degree at the Veterinary and Pharmaceutical University Brno. He gained experience in the field of veterinary virology, bacteriology and immunology, animal TSEs and veterinary epidemiology.



In 2016 he became the Director of the Institute, he is also the Head of several National Reference Laboratories for TSEs, Classical and African Swine Fever, Bluetongue. He is involved in different research activities in the field of veterinary and agricultural research.

OIE Reference Laboratory for Salmonellosis

The IZSve was designated as the National reference laboratory for salmonella in 1999 by the Ministry of Health. In 2007, the laboratory was recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as a Reference Laboratory (OIE-RL) for Salmonellosis. The laboratory provides expertise, diagnostic services, training and support to OIE member countries.



IZSve's OIE-RL for Salmonellosis is a centre of expertise and standardisation of diagnostic techniques; it provides scientific and technical assistance and expert advice on topics linked to surveillance and control of Salmonellosis, including capacity building of animal health and food safety laboratories. The Laboratory is in charge of studying and validating methods for Salmonella detection, typing and characterization and it is involved in training activities for EU and Third Countries veterinarians. Different Units within IZSve contribute to the activity of the OIE-RL, such as the National Reference Laboratory for Salmonella, the Food Hygiene Unit, the

“Biofood” platform (in charge of the developing molecular methods for foodborne pathogens detection and typing), the Microbial Ecology Unit, which is dedicated to the development of NGS methodologies.

The OIE-RL performs phenotypic and genotypic characterisation of Salmonella strains isolated from samples of veterinary origin (animals, food, feed). Moreover, the Laboratory coordinates the Enter-vet net, which collects information on the results of Salmonella spp. typing at the national level. This network is in close collaboration with the Enter-net system, which manages data on strains of human origin. The Enter-vet net involves official laboratories at national level, which provide the laboratory with epidemiological data concerning all Salmonella strains; they also send all *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* strains for phage typing or molecular characterization.

The laboratory coordinates and manages national and regional monitoring and control programmes for Salmonella, in accordance with EC Regulation 2160/2003; annually collaborative studies for public and private laboratories, as external quality control for Salmonella serotyping and detection, are organised.

The laboratory performs sero - and phage-typing, as well as molecular typing for epidemiological investigations and subtyping of specific strains, and also for the study of antimicrobial resistance. We

food and veterinary sectors across the European Union (EU) for building and enhancing the use of real-time whole genome sequencing (WGS) and analysis in food safety and public health protection.

The laboratory collaborates with the Italian Ministry of Health on developing national Salmonella monitoring and control programmes in animal populations. Experts working in the laboratory act as contact points for the Community reference laboratory of Bilthoven (NL), as well as for the EFSA Task Force on Zoonoses. The laboratory provides expertise to the European Commission and EFSA in the framework of different working groups.

Scientific and technical support is routinely provided to colleagues from different institutes, in both Italy and other countries, in the areas of:

- implementation and management of monitoring and control programmes
- diagnostic laboratory methods
- innovative molecular methods, typing, antimicrobial resistance
- cooperation with third countries (joint research projects, stages, training courses).

In 2011 a twinning project between the OIE Reference Laboratory and the Central Vietnamese Veterinary Institute (CVVI), Nha Trang, Vietnam was commenced to strengthen CVVI diagnostic capacity on animal salmonellosis.

CVVI's main activities are the diagnosis of several viral, bacterial and parasitical diseases in domestic animals raised in Central Vietnam; research projects funded by the Vietnamese government for the development and production of vaccines and bio-substances, genetic analysis of antimicrobial resistance and training activities such as the organization and implementation of lectures for graduate students and practical and theoretical training for local veterinarians.





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The overall objectives of the twinning between CVVI and IZSve were to build up the capability for the diagnosis of animal salmonellosis to perform diagnostic tests for *Salmonella* spp. according to the OIE guidelines. In addition to the laboratory diagnosis, the project pursues the establishment of the principles for starting explorative research on *Salmonella* spp. prevalence in the local livestock/poultry population and to introduce the principles of risk assessment for its control.



With this acquired knowledge CVVI can contribute substantially to the regional OIE strategy for combating Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) and Neglected Zoonoses (NZ) to which animal salmonellosis can be enlisted.

After a successful project implementation, the final project workshop was held on 26-27 March 2015 in Nha Trang, giving to the participants the possibility to discuss the results achieved and share the latest experiences on *Salmonella* epidemiology in Vietnam. Scientists from parent and candidate laboratories together with OIE took part in the event including, among the others, representatives from the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, the National Institute of Veterinary Research, local Vietnam Departments of Animal Health, the Pasteur Institute, the Vietnam Veterinary Association, Ha Noi and Thai Nguyen Universities.

Overall, this OIE Twinning Project allowed building up the Candidate Laboratory capability for the diagnosis of animal salmonellosis. The CVVI has acquired the skills to perform diagnostic tests for *Salmonella* according to the OIE and international guidelines and will be able to provide advice and assistance to other South East Asian laboratories. In addition, the project pursued the establishment of the principles for starting explorative research on *Salmonella* prevalence in the local animal livestock population and to characterize the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance phenomenon in Vietnam. This OIE Twinning Project represented a unique opportunity for both Institutes to share knowledge, to improve and to lay the foundations of a successful and fruitful collaboration.





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International Symposium of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, WAVLD2017



313 abstracts received , 60 selected as oral presentation and 253 as posters.

Link to the website www.wavld2017.org

ADVANCED PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7th			
16.00-18.00	Registrations		
18.00-19.00	Welcome Cocktail		
THURSDAY JUNE 8th			
08.00-9.00	Registrations		
09.00-9.30	Opening Session Welcome and Opening Remarks		
09.30-10.15	KEYNOTE LECTURE		
	Laboratory network role in managing major animal disease outbreaks <i>Sarah Tomlinson</i> National Animal Health Laboratory Network, USA		
10.15-10.45	<i>Coffee break and & exhibition/poster viewing</i>		
10.45-12.30	ORAL PRESENTATIONS NEW TECHNOLOGIES: OMICS AND BIOMARKERS, WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING, MOLECULAR TYPING	10.45-12.30	ORAL PRESENTATIONS CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF ENDEMIC DISEASES
12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch and & Exhibition/Poster viewing</i>		
14.00-16.15	ORAL PRESENTATIONS STANDARDIZATION AND VALIDATION OF DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS, RING TRIALS, ROBOTISATION	14.00-16.15	ORAL PRESENTATIONS DETECTION, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF NEW AND EMERGING DISEASES
16.15-16.45	<i>Coffee break and & exhibition/poster viewing</i>		
16.45-17.30	KEYNOTE LECTURE		
	The RAMAN spectroscopy analysis and its veterinary application <i>Fabrizio Giorgis, Department of Applied Science and Technology (DISAT), Politecnico di Turin, Italy</i>		
18.20-19.00	S.I.Di.L.V General Meeting (S.I.Di.L.V members only)		
FRIDAY JUNE 9th			
09.00-10.30	ORAL PRESENTATIONS WILDLIFE AND ONE HEALTH	09.00-10.30	 12TH OIE SEMINAR ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND RAPID DIAGNOSTICS
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee break and & exhibition/poster viewing</i>		
11.00-12.00	MANNED POSTER SESSION 1		
12.00-12.45	KEYNOTE LECTURE		
	The future of toxicology in veterinary diagnostic laboratories <i>Cynthia Gaskill, University of Kentucky, USA</i>		
12.00-12.45	11.00-12.00	12TH OIE SEMINAR ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND RAPID DIAGNOSTICS	
12.45-14.15	<i>Lunch and & Exhibition/Poster viewing</i>		
12.45-14.15	13.00-14.00	Thermo Fisher Scientific Symposium	
14.15-16.15	ORAL PRESENTATIONS CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF ENDEMIC DISEASES	14.15-16.15	12TH OIE SEMINAR IMPLEMENTING NEW BIORISK STANDARDS
16.15-16.45	<i>Coffee break and & exhibition/poster viewing</i>		
16.45-17.45	MANNED POSTER SESSION 2		12TH OIE SEMINAR IMPLEMENTING NEW BIORISK STANDARDS
20.00	CONGRESS DINNER		

SATURDAY JUNE 10 th			
KEYNOTE LECTURE			
09.00-9.45	Cetaceans' Pathology <i>Antonio Fernandez, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain</i>		
9.45-10.15	ORAL PRESENTATIONS	9.45-10.15	ORAL PRESENTATIONS
	DIAGNOSTICS APPLIED TO FORENSIC VETERINARY MEDICINE		DETECTION, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF NEW AND EMERGING DISEASES
10.15-10.45	<i>Coffee break and exhibition/poster viewing</i>		
10.45-12.00	ORAL PRESENTATIONS	10.45-12.00	ORAL PRESENTATIONS
	FOOD SAFETY, FOODBORNE PATHOGENS AND FOOD CONTAMINANTS		DETECTION, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF NEW AND EMERGING DISEASES
12.00-12.30	CLOSING CEREMONY		

EAVLD 2016 - Delegate survey

Based on 35 responses

Congress organisation

	Excelent	Good	Average	Satisfactory	Poor	Total
Date of congress announcement	45.71% 16	42.86% 15	11.43% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	35
Way of congress announcement	54.29% 19	40.00% 14	5.71% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	35
Invitation and registration procedure	45.71% 16	51.43% 18	2.86% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	35
Payment modalities	42.86% 15	45.71% 16	5.71% 2	0.00% 0	5.71% 2	35
Onsite registration	54.55% 18	33.33% 11	9.09% 3	3.03% 1	0.00% 0	33
Accommodation	71.88% 23	28.13% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	32
Staff / Organisers	82.86% 29	14.29% 5	2.86% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	35
Congress website	54.29% 19	42.86% 15	2.86% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	35
Preliminary information	55.88% 19	41.18% 14	2.94% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	34

Congress venue

	Excelent	Good	Average	Satisfactory	Poor	Total
Technical equipment	55.88% 19	41.18% 14	2.94% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	34
Congress rooms - size	61.76% 21	32.35% 11	5.88% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	34
Catering	73.53% 25	26.47% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	34
Service/Staff	79.41% 27	20.59% 7	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	34

Congress structure

	Longer next time/Not enough	Good	Too long/much	Total
Congress lenght	25.71% 9	71.43% 25	2.86% 1	35
Sessions lenght	22.86% 8	71.43% 25	5.71% 2	35
Time for discussion in the session	28.57% 10	71.43% 25	0.00% 0	35
Sessions per day	25.71% 9	74.29% 26	0.00% 0	35
Number and length of breaks	17.14% 6	80.00% 28	2.86% 1	35
Time for informal exchange with colleagues	31.43% 11	68.57% 24	0.00% 0	35

Scientific programme

	Excelent	Good	Average	Satisfactory	Poor	Total
Format of the congress	48.57% 17	48.57% 17	2.86% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	35
Relevance of topics to me	25.71% 9	45.71% 16	25.71% 9	0.00% 0	2.86% 1	35
Variety of topics	37.14% 13	48.57% 17	8.57% 3	5.71% 2	0.00% 0	35



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Plenary sessions

	Excellent	Good	Average	Satisfactory	Poor	Total
Plenary sessions quality	45.71% 16	51.43% 18	2.86% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	35

Your attendance

	>10	8-10	5-7	<5	Total
How many sessions have you attended?	57.14% 20	22.86% 8	14.29% 5	5.71% 2	35

Your overall congress experience

	Excellent	Good	Average	Satisfactory	Poor	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	57.14% 20	42.86% 15	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	35	1.43

Do you plan to attend the next EAVLD Congress?

Answer Choices	Responses
YES	97.06% 33
NO	2.94% 1
Total	34

A very positive response from the participants of EAVLD2016 indeed. We encourage wider participation since such surveys are very helpful when organizing next events.