



## **European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians**

**18<sup>th</sup> Newsletter, February 2021**



### **From the EAVLD board**

Last year has been a difficult year for the network activities of EAVLD. Due to the lockdowns and travel restrictions it was not possible to organize the EAVLD congress “Sevilla 2020”. It was unfortunate that we were not able to share knowledge and experiences on the important tasks we are doing in our laboratories.

The COVID19 pandemic brought a new dimension to our work in the veterinary diagnostic laboratories. Many of our member institutes were overloaded with diagnostic samples for SARS-CoV-2, not only for animals, but also for humans. It was a struggle to perform all tests while staff were getting infected or staying at home in quarantine. Beside these high work pressures, laboratories were dealing with shortage in all kind of materials we use for diagnostics, like PCR materials or pipette tips.

On top of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, animal diseases proceeded. African swine fever moved further within Europe and infections were detected in wild boar in Germany. A new large H5N8 Avian Influenza outbreak started at the end of 2020 in Europe. Also these diseases brought new diagnostic challenges.

To keep sharing our knowledge, we are working on organizing a new meeting at the end of 2021. In the meantime we hope you all stay in good health and not be hit too hard by the crisis.

Eefke Weesendorp  
The board of EAVLD



## European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

**Planning on the date and format of the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of the EAVLD is currently ongoing!**

**EAVLD**  
6TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN  
ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY  
LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIANS  
**SEVILLA**

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**OCTOBER 19,20,21 2020**

[Request for information >](#)

We will inform you as soon as possible about the options.

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ECVM, ESGVM and EAVLD



A final version is currently circulating among the three organizations for approval!



## European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

**European Veterinary Microbiological Laboratories – your input is needed!**

### **Have you heard about ENOVAT?**

"The COST Action CA18217 "European Network for Optimization of Veterinary Antimicrobial Treatment" (ENOVAT) aims to optimize veterinary antimicrobial use with special emphasis on the development of animal- and disease-specific antimicrobial treatment guidelines and refinement of microbiological diagnostic procedures."

It started in November 2019 and will end in November 2023.



**ENOVAT**  
European Network for Optimization of  
Veterinary Antimicrobial Treatment



For more details please visit our homepage: [www.enovat.eu](http://www.enovat.eu)

At this stage of ENOVAT, the working group (WG) leaders of WG 1 and WG 2 ask Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians all over Europe for an active contribution in the form of **participation in two online surveys**.

- 1) Refine and standardise veterinary microbiological diagnostic procedures
- 2) Build up a European bacterial strain database

Thereby, all of you can help by taking part in these surveys and therefore, we can work together towards building up state-of-the-art microbiological diagnostics procedures at the European level!



## **European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians**

### **The ENOVAT WG1 "Diagnostic procedures survey"**

With this survey we would like to collate and review the **methods and interpretive criteria currently used by veterinary diagnostic laboratories across Europe** for bacterial pathogen identification and antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST).

If your laboratory is willing to make a valuable contribution to the "Diagnostic Laboratories methodologies survey" please participate in the survey **via the following link:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/39DIQ35>**

### **The ENOVAT WG2 Survey, on "European strain database"**

With this survey we would like to get insight into the overall willingness, the parameters and the conditions under which veterinary microbiological laboratories across Europe would **submit data on cryopreserved isolates (not isolates physically!) to the new European strain database.**

After the survey, laboratories giving a positive response, will receive an excel sheet asking for parameters (e.g. bacterial species, source, year of isolation) on specific bacterial species either lacking clinical breakpoints for AST or not being identifiable by MALDI TOF MS so far.

If your laboratory is willing to make a valuable contribution to "European strain database survey", please participate in the survey **via the following link:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GXY88XC>**

If you are aware of other relevant laboratories in your country, for which participation could also be of interest, **please forward this information and the link(s)** to any laboratory who could give support.

#### **IMPORTANT:**

The surveys will be run anonymously and full confidentiality maintained. Only Dr Dorina Timofte at University of Liverpool, Dr Ana Mateus at Royal Veterinary College in the UK, Dr Gudrun Overesch at the University of Bern, Switzerland, Dr Annet Heuvelink, Royal GD, Deventer, The Netherlands will have access to the data sets and any analysis outcomes. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these surveys.