

# EAVLD Newsletter

## Foreword

### This newsletter...

Foreword	1
EAVLD 2012 Summary	1-2
Maps of participants	3
Summary of evaluations	4
"Maldi-TOF"	5

Dear colleague,

In this sixth issue of EAVLD Newsletter you find a short summary on the Congress 1-4 July 2012 in Kazimierz Dolny in Poland, a map of participants by country and a summary of evaluations of the Congress. As judged from the latter it was a very successful event and the Krol Kazimierz Hotel had excellent facilities and accommodations for this purpose. At the bottom of this Newsletter you find an invitation to join a working group if you are working with MALDI-TOF equipment.

## EAVLD 2012 Summary

The second congress of the European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (EAVLD) was held between 1-4 July, 2012 in Kazimierz Dolny, Poland. National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI), Pulawy was the organizer of the event.

In total, 212 participants from 24 countries were present during the congress including: 81 EAVLD members, 103 regular participants and 28 sponsors' representatives. Sponsors filled all available booth slots and 19 companies had their displays during the congress. The congress was held in Kazimierz Dolny, the quiet, industry-free town which was not only a royal city and one of the largest inland trade ports during the Polish Golden Age, but also a real gem of Renaissance architecture, with its spectacular wooden villas, elegant arcades and beautiful galleries, still available for visitors.



***Congress hall***



***Willie Loeffen receives an award from Miroslaw Polak, Organizing Committee***



# EAVLD Newsletter

## Continued...

The EAVLD2012 congress concentrated on various aspects of diagnosis in veterinary medicine, within 4 thematic sessions:

- General Session (all aspects of veterinary diagnosis & drug resistance issues);
- Diagnostics at the point of interest (pen-site tests, SNAP tests and home-made tests - used beyond the lab bench area);
- Emerging, re-emerging and wildlife diseases - diagnostic possibilities (detection tools based on commercial and home-made tests, their performance and validation in the lab);
- New techniques in bacteriology, parasitology and pathology (new advances in diagnostic techniques).

Five keynote lectures were given before the start of each session by the following remarkable speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Wim H.M. van der Poel, DVM, the senior scientist at the Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands;
- Prof. Dr. med. vet. Stefan Schwarz from the Institute of Farm Animal Genetics of the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut in Neustadt-Mariensee, Germany;
- Dr. Andrew Soldan, Commercial Director and Head of AHVLA Scientific for the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge, United Kingdom;
- Dr. Dolores Gavier-Widén, veterinary pathologist, Head of the Research and Development Division, Department of Pathology and Wildlife Diseases, National Veterinary Institute (SVA) and Associated professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden
- Dr. Markus Kostrzewa, the Director of Molecular Biology R&D at Bruker Daltonics and the Vice President of Clinical Mass Spectrometry, R&D at Bruker Daltonics, Bremen, Germany.

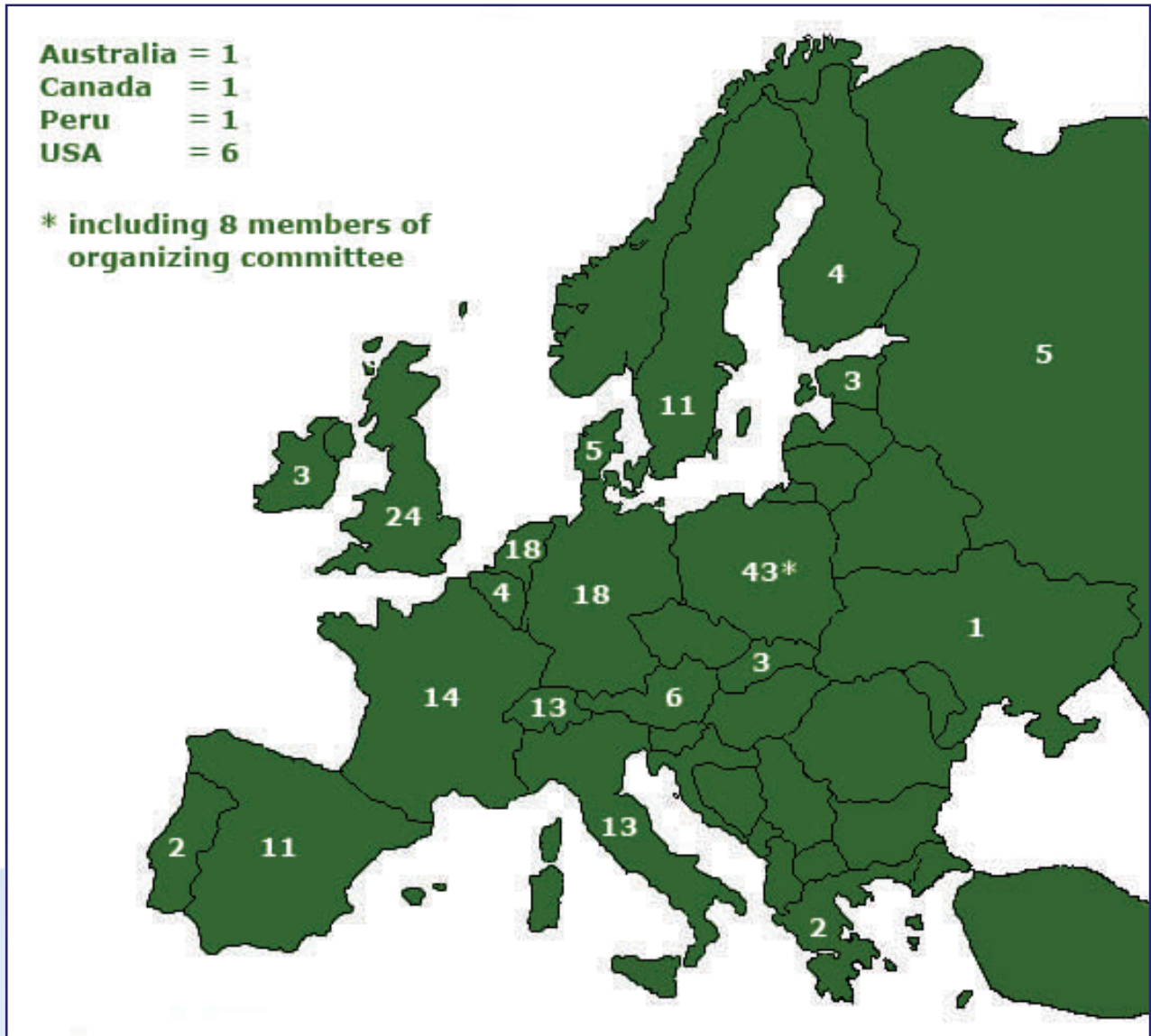
Thirty nine oral presentations and 69 posters were presented during the congress with thematic sessions and the most popular subjects included: rope sampling, PRRS in pigs and Schmallenberg virus in ruminants. Two scientists were awarded Young Scientist Award, which meant free registration for the congress, including congress gala dinner. Social events of the congress included: Welcome Reception on the first day, the Barbecue Party in the garden of NVRI and the Gala Dinner in the congress hotel.

Mirosław Polak

Organizing Committee

# EAVLD Newsletter

## Map of participants



*Poster hall, EAVLD Congress 2012*



*Coffee break, EAVLD Congress 2012*



# EAVLD Newsletter

## Summary of evaluations done by participants of EAVLD

Forty-seven participants returned the evaluation form of the Congress. Overall, 74% of all replies were in the category "excellent" or "very good", which are more or less the same categories and this coupling of those two makes the overall picture clearer; almost 22% of all answers were "good" and 4% comprised categories: "could be better, requires improvement" and "very bad" (however there was only one reply in this last category related to transfers).

When we run through 10 specific questions to participants, the worst part were transfers which had more "good" marks than excellent+very good (36% versus 33%) - and this was the most common remark from the participants in suggestions for improvement (long trip, no A/C). Also in this question we had the highest 31% rate of replies in category "could be better, requires improvement".

On the other hand, all other questions were mostly given excellent to good marks with single replies below that level (1-2 participants per question). The best evaluation was given to social events (91% of excellent and very good marks), followed by keynote lectures (89%), book of abstracts (83%) and communication with organizing committee (82%). Almost 80% of those surveyed gave "excellent" or "very good" mark to the first question: "Did congress meet your expectations"?

However, similar to previous congress, there were remarks that more bacteriology/parasitology topics should be included despite the fact that we made a separate session on this subject. Simply there were not too many submissions to make this session bigger. Another complaint was that there were too many vendors giving talks. Abstracts were, however, selected based on suitability and scientific content, independent of whether it was from a vendor or not. We can only urge future participants to come up with enough high quality abstracts. Other issue was overrepresentation of topics on PRRSV, SBV and rope sampling.

The lowest top-notch marks, besides transfers, were given to sponsors offer (56% of all replies as excellent and very good) and the scientific content (68%). This last number is in slight contrast to 79% of best replies to question no. 1, whether the congress met the participants' expectations.

Mirosław Polak  
Chairman, Organizing Committee



**Andrew Soldan, Opening Ceremony**

# EAVLD Newsletter

## Working group "Maldi-TOF"

Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization (MALDI) is a soft ionization technique used in mass spectrometry, allowing the analysis of biomolecules (biopolymers such as proteins, peptides and sugars) and large organic molecules (such as polymers, dendrimers and other macromolecules), which tend to be fragile and fragment when ionized by more conventional ionization methods. The ionization is triggered by a laser beam. The type of a mass spectrometer most widely used with MALDI is the TOF (Time-Of-Flight mass spectrometer), mainly due to its large mass range.

MALDI-(TOF) is used in biochemistry, organic chemistry, polymer chemistry but also in molecular-biology, microbiology and virology. MALDI-TOF spectra can be used for the identification of micro-organisms such as bacteria or fungi, but also for the genotyping of bacteria and viruses by PCR-MALDI-TOF.

Fast and reliable identification of micro-organisms is a crucial step toward an appropriate treatment of infectious diseases in medical and veterinary diagnostics and is of main interest today. Mass spectral identification of micro-organisms has been shown as a tool for rapid identification.

As the area of applications by MALDI-TOF is becoming bigger and bigger, EAVLD would like to create a working group of members that are interested in MALDI-TOF technology. This working group will focus on:

- Share of knowledge and experiences
- Share problems and search for solutions with Bruker
- Create new ideas and applications, e.g. PCR in combination with MALDI-TOF
- New challenges and opportunities, e.g.:
  - Analysis of particular difficult organisms
  - Direct analysis of specimens
  - Epidemiology/typing
  - Virulence detection
  - Antibiotic resistance detection

We would like to know whether you are interested to join this working group. In case you are interested, you can send an e-mail to [a.heuvelink@gddeventer.com](mailto:a.heuvelink@gddeventer.com) or [g.wellenberg@gddeventer.com](mailto:g.wellenberg@gddeventer.com).

We hope you will join this working group and share our experiences.

Annet Heuvelink and Gerard Wellenberg  
GD-Deventer