



## European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

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### Foreword

Dear Colleague,

We start this issue with the announcement of the next EALVD congress and the interview with Marialaura Corrente, EALVD President since September 2021. In this number, find the profile of new EALVD board members and a summary of the virtual 2021 conference and assembly. The MoU of the collaboration among EALVD, ECVM and ESGVM is presented.

## Work in progress... next EALVD will be on 24- 26 October 2022



EALVD VIRTUAL 2021    THE CONGRESS    SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION    EXHIBITION & SPONSORS    REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATION

**EALVD**  
6TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN  
ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY  
LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIANS  
**SEVILLA**  
OCTOBER 24,25,26 2022

Request for information >

XXV SIMPOSIO AVEDILA





## European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians



*“Vets and laboratory veterinarians have played crucial roles during pandemic, demonstrating the importance of the One Health approach. In that perspective we should pursue and adapt to our times the mission of the association”*



Interview with Marialaura Corrente, President in charge of EALVD

**Dear Marialaura, In September 2021 you were appointed as the President of EALVD. What are your first impressions?**

I have mixed feelings about this appointment. I am the first EAVLD President after the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, which has been an earthquake whose dramatic consequences we are still trying to manage. But, being an optimist, I feel confident that several actions can improve the situation and the newly renewed and enlarged EALVD Board can play a part in this process. We met online on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November for a kick-off meeting and we set up a series of promising activities for the EAVLD.

**What about the EAVLD virtual meeting, do you think it was effective?**

As the congress in Seville was postponed to 2022, the past President Eefke Weesendorf and other Board members agreed to organise a virtual meeting. Jose Luis Blanco, professor of the Complutense University of Madrid, and the Committee did an excellent work for the organisation of the meeting. On Last October, up to 130 researchers, attended the intensive sessions of lectures and presentations, proving the success of the event. We met virtually in Spain but we are planning to have a Congress in Seville, next year. There will be awards and bursaries for PhD students and young researchers, to allow them to participate.

**What will EALVD do for laboratory veterinarians in the future?**

Vets and laboratory veterinarians have played crucial roles during pandemic, demonstrating the importance of the One Health approach not only in controlling infectious diseases but also in food safety testing.

In that perspective we should pursue and adapt to our times, the mission of the association, as mentioned in our Statute:

*“EAVLD is a non profit making, independent association with the mission of improving veterinary and public health by providing a platform for communication among veterinary laboratory diagnosticians”*

Moreover, I think the EAVLD should promote policies of inclusion and gender equality.



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**What do you expect from your new position? Will you be able to manage this activity with your academic commitments?**

I am sure the EALVD experience will be very important for me. My expertise both as a researcher and teacher will be surely enriched. During the pandemic, it has been extremely hard and frustrating to manage online teaching and to keep students engaged. By making meaningful international connections, I expect to develop new skills.

**What would you recommend to the new Board Members and to EALVD Members?**

My dream is to receive as more requests and inputs as possible, from all Members and in particular from young researchers, in order to share ideas with them. In other words I would like to coordinate a very interactive group of researchers. So, please, EALVD member: connect, share, get in touch!

**Marialaura Corrente, DVM**

**Associate Professor - Infectious Diseases of Animals**

**Department of Veterinary Medicine - University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy)**

**marialaura.corrente@uniba.it**

DIPARTIMENTO DI  
MEDICINA VETERINARIA





## European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians



### EAVLD VIRTUAL MEETING 2021

17<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

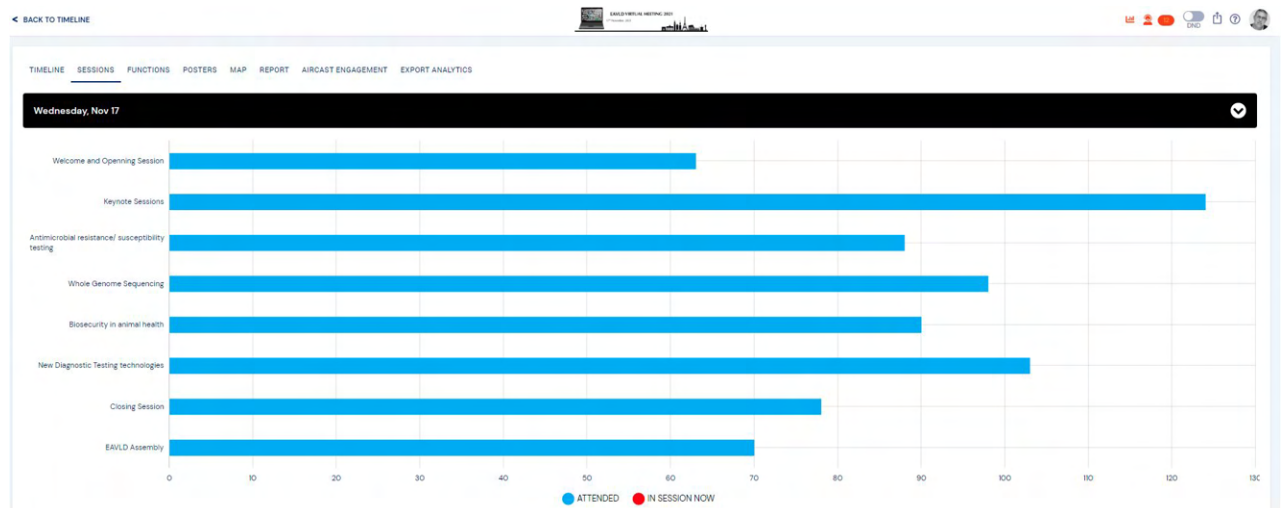


In October 2018 we met in the city of Brussels to celebrate the 5th EAVLD Congress. There, we scheduled to celebrate a new meeting two years later in the Spanish city of Seville.

Little could we imagine then the pandemic situation that we are going through since February 2020, and which has forced the 6th Congress to be cancelled for two consecutive years. I think all of us have suffered the loss of a family member, friend or colleague due to COVID19. There have been many casualties, too many. But their memory will remain in our hearts, will drive us every day to continue working because that is precisely what each of them would have wanted us to do. We owe it to them and to their memory.

We hope to meet you again, in person, in October 2022 in the beautiful city of Seville (Spain). However, as both the EAVLD Board and the Organizing Committee of the 6th Congress considered that it was a long period without being in contact with our associates, we decided to organize a virtual meeting on November 17 2021.

The schedule for such a virtual meeting was quite intensive. **The conference was attended by about 130 researchers.** Initially, we attended an emotional welcome from our President, Dr. Marialaura Corrente, who recalled the dramatic consequences of COVID19 in her home country, Italy, and throughout Europe and the rest of the World. She also recalled, together with Dr. Sergio Alvarez-Perez, the challenges faced by veterinary laboratory diagnosticians, whose work is becoming more important in this globalized world where the emergence of new threatening diseases is likely to occur.





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### *EAIVD 2021: CONFERENCE REPORT*

Continuing with the schedule of the Meeting, we attended three excellent conferences. **Dr. Lucia Biffar** presented the latest news regarding the development of new vaccination strategies against bovine tuberculosis. In a world concerned about the appearance of new pathogens, we cannot forget those pathogens that have been among us for so many years and that continue to be a primary objective of our efforts to attempt their eradication, or at least, to minimize their prevalence.

Next, **Dr. Wim van der Poel** spoke about the zoonotic aspects of SARS-Cov-2 from a global perspective, covering both what it is currently known about the virus and the different theories about its origin, with a description of the disturbing scenario created by the possible appearance of new pandemics. As Dr. Van der Poel highlighted, surveillance networks in animal medicine are essential to stop or, at least, minimize the impact of COVID19 and other new pandemics. And it is precisely here where veterinary laboratory diagnosticians will play a fundamental role, of high health interest.

Finally, **Dr. Antonio Martinez Murcia** detailed the different genetic procedures that are being used to reach a deep understanding of the different genetic variants of SARS-Cov-2, and, what is more important, the possibilities that new variants of the virus arise in the future. In this regard, genetic analyses are essential to control and anticipate possible changes in the virus that may lead to an increased pathogenicity.

After these three conferences, an interesting discussion was established, with questions from the attendees to the keynote speakers, who clarified concepts and dispelled doubts.

Then we had a session of **Oral Communications**. The Scientific Committee had the arduous previous work of selecting only 11 Communications from all abstract submissions. All of them had a high scientific quality and hence the difficulty of choosing, due to time constraints.

The presenting authors, most of them early-career scientists, talked about very diverse topics, all of them of great interest. Antimicrobial resistance, epidemiological surveillance of pathogens, and procedures for rapid and effective detection of new diseases were some of the topics discussed.



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### ***EALVD 2021: CONFERENCE REPORT***

At this point the morning was already well advanced, and it only remained to put a closure at the height of the Meeting celebrated. Dr. Tomás Mayoral, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, made a summary of what we had seen in the Conference, highlighting the three lectures given. Dr. Mieke Steensels, on behalf of the EAVLD, proceeded to the official closing of the Conference, summoning the EAVLD partner assistants to join the General Assembly of the organization, to vote for the entry of new members in the Board and to discuss about the activities of the Association.

The link to all the contents of the conference will be available to registered attendees until January 17, 2022 by using the link and password previously used to attend the Meeting. Later on, we will post such contents on the EAVLD's website.

Finally, during the Virtual Meeting, Dr. Jose L. Blanco made a brief presentation of the Face-to-face Congress to be held in Seville in October 2022.

As Dr. Blanco said, **in Seville, we hope to meet all of you in person**, and we will add to the excellent scientific quality of the event, which is traditional in every EAVLD Congress, the typical warmth of the welcoming Spanish, Andalusian character, and, let's not forget, the charm of the city of Sevilla. The organizing committee is preparing an interesting scientific congress that will include recreational activities to facilitate greater personal contact between the attendees.

You can follow everything related to the next face-to-face Congress on its website, [eavld2022.org](http://eavld2022.org). At present, we are still working hard to prepare what we hope you consider to be an excellent Scientific Program, with a series of conferences that will not forget to address COVID19 and its impact on animal health, with special attention to its diagnosis, which the main objective of our association. Once the final program for the upcoming meeting will be available, we will update all the data on its website.

**See you in Seville in 2022.**

**Don't miss it!**

**You will not regret being with us.**

**We will try our best to make you enjoy a great event.**

**We are looking forward to seeing you there!**



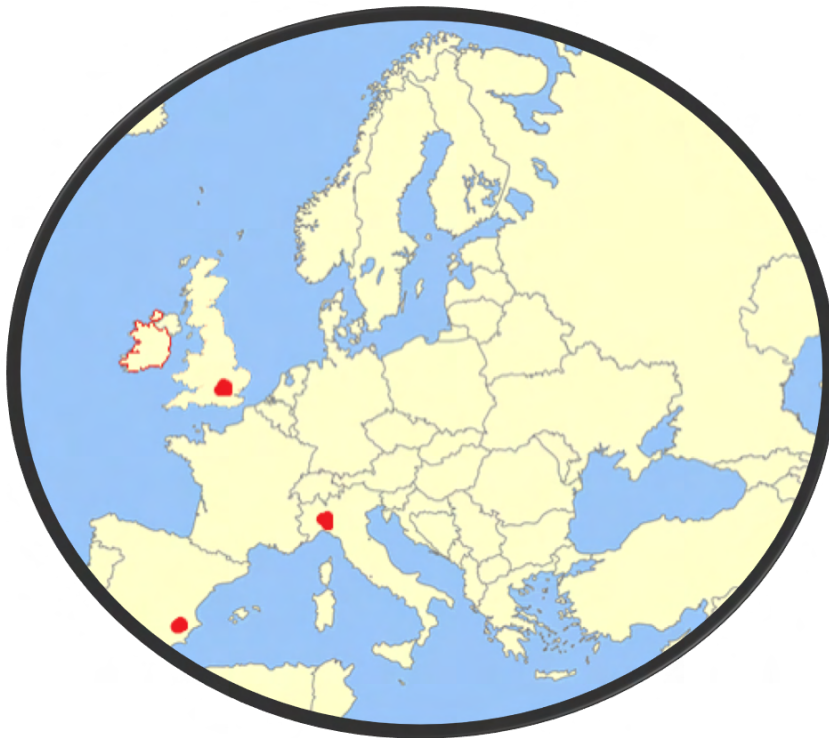
Prof. José Luis Blanco

Animal Health Department, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain



## European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

*welcome*  
NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Dr. Antonio Martinez-Murcia, University of Alicante and GPS solutions, Alicante, Spain

Dr. Marzia Pezzolato, Istituto Zooprofilattico del Piemonte e Valle D'Aosta, Turin, Italy

Dr. Claire Cassar, Laboratory and Surveillance Services Department, APHA Weybridge (UK)

Dr. Cassar recently acquired a new job position and she has to leave the Board. We are sorry for the team but happy for her, at the same time. Congrats Claire!



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### **Prof. Antonio Martínez-Murcia (Spain) Miguel Hernández University, Alicante.**

Dr. Antonio Martínez-Murcia, Professor of Microbiology,  
Miguel Hernández University, Alicante,  
Bachelor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Univ. Valencia 1987.  
Doctorate in Microbiology, Univ. Reading, England 1993.  
Pioneering early scientific contributions in phylogeny and  
genetic testing methods of application in prokaryotic systematics.  
Co-author of ca. 90 scientific publications, book chapters,  
a patented PCR method (1994), co-director of 8 doctoral theses,  
and the description of 16 new bacterial species.

Member of the “Aeromonas Working-group”, of the “International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes”; directive member of AVEDILA (Association of Veterinary Specialists in Laboratory Diagnosis), secretary of the Association of Biotechnology Companies of Alicante (AEBA). Director of the genetic PCR solutions™ (GPS™) laboratories providing custom-designed ready-to-use real-time PCR kits (qPCR) applied to veterinary and many other sectors.

GPS™ has already developed and made available qPCR kits for over 300 pathogens. Quality policy certified to ISO 9001:2015 and UNE/EN ISO13485:2016. GPS™ uses guidelines of standard UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025 for validations. Registered as manufacturer of animal health diagnostic reagents by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA), Spain. The company is a guest member of the Animal Health Research Network (RISA-Spain). GPS™ has obtained the sanitary license from the Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products (Ministry of Health), under the label CE-IVD (in vitro diagnostics).







## European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians



### **Marzia Pezzolato DVM; PhD (Italy) Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte, Liguria e Valle d'Aosta**



Marzia Pezzolato completed her veterinary degree in Veterinary Medicine in Turin in 2003.

She received his PhD in Veterinary hygiene and animal pathology in 2013. Since 2004 she is employed at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte, Liguria e Valle d'Aosta first with veterinary scholarship and from 2007 as official veterinary.

She has over 10 years of experience in Histopathology and carries out histopathological diagnosis for public and private users. She has gained experience in the standardization and validation of histochemical and immunohistochemical methods applied to animal pathologies and food safety in a lab accredited ISO / CEI 17025 by the ACCREDIA system

She carries out histopathological diagnosis in support of:

- necropsy activities in order to establish the cause of death
- freelance veterinarians for both pets and livestock to characterize suspected neoplastic tissues
- Public veterinarian in the field of inspection activities and plan diseases
- national and regional reference centers
- forensic toxicology for the detection of injuries related to poisoning and differential diagnosis.

Moreover, she carries out microscopy for the detection of fraud, illegal treatment and conservation status of food of animal origin:

- diagnostic activity for the identification of illicit treatments (DOPING) of cattle
- development of multi-screening and untargeted methods
- identification of ingredients and additives; unwanted or prohibited substances; conservation methods of products with rapid techniques
- development of spectroscopic methods for food authenticity

She coordinates more than 10 Italian research project

She is author of more than 40 international publications.



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The **Memorandum of the Understanding**, discussed by **ECVM, EALVD and ESGVM** during the first congress of the European College of Veterinary Microbiology (ECVM), held in Athens, at the end of September 2019 **has been drafted, finalized and signed**. In summary, the MoU describes the common interests of the three associations and the objectives of their collaboration:

### Objectives of MoU:

- 1) Standardization of methods and procedures used by veterinary diagnostic laboratories
- 2) Standardize evidence-based antimicrobial therapy, antimicrobial stewardship and best infection control practices in veterinary medicine
- 3) Contribute to the training of ECVM-certified specialists
- 4) Raise awareness about the importance of controlling the emergence of drug-resistant microorganisms using a One Health intersectoral approach
- 5) Implement One Health research and training collaborations and proficiency testing between human and veterinary clinical microbiologists and infectious disease specialists
- 6) Co-organization of conferences for veterinary microbiological diagnosticians as a platform for communication, networking and scientific update

Representatives of these organizations will hold the next meeting in the beginning of 2022, during which they will discuss the possibilities of courses, training and conferences for members of the ECVM, EALVD or ESGVM. The outcome of this meeting will be addressed in the next newsletter.

**For the integral text, please visit the EALVD website.**

**Information:** [heather.graham@wur.nl](mailto:heather.graham@wur.nl)



## European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians



### Mind the date!

Lisbon (Portugal) 23-26 April 2022

#### 32nd European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases

The congress will take place both online and in Lisbon.

Submission period for abstracts: 2 February – 16 February 2022, 15:59 CET Link

<https://www.eccmid.org/>

Bari ( Italy) 15-17th September 2022

#### 4th ECVM Conference

Link <https://ecvmicro.org/>

Work in progress:

**During the ECVM Conference a EAVLD satellite event will be organised in Bari next year.**

**For further information please visit our website**



**EAVLD Members, we need you!**

### Would you to contribute to our mission?

- News for the EAVLD newsletter?
- Are you a young researcher working across Europe? Tell us your story!

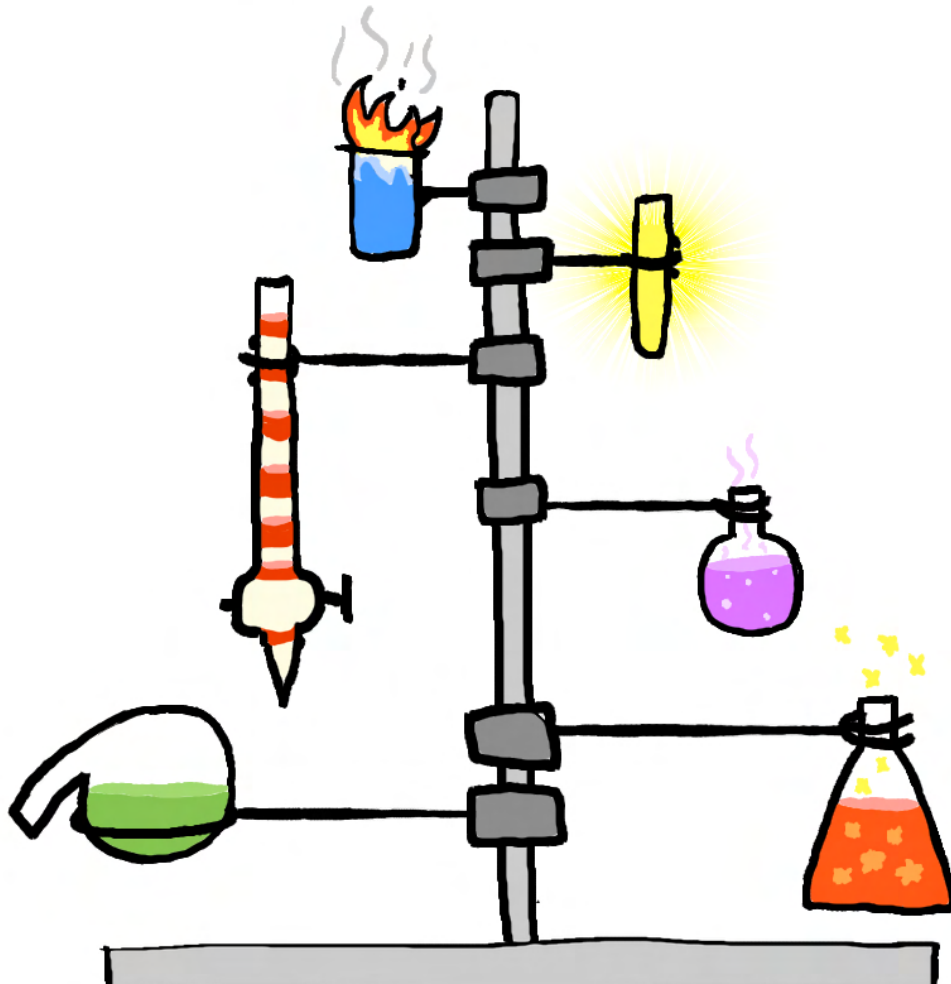
Please send Marzia, [marzia.Pezzolato@izsto.it](mailto:marzia.Pezzolato@izsto.it) before May, 3, 2022.

- Do you have ideas or proposals to share with us?

Contact Marialaura, [marialaura.corrente@uniba.it](mailto:marialaura.corrente@uniba.it) and other Board members.



**European Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians**



*Newsletter by Marzia Pezzolato*