



# eclam

**European College of  
Laboratory Animal Medicine**

February 2010

Dear ECLAM colleagues,

As we enter a new decade it is worth spending time to reflect on the years behind us. However there is another good reason to sit back and think: November 2010 will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ECLAM! A decade of work and commitment has led to a very strong and internationally recognised association of European Specialists in Laboratory Animal Medicine. All of us have contributed in one way or another to the development of the College and we can all be proud of our various achievements. However it is worth remembering that without the vision and stamina of the 7 steering committee members who set out to establish the foundations of ECLAM back in 1998, the field of Laboratory Animal Medicine would probably not be recognised as a veterinary specialty in Europe. So, on behalf of all of us, I would like to address special thanks to Vera Baumans, Pierre Gallix, Hans Hedrich, Axel Kornerup Hansen, Tim Morris, Patri Vergara and Felix Wolf for creating ECLAM.

ECLAM has steadily grown since it received provisional recognition by the European Board of Veterinary Specialization in 2000. Reaching the next milestone - full recognition - was no small task. Formal Residency training programmes were established in Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. A framework for the approval of credentials and a structure for examinations also needed to be put in place. All this hard work led to the first examinations in 2005 and to the full recognition of the College in 2008. To this date, nine applicants have successfully taken the exam, and our membership now consists of 83 Diplomates. This year our warmest congratulations go to Ana Criado for her success at the exam! Ana is a friend of many of us but for those of you who don't know her yet, see below a few introductory lines in her own words:



*"I got my Degree in Veterinary Medicine from Madrid Veterinary School back in 1992. After a short spell in Small Animal Practice in northern Spain, I went back to Madrid to pursue my interest in anaesthesia and analgesia and started a PhD in rodent anaesthesia under the supervision of Dr. Ignacio Alvarez. Around that time I got a grant from Laboratory Animals Ltd, and I was lucky enough to spend three months in Newcastle University in Dr. Paul Flecknell's group. It didn't help to improve my English, but made me consider for the first time a lab animal-vet career! I then moved to the UK to take up a Residency in Laboratory Animal Science, under the supervision of Dr. Tim Morris in what at the time was SmithKline Beecham. What I thought would be a two years' parenthesis ended up into over ten years away from Spain. At the end of the residency period, I started working as a vet at GlaxoSmithKline first in the UK, and for the last seven years in Italy. In all these years I have been very fortunate to meet many outstanding professionals in this field, and I want to take the opportunity to thank you all, in particular the three I have already mentioned and many of my colleagues in GSK who have been for me both mentors and friends."*

As a scientific organization, ECLAM is dedicated to the health and welfare of laboratory animals and to the application of ethical practices for their use. In 2003 ECLAM partnered with ESLAV and established the ECLAM ESLAV (EEF) Foundation which was officially registered as a charity on 4 June 2004. The EEF foundation has already provided a large number of grants for research projects aimed at refining the use of laboratory animals. ECLAM is also represented on the scientific committee of ESLAV annual scientific meetings. The meetings represent a great opportunity for continuing development as well as a way of gaining credit points for the ECLAM re-evaluation process. They also act as a hub for professional and social networking. The next ESLAV meeting will be held in Toulouse from 26 to 28 September 2010 in association with LAVA and AFSTAL ComVet. As usual the ECLAM AGM will be tagged onto the ESLAV meeting. The date has been set for Monday, **27 September**. Please mark this down in your diaries! I hope to see many of you there for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration!

As a college, ECLAM also represents your interests in the regulatory environment. Over the last year, ECLAM has taken an active role, in partnership with ESLAV and LAVA, to ensure that the voice of laboratory animal veterinarians is heard in the debate on the revision of the European Directive. A major impact was the inclusion of a statement requiring a designated veterinarian with expertise in laboratory animal medicine, or a suitably-qualified expert where more appropriate (for example a fish biology and health expert), to be charged with advisory duties in relation to the well-being and treatment of the animals. ECLAM engagement in the revision process also ensured that a number of ECLAM Diplomates were invited to join a working group that had been tasked with identifying severity classification criteria in support of the revision of the Directive. The report of the working group can be found on [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/pdf/report\\_ewg.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/pdf/report_ewg.pdf).

More than a year after the Commission proposed to revise the Directive, you may be asking yourself which point of the revision process has been reached and what comes next? As the revision falls under the "co-decision" process, both the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union must approve the proposal before it is adopted into European law. In December 2009 trilogue discussions between the Commission, the Parliament and the Presidency apparently led to an agreement in principle on the main provisions laid out in the proposal. However, further negotiations are required on procedural aspects that may be impacted by the Lisbon Treaty. There is currently no defined timeline for these negotiations to happen and it is not yet clear whether the European Council will be in a position to approve the text before the end of the Spanish Presidency at the end of June. However one thing is sure: there will be more news on this topic during the year! We will keep you updated on the progress as it happens."

I feel that ECLAM has made a great journey from its conception to the mature and professional scientific organization it has become and I have no doubt that the future holds further development and achievements. The Nominations Committee recently invited nominations from the ECLAM membership to replace a number of appointments which will become vacant at the beginning of 2011. If you would like to contribute to the development of ECLAM by participating in the running of the College, or know a suitable colleague for one of the roles open for nomination, don't miss this opportunity! Simply email your nominations to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Tim Morris ([tmorris@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:tmorris@britishhorseracing.com)) **by 31 March 2010**.

Let's continue to keep our eyes clearly focussed on the future of the College! On behalf of ECLAM council I wish you all a very happy and prosperous year.

Ghislaine Poirier