Editorial by the Secretary

Dear ESVCN member,

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you to be part of the readership of the Newsletter of our Society. Since its foundation, this is the first time that a brand new letter reaches you to provide you with important information on news and developments inside and outside of ESVCN.

Many recent changes bear witness to the continuing evolution of our Society. We have an increasing number of members, along with a big increase in delegates for our annual Congress, from all over of the world.

With this first issue, and with the wish that several others may follow, I look forward to your contributions to the future contents of our newsletter. We hope you will actively engage in this and the websites’ growth and development. We wish to strengthen cooperation and support towards better nutrition for animals and better research both among ESVCN member and non-member scientists. This was the aim of our founding members and we hope that it will continue across generations for the future of animal nutrition and welfare.

Enjoy your reading!

Kind regards,
Maria Grazia Cappai

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  Institute of Animal Nutrition, University of Veterinary Medicine of Zürich

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Members’ Corner: please send your special photos/drawings relating to Animals/ESVCN for our title page.
Opening Message from the President

Welcome to this the first of our ESVCN newsletters. Thanks to Maria Grazia, Andrea and all those involved for helping make this happen during my Presidency of ESVCN. I am amazed how the last 3yrs have flown by and look forward to being involved in the next phase of the Society’s development under the leadership of Prof Dobenecker (who takes over the Presidency in September). I would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof Christine Iben, Professor Geert Janssens, Prof Britta Dobenecker, Dr Ronald Corbee and Prof. Maria Grazia Cappai for making my last 6 years on the ESVCN board so engaging, enjoyable and productive.

Looking back at the major developments of ESVCN over the last 3 years a key step I think was to engage the services of our executive administrator, Dr Andrea Ellis, who has been instrumental in driving through the necessary updates to our constitution and developing our new website. This will be unveiled during the Turin Congress. Led by Prof Janssens, ESVCN hosted a very successful early career researcher’s workshop in Belgium a couple of years ago which will be mirrored this August by a follow up workshop in the USA, in collaboration with our sister organisation the American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition. AAVN have so appreciated their contact with ESVCN that they have asked me to stay on their board (after finishing my term as member – at – large) as the liaison with ESVCN. I was personally very proud to co-organise the first ESVCN congress in the United Kingdom at the end of my first year as President and to be able to share very good science as well as cultural social events, such as ‘barn dancing’, with my European colleagues.

The congress at Munich was a resounding success and I look forward to the Turin Congress being an enjoyable finale to my Presidential time.

What of my passion regarding nutrition and its role in animal health and welfare? This is a quote from the American Veterinary Medicine Association’s website: ‘Good nutrition enhances pets’ quality and quantity of life, and is integral to optimal animal care. Incorporating nutritional assessment into regular animal care is critical to maintaining pets' health, as well as their response to disease and injury’.

The same obviously could be said with respect to farm/horse/zoo etc. animal nutrition. However, the AVMA started this section by noting ‘Regular nutritional assessment and counseling can be a vital link in the chain of preventive care, but it’s often overlooked or skipped’. It is therefore up to the Society and College to continue to undertake and promote good quality research and education in the whole wide field of clinical and comparative nutrition and also for all of us to encourage our colleagues to take the time to appreciate and utilize the power of nutrition as it affects the health, welfare, performance and behavior of the various animals in our care. I therefore look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the beautiful city of Turin in September and hearing about the new advances in our important and very relevant field of animal nutrition.

In the meantime enjoy this first newsletter.
Pat Harris.
President ESVCN 2016 -2019
Executive Administrator appointed
by Maria Grazia Cappai

Dr. Andrea D Ellis
Executive Administrator of the ESVCN

Following a decision at the AGM 2017, the Society has taken on the support and professional skills of an Executive Administrator (EA) of the ESVCN. The EA supports the President and the other Members of the ESVCN Board with organisational, logistic and administrative tasks. The EA liaises with the local organising committee (LOC) of the annual Congress and supports them to ensure that everything is organized according to the guidelines (also called the ‘LOC Bible’ developed last year by Geert Janssen and Andrea Ellis). The EA also helps to prepare the board meeting and general assembly, liaises with sponsors and administrates documents and the website of the Society. In March 2018 Dr. Andrea Ellis, was appointed to fill that role.

Bio: Dr Andrea Ellis is a renowned equine scientist, whose early research focused on food intake behaviour and nutrient digestion in horses and sheep, and set her on a path of becoming a specialist in equine nutrition and behaviour. After working for four years as a Scientific Researcher at Wageningen University Research, NL, she joined Nottingham Trent University, UK, as Senior Lecturer, where she led the design of the MSc in Equine Health and Welfare, and was Programme Leader of this course. Today she still teaches Nutrition and Ethics on the Masters Modules at NTU. Andrea now runs her own company UNEQUI Science and Creativity. She is passionate about animal nutrition and welfare, good science and biology education.

Andrea was on the scientific team of the first Congress for Changing Human Behaviour towards better Animal Welfare (2016). She worked as external examiner, course validator, supervisor and guest lecturer for a wide range of institutions (ANIVADO, University of Edinburgh, Royal Agricultural University, Anglia Ruskin University, Northampton University, BPP University, Portsmouth University and others) as well as doing her consultancy work and collaborative research projects (UK, USA, Switzerland, NL, SWE). She runs distance learning ‘Research and Statistics’ Modules for undergraduates at Compass Education and recently collaborated on the first online Global Equine Nutrition Course on ANIVADO.com. Andrea is also a member of the Royal Society of Biology and an Assessor for their Advanced Degree Accreditation Scheme (recently: The Royal Veterinary College, University of Salford, University of West Scotland). UNEQUI’s creativity arm encompasses art, poster design, scientific illustrations and photography.

Andrea: I am very honoured to be part of ESVCN and hope to support the Board and Society in all its activities. Thanks for making me feel so welcome!

Qu: Dog or Cat or Horse?
A: All three !!

The two ‘men’ in my life playing scrabble – Guess who won?
Honorary Member Award, 2018 by Maria Grazia Cappai

Prof. Jacques Debraekeleer, DVM, Dipl. ECVCN
Honorary Member of the ESVCN

Honorary Membership is awarded to those members who have actively worked for the growth and promotion of the ESVCN for many years.

In 2018, during the Annual General Meeting in Munich, the Board proposed Dr. Jacques Debraekeleer as the first Honorary Member under the new Statutes and he was unanimously acknowledged as an Honorary Member. Congratulations!

Bio
Graduated as Veterinarian at the University Ghent 1970

Assistant at the ambulatory clinic

Private practice large & small animals
Lincent (Belgium) 1971 - 1985

Technical advisor Aesculaap NV. Belgium 1985 - 1986

Veterinary Affairs Manager Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Europe 1986 - 1996

Founding member of the European Society of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition (ESVCN) Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria 05/10/1991

Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition (ECVCN) Since 1998


Guest Professor Small Animal Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Ghent 1998 - 2004

Associate Director Professional & Regulatory Affairs, Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Europe 1998 - 2011

Dr. Jacques Debraekeleer is one of the founding fathers of the ESVCN in Vienna (Austria, 1991). He was the first secretary of ESVCN and later again Secretary and an ESVCN treasurer for many years.

Future proposals of candidature should be sent to the Board (mgcappai@uniss.it) and nominations will be presented every year to members during the AGM, for voting.

Prof. Jacques Debraekeleer
Founding member of ESVCN (1991)
Board & Committee News by Maria Grazia Cappai

Modification of the Statutes and bylaws of the ESVCN

During the AGM in 2018, members voted for the approval of the new Statutes of the ESVCN. The previous statutes were slightly modified, to ensure that the society, as a non-profit making society, was compliant with current Austrian regulations. The statutes were therefore amended, with professional legal advice from experts in Austria. In addition the society’s purpose to support young scientists and collaborative research was highlighted more. The possibility of getting support from an EA was incorporated into the statutes and managing the amendments was the first job of the new EA. Moreover, the use of sponsors as a means to support our activities was embedded within the new Statutes according to Austrian Law.

Data protection law developed for the ESVCN

From the 25th of May 2018 the new regulations on personal data protection are in place in all European countries. The General Data Protection Regulation “GDPR” (EU) 2016/679 aims to protect data and privacy of all individuals within the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area. The ESVCN developed and applies its own data protection rules in compliance with the abovementioned EU Regulation. When paying or renewing your membership or registering for the congress you will have to actively opt in for your e-mail address and details to be used by the society to contact you. At any point, each member has the right to opt out of the use of personal data, like email addresses, images and other data that can univocally assigned to one particular person.

Minutes from previous AGMs

ESVCN 2017 and 2018

The minutes of the AGM 2017, Cirencester, will be placed on the new website in the members hub under Board & Committees. Provisional minutes of the AGM 2018, Munich will also be placed there and you will be able to approve these online with our new ‘voting’ box facility or send us comments for amendments. Of course they will formally be ratified at the next AGM as usual.

Call for tributes to founding, past board and honorary ESVCN members

Our new website will contain a little more about our history, honorary members and board members. If you know/knew one of our founding members or past board members well and wish to write a short tribute for them, please send this to the Executive Administrator.
Sketches from the last ESVCN Congress, Munich 2018.

by Maria Grazia Cappai

More than 300 delegates took part at the 22nd ESVCN Congress, one of the highest delegate numbers ever. Main lectures on several themes of animal nutrition and related hot topics, scientific sessions, and workshops ran during three full immersion days. The local organising committee welcomed participants to the heart of Bavaria, in the south of Germany. They did a fabulous job, running a smooth and extremely well organised congress, coordinated by Dr. Britta Dobenecker and Dr. Linda Böswald with the helpful support of their team.
During the 22nd ESVCN Congress several Awards were given out to scientists for excellence in research presentations within their field. Details for award criteria will be shown on our new Website shortly.

Sarah Herbst of the University of Munich won the WALTHAM Student Award, with the contribution entitled: “Effects of phosphorus addition from organic and inorganic sources on kinetics of selected blood parameters in dogs”.

Francine Peres of the University of Sao Paulo won the Nestlé Purina Cat Nutrition Award, with the contribution entitled: “Protein intake effects on energy metabolism of cats measured by different methodologies”.

Andrea Brenes-Soto of the University of Sao Paulo won the Dechra Comparative Nutrition Award, with the contribution entitled: “What’s gotten into the frog? Insights from the body composition of an amphibian, Xenopus leavis”.

Bruna Loureiro of the University of Sao Paulo won the first Josef Leibetseder Best Poster Award, with the contribution entitled “Protein requirement for adult cats estimated by nitrogen balance or maintenance of lean body mass”.

Marc Alexander Lieboldt of the University of Rostock, won the Helmut Meyer Award, with the contribution entitled: “Evaluation of particle size distribution in samples of pelleted and meal diets for piglets, fattening pigs and sows in Germany”.

We thank the Award Committees for their hard work in assessing and judging all the contributions during the Congress!

Impressions of ESVCN Awards Presentation Munich, 7th of September 2018
2nd Early Career Workshop for Animal Nutrition Scientists will be in Asheville (NC, USA) 28th July-1st August 2019

The second joint ESVCN and AAVN ECR Workshop follows the first successful workshop held in 2017 in Laarne (Belgium, organised by Prof. Geert Janssens [picture], Dr. Marcus Clauss, Dr. Richard Butterwick, Prof. Patricia Harris).

The aim of the workshops is to support young research scientists, specialising in nutrition, to develop skills towards growing their career.

The workshop supports those in the early stages of their professional careers. It provides an opportunity to explore a range of essential skills for their success, such as sharing insights to secure research funding, building a publication portfolio, working with industry, through to understanding emotional intelligence in a professional environment.

The next 3-day ECR Workshop will take place in North Carolina, USA (thanks to Dr. Kelly Swanson and Dr. Martha Cline) and is a joint venture between the European Society of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition (ESVCN) and the American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition (AAVN).

The location of the workshop will be in Blue Ridge Assembly, Asheville, North Carolina, USA.

The ECR Workshops are sponsored by:
Registrations Open Congress, 2019

by Maria Grazia Cappai

23rd Congress of the ESVCN
Torino, 18th-20th of September 2019

The 23rd Congress of the ESVCN will be organized and hosted by colleagues of the University of Turin, thanks to the engagement of Prof. Achille Schiavone and Dr. Joana Nery with the support of Prof. Domenico Bergero (past President of the ESVCN, now a decade ago!) and all the people of the Local Organizing Committee. The congress will be held from the 18th to 20th of September 2019 (Wednesday to Friday), right before the ECVIM congress, that will be held in Milan. The Residency Class of the European College of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition will be organized on 16th to 17th of September 2019 (Monday and Tuesday). The 2019 Congress will be held in the 18th century headquarter of the University of Turin. The University lies in the heart of Turin, nearby the landmark monument, the Mole Antonelliana.

Plenary sessions and keynote speakers will be: Dr. Laura Cavallarin (ISPA-CNR, Torino), Dr. Pietro Celi (DSM Nutritional Products), Dr. Anne Ferlay (INRA, Clermont Ferrand), Prof. Laura Gasco (University of Torino), and Prof. Fiammetta Monacelli (University of Genoa). The preliminary programme with main lectures and scientific sessions will appear soon on the website.

The social dinner will take place on September the 19th at Palazzo Carignano (National Monument, Baroque architecture, building started in 1679), which was the House of Deputies of the Subalpine Parliament and is where Vittorio Emanuele II, King of Sardinia and Duke of Savoy announced the unification of the Kingdom of Italy (1861). Before the social dinner, all congress participants are invited to visit the Renaissance Museum, hosted at Palazzo Carignano.
Abstract submission is now closed – over 200 abstracts were submitted and the scientific committee is working hard on reviewing these and finalising the programme. Registration for the Congress is open at www.eventi5.it/congress/15/escvn-2019.

**Early Bird Registration closes 15th July!!**

Please pass on the web-link to colleagues who may be interested in attending.

Please find suggestions for accommodation and maps on the website, for your convenience. Prof. Achille Schiavone and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) are looking forward to meeting you in Turin!

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**Dates for your Calendar**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>Monday 16</th>
<th>Tuesday 17</th>
<th>Wednesday 18</th>
<th>Thursday 19</th>
<th>Friday 20</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>ECVCN Residency Class Diplomate Written Exams</td>
<td>ECVCN Residency Class Diplomate Oral Exams</td>
<td>ECVCN Congress Sessions</td>
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<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>ESVCN Congress Sessions</td>
<td>ESVCN Congress Sessions</td>
<td>ESVCN Congress Sessions</td>
<td>ESVCN Congress Sessions</td>
<td>ESVCN Award Ceremony Closing 13:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Residency Dinner sponsored by Royal Canin</td>
<td>Congress Welcome Reception sponsored by Dechra Specific</td>
<td>Invitation to celebrate 250 years Turin Veterinary School</td>
<td>Congress Gala Dinner sponsored by Nestle Purina</td>
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Our Congress Sponsors:

- **LOC logos here...**
News and Opportunities from in and around ESVCN

News from the Treasurer
Thank you to all those 120 of you, who have already paid their membership (€50) this year. Apart from getting our members discount at the congress, membership also means you will have access to our new website (from August) and receive our newsletters. Because of problems we had with PayPal, at the moment you can only pay by bank transfer, until the new website is up and running where other options will be available. If you have questions or difficulties regarding payment please contact the me by email: esvcnpayments@gmail.com

Banking details: IBAN: BE04 0013 6492 8931   BIC or SWIFT or RIFT code: GEBABEBB   BNP Paribas Fortis Bank 6660 Houffalize, Belgium

European College of VCN News
This years’ residency class will be held at the Veterinary Department of the University of Turin (background picture: Campus Gugliasco).

Please see the website for excellent accommodation and transport suggestions by the local organising committee if you are attending these days.

Prof. Annette Liesegang
Vice-President of ECVN

Grants and Funding Opportunities Update
At the AGM, 2018 more spending on support grants was approved. Following this the Board discussed that the most useful way to support (young)scientists will be through facilitating and supporting research funding applications. We are currently in the process of developing guidelines for a two-step process. First members need to submit an application towards the funding for a start up project leading to a full external funding application (Step 1) and if approved they need to submit a clear budget laying out costs (max.€5000) and timeline (Step 2). This money can be used to undertake small pilot studies or publish relevant preliminary work, cover travel costs (face to face meetings of cooperation partners), professional language editing etc. for the submission of the proposal. Full details please refer to our new Website.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities
- ECVIM 19-21st September 2019, Milano, Italy: https://www.ecvimcongress.org
- EWEN European Workshop on Equine Nutrition, Cirencester, UK: 19th – 21st August 2020
- Global Nutrition Summit, Comparative Animal Nutrition, 11-15 August 2020, Guelph, CA
The new Website will introduce an online payment system for all, which should run a lot smoother, with the option to set up a continuous payment.

More excitingly, there will be a proper MEMBERS HUB with lots of information as you can see in the provisional example here.

Members will be able to opt into an Expert Register, take part in online Polls and dive into the Archive of our Literature and Knowledge Base.

This is YOUR HUB, so if you have any open source material, links, case studies, job or stipend postings or collaboration ideas suitable for the Members hub or public area, please keep sending them to us (The Board’s decision on inclusion is final).

This exciting new development would not be possible without the support of our Society Sponsors.
Activities of the Institute consist of:
- Advising veterinary clinics and zoos on feeding issues and assisting in the diagnosis of feeding-related diseases
- Nutritional damage in various species
- Dietetics in small and large animals
- Measurement of bone density
- Measurement of VFAs in rumen fluid
- Weende analysis and bomb calorimetry
- Nutrition advice with hotline two hours per week one hour each for the public (advice from private animal owners in cases of feeding questions, distance calculations and dietetics).
- Industry Advisory on feeding and health: for farmers, company representatives, practicing veterinarians, wildlife parks, and zoological gardens

For this purpose, analyses of feed samples are also carried out. Several experimental trials and investigations are currently carried out on diverse topics of animal nutrition, feeding and dietetics aspects.

The Institute is candidate to host the 25th ESVCN Congress in 2021.