



FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
April 2010
nr. 8

FECAVA gears up for the CPD event of the year

The 35th WSAVA Congress/16th FECAVA Eurocongress With SVK-ASMPA / FAFVAC

Geneva is the proud host of the 35th WSAVA-Congress, the 16th FECAVA-Congress, the 41st SVK-ASMPA-Congress and the 3rd FAFVAC-Congress. An international city par excellence, Geneva has a historical tradition of humanitarian concern as well as involvement. The city is home to the headquarters of numerous international organizations such as the WHO and the Red Cross. Capital city of a Swiss canton, Geneva has always valued democracy and the respect of the individual, its culture and its language. Geneva's multicultural population offers a platform for frank and constructive communication, and exchange of experiences. Our vision is to facilitate a dialogue around the world. The city offers many leisure activities and cultural entertainment which guarantee a pleasant and relaxing stay

(in the European style) during the congress. Geneva is a great city with a perfect setting, exquisite food and magnificent facilities. The central location will permit to enjoy pre or post-congress visits to the surrounding countryside, the lake, the Alps and will offer easy access to most capitals of Europe.

The WSAVA committee invites all of those who are dedicated to the study and treatment of all aspects of Small Animal Medicine to come and share their knowledge and experience in Geneva.

So why not take a summer break at this CPD event – one not to be missed!

Please find more information on the congresses webpage www.wsava2010.org

Simon Orr
FECAVA Vice President





FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
April 2010
nr. 8

15th EuroCongress in Lille a triumph for FECAVA, AFVAC, SAVAB and LAK



Didier-Noel Carlotti receives Honorary FECAVA Membership from Andrew Byrne, the outgoing FECAVA President

The FECAVA EuroCongress held in Lille in November 2009 was the 15th to be held since FECAVA was founded in 1990. The first FECAVA Congress hosted by CNVSPA (now AFVAC), was held in 1994 in Paris, and 15 years later it is appropriate that the 15th Congress was also in France, hosted jointly by three of our member associations, AFVAC (F), SAVAB(B) and LAK (Lux). It was equally appropriate that FECAVA should choose to honour its first and founder President Didier Carlotti, making him the first Honorary Member of the Federation.

Didier has worked tirelessly for FECAVA for 20 years. This year he has been very active, despite his battle against cancer, in helping produce the Dermatology on-line issue 19(3), currently available for FECAVA members on our Website www.fecava.org

Also at the Congress opening ceremony, AFVAC was proud to award its prestigious medal to, among others, Didier Carlotti and David Wadsworth (the WSAVA President).

As one may expect when the EuroCongress is organised in France, this 15th event was a tremendous success. Every effort possible was made to promote the "FECAVA EuroCongress" brand.

There were 3263 delegates, including veterinary nurses, speakers, veterinary students and commercial exhibitors. Of the scientific programme delegates, almost 1/3 came from outside France. In the region of 300 veterinary surgeons came from clinics in 33 mainly European

countries in addition to those from France, choosing to pursue lifelong learning at the FECAVA EuroCongress. The excellent communications to Lille by air and using high speed trains (TGV and Eurostar) proved their worth. There were 97 exhibitors in the very impressive commercial exhibition. Hill's Pet Nutrition and Virbac were Platinum Partners and Bayer HealthCare, Merial and Royal Canin Gold Partners, all sponsoring the Congress generously. The breeder-veterinarian meetings were a great success, with 140 canine breeders and 64 feline breeders attending.

The ten-stream scientific programme was devoted to cats and smaller companion animals, including children's and more exotic Pets.



The superb Lille National Orchestra was conducted by Roberto Minczuk.

The now well known 'FECAVA Symposium' this year was well attended covering the topic of 'Pain in Companion Animals'. Papers based on 3 of the lectures will be published in EJCAP. The full symposium proceedings will be available on www.fecava.org shortly.

Of course no Congress where AFVAC is involved could fail to have an outstanding social programme. For the Soirée du Congrès, the organising committee had the inspired idea of giving tickets for the evening as part of the registration fee. All delegates could enjoy the evening together, not just a small elite. Judging by the fact that there seemed to be at least 2000 people in the concert hall it certainly showed how delegates of all ages and tastes could enjoy an evening together.

Keith Davies, Editor EJCAP



FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
April 2010
nr. 8

15th EuroCongress in Lille a triumph for FECAVA, AFVAC, SAVAB and LAK

At the recent FECAVA Council meeting in Lille, an election was held for the new FECAVA Board.

The following Officers were elected for two years until the next election due to be held at the FECAVA/TSAVA Eurocongress in Istanbul in 2011:



President
Dr. Johan Van Tilburg
(Belgium)



Vice President
Dr. Simon Orr
(United Kingdom)



Honorary Secretary
Dr. Monique Megens
(The Netherlands)



Honorary Treasurer
Dr. Jerzy Gawor
(Poland)



**Advisor to the Board
Senior Vice President**
Dr. Andrew Byrne
(Republic of Ireland)

Due to a family bereavement, our new President, Dr. van Tilburg was unable to attend the Council meeting in Lille or to give his acceptance address, which was transmitted to the Council members after the meeting:

“Dear Friends

Even in difficult times, I’m very happy to be elected and thank you all for the confidence given.

I want to thank first of all Andrew (Byrne) and the other members of the Board for the tremendous work that has been done in the last two years. Remember: FECAVA work is teamwork and this will continue under my Presidency for the next 2 years (even if I have had to let you all down this weekend)

FECAVA has influenced my daily life, professional as well as private.

It is good to have the feeling that we, as members of FECAVA, have influenced the actions of the veterinary profession in a positive way. We have to remember that our goals must be to help animal and owner by providing the best possible advice and also to improve the human-animal bond. Our profession is not purely scientific but also a very social one. Whether we are in the North or South of Europe, East or West; whatever religion we have: Protestant, Catholic, Muslim etc. WE DO HAVE THE SAME PROFESSION and THE SAME GOAL

During all the years as Director and Board member, I had the opportunity to visit different countries and make a lot of friends. It has been an enriching experience.

I hope that we can continue as a team to work for the future of FECAVA and the veterinary profession

We hope that we can visit many of you in the next two years. You all know that we are practitioners with a busy calendar. If possible I would like to have some of our Board meetings at one of your congresses as this will improve contacts between directors and the Board.

I don’t have to emphasize the value of FECAVA, this has been done in a document circulated by the Board very recently, but the written word must be continued on the field.

With the help of every one of you, we will succeed

Thank you”

A detailed profile of Johan will be printed in the April issue of EJCAP

Simon Orr
FECAVA Vice President



FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
April 2010
nr. 8

FECAVA votes to become an Associate Member of Vet 2011

Prof. Jean-François CHARY, President of the Vet2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, was invited to give a presentation on the Vet2011 project to the FECAVA Council meeting in Lille on Saturday 28th November 2009.

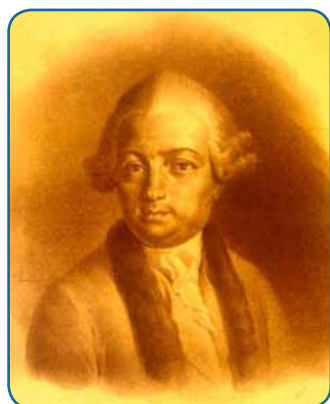
Vet 2011 has proposed that 2011 should be declared “World Veterinary Year” and aims to promote the veterinary profession in all its aspects throughout the world.

Vet 2011 proposes:

- symposia on veterinary science and research,
- conferences on the future development of the veterinary profession,
- symposia in relation to animal issues (wildlife, pets, animal welfare etc),
- veterinary conferences concerning animal-related events (dog shows, horses or farm animals shows etc),
- television and radio coverage on :
 - o the history of the profession and veterinary science,
 - o veterinary education,
 - o the various forms of professional practice,
 - o the role of veterinarians in :
 - reducing global hunger,
 - controlling zoonoses,
 - monitoring food quality and safety,
 - biomedical research,
 - promoting animal welfare,
 - protecting the environment and biodiversity ;
- the issuing of a postage stamp bearing the portrait of Claude Bourgelat,
- sessions commemorating the birth of the profession, with a press conference in each veterinary event held in 2011.

Professeur Chary invited FECAVA to become an Associate Member of Vet 2011. FECAVA Council voted unanimously to accept this invitation. There is a lot more interesting information to be found on the Vet 2011 website www.vet2011.org .

Simon Orr
FECAVA Vice President



Claude Bourgelat 1712-1779



Le logis de l'Abondance
Site of the Lyon Vet School

The world's first veterinary school was founded in Lyon, France, in 1761, shortly followed by the Alfort Veterinary School, near Paris, in 1764, both of them at the initiative of French veterinarian Claude Bourgelat.

By setting up the world's first veterinary training institutions, Bourgelat created the veterinary profession itself. This means that 2011 will mark not only the 250th anniversary of veterinary education but also the 250th anniversary of the veterinary profession.

Bourgelat's influence did not stop there. As a result of his collaboration with surgeons in Lyon, he was also the first scientist to suggest that studying animal biology and pathology would help to improve our understanding of human biology and pathology. So 2011 will also mark the 250th anniversary of the concept of comparative pathobiology, without which modern medicine would never have emerged.



FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
April 2010
nr. 8

The Romanian Small Animal Veterinary Association becomes the 37th member of FECAVA



Dr. Nicolae Valentin
(President of AMVAC)

Dr. Nicolae Valentin (President) and Dr. Andrei Timen (Vice President) of the Asociația Medicilor Veterinari pentru Animale de Companie (AMVAC), also known as the Romanian Small Animal Veterinary Association (RoSAVA) attended the FECAVA Council meeting in Lille on Saturday 28th November 2009 to present an application for membership.

Dr. Timen explained that AMVAC was founded in 1999, initially with 23 members. Its goal is to unite small animal veterinarians within Romania and to promote quality and professionalism in the veterinary field.

On November 24-25th, 2007 the 1st AMVAC Symposium was organized with 70 participants. In March 2008, the 2nd AMVAC Congress had 130 participants, in November 2008, the 3rd AMVAC Congress had over 500 participants and in November 2009, the 4th AMVAC Congress had over 600 participants.

Today, AMVAC proudly has 550 active members. Its future goal is to increase the number of members as well as to develop more workshops for veterinarians and veterinary nursing technicians.

To ensure the best education for members, AMVAC would greatly appreciate the support of FECAVA in recommending the most qualified lecturers and speakers and would try to benefit from FECAVA's experience in organizing aspects of these events

FECAVA Council unanimously voted to accept AMVAC as a member.

Simon Orr
FECAVA Vice President



FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
April 2010
nr. 8

The Puppy Trade – a growing cause for concern.



Dogs crowded into cages. © HSI

Recently, television and newspapers have carried more reports on worrying practices in the trade of puppies which suggests an increase in the illegal traffic of animals.

In order to try to quantify this problem and the health and welfare implications for puppies in the whole of Europe, the FVE (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe), its sections UEVP (the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners) and EASVO (European Association of State Veterinary Officers), the Eurogroup for Animals (representing animal welfare organisations) and FECAVA decided to conduct a survey amongst veterinary

practitioners and state veterinary officers in Europe. More than 400 practitioners from seventeen countries responded to the practitioner questionnaire and eleven countries responded to the state veterinary officers' questionnaire. Due to the inconsistency of numbers given, no statistically valid data could be evaluated but the questionnaire has revealed initial trends and tendencies.

A working group with representatives of each of the above mentioned organisations had its first meeting in December 2009. They concluded that more investigation was needed. It is likely that a student will be able to do some research and supply the necessary figures in 2010. Furthermore the working group has said that it is not only concerned about the illegal puppy trade but also with any puppy trade that has a negative impact on animal health, animal welfare and human health.

At the next meeting of the working group in March 2010, two guests, one from DG-SANCO the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumers and one representing the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), effectively the world's Kennel Club organisation, will attend. FECAVA will keep you informed.

Monique Megens
FECAVA Honorary Secretary



FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
April 2010
nr. 8

The FECAVA Working Group on Hygiene and the Use of Antimicrobials in Veterinary Practice makes progress



The FECAVA working group is working towards the goal of presenting the veterinarians of Europe with some practical guidelines in veterinary health hygiene. Two of the working group members, David Lloyd and Ana Mateus will lecture at the FECAVA symposium on June 3rd in the WSAVA/FECAVA/SVK-ASMPA/FAFVAC Congress in Geneva.

The initial survey performed by the working group on existing national hygiene guidelines as well as guidelines in antimicrobial use was discouraging. Only three European countries had such documents available to their veterinarians. Because of this the task of the working group increased significantly. Currently it is carrying out a pilot survey among British veterinarians regarding the use of the existing guidelines and the attitude and awareness of the use of antimicrobials. If this turns out well a survey like this is an important tool to investigate attitudes as well as the usefulness of produced guidelines.

The working group has been asked to cooperate with *The International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases (ISCAID)*. This has great importance since antimicrobial resistance is a growing global issue and the importance of improving veterinary health hygiene and the responsible use of antimicrobials is obvious.

Alexandra Vilén

Chairwoman of Working Group on Hygiene and the Use of Antimicrobials in Veterinary Practice





The value of membership of FECAVA

What does FECAVA do for you?

FECAVA has come a long way in the last nineteen years. From its humble beginnings as a body formed to harmonise the activities of its thirteen founding members, initially the production of the European Journal of Companion Animal Practice (EJCAP) was its raison d'être. Today, it does much, much more:

Harmonisation

FECAVA is the organisation that unifies and represents the national companion animal veterinary associations of Europe and provides a conduit through which the common objectives of its members are pursued. FECAVA works closely with UEVP and FVE in a focussed and co-ordinated manner to ensure strong representation of the issues.

Voice

FECAVA provides a voice for companion animal issues and ensures inclusion of the topics on the European political agenda.

Focus

The focus of EU policy had traditionally been on food safety and therefore food animal issues. The importance of food safety within the European community suggests prioritisation of these aspects of veterinary activity, which can work to the detriment of the companion animal arm of the profession. However there is increasing recognition of the importance of companion animals in the physical and mental well being of European societies. In addition to zoonotic diseases the sociological and economic importance of companion animals must be promoted.

How does FECAVA carry out its work?

The **Council** is the main structure of FECAVA comprising one director from each of our 37 member associations and is the forum through which all objectives are proposed and policy ratified. The Council establishes

Working Groups to concentrate on the implementation of projects initiated by Council. The **Board** works as a close knit team to lead and implement objectives defined by Council. In addition the **Managing Editor of the European Journal of Companion Animal Practice** co-ordinates and delivers a high quality European journal. Executive assistance and administration to the Board is engaged efficiently on a part time professional basis.

Current working groups include standing committees and special projects working groups:

- EJCAP Production Sub-committee
- Financial Advisory Sub-committee

Working groups:

- FECAVA Eurocongress Protocols Review
- Constitution Review
- Continuing Education Accreditation
- Hygiene and the Use of Antimicrobials in Veterinary Practice
- Continuing Education in Easter Europe
- Socioeconomic Value of Companion Animals
 - o Sub-committee on Animal Assisted Therapy and Animal Assisted Activities
- Website Development

Some area that are currently receiving special attention

Medicines

Maintaining availability of medicines for use in companion animal practice in Europe is an ongoing challenge essential to the practice of high quality veterinary care. This is not only an issue for smaller member states but in the future will remain an important issue for larger member countries where continued availability of products must be protected. Medicines legislation is under review by the European Commission and FECAVA plays an active role in the FVE Medicines Working Group where the particular challenges both present and future are kept on the agenda.

read more on page 9



FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
April 2010
nr. 8

The value of membership of FECAVA

Animal Health Legislation

European common animal health laws and strategy are under review with legislation and policy being drafted for implementation between 2011 and 2014. The remit of the EU Commission in relation to animal health has focussed on the protection of consumers of animal derived food and the food sector economy. Yet the definition of community health refers to the social and mental wellbeing of the community. Companion animals contribute significantly to this wellbeing. This sector also makes a large contribution to the economy of Europe which is often over looked. FECAVA is active in collating information to support this fact and promoting this to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the public.

Education

FECAVA provides input into the visitation of veterinary schools in conjunction with UEVP through ECCVT. It is well placed to contribute to debate on the future strategies for education of veterinary undergraduates ensuring a reasonable balance of integration that includes appropriate attention to companion animal aspects of undergraduate education. Continuing education is supported by its program for CE in Eastern European regions and of course through the FECAVA Eurocongresses which provides a forum annually for veterinarians across Europe to come together in a pan European congress.

The Blue Dog Project – the education of young children to the benefits (and potential dangers) of dog ownership is pivotal in developing the next generation of companion animal owners and ensuring responsible pet ownership.

Veterinary Nursing Education

FECAVA liaises with the Veterinary Nursing profession. It has worked closely with VETNNET, the European network of veterinary Nursing educators and nursing associations. FECAVA has been a project partner in several European funded education projects with VETNNET including DASVENT which led to the formation

of ACOVENE (the Accreditation Committee for Veterinary Nursing Education in Europe). It is also a project partner in the Leonardo supported PEPAS project to develop a European OSCE examination protocol for veterinary nurses to facilitate the assessment of practical competences of trainee veterinary nurses.

Liaison with other Veterinary Organisations

FECAVA enjoys a productive and close working relationship with other key veterinary organisations such as UEVP, FVE (including its sections and working groups) and WSAVA.

Communications

EJCAP - The European Journal of Companion Animal Practice is published three times a year. Two hard copy issues and one on-line issue, dedicated to a particular discipline, are produced. The journal continues to emphasise the reprint of peer reviewed papers especially from non-English language publications to bring information to a wider readership across Europe. In addition, original work and commissioned papers are published together with news, editorial comment, book reviews and calendar information on CE in Europe producing a comprehensive and varied journal. This is a high quality production with a strong multi-cultural European flavour that is sent to each and every member of FECAVA. It is included in FECAVA membership and represents exceptional value for money to the individual veterinarian.

We believe that EJCAP augments existing national publications and provides additional resources to all European veterinarians. Existing veterinary journals published by our member associations should have continued confidence in their own journals safe in the knowledge that their own Federation adds diversity and a European flavour to their members reading through EJCAP.

Website - www.fecava.org provides an information resource and promotion of FECAVA activities and projects.

read more on page 10



FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
April 2010
nr. 8

The value of membership of FECAVA

Electronic Newsletters

Regular electronic newsletters are published and sent to each member association for distribution to every member. We are proud that every member of FECAVA can be kept up to date on all activities. Distribution of this newsletter through the member associations is essential and from feedback we know that it has been very successful in generating awareness and ideas.

Promotion of Member Association Educational Events - members CE events are advertised through the calendars in the Journal and on the website.

Policy Statements

Member associations find FECAVA Policy Statements useful when lobbying national government agencies. Suggestions for policy and appropriated statements can be received by the Board at any time from individual member association.

FECAVA Eurocongress Protocols Review

Congress protocols have been reviewed to provide comprehensive guidelines and SOPs for FECAVA Eurocongresses. These protocols will be reviewed at regular intervals to keep them current.

Constitutional Review

A review of the constitutions is underway to ensure it meets the needs of today.

Continuing Education Accreditation

A working group has been established to explore the development of accredited modular C.E. that is achievable by practitioners. FECAVA have been liaising with the other veterinary organisations and have reached agreement on a multi-organisation working group, including FECAVA, FVE (UEVP), EAEVE, Statutory Bodies and EBVS, to bring this concept forward.

Hygiene and the Use of Antimicrobials in Veterinary

Practice

This working group is reviewing information on resistant microorganisms relevant to companion animal practice and will develop protocols and guidelines for infection control practices and protocols for use of antimicrobials in companion animal practice. FECAVA is liaising with UVEP and FVE on this matter.

Continuing Education in Eastern Europe

FECAVA provides support to member associations in Eastern Europe to assist with C.E events. These events have been very successful and many have attracted collaboration and participation from neighbouring countries. As time progresses some countries no longer require assistance and so funds are redirected as appropriate

Socio-economic Value of Companion Animals

This working group is expanding to include a sub-committee on Animal Assisted Therapy and Animal Assisted Activities and will collate information and explore how the veterinary profession may work with and assist groups providing such services. It is important to collate evidence and promote the value of companion animals both in economic and social terms. The effects of such efforts are not seen immediately but are a long term investment in the development and promotion of the relevance of companion animal welfare and healthcare in Europe.

Cultural Benefits.

It is easy to overlook the obvious but important cultural benefits arise at all levels from a strong pan-European Federation that joins 37 countries in the common goals of furthering the quality companion animal veterinary care and welfare and protecting the integrity of the veterinary profession. As in all walks of life participation and engagement is the key to fulfilment - the more you take part the more you benefit. This is true from committee and working group level to participation in European CE events, reading and exchanges.

read more on page 11



FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
April 2010
nr. 8

The value of membership of FECAVA

Cost and Value

FECAVA Officers and Council members are all volunteers. As activities increase there will be an increasing need for professional secretarial help. In order to remain active the Federation needs income to fund the costs of running a professional and effective organisation. It is important that the future of FECAVA activities is sustainable.

In the beginning, the first volume of EJCAP was purchased at 2.6 ECU per member and the second at 2.2 ECU per member and they were distributed to each member of the founding national associations. In 1992, the Federation dues were agreed at 1.8 ECU payable twice a year. Allowing for inflation, the 3.6 ECU payable in 1992 is approximately equivalent to 5.48€ today. So in real terms, the membership fee increase to 6.40€ per member, which will be implemented over the next two years, represents only a 0.92€ increase in nineteen years.

The voluntary Board of FECAVA remains ever mindful of costs and value for membership and continues to moni-

tor expenditure on its activities carefully. However it is also intent on securing the activity level of FECAVA which relies heavily on the voluntary commitment of colleagues to enable it to function efficiently.

Self Help and Solidarity

FECAVA relies on the generous contribution of energy and time from its member associations' representatives on Council and the Board. It also relies on the financial contributions from each individual member through their associations. It also relies on the solidarity of the 37 member associations who bring diversity of needs and diversity of talents and ideas. Every individual member association, large and small, benefits from the existence and activities of the *professional community* that is FECAVA

Simon Orr
FECAVA Vice President



FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
April 2010
nr. 8

The Costs of FECAVA Membership

At the recent Council meeting in Lille, the FECAVA Council agreed to a phased increase in membership dues from the present 4.4€ per annum per member to 6.4€ per annum per member. This represents a 1€ increase in 2010 followed by 1€ plus inflation increase in 2011. Thereafter, the dues will undergo an inflationary increase annually. As already mentioned, this increase will represent a real increase of only 0.92€ per member in the last 18 years. A very significant factor, which contributed to the agreement, was the decision that EJCAP would go online as soon as possible, probably from April 2011.

The subject of the FECAVA membership dues has been the subject of frequent and sometimes difficult debate over recent years. This has resulted in delays in agreeing the necessary increases which have been compounded by delays in implementing the agreed increases. FECAVA has evolved into a much more active organisation when compared to the original European harmonisation body founded in 1990, which in the early days did little more than produce a European reprint journal, the European Journal of Companion Animal Practice.

Successive Honorary Treasurers have had to propose and Council has had to accept deficit budgets since 2006 and as a result of this and the more recent economic downturn, the Federation's reserves have increasingly come

under pressure. Fortunately, the effects on the reserves have been ameliorated by the Treasurer's success in collecting outstanding dues payments from some members and also outstanding advertising revenues from EJCAP.

The 2010 Budget also shows a deficit, which the Board had hoped to avoid by implementing the full 2€ plus inflation increase in 2010. However, at the Council meeting, it became increasingly apparent that some member associations might have difficulty with its members if the full increase was implemented in one go, before EJCAP goes online and member associations no longer have to pay the distribution costs of a hard copy journal. For this reason, the Board proposed the staged increase of dues over two years, which was more palatable to the majority of member associations.

Only time will tell us whether these decisions, relating to the membership dues and the move to an online journal, will be entirely beneficial to the wellbeing of the Federation. However, the Board and the Editor of the Journal are committed to ensuring the continued success of all aspects of FECAVA's activity and hope that they will be able to report favourably during the next two years.

Simon Orr
FECAVA Vice President