

THE ECBHM: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR BUIATRITIANS?

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The European College of Bovine Herd Health Medicine (ECBHM) began as a small working group on specialization in Buiatrics in Europe as a response to significant changes in cattle production with increasing unit sizes, more intensive production systems, coupled with increasing consumer demand for safe food enhanced animal welfare and environmental protection. These changes had resulted in a demand for change in a predominant professional role of cattle vets reacting to problems (“fire-brigade service”) and treating individuals or small groups of animals to individuals proactive in the management and healthcare of the herd. A provisional organizing committee (POC) was subsequently established on 24th November 1998 in Paris. The POC (Drs. Baumgartner, Lekeux, Navetat, Klee, Noordhuizen and Schelcher) worked towards establishing a European College and seeking accreditation by the EBVS. This came finally on October 20th 2003. Professor Wolfgang Klee received then a letter from the President of EBVS informing that the ECBHM had been successful in achieving provisional recognition as the ECBHM. Since then, a huge work has been done, keeping the original objectives, and adjusting its activity to the EBVS rules. The primary objective of the College shall be to advance health oriented bovine production management in the herd context in Europe and increase the competency of those who practice in this field by establishing guidelines and standards of training for postgraduate education and experience prerequisite to become a specialist in the specialty of bovine health management; examining and authenticating veterinarians as specialists in bovine herd health management to serve the veterinary patient, its owner, the consumer of products originating from the bovine and the public in general, by providing expert care for cattle; encouraging research and other contributions to the science and practice of bovine herd health management including; animal husbandry, internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics and reproductive management, as they relate to the epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, therapy, prevention, and control of diseases directly or indirectly affecting *bovidae* and the maintenance of healthy productive herds.

The ECBHM-Diploma is a professional opportunity, as the only one internationally recognized Buiatritians Specialization Title in Europe; it is a way to be part of an international network of bovine specialists; it is a fix source of continuing Education Courses with the most up to date knowledge. In the Middle European Countries there is a very important bovine producing sector, and we find many bovine specialists working in it: practitioners, professors and researchers. Goals and work, but also advantages of being EBCHM-Diplomate are the same for our MEB colleagues. However, the implication of these outstanding professionals has been tight up to now in our College. Despite of this, we are convinced that the ECBHM needs the feedback and work from these MEB-bovine veterinarians, and on the other side, that a closer connection between MEB Buiatritians and ECBHM will enrich both, enormously.

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