

Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

### **From the Coordinator**

14-11-2012 15:21:24

This is the first newsletter after the EPIZONE Annual Meeting in Brighton, UK. We can look back on a very successful 6th annual meeting and a very successful Schmallenberg virus satellite symposium. Once more we thank all the people involved in the...

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### **New date 7th Annual Meeting EPIZONE is 1-4 October 2013**

14-11-2012 15:23:37

The 7th Annual Meeting "Nothing permanent, except change" will be held in Brussels, Belgium, 1-4 October 2013, and hosted by CODA-CERVA. Theme of the meeting The theme "Nothing permanent, except change" (quote from Heraclitus) of the 7th AM is particularly...

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### **EPIZONE 6th Annual Meeting Brighton UK**

14-11-2012 15:30:02

June 12-14 this year EPIZONE held its 6th Annual Meeting in Brighton UK, hosted by the Institute of Animal Health (IAH). The meeting was held in the Brighton Dome Complex in a very friendly atmosphere. Again the annual meeting was very successful: almost...

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### **6th Annual Meeting Young EPIZONE**

14-11-2012 15:28:31

On June 12th the long anticipated YE Annual Meeting finally begun. A large group of 37 young scientists originating from a myriad of European countries, as well as from China, started the meeting with a Bingo game organized by Femke Feenstra (CVI)....

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### **Report 'A decade of EU-funded Animal Health'**

14-11-2012 15:25:25

The report "A decade of EU-funded Animal Health", ( Research FP7 Cooperation Work Programme Theme: Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology) highlights the impact of the research funding in guaranteeing the overall health and welfare of European...

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### **New Young EPIZONE core group**

14-11-2012 15:26:56

In 2012 a new Young Epizone core group formed. A partly new group of young scientists from different EPIZONE partner institutes participated in a young epizone meeting at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam, to work on YE future activities. Since the former...

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### **Biosafety meeting Lelystad 2012**

14-11-2012 15:31:38

On April 30th 2009, the document "Minimum standards for laboratories working with FMDV in vitro / in vivo", hereinafter the 'Minimum Standards', was adopted by the 38th General Session of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-mouth Disease...

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### **EPIZONE collaboration with the European Society of Veterinary Virology**

14-11-2012 15:32:42

From 4-7 September the ESVV held its 9th international conference of veterinary virology in Madrid, Spain. Many EPIZONE researchers visit the ESVV meeting and EPIZONE wants to collaborate with ESVV as much as possible. This year in Madrid the ESVV meeting...

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### **EPIZONE workshop on arboviruses, 9 -10 May 2013**

14-11-2012 15:33:39

We are planning to organise a workshop for knowledge exchange on arboviruses in Europe. This workshop

will be hosted by our Italian partners IZsVe and IZLER (Dr. Capelli and Dr. Dottori). The venue will be Brescia and provisional dates are 9 and 10...

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### **Short term mission Arkadiusz Dors and Ewelina Czyzewska from NVRI**

*14-11-2012 15:38:17*

Arkadiusz Dors and Ewelina Czyzewska from National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI), Poland, visited the Centre de Recerca en Sanitat Animal (CRESA) in Spain from 12th to 24th Februari 2012. The aim of the visit was to improve diagnostic capabilities...

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### **Short term mission Monika Olszewska from NVRI (Poland)**

*14-11-2012 15:42:19*

Monika Olszewska from National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI), Poland, visited Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe) in Italy from 20th to 24th Februari 2012. Aim The major objective of my visit was to learn more about sequencing...

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EPIZONE is the Network of Excellence for Epizootic Disease Diagnosis and Control, supported by funding under the Sixth Research Framework Programme of the EU.

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## From the Coordinator

This is the first newsletter after the EPIZONE Annual Meeting in Brighton, UK. We can look back on a very successful 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and a very successful Schmallenberg virus satellite symposium. Once more we thank all the people involved in the organisation of the meeting and everyone who attended the meeting for making it such a great success.

- **6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE**

At the 6th Annual meeting in Brighton UK the EPIZONE European Research Group was officially launched. Just before the 6<sup>th</sup> AM in Brighton, all 15 founding partners of the EPIZONE Research Group (ERG) had signed the contract. With a drink on Brighton Pier we toasted with all AM attendees and EPIZONE partner representatives on the future of the EPIZONE ERG and a continuation of the wonderful and inspiring collaboration within the EPIZONE network.

- **Three new prospective partners**

Now in November 2012 we already have three new prospective partners of the EPIZONE ERG: IVI, Switzerland, CSIRO, Australia and the Institute of Veterinary Microbiology in Pokrov Russia. On top of that the EPIZONE management is discussing future partnership with several other Institutes. So the EPIZONE community is growing!!

- **First executive committee teleconference**

Before the end of 2012 the EPIZONE ERG will have its first executive committee teleconference to further discuss EPIZONE primary activities in the first year of the research group.

- **7<sup>th</sup> EPIZONE annual meeting**

In the meantime we are already working on the organisation of the 7<sup>th</sup> EPIZONE annual meeting. Especially partner CODA-CERVA who will host this next annual meeting. The date of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting has been moved to autumn 2013 in order not to have the meeting at the same time as the WAVLD meeting which will be in Berlin in June 2013. The New date of the 7th Annual Meeting EPIZONE is 1-4 October 2013. A warm welcome will be offered to all and we are looking forward to many researchers coming together in Brussels for another stimulating EPIZONE annual meeting.

Wim van der Poel

## **New date 7th Annual Meeting EPIZONE is 1-4 October 2013**

The 7th Annual Meeting "Nothing permanent, except change" will be held in Brussels, Belgium, 1-4 October 2013, and hosted by CODA-CERVA.

### **Theme of the meeting**

The theme "Nothing permanent, except change" (quote from Heraclitus) of the 7<sup>th</sup> AM is particularly true for epizootic viral diseases and not only emphasized by the increased international movement in animals, animal products and people, but also by the possible deliberate introduction of pathogens.

In addition, global climate change has already given concern regarding changes in distribution or severity of many animal diseases and it is clear now that the evolving climatic parameters will further transform the ecology of numerous vectors and pathogens. Moreover, the non-vaccination and eradication policy of the EU is maintained in most circumstances to allow the unrestricted trade of animals and their products worldwide. All these factors make surveillance as the basis for recognition of disease status and subsequent impact on trade. In this context, we must "expect the unexpected" and early detection of potentially epizootic diseases is of the utmost importance.

### **Programme**

The meeting starts with the Welcome reception followed by an interesting programme with keynote speakers, selected poster and oral presentations. Focus will remain on EPIZONE themes aimed at improved disease control through integration and collaboration of research in diagnosis, intervention strategies, risk assessment, surveillance and epidemiology.

Abstract submission, registration, programme and venue will be online in 2013.

Sponsors for 7<sup>th</sup> AM EPIZONE are most welcome! Please contact [epizone.cvi@wur.nl](mailto:epizone.cvi@wur.nl)

## **EPIZONE 6th Annual Meeting Brighton UK**

June 12-14 this year EPIZONE held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Brighton UK, hosted by the Institute of Animal Health (IAH). The meeting was held in the Brighton Dome Complex in a very friendly atmosphere. Again the annual meeting was very successful: almost 200 abstracts submitted, close to 300 attendees, 6 excellent keynote speakers, 60 oral presentations and 100 poster presentations. This years' special topic was African Swine Fever. As in former annual meetings there were lots of opportunities for social activities and networking. In the evening of June 13<sup>th</sup> there was a visit to Brighton Pier where toasted the launch of the EPIZONE European Research Group, the sustainable continuation of EPIZONE. The dinner afterwards was the well-known local English speciality Fish and Chips which we enjoyed watching the sun going down in the sea.

A Schmallenberg virus satellite symposium was organised on June 15<sup>th</sup> in the Thistle hotel. This satellite meeting was attended by more than 150 people: researchers from within and outside the network, a lot of national and international officials, and also industry. The abstract book of the AM as well as the Schmallenberg satellite symposium can be downloaded from the EPIZONE website.

The next EPIZONE annual meeting will be in Brussels, 1-4 October, 2013.

### **Proceedings 6<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting**

The **[Proceedings 6th AM United Kingdom 'Viruses on the move'](#)** and the satellite symposium **['Schmallenberg virus'](#)** are available as downloads on the EPIZONE website.

## **6th Annual Meeting Young EPIZONE**

On June 12<sup>th</sup> the long anticipated YE Annual Meeting finally began. A large group of 37 young scientists originating from a myriad of European countries, as well as from China, started the meeting with a Bingo game organized by Femke Feenstra (CVI). Interesting facts about each other's research and ambitions were discovered, alongside more quirky facts about the group as a whole. For instance; there were no left handed people present at the meeting, and several of the scientists had tattoo's and competed in sports with their dogs!

### **Presentation workshop**

After this ice breaker, the programme continued with an informative presentation workshop by Christian Griot (IVI), where he outlined what would make a good presentation. This was followed by an elevator pitch by all YE participants, where they presented their research for two minutes to the group. This would have been the first opportunity for some of the YE participants to present in front of an audience.

### **Poster workshop**

After lunch, Susi Röhrs (FLI) organized a poster workshop, where she paved the way to poster success. At the poster session of the EPIZONE meeting, YE participants were again asked by EPIZONE to choose the best poster, together with Merial, for the both the YE scientists, as well as for all the posters presented at the annual meeting. The winning YE poster selected was presented by Derah Saward Arav, titled 'Whole cell population MHC class I responses to African swine fever virus infection may not reflect responses at the level of individual cells'.

### **Career workshop**

The meeting closed with a career workshop chaired by John Fazakerly, Director of IAH, and included discussions from Julia Boyle (CRC/UniS), Roberto Marcello La Ragione (UniS), and Chris Griot. Each presenter explained to the young scientist their secrets to success in science, such as how to return to science after having kids, the biggest mistakes you can make, and how to deal with a lot of responsibility when you don't feel ready for it. Undoubtedly all participants enjoyed this career workshop a lot and will remember some of the lessons learned.

### **New contacts**

During the rest of the EPIZONE Annual Meeting several young scientists clearly profited from the new contacts they made during the YE meeting. In the evenings, networks were further expanded on the rollercoaster and the bumper cars on Brighton pier!

## **Report ‘A decade of EU-funded Animal Health’**

The report “A decade of EU-funded Animal Health”,( Research FP7 Cooperation Work Programme Theme: Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology) highlights the impact of the research funding in guaranteeing the overall health and welfare of European livestock as well as contributing to the high quality and performance of this sector. New innovation opportunities will arise from sharing this knowledge more widely.

### **Isabel Minguez Tudela**

This publication is dedicated to the memory of Isabel Minguez Tudela who made a major contribution to the Animal Health research sector over many years in the Commission services, but who sadly passed away on 16 April 2011.

She was, as EU project officer for EPIZONE, very much involved in EPIZONE. Her devotion to animal health research is a great example to all of us.

Here you can download the report '[A decade of EU-funded Animal Health](#)'

## **New Young EPIZONE core group**

In 2012 a new Young Epizone core group formed. A partly new group of young scientists from different EPIZONE partner institutes participated in a young epizone meeting at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam, to work on YE future activities. Since the former members of the young EPIZONE (YE) core group were either close to finishing their Ph.D.'s, or had already left to work elsewhere, it was needed to create the next generation of 'EPI-babies'. With the help of Eefke Weesendorp and Michael Eschbaumer, a new YE core group was formed, and together their first challenge was to organize the YE meeting, alongside the annual meeting, in June 2012.

### **New core group**

Josie Golding (IAH), Susie Röhrs (CFI), Femke Feenstra (CVI), Greg Wozniakowski (NVRI), Kinga Urbaniak (NVRI), Ewa Borzym (NVRI), Shahid Hussein (SVA), Elisabetta Razzuoli (IZSLER) are participating in the new core group.

Since EPIZONE ERG for Young Epizone funding will be very limited, the new YE core group faces different challenges. No face-to-face meetings, a smaller core group, and also the ability to organize a meeting without hiring external speakers. This asked for a lot of creativity and the help of EPIZONE's senior scientists.

After several telephone conferences, a new flyer was made and the program of the meeting was set. Josie Golding (IAH), the new YE chair, did a great job by handling all subscriptions, funding and communication.



## **Biosafety meeting Lelystad 2012**

On April 30th 2009, the document "Minimum standards for laboratories working with FMDV *in vitro* / *in vivo*", hereinafter the 'Minimum Standards', was adopted by the 38th General Session of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-mouth Disease (EuFMD). The Minimum Standards describe a set of procedures and precautions to be taken by laboratories and institutes that handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV).

### **The workshop**

At the initiative of the Central Veterinary Institute, a workshop was organized on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Lelystad, The Netherlands. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together the Biosafety/Biorisk officers of the European institutes that handle live FMDV, in order to discuss the implementation of the Minimum Standards.

The meeting was in a friendly ambiance with very open discussions. All attendants agreed that this was a very useful meeting that deserves a follow-up, if possible on a regular basis.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the Biosafety meeting Lelystad 2012 are available as a [download](#) on the EPIZONE website.

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## **EPIZONE collaboration with the European Society of Veterinary Virology**

From 4-7 September the ESVV held its 9<sup>th</sup> international conference of veterinary virology in Madrid, Spain. Many EPIZONE researchers visit the ESVV meeting and EPIZONE wants to collaborate with ESVV as much as possible. This year in Madrid the ESVV meeting was hosted by the University Complutense (Prof. Vizcaino). On Sept 6 there was a lecture in memory of Isabel Minguez. This lecture was given by Alberto Laddomada on the subject "The EU strategy to tackle animal diseases", a subject in which Isabel used be very much involved. The final day of the ESVV conference was a joint meeting with the European Society of Clinical Virology and included a very interesting program with lectures on emerging zoonoses which threaten animal health as well as public health.

### **2015 ESVV and EPIZONE meeting together**

The new ESVV board was elected and Professor Vizcaino will be the president and our EPIZONE coordinator, Wim van der Poel was also re-elected to the ESVV board. This should help to tighten the links between EPIZONE and ESVV. The aim is to hold the next ESVV conference and EPIZONE annual meeting together in 2015.

## **EPIZONE workshop on arboviruses, 9 -10 May 2013**

We are planning to organise a workshop for knowledge exchange on arboviruses in Europe. This workshop will be hosted by our Italian partners IZsVe and IZLER (Dr. Capelli and Dr. Dottori). The venue will be Brescia and provisional dates are 9 and 10 May, 2013. Speakers will be EPIZONE scientists but also a few well-known researchers in this field from outside EPIZONE. Costs of the venue will be covered by IZSLER but travel and subsistence will have to be covered by the participants themselves. More detailed information on this workshop will soon be available from the EPIZONE website.

## Short term mission Arkadiusz Dors and Ewelina Czyzewska from NVRI

Arkadiusz Dors and Ewelina Czyzewska from National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI), Poland, visited the Centre de Recerca en Sanitat Animal (CRESA) in Spain from 12<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Februari 2012.

**The aim** of the visit was to improve diagnostic capabilities of *Haemophilus parasuis* and other bacterial diseases of swine using conventional bacteriology and PCR techniques. *H. parasuis* is agent of Glasser disease, which is characterized by fibrinous polyserositis, polyarthritis and meningitis, and causes significant financial losses worldwide. In naive pigs disease onset occurs few days after *H. parasuis* exposure and is usually lethal. Once a sporadic disease, it has increased in prevalence and severity in recent years with the adoption of new production technologies which has led to pigs being susceptible to this infection.

Fifteen serovars have been described so far, but many strains cannot be typed with the current sera.

### Training

During the training, we first received a lot of valuable information about theoretical and practical aspects of diagnosis *H. parasuis*. We learnt how to isolate and culture this bacteria from swabs, fluid, BALF, organs cuttings, which media to use and in what conditions incubate plates. Also how to recognise specific *H. parasuis* colonies and make extraction of DNA. We also learned how to make a multiplex PCR for virulence-associated autotransporters *vtaA* and how to correctly interpret results.

**The best thing of the visit** was that we could meet scientists from a foreign laboratory. We had the opportunity to benefit from their knowledge in the fields of professional interest. And also to know their point of view and exchange experiences. We could see differences between CRESA laboratory and ours and we can use the experience gained in Spain for our work in the near future.

### Create scientific bonds

We would strongly recommend Short Term Missions, since they create scientific bonds between two laboratories within Epizone and they make future scientific contacts much easier. Moreover, it is a very good way to improve knowledge and collect interesting experiences, which are very useful in scientific careers. We are very satisfied with this STM, we were able to achieve the objectives we set. There could be a little more time for detailed training, but we learnt a lot of new and useful things and had the opportunity to work in very good lab.

## Short term mission Monika Olszewska from NVRI (Poland)

Monika Olszewska from National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI), Poland, visited Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe) in Italy from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Februari 2012.

### Aim

The major objective of my visit was to learn more about sequencing techniques and sequence analysis in relation to avian influenza virus (AIV). The practical session included analysis of 5 low pathogenic avian influenza isolates recovered from wild birds and poultry in Poland. As a result, we established full-length or partial sequences of each of the virus.

### Lectures and practical exercises

The activities were divided in lectures and practical exercises.

#### Practical exercises:

- Overview of avian influenza diagnostic methods. Sample preparation and registration, charging samples in the 3130xl genetic analyser and setting of the instrument.
- Phylogenetics analysis of avian influenza viruses using Mega4 software.
- Analysis of sequencing electrophoregrams and export of consensus sequences.
- SeqScape software - introduction.

#### Lectures:

- Sequence reactions - overview of troubleshooting, discussion.
- Bayesian method in the analysis of evolution and population growth dynamics of AIV.
- How whole-genome sequencing reveals the complex dynamics of influenza virus evolution.
- National Centre for Biotechnology Information – interactive demonstration of GenBank/NCBI resources. Introduction to phylogenetics.
- Making influenza virus data, information and tools for analysis available to researchers. Discussion about the capabilities of global influenza virus surveillance through regional, national and academic sectors.

The preliminary results concerning haemagglutinin gene of 2 H7 IpAIV isolates originating from an outbreak in turkeys in 1995 are particularly interesting since they have not clustered closely to AIV isolated from poultry or waterfowl (as one could expect) but from soft bills.

During my visit I experienced a great deal of hospitality and I am very grateful for an opportunity to spend one week working with highly competent staff of IZSVe.