

Veterinary Wound Healing Association

"Advancing knowledge of veterinary wound healing"

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Minutes from the AGM of the Veterinary Wound Healing Association held in Krakow, Poland 11th May 2018

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1. Apologies for absence: JW, MN, SJ, MB
2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM
Minutes of the 2017 AGM were made available to members over 2018 via a dedicated section within the VWHA website.
3. Matters arising from the minutes 2017
None
4. Correspondence
None
5. President's report
Year 2017
In 2017 we organized the VWHA conference in collaboration with EWMA in Amsterdam with the topic "The (non) sense of antimicrobials during wound management". We had a very interesting morning programme during which we focused on the use of antimicrobials in human, small animal and equine patients with wounds. In the afternoon we had a wound quiz, two sponsored lectures, and a free communication session that ended with the grant of the awards for the best oral presentation. We had two book vouchers and decided to focus on the young speakers for the prizes. The award for the best scientific presentation was won by Vincenzo Miragliotta because he presented his skin organ model, which potentially can reduce the number of experimental animals. The award of the best clinical study went to Jessica Firth: she presented a retrospective study with all difficulties everyone encounters during clinical studies. Finally we had the AGM during which we could welcome 3 new council members: Elin Jorgensen, Vincenzo Miragliotta, and John Burford. Unfortunately the latter was lost soon.
The attendance was very good: we had:
-40 registered and paid participants
-2 free registrations
-presenters of abstract: 8
-council members: 4
-sponsors: 10
Total number: 64 participants
Additionally we had EWMA attendants listening, so during some lectures many people were sitting on the floors.

The agreement EMWA-VWHA 2017 was similar to 2016 and seems to fit well with both parties: VWHA does all the organization, and CAP-EWMA only organizes the official part (invitations, etc.). Additionally VWHA has agreed with CAP that we can attract our own general sponsors that we are allowed to have our own small exhibition in the conference room. This concept again worked out very well, and according to Karen Svaneborg we had the most vivid room of entire EWMA!

In the evening we have organised a dinner together with speakers, presenters of abstracts, sponsors and council (and we also invited the participants, some attended) and it was great to interact and network with all people. Everybody paid a contribution to the dinner and VWHA offered drinks.

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2018

The VWHA-EWMA conference 2018 was a slight challenge. We were seriously concerned that we would not be able to attract veterinarians from Poland as we only had limited local contacts. We discussed this point with EWMA and concluded together that we should not focus specifically on veterinarians. Therefore we decided to serve EWMA and to focus on "Human meet Veterinary wound healing", knowing that the human field can benefit from our clinical patients and the options we, as veterinarians have to provide our species as model and to evaluate certain treatment strategies. Additionally the veterinary field is also very active in wound research and works with models that may be interesting for human field as well. The VWHA conference theme became: "Modelling wound healing: future or fiction". Aim: better and more efficient wound research, using and applying knowledge from and to different species, and reduction of experimental animals.

Just like last year we did a call for abstracts for the International Conference in Krakow. We have approached all groups from the known database and even increased the list with additional persons/research groups. Apparently Poland and/or the programme was slightly less attractive for scientist, as we only managed to attract 5 abstracts. Regarding to the available time, as we had to schedule our conference on Friday, this number was enough to fill the time up to 16.00 when the EWMA congress closes. We find it important for the future to continue the session for free communications and to gather scientists from various countries and to give them the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas.

Plans for 2018/19

Further collaboration with EWMA. Next conference will be in Sweden. This seems a good location to attract veterinarians and hopefully many scientists. Whether we can organize this, depends on the man power of the council. We would need preferably a local organizer.

Points to focus:

- attract more council members and a local organizer for Sweden
- attracting more members
- attract sponsors in Sweden

Jacintha and Stine have planned a new practical course in Equine Wound Management in November 2018. However there are a few uncertainties whether November is feasible (Stine, BEVA course, Meek equipment).

Jacintha and Mirja are talking to Anicura to organise a practical course in small animal wound management with a wetlab.

6. Treasurer's report

End of April 2018 the balance was 8.960,56 €, this is a decrease of -2.379,30 € since last year, and we are further awaiting some reimbursement from one of our abroad speakers from the 2018 conference. The main income in 2017-2018 has been sponsorships and membership fees. The main costs in 2017-2018 have been council reimbursement, conference dinner 2017 and travel support for the 2018 conference.

7. Election of council members and replacement of officers

None

8. Scientific meeting/ courses 2018-2019

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- VWHA conference during EWMA Poland May 2018
- Equine course and/or Small animal courses to be decided (2019)
- VWHA conference during EWMA Sweden May 2019 – antimicrobial theme

9. Issues to be discussed

a. Objectives for the future of the VWHA –

- i. To attract new council members and normal members.
- ii. The council finds it very important to keep having free communications sessions, as this invites new research and new researchers.
- iii. The council wish to keep collaborating with EWMA, as the organization of conferences is running very smooth and the EWMA conference is a great forum for VWHA

10. Any Other Business.

None

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