

THE CHARLIE BILD VIP PROGRAMME

The College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida has established a programme to honour the memory of Dr Bild whilst providing unique learning experiences for students, staff and practitioners. Known as the VIP (Very

Important Practitioner) Chair, the programme brings selected veterinary practitioners to the College's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital for one- to three-month visits. The VIP veterinarians work closely with college staff and students,

and are of particular benefit to undergraduates facing the transition to professional practice. Drawing on their experiences in the profession, the practitioners give lectures on such topics as ethics, practice management, public demands of professionals, and effective communication. At the same time, they are able to advance in their own clinical fields, and gain teaching and learning opportunities through hospital and clinical rounds, faculty and student seminars, continuing education courses, and conferences at the University of Florida Health Science Center.

To date there have been close to 30 participating practitioners, representing eight different countries and spanning five continents: three of these have been past or present WSAVA Executive Board members – Drs Larry Dee, Luis Tello and Claudio Brovida.

Dr Brovida says, "Last year in Seattle during the ACVIM forum, I spoke to Dr Michael Schaer about my will to follow some good internal medicine activity. He proposed that I participate in this programme for three months; however, due to my business I was only able to attend for five weeks – but it was a fantastic opportunity!"



Dr Claudio Brovida with Drs Michael Schaer (left) and Colin Burrows (right) who are members of the Charlie Bild Advisory Committee.

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“They offered me a comfortable apartment about 2 km from the School, all the security cards to allow me to move around the School anywhere at anytime, and a monthly salary of \$1000. This allowed me to do what I have been waiting for for a long time – to study some subjects more deeply, follow internal medicine cases, attend morning rounds and lectures, discuss veterinary medicine with colleagues, and to follow anything that would interest me or fulfil my professional needs. I had a fantastic time there.

“This is the most unique opportunity that I have ever found during all my professional life and it is open to any veterinarian in the world. The programme itself consists of the participation in School activities/life for three months and offers \$1000 a month to the recipient, as well as an apartment a few minutes walk from the School. Any veterinarian with a particular interest could attend and this could also be a wonderful CE opportunity for academic colleagues from less developed parts of the world.” ■

Applications

To apply, interested individuals should send a letter of intent (including preferred months and services that they would like to participate in), biographical information, and three letters of reference to the Charlie Bild VIP Program at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida. For more information visit their website at www.vetmed.ufl.edu/ or contact Drs Dee, Tello or Brovida.

This year’s WSAVA Congress will be held at the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) Convention and Exhibition Centre on 20–24 August. The RDS was founded in 1731 to promote the development of agriculture, arts, science and industry. It is fitting that a veterinary congress promoting the advancement of veterinary medicine, veterinary nursing and veterinary management should be held here.

Scientific programme

The scientific programme includes State-of-the-Art Lectures and more than 200 lectures from 70 different speakers. The lectures are designed to provide the most recent information on current topics of clinical interest from world renowned veterinary scientists and clinicians in more than 20 different disciplines. Subject areas include: canine and feline medicine and surgery; ophthalmology; cardiology; neurology; exotics; oncology; dermatology; infectious diseases; and animal behaviour and welfare.

There will also be 2 days of free communications and 1 day of

pre-Congress CE events on feline medicine, emergency care and avian medicine.

Lectures will be delivered at three different levels: advanced/specialist; general companion animal; and new to/refresher companion animal medicine. Renowned international speakers include:

- Simon Platt (Neurology)
- Michael Schaer (Canine and Feline Medicine)
- Margie Scherk (Feline Medicine)
- Peter Irlhke (Dermatology)

Management

There will also be a short programme devoted to management topics, such as stress and the veterinary surgeon, human resource management, work–life balance, current international concepts on veterinary nurses working in practice, starting a small animal practice, entrepreneurship and marketing.

FECAVA symposium

The FECAVA Symposium will take a brave step and look at why the veterinary surgeon ►



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- ▶ and veterinary nursing professions have such a high incidence of stress and suicide, and what can be done to prevent this.

Veterinary nursing conference

On the Saturday and Sunday, veterinary nurses can attend a conference which will be practical as well as informative for the backbone of every small animal practice. There will be "How To" sessions on marketing, ideas on what to do to grow the practice, refresher courses that would also interest trainees studying for exams, and much more.

Exhibition

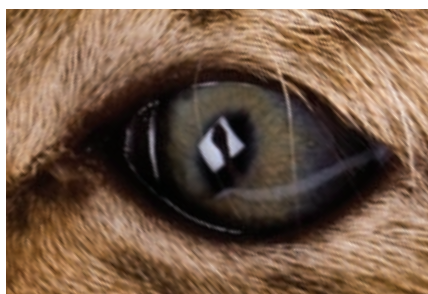
An extensive trade exhibition will take place during WSAVA 2008. The exhibition will showcase the latest products and developments in the companion animal veterinary area and will be the focal point of Congress. Over 100 organisations and 50 companies are confirmed participants, including the BSAVA.

Social

Expect an Irish welcome with Irish music, dancing and song. The social programme promises to be great fun whether you have come by yourself, with your friends, or your family. Join us for nights on the town, a grand Irish Ceilidh (Irish dancing session in which you will be encouraged to join in), a Banquet in the leafy surrounds of University College Dublin, and an Opening Ceremony which promises a bit of gambling, horses, dogs and people!

Take time out from lectures and meet up with friends in the comfort of the coffee bays or on the sunny green grass of the 40 acres in the RDS grounds. ■

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL



The May 2008 issue of the *European Journal of Companion Animal Practice* (EJCAP) will focus on ophthalmology, featuring articles targeted at the general practitioner as well as the specialist.

Updated information

Given that 15% of companion animal patients presented in general practice exhibit an ocular/adnexal disease, it is essential that both general practitioners and specialists have access to the most up-to-date scientific information in order to provide their patients with the best possible treatment.

Indolent ulcers in dogs' eyes

Corneal ulcers are probably the most common problem of the canine eye seen in general veterinary practice. However, indolent ulcers are different: they are

chronic superficial ulcers that result from a structural defect of the cornea, and as a result heal poorly and are usually refractory to medical therapy alone.

Rabbits and rodents

This article outlines the differences between rodents and lagomorphs and the more commonly seen dogs and cats, and discusses the effects these differences have on diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease in these small mammal species.

Avian ophthalmology

Ophthalmology of birds has become an important part of avian medicine. Knowledge of anatomical and physiological peculiarities of the eyes of these species will help in the interpretation of the ocular investigation and in reaching appropriate diagnoses.

Medical therapy of glaucoma

Glaucoma is a painful disease that causes progressive loss of vision and frequently leads to blindness. Medical treatment of glaucoma remains a therapeutic challenge because of the numerous causes of the disease and the complexity of its pathogenesis.

More information on these topics, and all of the other articles featured in this month's EJCAP, can be found at www.fecava.org ■