

Reports from recipients of ECVAA bursaries to attend WSAVAA, Sydney 2023

1. Morgane Gavet, Resident, VetAgro Sup, Marcy l'Etoile, France

A month ago, I had the pleasure and the privilege of attending the WCVAA in Sydney. The event provided an excellent opportunity to learn, network and exchange ideas. The congress was filled with captivating presentations presented by great speakers and covering a very broad range of topics, from pain physiology or marine mammals' anaesthesia to sustainability in anaesthesia, giving the chance to learn extensively. It was also a great opportunity to learn about the research projects of other attendees, helping to keep up-to-date with the latest advancements and current research in the field. To top it off, I had the chance of presenting my residency research project during an abstract presentation session, which was an invaluable experience. In addition to the formal sessions, there were plenty of informal opportunities to connect with other attendees. The breaks, poster-sessions and social events provided valuable time to exchange, share experiences, make new connections, and enjoy. Undoubtedly, the WCVAA was a great success, provided a wonderful platform to share our passion for veterinary anaesthesia and analgesia and learn. Furthermore, the chance to explore Sydney and other parts of Australia after the WCVAA was an unforgettable experience. Sydney is a stunning multicultural city with natural beauty, iconic landmarks, and a diverse range of landscape and activities from beaches to park, ferry trips, museum, and nearby mountains with a train ride. Meeting the amazing Australian animals, notable their marsupials was also a highlight of the trip. Overall, I had an extraordinary time at the WCVAA, and I am deeply grateful to the ECVAA for giving me the opportunity to attend such an enriching event.

2. Inken Henze, Resident, Zurich, Switzerland

With all my heart, I am very grateful for the ECVAA bursary that supported my participation at the 14th World Congress of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia in Sydney, Australia. No online meeting can truly replace the experience of attending to a congress in person, with everything connected to it. While the scientific spotlight was on pathophysiology, recognition, and treatment of pain, I also deeply enjoyed the lectures about blood pressure, ethics, or anaesthesia of marine mammals. In particular, I soaked up all the tiny bits about marsupials that were presented by the different lecturers throughout the conference. Did you know that wallaby joeys do not show an EEG response to a noxious stimulus until they are mature enough to take a first look at the outside world by sticking their head out of the pouch? Or that kangaroos can decrease their oxygen consumption while increasing their speed on a treadmill? Having the opportunity to meet and talk to some of the very experienced people in our field either during the breaks or during the social programme was both a privilege and a pleasure. The last afternoon spent at Taronga Zoo provided additional opportunities to learn about Australian wildlife, and also about emergencies and diseases in our domestic pets associated with some wildlife species. After an enjoyable harbour cruise in the warm evening sun, we were able to let all information from those six days settle. Around this great conference, my time in Sydney was filled with strolls through the city and its beautiful parks and gardens, along the harbour shore, or with surfing the waves at Manly beach. Thank you so much for this opportunity to meet old friends, to make new friends, to network, to enjoy fantastic lectures, and to visit my home away from home once again.

3. Tom Hordle, Resident, Lumbry park Veterinary Specialists, UK

I returned from Australia on Saturday and had a truly great time. The conference exceeded expectations, the lectures/ ethical discussions were highly clinically relevant and it was a great opportunity to meet/ collaborate with colleagues from other institutions. Please see below my proposed summary to be published on the ECVAA website; I have tried to summarise all aspects of

the conference rather than specifics, so please let me know if you think this is suitable/ if you would like me to make it more specific or indeed alter it in any way:

The World Congress of Veterinary Anaesthesia in Sydney was a great opportunity to learn, meet and collaborate with anaesthetists, technicians and general practitioners alike.

Personal highlights included the inaugural lecture by Paulo Steagall, which concisely but comprehensively reviewed feline acute pain management over the last decade. Ethical panel sessions also created important discussion (and debate) over matters such as overtreatment in the profession. Abstract presentations covered a variety of topics at the cutting-edge of research in our field. Results from the most recent inquiries into perianaesthetic equine and small animal mortality and morbidity were particularly interesting. I had the privilege of presenting my first abstract and was grateful for the full attendance and questions generated.

The Sydney Masonic Centre was an excellent venue for the conference in the city centre. Lectures were held in the stunning Grand Lodge and abstract presentations in smaller seminar rooms. Delicious lunches from a variety of cuisines were enjoyed among the poster presentations and sponsor stalls. The refreshments provided a unique chance to meet new colleagues and capitalise on experiences from anaesthetic practices in different parts of the globe. As a first-year resident, I was pleasantly surprised to see so many familiar faces on the other side of the world. The penultimate social evening spent at 'The Cidery' was thoroughly enjoyed by all and I am sure I speak for many when I say we eagerly await the next World Congress in Paris!"

4. Charles Makepeace, Resident, Langford Vets, University of Bristol, UK

Thank you for your kind financial support towards my trip to Sydney.

The conference started on Monday morning with two lectures being given by the charismatic Mark Hutchinson. These lectures presented many concepts, such as the relationship between spinal cord cell-based biomarkers in livestock and their exposure to painful stimulus throughout life, prompting us to think about the impacts of our everyday husbandry.

The afternoon consisted of listening to a collection of abstracts as well as presenting my own. My own abstract presentation seemed to be well received, and the opportunity to present was a both a career highlight and an important learning opportunity. After my presentation Dalhae Kim, the author of the paper that inspired the start of my own research project, came to speak to me, which was a surreal but awesome moment.

Polly Taylor, Craig Johnson and Kathy Murphy's presentations on the morning of day two prompted some serious questions about the ethics of modern-day referral practice. This is an important subject that will gain further traction as intervention possibilities continue to expand. Paulo V Steagal's abstract into machine learning to the aid the detection of pain in cats, and the future development of an app that can be used in practice, will be clearly game changing.

Day three's lectures by biomedical engineer Albert Avolio about the measurement of blood pressure and its relationship with perfusion were brilliant, making one question what they thought they knew and introducing some interesting concepts in physics. Polly Taylor's abstract presentation about the Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Equine Fatalities 4, was a great update and gave us all a slight boost to know the numbers are improving, which may have been a factor in the overzealous celebrations at Wednesday evenings social event.

The morning of the fourth day was highlighted by a lecture about the role of veterinary anaesthetists in translational research by Gabby Musk and Innes Wise. I was pleased this lecture was on the schedule as I feel many aren't aware of the possibilities that are available and the importance of these roles.

Thank you again for your support towards this trip, to be able to go on such an adventure is real honour.

5. Patricia Ruiz Lopez, Resident, Ghent, Belgium

Going to this congress looked unachievable for me, but thanks to ECVAA bursary, it was possible. The experience was once in a lifetime, not only because of the amazing city of Sydney, but also because of the quality of the congress.

The different speakers brought a wide amplitude of topics centered on pain management and ethical implications of performing research on animals. Pain monitoring is important for anesthesiologists. Several scales to evaluate postoperative pain were reviewed during the talks and some novelties were presented at the oral communication sessions. Possibilities for monitoring intraoperative nociception were also explored during the congress.

Ethical considerations when performing research are not only based on avoiding animal suffering. Ethical concerns also make anesthesiologists pay attention to their work environment and communication with surgeons, clinicians and other researchers, which are fundamental to prevail animal welfare.

Some more 'academic' topics were also addressed, such as blood pressure definition, measurement history and methods, MAC determinations, etc.

Marine mammals anesthesia was especially interesting, due to the different physiology of these animals. Apneustic ventilation is one of their peculiarities and its principle was studied for application in ventilation of horses. Another interesting presentation was about long-acting analgesia in laboratory animals and the advances during the last years.

There was space to relax and enjoy social activities. The anesthetic machines exposition during the congress was really nice to see. Every day, they offered a drink after the presentations, which was an opportunity to meet and talk with different people. The main activities, the gala dinner and the zoo trip, were super nice and I enjoyed both of them.

I am really grateful for the opportunity of attending WCVAA in Sydney.

6. Julia Deutsch, Diplomate, Langford Vets, University of Bristol, UK

Upon arrival in Sydney, rain showers greeted us and were present almost every day, except for the end of the conference week. However, this could in no way dim the experience of attending the WCVAA. The conference was albeit late, very well organised. The plenary lectures were of outstanding quality, and it was a pleasure to be able to listen to the speakers and learn from the topics presented. There was a wide variety of topics that were discussed in the lectures which contributed to an interesting and uplifting conference overall. It was encouraging to see that the audience was captured by all talks and questions were raised and discussed after each session. I especially appreciated the morning that was dedicated to ethical considerations and the engaging discussion with the audience that followed afterwards. Apart from that, the lectures focusing on blood pressure measurement were excellent, and provided a fantastic overview of basic science but also deep inside knowledge of the topic which I believe proved beneficial for residents but also specialists. My personal favourite was the sea mammal talk. I was excited to learn more about the anaesthetic approach to these animals. Besides the excellent designed morning programme, the abstract programme provided further room to discuss new research and projects. In between, the lunch and coffee breaks offered opportunity to catch up with friends and meet new colleagues while indulging into a variety of truly excellent food choices. At the end of each day, an open bar provided further opportunity making new connections and finish the day on a relaxing note (should be given consideration for conferences in the future). Sydney was a great choice for WCVAA, and beside the conference, it was an absolute pleasure to visit Sydney and explore it before and after the conference. I would like to thank ECVAA who helped me to finance this incredible trip!

7. Julien Dupont, Diplomate, University of Liege, Belgium

What an experience! First World Congress of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia, first oral presentation in an international meeting, first time in Australia! This congress was an unprecedented opportunity of being literally immersed into anaesthetic practice from all around the world. This was also a golden occasion to discover top-level research and to get back home with the bag full of ideas and potential research collaborations. As usual during meetings of veterinary anaesthetists, I was delighted to see the joint commitment to the ongoing improvement of our standard of care driven by our shared passion. In addition, I was glad to appreciate the rising collective awareness of overtreatment in veterinary medicine and it was my great pleasure to attend the brilliant lecture about this important subject. Indeed, this topic is very close to my heart and this conference strengthened my determination to serve the animals' best interests and to prompt my colleagues to do so. From a personal perspective, this meeting allowed me to discover this wonderful part of the world and to appreciate its inhabitants' warmth and hospitality. I am very grateful to the ECVAA that gave me the opportunity to be part of the luckiest veterinary anaesthetists who attended this World Congress of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia in Sydney.

8. Stephane Junot, Diplomate, VetAgro Sup, Marcy l'Etoile, France

I would like to report the unforgettable experience I had the opportunity to live thanks to that the ECVAA bursary. With the help of the College, I participated in the fourteenth World Congress of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia in Sydney, a city and continent I had never visited before. This was a unique combination of friendly encounters, scientific interactions of great quality, and sightseeing tours. Arrived on March 24, the jet lag was quickly forgotten and I could benefit from the sunny climate of Sydney to visit the city and its surroundings, in particular the Featherdale reserve and its adorable representatives of Australian fauna. After the welcome ceremony on Sunday evening, we got to the heart of the matter with a very interesting and diversified scientific program, mainly focused on new trends in the field of pain, including novel insights related to neuroscience, nociception and pain assessment and pharmacological approaches. A few parentheses were left for a fascinating lecture on marine mammal anesthesia, some case-based approaches in human anaesthesia, a captivating discussion on ethical issues related to our daily practice, some fundamentals considerations about blood pressure and flow measurement and a lecture leading to question ourselves on the environmental impact of our practice. In addition to these brilliant lectures in the morning, the afternoons were dedicated to very interesting abstracts and posters sessions. This congress was also an opportunity to meet colleagues and friends from all over the world, in the good humor that is so characteristic of our veterinary anesthesia congresses. Also so characteristic, the memorable gala evening in a Sydney cider house with great music and dancing, after which a very enthusiastic visit of Sydney by night was allowed to the most motivated people! After the congress and a day spent in the Blue Mountains, I had to resign myself to returning to Europe, my head full of excellent memories. The congress organizing committee did an extraordinary job, with remarkable availability and friendliness. Thank you to ECVAA for its support and for allowing me to live this unique and enriching experience in Australia.

9. Sabine Kaestner, Diplomate, University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany

After postponing the WCVA Sydney twice because of COVID 19 travel restrictions twice, the WCVA could finally take place in the Sydney Masonic Centre in downtown Sydney from March 27th to 30th 2023 in combination with a 2 day pre congress program on clinical pain.

The opening ceremony was held on the evening before the main program. A very special welcome note was given to us by a member of the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the Sydney area.

I was allowed to moderate and lead the discussion of the first session in the main program with Professor Marc Hutchinson talking about the future and pain in 4D in a very inspiring way and Professor Paulo Steagall reviewing the last 10 years of pain research in cats.

During 3 ½ days 16 invited lectures and 52 oral abstracts as well as 15 posters were presented including some from my team. The poster viewing at the end of each day's program was made very attractive with champagne and canapés served to viewers and presenters.

The program gave me opportunity to revise and refresh my knowledge and to learn about new concepts and ideas in anaesthesia and analgesia.

I also attended the preceding 2 days of Clinical pain Pre congress, which gave ample room for discussing our current understanding of pain mechanisms and its treatment in clinical veterinary patients.

It was great to have the opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues in the veterinary anaesthesia community during the scientific meeting, but also during the social events.

10. Polly Taylor, Diplomate, Ely, UK

The Sydney WCVA was one of the best I have attended. The organization was unobtrusive and efficient, so the atmosphere was relaxed but it ran like clockwork. The timetable allowed time for serious discussion and social fun. The "happy hour" that followed the close of each day's sessions took place in the commercial exhibition hall and was designated poster viewing time. This allowed for plenty of discussion around the posters as well as follow up on the day's presentations. An exhibition of old anaesthetic equipment was a source of interest, disbelief and discussion. For those of us who have been around long enough to have used them it was a reminder of how far anaesthesia has progressed in our working life time.

Four days of main sessions and abstracts covered new developments and fundamental science as well as some thought provoking and innovative ways of thinking about our subject. We anaesthetists were challenged to take on responsibilities for animal welfare and our planet. Highlights for me were Craig Johnson elegantly distilling the often dry and indigestible ethics terminology into practical guides on day to day dilemmas, Kathy Murphy explaining how we often get clinical research regulation wrong and Gabby Musk with Innes Wise describing the challenges and immense satisfaction gained from the role the anaesthetist plays in translational research. Every vet student and would-be anaesthesia resident should see Innes Wise's presentation and experience the sheer joy of helping to provide good science, happy scientists and contented animals. The final session challenging our responsibilities was from Mathieu Raillard graphically describing the anaesthetic costs to the planet, and their mitigation.

Sydney is a wonderful city for a conference; I was lucky enough to stay with friends in North Sydney for the whole of the conference; my early morning ferry ride to the conference venue, with Sydney Opera house and Sydney Harbour bridge sparkling in the sun (most days), was an unbeatable start to the day. I was extremely lucky to be have been able to attend this conference, and once again express my sincere gratitude to the ECVAA for the bursary which enabled me to attend.

Presentations at the conference:

Poster: Prospective comparison of desflurane with isoflurane in equine clinical anaesthesia

Abstract: Specialist contribution to general practice anaesthesia: a European campaign

Abstract: Lessons from Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Equine Fatalities 4

Main session: Overtreatment in veterinary medicine: anaesthesia and analgesia

Session chair: Innovation challenges