

SECOND EWDA STUDENT WORKSHOP April 2007, Greece

Wildlife conservation and the threat of infectious diseases

General information

The Second EWDA Student Workshop 2007 will be held from the 26th to the 29th of April 2007 and has as its primary objective to further promote the sharing of knowledge on wildlife diseases, in relation to public and animal health, between professional researchers and wildlife health students.

The theme of the workshop will be:

“Wildlife conservation and the threat of infectious diseases”

This student workshop is unique in bringing together renowned scientists and European students from different disciplines. Graduate and undergraduate veterinary and non veterinary students will be informed of the latest knowledge pertaining to infectious wildlife diseases in the field of wildlife conservation. Foremost, they will have the chance to get acquainted with cutting-edge research and scientific habits of mind of leaders in the field, which is rarely taught during their formation.

To keep the workshop accessible for students, the registration fee will be €40,- (incl. accommodation at the Athena Pallas Village***** for 3 nights, all dinners and lunches as stated in the program, and a one-year student membership to the WDA for the year 2008)

Important dates

March 2nd, deadline registration students

March 2nd, deadline for poster abstracts

March 7th, deadline announcement of the selection

April 26th-29th, Second EWDA Student Workshop, Greece

Objectives

Animal-health related studies lead to many prospects. Public health, investigation of emerging diseases, prevention programs against zoonoses, wildlife disease ecology and wildlife conservation are amongst them. Research can be the opening to reach those. However, when one graduates from a Veterinary School, which teaches a specific and practical profession, or from a University, research is sometimes far from a familiar field. The EWDA student workshop will allow students to acquire, from the entrance in the world of research, invaluable assets for a professional career in scientific research, not only from most recent knowledge on wildlife conservation and the threat of infectious diseases, but also – and maybe foremost – from the good scientific habits of mind that must rigorously guide every researcher.

The EWDA student workshop is organized for and by students to promote the scientific education of veterinary and non veterinary students for and by research, through oral communications, panel discussions and roundtables.

"The most important thing is not to stop questioning" ~ Albert Einstein

The EWDA student workshop offers the opportunity to meet and share the experience of the best scientists involved in wildlife disease research worldwide. Through presentations on the threat of infectious diseases to endangered wildlife, participants will be invited to consider the scientific reasoning underlying wildlife disease research in the field of wildlife conservation that leads the

scientist from facts to questions, questions to hypotheses, hypotheses to results, and results to conclusion.

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn" ~ Benjamin Franklin

The EWDA student workshop enables participants not only to gain up-to-date and most recent knowledge in wildlife disease research through outstanding oral communications, but also to explore the invisible part of the iceberg, that is the questions and state-of-the-art scientific reasoning that lead the scientist to the presented results, through student working sessions (roundtables).

Description

Avian Influenza H5N1, tuberculosis, rabies: all these examples show the necessity for research on wildlife diseases and their impact on public and animal health. These emerging and re-emerging diseases not only threaten humans and their domestic animals but are of serious concern for wildlife species as well and represent an additional threat to biodiversity. Endangered species are particularly vulnerable to infectious disease outbreaks because of their reduced population size and often associated reduced genetic diversity that hinders their natural resistance to pathogens.

This results in a call for forging inter- and multi-disciplinary communities of researchers, including veterinarians, working at the interface of the ecological, animal health and human health sciences – the so-called ‘One World – One Health’ approach (www.oneworldonehealth.org). The Student Workshop aims at contributing to the formation of the new generation of scientists that will be actively involved in these fields in the future, by acquiring rigorous scientific skills early in their studies.

The primary language will be English.

Oral Lectures: Speakers will give an oral communication of 45 minutes related to wildlife conservation and the threat of infectious diseases.

Student Working Sessions: Student sessions will be organized the first two days of the meeting. They will correspond to roundtables of one speaker and six to ten students, and will be based on the subject presented by the speaker the same day. For each student session, five choices will be possible, based on the oral communications of the day. Students will be invited to participate in one student session per day, that they will prepare through a proposed fictive situation and two articles, that will both be provided beforehand by the speaker.

Discussion will revolve around the scientific reasoning leading a researcher to his/her conclusions: from facts to questions, questions to hypotheses, hypotheses to results, and results to interpretation.

Dynamic Slide Show and Poster Session: Willing students will be able to present a poster on their current work. As abstracts and posters will not be considered as publications, already-presented posters will be allowed. Students will be invited to orally introduce their poster with one slide (two minutes), during the Dynamic Slide Show Session. A speaker will be invited to give an overview of the scientific quality of the presented projects. A combined coffee break and poster session will follow to promote productive exchanges between the professional researchers and the participants and allow open discussion on the presented projects.

Let’s talk about research: This part of the program will provide an opportunity to summarize and discuss the scientific reasoning underlying wildlife disease research in the field of wildlife conservation. Students will be active participants in the discussion and speakers will be invited to share their personal views, anecdotes and advices.

‘Grill the speakers’: Students are invited to ask any questions to all speakers – mostly on their personal and professional course and their very personal opinions or also for advices.

Final All-in Discussion: A final all-in discussion will be organized on the last day of the seminar. A controversial issue in conservation and management of wildlife diseases will be discussed by the invited speakers and participating students during a final panel discussion led by two keynote speakers.

Banquet: A traditional banquet will allow participating students and speakers to meet in a less formal atmosphere, and share ideas, experiences and anecdotes.

Excursion: A relaxing, though wildlife oriented excursion will be organized the day before the beginning of the workshop and will allow participating students and speakers to meet in a casual atmosphere.

Venue

The workshop will be held in Sithonia, Greece. Sithonia is a Greek peninsula located south of the central part of Halkidiki, in the Northern part of Greece, within 90 km from Thessaloniki International Airport. The landscape is covered with forests, grasslands, and mountains. Amongst the many places in Sithonia is the ancient city, the castle and the church of Agios Athanasios in Toroni, the windmills in Sikia and the 16th century church in Nikiti.

The Athena Pallas Village Hotel***** will offer both accommodation and logistical facilities to ensure an optimal and productive seminar. The hotel is situated on the beautiful beach of Elia, just 8 km from the village of Neos Marmaras. It is built in traditional Greek-Macedonian style and will offer besides excellent conference accommodation all kinds of extra facilities. Large conference rooms will comfortably host the speaker sessions and small meeting rooms will provide an ideal atmosphere to the small groups of students during the working sessions. For more information, please visit www.athena-pallas.gr.

Program

Current list of speakers and their affiliation:

<i>Dr. Alonso Aguirre</i>	Vice President for Conservation Medicine at Wildlife Trust, New York
<i>Prof. Dr. Marc Artois</i>	Department of Veterinary Public Health, National Veterinary School of Lyon, France
<i>Dr. Sarah Cleaveland</i>	Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh, UK
<i>Prof. Dr. Andrew Dobson</i>	Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University, USA
<i>Dr. Christian Gortazar</i>	IREC – National Research Institute on Game Biology, Ciudad Real, Spain
<i>Prof. Dr. Jacques Godfroid</i>	Department of Tropical Veterinary Diseases, University of Pretoria, South Africa
<i>Dr. Billy Karesh</i>	Field Veterinary Program (FVP) of the Wildlife Conservation Society, New-York City, USA
<i>Dr. Spyros Kotomatas</i>	Scientific Coordinator, MOM, Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal, Athens, Greece
<i>Prof. Dr. Albert Osterhaus</i>	Department of Virology at Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
<i>Prof. Sarah Randolph</i>	Professor of Parasite Ecology, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, UK
<i>Dr. Derek Smith</i>	Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, UK; Department of Virology at Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
<i>Dr. Vrassidas Zavras</i>	MOM, Hellenic Society for the Study and the Protection of the Monk Seal & Environmental Issues Unit; Piraeus Bank, Athens, Greece

Thursday, April 26 th	Time	Friday, April 27 th	Time	Saturday, April 28 th	Time	Sunday, April 29 th
		One World - One Health, Why It Matters		Investigation and Management of Wildlife Disease Outbreaks		Grill the speakers day
Arrival of the speakers and students	8.15	Welcoming				
	8.45	Keynote lecturer Billy Karesh	8.45	Keynote Lecturer Sarah Cleaveland	9.00	Let's talk about research - Ab Osterhaus & Vrassidas Zavras
	9.45	Marc Artois ~ Avian Influenza Viruses	9.45	Jacques Godfroid ~ TB in the Kruger Park		
	10.30	Coffee Break	10.30	Coffee Break	10.30	Coffee Break
Registration	11.00	Alonso Aguirre ~ Conservation Medicine	11.00	Christian Gortazar ~ Diseases and Iberian lynx	11.00	Panel All-in Discussion led by Billy Karesh and Sarah Cleaveland
	11.45	Sarah Randolph ~ Climate change and vector-borne diseases	11.45	Spyros Kotomatas ~ Monk seal conservation		
	12.30	Lunch	12.30	Lunch	12.30	Lunch
Wildlife oriented excursion	14.00	Ab Osterhaus ~ Emerging zoonoses potential threats to wildlife	14.00	Derek Smith ~ Modeling as a tool	14.00	End of Workshop
	14.45	Dynamic Slide Show	14.45	Andrew Dobson ~ Biodiversity and diseases	Departure of the participants	
	15.45	Watch-Poster-With-Coffee Break	15.30	Coffee Break		
	16.45	Student Session 1	15.45	Insider Quiz - Grill the speakers		
			16.45	Student Session 2		
Dinner at the hotel	19.00	Dinner at the hotel	19.00	Banquet		

Registration

Registration fee: € 40,-

The registration fee includes:

Conference kit

Wildlife excursion (26/04/07)

Three nights at the Athena Pallas Village Hotel***** (26/04/07-29/04/07)

Coffee breaks (27/04/07-29/04/07)

Lunches (27/04/07-29/04/07)

Dinners (26/04/07-28/04/07)

Banquet (28/04/07)

One-year student membership to the WDA for the year 2008

Selection of participating students

Selection of participating students will be based on a short CV, a motivation letter, a letter of reference from a professor of your institution, a poster abstract if you are a MSc/PhD student and grade transcripts of the latest semester if you are undergraduate.

CV should be no more than 2 pages (10 point font minimum) and include date of birth, educational information (beginning with current position), professional experience, granted scholarships and awards, list of publications and communications, associative life and other interests.

Motivation letters (300-600 words) should mention your experience in and commitment to wildlife disease research, a statement of purpose concerning your career, and the reasons why you think you will benefit from participating in this workshop.

The letter of reference should address the potential for contribution to the field of wildlife diseases. It should be sent by the referee to ewdastudent@gmail.com before March 2nd, with EWDA and name of applicant in the subject line.

Poster abstracts should follow the sample provided below, and should not exceed 500 words. The name of the author presenting the poster should be underlined and your affiliation should be included. The poster should not be more than 1.20 meters by 1.20 meters (approximately 4 feet by 4 feet). You will be invited to orally introduce your poster with one power point slide (two minutes), during the Dynamic Slide Show Session. A speaker will be invited to give an overview of the presented projects. A combined coffee break and poster session will follow to allow time for questions and answers between the professional researchers and the participants.

Example of a poster abstract:

Poster Title

Presenting Author (Smith, J.J.)¹, Second author², ..., Last Author³

1. *Affiliation 1*

2. *Affiliation 2*

3. *Affiliation 3*

AIM OF THE STUDY: Low case characters

MATERIAL AND METHODS: Low case characters

RESULTS: Low case characters

DISCUSSION: Low case characters

CONCLUSION: Low case characters

Translations of the grade transcripts are required if primary language is not English. An explanation of the grading system may be added.

Selected students will receive a scholarship of up to €100,- provided by the Wildlife Disease Association, the European section of the Wildlife Disease Association or the Field Veterinary Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society to cover a maximum of half of their flight/train ticket to Thessaloniki.