

Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

Invited and key note speakers 5th Annual Meeting

10-3-2011 16:59:00

The draft programme of the 5th AM EPIZONE "Science on alert" and the satellite symposium "Bluetongue and other vector borne diseases" with invited speakers, keynotes and oral presentations is now available online. Besides this there are about...

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Welcome session 5th Annual Meeting with special issue for policy makers

10-3-2011 17:14:24

After the welcome session the morning of the 12th of April focuses on the issue "How veterinary research relates to animal health policies". This session will be interesting especially to policymakers. The session will be chaired by Professor Ludo...

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Poster prizes 5th Annual Meeting

10-3-2011 17:14:02

For the second year in a row we will reward the best posters with a prize! The two best posters will be rewarded with € 250 each. Two more prizes of € 250 will be given to the best PhD posters. Are you a PhD student with a poster, please ask at the...

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Social dinner Annual Meeting 12th April: Dance, dine and shine!!!

28-3-2011 16:32:03

[Read more >>>](#)

EPIZONE after June 2011

10-3-2011 16:53:46

Five years on, EPIZONE has emerged as THE platform for researchers and diagnosticians to exchange information, communicate and to overcome geographical and other boundaries to combine their efforts to control major animal diseases. The network's biggest...

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EPIZONE present at the first "One Health Congress"

28-3-2011 14:56:21

The first "International One Health Congress", Human Health, Animal Health, Environment and Global Survival, was held in Melbourne, Australia, from 14-16 February 2011. EPIZONE was honoured to be invited to give a presentation during this congress....

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EPIZONE public website

10-3-2011 17:03:43

Over the last two years, the public website of EPIZONE has shown a large growth in sessions and users worldwide. Since its creation in 2006, the public website has grown from 229 sessions in September 2006 to 5510 in 2010. And this is not even the...

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EPIZONE workshop "Data Information Sharing", Mira, Italy

10-3-2011 17:08:17

From 23-25 March 2011 the workshop "Data Information Sharing within the Veterinary Scientific Community: Legislative State of the Art and the Role of EPIZONE" was held at Villa Franceschi, Mira, Italy. The workshop was organised by the Istituto...

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Succesful EPIZONE Workshop Formaldehyde replacement

10-3-2011 17:09:45

An international workshop was organized by 8 EPIZONE partner institutes to discuss the replacement of formaldehyde as a disinfectant for the decontamination of laboratories and animal facilities. The workshop,

which was held on 11-12 January 2011...

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Short term mission Shandian Gao from LVRI, China

10-3-2011 17:27:11

Shandian Gao, PhD student from Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (LVRI), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), visited the National Veterinary Research Institute (SVA), Uppsala, Sweden, from 11 November 2010 to 20 January 2011. The...

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Short term mission Tanya von Rosen from DTU Vet, Denmark

28-3-2011 15:11:22

Tanya von Rosen from National Veterinary Institute, Technical University of Denmark (DTU Vet), Denmark, visited the National Veterinary Institute (SVA), Uppsala, Sweden, January/February 2011. The aim of the visit was to get experience in working...

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Activity agenda (meetings, workshops and events)

10-3-2011 17:10:59

11-14 April 2011 - 5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE, Arnhem, hosted by CVI, The Netherlands. 2-4 July 2011 - Workshop building bridges, Beijing, China. 3-7 July 2011 - XV International Congress in Animal Hygiene...

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Your news item for the next EPIZONE update is most welcome. Please submit via:

[EPIZONE update News gathering](#)

Contact information:
E-mail: epizone.cvi@wur.nl
www.epizone-eu.net

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

To unsubscribe for the EPIZONE Update please send an e-mail to: epizone.cvi@wur.nl

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Invited and key note speakers 5th Annual Meeting

The draft programme of the 5th AM EPIZONE “Science on alert” and the satellite symposium “Bluetongue and other vector borne diseases” with invited speakers, keynotes and oral presentations is now available online. Besides this there are about 160 poster presentations to review.

5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE 11-14 April 2011, Papendal, Arnhem, the Netherlands

Invited speakers

For date and hours of the presentations, please see the [programme](#).

Tuesday 12th April

Welcome session:

- Dr. Christianne Brusckhe, Chief Veterinary Officer of the Netherlands
- Professor Wim van der Poel, Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen UR (CVI); Coordinator EPIZONE

Policy makers session: “How veterinary research relates to animal health policies”

- Dr. Carolin Schumacher, Merial
- Dr. Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, OIE
- Dr. Filip Claes, FAO
- Dr. Alberto Laddomada, DG-Sanco (to be confirmed)

Keynote speakers

EPIZONE Theme sessions:

- Professor Alexei D. Zaberezhny, Ivanovsky Institute of Virology, Moscow:
“Current situation and methods of control of African swine fever”

Wednesday 13th of April

EPIZONE Theme sessions:

- Professor Jim Machlachlan, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California:
“The History and Global Epidemiology of Bluetongue Virus Infection”

Satellite symposium “Bluetongue and other vector borne diseases”:

- Dr. Lyle Petersen, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA:
“Global emergence of viral vector-borne diseases – why now?”
- Dr. Piet van Rijn, Central Veterinary Institute of Wageningen UR, The Netherlands:
“EPIZONE and the BTV-8 episode, remarkable timing and opportunities!!”

Welcome session 5th Annual Meeting with special issue for policy makers

After the welcome session the morning of the 12th of April focuses on the issue “How veterinary research relates to animal health policies”. This session will be interesting especially to policymakers.

The session will be chaired by Professor Ludo Hellebrekers, Chair of the Royal Netherlands Veterinary Association.

After the presentations from the invited speakers there will be a discussion on how to control a theoretical animal disease outbreak. What do organisations expect from each other and what is their own role.

Invited speakers for this session are:

- Dr. Carolin Schumacher, Merial
- Dr. Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, OIE
- Dr. Filip Claes, FAO
- Dr. Alberto Laddomada, DG-Sanco (to be confirmed)

Poster prizes 5th Annual Meeting

For the second year in a row we will reward the best posters with a prize! The two best posters will be rewarded with € 250 each. Two more prizes of € 250 will be given to the best PhD posters. Are you a PhD student with a poster, please ask at the poster desk for a sticker to mark your poster. These poster prizes are sponsored by Merial and Ingenasa .

Selecting committee

Young EPIZONE will organize a poster walk where the Young EPIZONE members shall work in groups of 2 or 3 to rate all the posters and present their top 2 or 3 in each category to the rest of the group highlighting why they have been chosen. They will elect the prizes for the best PhD and non PhD posters.

Social dinner Annual Meeting 12th April: Dance, dine and shine!!!

As usual, we intend to make our social dinner an evening to remember.

Dresscode: **Celebrate EPIZONE!!!!** Dress festively and maybe add some glitter to your costume. You will blend in!



EPIZONE after June 2011

Five years on, EPIZONE has emerged as THE platform for researchers and diagnosticians to exchange information, communicate and to overcome geographical and other boundaries to combine their efforts to control major animal diseases. The network's biggest challenge has been strengthening collaboration during the EU funding period in such a way that once funding ceases it can maintain the momentum.

European Research Group

EPIZONE is recreating itself as a European Research Group to carry on its legacy. The new entity, whose founding members are all EPIZONE's current partners, is scheduled to start in January 2012. Its inaugural annual meeting will take place in Brighton, England, in June 2012, and new partners will be able to join the group from 2013.

EPIZONE present at the first “One Health Congress”

The first “International One Health Congress”, Human Health, Animal Health, Environment and Global Survival, was held in Melbourne, Australia, from 14-16 February 2011.

EPIZONE was honoured to be invited to give a presentation during this congress.

Professor Wim van der Poel, coordinator EPIZONE, held his presentation “EPIZONE, Network on Epizootic Animal Disease Diagnosis and Control” in the afternoon of 14th of February.

Once again he was pleasantly surprised that many of the attendees were familiar with EPIZONE.

EPIZONE public website

Over the last two years, the public website of EPIZONE has shown a large growth in sessions and users worldwide. Since its creation in 2006, the public website has grown from 229 sessions in September 2006 to 5510 in 2010. And this is not even the peak! In March 2010 the website registered a stunning 8549 sessions from 58 (!) countries all over the world (figure 1).

The EPIZONE website gets its main peaks from registration and abstract activities around the annual meetings, but also from the EPIZONE Update and downloads. To encourage more people to have a look at our website, we are working on a complete new design. To be continued!

[click here to enlarge figure 1](#)



EPIZONE workshop “Data Information Sharing”, Mira, Italy

From 23-25 March 2011 the workshop “Data Information Sharing within the Veterinary Scientific Community: Legislative State of the Art and the Role of EPIZONE” was held at Villa Franceschi, Mira, Italy. The workshop was organised by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVE) in the framework of the EPIZONE project.

The workshop falls within Theme 2, Strategic Integration. It is intended to be a forum for sharing practical experience and ideas for future developments, in line with the promotion of information and data sharing which is pivotal to the achievement of EPIZONE objectives.

Selected scientists and representatives from EPIZONE Member Organizations as well as relevant non-EPIZONE members took part in the discussion (around 30 participants).

The meeting provided:

- An overview of the achievements relating to data/information sharing within EPIZONE.
- An outline of the state of the art of available technical solutions and their adaptability to the veterinary field within the framework of EU legislation and policies.
- Discussion on the possibility of forming an interest group which could be maintained in the future.
- Further prospects for data/information sharing.

See for more information EPIZONE website, [events](#) or contact Dr Matteo Morini; mmorini@izsvenezie.it

Successful EPIZONE Workshop Formaldehyde replacement

An international workshop was organized by 8 EPIZONE partner institutes to discuss the replacement of formaldehyde as a disinfectant for the decontamination of laboratories and animal facilities. The workshop, which was held on 11-12 January 2011 at the Central Veterinary Institute in Lelystad, the Netherlands, was attended by some 80 participants from 15 different countries. Representatives from several EPIZONE partner institutes as well as several invited speakers presented and discussed their results and experiences.

Workshop proceedings

The workshop generated important information on the use of alternatives for formaldehyde. However, it also became clear that there are still gaps in our knowledge and additional research is probably needed. The workshop proceedings containing the abstracts of the presentations and the major conclusions and recommendations will be available at the 5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE.



Formaldehyde toxic and suspected carcinogen

Disinfection with gaseous formaldehyde (fumigation) is used world-wide for the disinfection of laboratories and animal facilities in which harmful infectious agents are handled. Although fumigation with formaldehyde has proven to be highly effective, it suffers from a number of drawbacks which relate to safety; formaldehyde is highly toxic and is a suspected carcinogen. Therefore, to diminish the environmental and health burden, the use of formaldehyde has to be minimized or avoided.

Alternatives for formaldehyde

In order to replace formaldehyde by safer substitutes, several institutes have already investigated alternative disinfection procedures such as the use of vaporized hydrogen peroxide (VHP), ozone or chlorine dioxide. However, questions remain about the efficacy of these alternatives since they have not - or insufficiently - been evaluated and validated for a number of infectious agents.

Although experience with alternatives for formaldehyde disinfection has been gained by different EPIZONE partner institutes and elsewhere, the majority of this information has not been published and is not publicly available. Since there is a strong need to collect this information in order to conclude which substitutes can be used as alternatives, a workshop was organized to discuss the replacement of formaldehyde as a disinfectant.



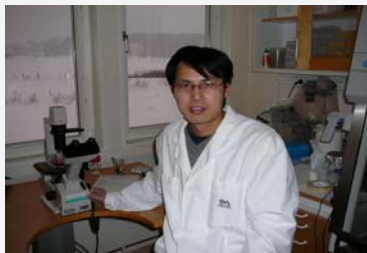
Short term mission Shandian Gao from LVRI, China

Shandian Gao, PhD student from Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute (LVRI), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), visited the National Veterinary Research Institute (SVA), Uppsala, Sweden, from 11 November 2010 to 20 January 2011.

The goal of the visit was to actively participate in the EPIZONE IC 6.8 project on ‘Comparative Dynamics of BVDV’ to perform real-time RT-PCR quantification of the viral RNA in blood and nasal swab samples from calves experimentally infected with BVDV-1 (Horton 916, UK strain), BVDV-3 (Th/04_KhonKaen strain) or both the viruses. In addition, virus isolation, antigen detection by immunoperoxidase (IPX), DNA sequencing were used to evaluate the recombination of BVDV-1 and BVDV-3 during co-infection.

The visit strengthened links between the two EPIZONE partners

Besides many valuable diagnostic techniques, Dr. Gao also harvested a great deal of information about BVDV during the visit. The dissemination of the techniques to China will enable better surveying BVD prevalence and exchanging information between consortium partner institutes from EPIZONE. During the mission, Dr. Gao got the opportunity to exchange ideas with other researchers about the experiment and received plenty of advice. The successful cooperation enhanced strategic mutual trust and strengthened the link between LVRI and SVA, hopefully there will be more collaboration between the two institutes.



Great opportunities

Dr. Gao recommends strongly the Short Term Mission programme to anyone who wants to improve experimental skills, or to freshen research ideas. “The Short Term Mission program offers us great opportunities to learn about the work carried out in other institutes and broaden our vision in disease control. The Short Term Mission will enable you to exchange ideas, experience and practical skills with other researchers. “

Short term mission Tanya von Rosen from DTU Vet, Denmark

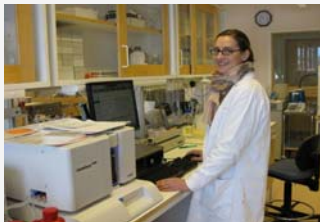
Tanya von Rosen from National Veterinary Institute, Technical University of Denmark (DTU Vet), Denmark, visited the National Veterinary Institute (SVA), Uppsala, Sweden, January/February 2011.

The aim of the visit was to get experience in working with microsphere-bead based Luminex immunoassays. The major part of the three weeks at SVA in Uppsala, Sweden, was spent in the laboratory, getting familiar with different protocols e.g. protocols for coupling of capture molecules to magnetic beads and optimization and confirmation of the effectiveness of the coupling under supervision of Hongyang Xia and Lihong Liu.

Being part of the big and enthusiastic group of young scientists

I was very well received at SVA, and I fully enjoyed my visit there. Apart from specific technical guidance I also had the great opportunity to discuss wider the different Luminex based assay methods and their usefulness for diverse purposes with several experienced scientists that all were very open for further correspondence after my return home if needed.

Last but not least I really enjoyed being part of the big and enthusiastic group of young scientists in the Virology department at SVA. They all truly made me feel welcome and at "home". That people really cared about me became obvious on my last day where a couple of people from the group had arranged a farewell dinner at a restaurant in Uppsala city. That itself was very moving but that so many showed up even though they had to fight a heavy snowstorm to get there was really heart-warming and made a big impression on me.



Inspiration for future work

I would recommend the Short Term Mission program to any student in need of technical guidance in a specific method as it can give you the push that allows you to navigate your project into new directions that could give valuable results as well as inspiration for future work.

Activity agenda (meetings, workshops and events)

- 11-14 April 2011 - 5th Annual Meeting EPIZONE, Arnhem, hosted by CVI, The Netherlands.
- 2-4 July 2011 - Workshop building bridges, Beijing, China.
- 3-7 July 2011 - XV International Congress in Animal Hygiene (ISAH 2011) "*Animal Hygiene and Sustainable Livestock Production*", University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria.
- September 2011 - Young EPIZONE Workshop project management, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 12-14 June 2012 - 6th Annual Meeting EPIZONE, Brighton, UK.
- 20-24 August 2012 - ISVEE 13th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology & Economics, Maastricht, The Netherlands.