Professor Segalés wins one of the European PCV2 Research Awards

Prof. Joaquim Segalés (Spain), Prof. Hans Nauwynck (Belgium) as well as Danja Wiederkühler together with Dr. Xaver Sidler (Switzerland) are the winners of the first ever European PCV2 Research Award, initiated and sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health.

The European Porcine Circovirus (PCV2) Research Award is an annual award that recognizes research proposals in the area of applied immunological PCV2 research. In total, 75,000€, three prizes of 25,000€ each are granted to European researchers who convince the independent jury with their outline of innovative research approaches in the field of swine immunology to explore Porcine Circovirus Diseases (PCVD).

Dr. Segalés’ project, entitled “The impact of genetic diversity of PCV2 isolates on vaccine efficacy” is going to study if a novel one-shot PCV2 piglet vaccine protects against both recently described types of PCV2, genotype 1 and 2.

The awards were recently presented to the winners by Prof. Maurice Pensaert, former head of the Laboratory of Virology of the Ghent University and Dr. Gerald Behrens from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health during an official ceremony at the global headquarters of Boehringer Ingelheim in Ingelheim, Germany. (+)

HIGHLIGHTS

38 CReSA’s communications at the IPVS2008

The 20th International Pig Veterinary Society Congress (IPVS2008) was held in Durban (South Africa) last 22-26th June, 2008. 38 oral presentations and posters showed the research on swine health carried out during the last months by the researchers of the CReSA. (+)

OPEN POSITIONS

Would you like to do a doctoral thesis on swine?

If you are interested in carrying out a doctoral thesis, and you would like working on a topic related with swine, you have now the opportunity to be informed in the Centre de Recerca en Santitat Animal (CReSA) about how to do it. (+)
**RESEARCH**

**Recent review on the diagnosis and epidemiology of M. hyopneumoniae**

The paper “Current perspectives on the diagnosis and epidemiology of Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae infection” reviews the current state of knowledge of the epidemiology of Mhyo infection including its transmission, infection and seroconversion dynamics and also compares the various epidemiological tools used to monitor Enzootic pneumonia. (+)

**Usutu virus in Spain**

Usutu virus (USUV) is an arbovirus and a member of the mosquito-borne cluster within the Flavivirus genus belonging to the Japanese encephalitis virus antigenic group. In 2006, a positive strain belonging to USUV was detected by researchers of the CReSA in female mosquitoes, in Catalonia. (+)

**CReSA contributions to EPIZONE meeting and Bluetongue symposium**

EPIZONE is the European Union (EU) funded Network of Excellence for Epizootic Disease Diagnosis and Control. The CReSA took part in the last annual meeting in Brescia (Italy), presenting different communications related with novel vaccination strategies against bluetongue virus and different exotic viruses. (+)

**CReSA and Education, in ATINER 2008**

The “10th International Conference on Education” was held in Athens on 26-29 of May 2008. The CReSA participated with an oral communication called "A Successful Activity for Motivating Our Students in Science and Research". (+)

**The research activity of the CReSA increased in 2007**

72 articles published in journals included in the ISI Citation Index and 79 communications in congresses. In comparison with 2006, the researchers of the CReSA increased their productivity in 80% and 58%, respectively. (+)

**Seminar about the Nidovirales, by Professor Marian C. Horzinek**

Last 16th May, the Professor emeritus Marian C. Horzinek (Dept. of Infectious Diseases and Immunology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University) gave a seminar called “The Nidovirales, a serendipitous finding” at the CReSA. (+)

**DOCTORAL THESIS**

Defence of doctoral thesis on Hepatitis E

Last 2nd July, 2008, Nilsa de Deus, PhD student of the CReSA, defended her doctoral thesis entitled “Characterization of hepatitis E virus natural infection in domestic swine and wild boars”, directed by Dr. Joaquim Segalés. (+)

**ANNUAL REPORT**

Travel from the laboratory to the farm

The CReSA has been granted by the Spanish Foundation for the Science and Technology (FECYT) for funding the project “Travel from the laboratory to the farm”. The project consist of developing a new website for allowing the citizens to know better the animals farm diseases and how the researchers investigate in the labs new formulas for solving these problems. (+)