

## STUDENT CHAPTER PROGRESS REPORT



**Chapter Name** EWDA Student Chapter  
**Faculty Advisor** Paul Duff

**Please list in detail the activities of this student chapter over the past year. Include specifically how this chapter worked towards the WDA Student Chapter objectives:**

*1. Educate wildlife disease students about the profession and career opportunities, job qualifications and education, and externships, volunteer, and research opportunities. 2. Enhance the skills of wildlife disease students through lectures, workshops, conferences, field trips. 3. Connect wildlife disease students to mentors in WDA through the faculty advisor and guest lecturers.*

The European Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association was created in October 2005 and counts today 67 members from 22 countries of Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australia. The mission of the EWDA Student Chapter is to promote shared knowledge between students and established researchers and several tools and activities have been developed to work towards this goal.

**1. The EWDA Student Chapter Webpage** and the EWDA website have recently been re-designed and updated. Wildlife health students are provided with a friendly platform describing and defining the EWDA Student Chapter, its objectives and activities.

**2. The EWDA discussion list** is a mailing list open to students and non students to distribute the latest news, job and education opportunities in the field of wildlife health. With more than 140 subscribers from Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and Australia, the EWDA discussion list is an invaluable communication tool, promoting the development of a wide network of current and future wildlife disease researchers around the world.

**3. The EWDA Electronic Journal Blog** is the ultimate version of a journal club! The latest publications on wildlife health and diseases are posted as they appear in the literature to provide an up-to-date list of current research in the field, and to complement the resourceful Journal of Wildlife Diseases. More than 120 references have been posted since its creation in December 2005.

**4.** In September 2006 was held the 7<sup>th</sup> European Wildlife Disease Association Conference in the Aosta valley in Italy. The EWDA Student Chapter organized the **first EWDA Student Mixer** through a three hours hike in the Regional Park of Mont Avic. The EWDA Student Mixer aims at connecting wildlife health students from across Europe and beyond in a relaxing atmosphere and a breathtaking natural landscape!

**5. The Second EWDA Student Workshop** was organized by the European Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association on the theme of Wildlife Conservation and the Threat of Infectious Diseases. Meant to offer advanced undergraduates and graduate

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students the opportunity to meet and interact with leaders in the field of wildlife disease research and wildlife conservation, twelve internationally renowned scientists were invited to present lectures, and lead working sessions and panel discussions within the frame on the One World – One Health approach. Sixty student participants from 17 countries from Europe and beyond shared with great enthusiasm the experience and knowledge of the invited speakers. Twenty-five posters gave an overview of the students' current research projects, and a prize offered by the Wildlife Trust was awarded to the best poster, presented by Amber Teacher on microsatellite genotyping of common frog populations affected by ranaviruses. All student participants will receive a one-year student membership to the Wildlife Disease Association for the year 2008 and we are pleased to welcome the first Greek WDA members in our Mother Association.

The Second EWDA Student Workshop was supported by the Wildlife Disease Association and its European section and the Field Veterinary Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society. It was sponsored by the Piraeus Bank, Pfizer, EVL, Viroclinics, Novartis Animal Health Inc., Merial, Intervet International, Roche, and the University of Utrecht. The following Patron Institutions graciously contributed to the program of the Second EWDA Student Workshop: the Erasmus Medical Centre, the Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal, IREC – Research Institute on Game Biology, Princeton University, the University of Cambridge, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Oxford, the University of Pretoria, the Veterinary School of Lyon, and the Wildlife Trust.

To further promote shared knowledge across Europe, the EWDA Student Chapter is developing a network of Country Representatives whose role is to promote the activities proposed by the Chapter and the involvement of wildlife health students in their countries. We have currently 14 Country Representatives from Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

We are currently planning the functional organization of the Third EWDA Student Workshop to be held in 2009, and the first update of the EWDA Student Chapter Document. We will continue to promote the participation of wildlife health students and non students in the Chapter activities. Sharing knowledge also brings up new ideas and we will develop new activities to work toward our main objective, including Country-based networking and one-day symposia, and an interactive guide for undergraduate students willing to engage into wildlife disease research.

Visit [www.ewda.org](http://www.ewda.org) to learn more.