

EWDA STUDENT CHAPTER PROGRESS REPORT 2021/22

It is our pleasure to inform you on the ongoing activities organised by the EWDA Student Chapter (EWDA SC) and its members.

The EWDA Student Chapter was established in 2005. The objective of the EWDA Student Chapter is to promote shared knowledge between established researchers in the field of wildlife health and students interested in this field, within the scope of goals defined by the WDA. This is achieved through the following:



1. Organisation of education for students by wildlife health professionals such as lectures, workshops, externships and field trips.
2. Connection of students to mentors within the WDA.
3. Facilitation of the establishment of international relationships between students across Europe and beyond.

We aim to realise these goals by:

- The organisation of a Student Workshop every two years;
- The coordination and creation of an international platform of Country Representatives (whom we encourage to organise activities in their own country);
- The organisation of Student Mixers during EWDA Conferences;
- The coordination of a Mentoring Programme in collaboration with the WDA/AAZV/EAZWV (on hold at the moment)

ORGANISATION

Current Board elected:	2021-2023
Next election:	June/ July 2023, all EWDA student members are eligible to apply and vote.
Number of Student Chapter members:	54
Number of Country Representatives:	8

Faculty Advisor:	Jorge Ramón López Olvera Student Activities Coordinator EWDA Jordi.lopez.olvera@uab.cat
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Current Board Members:

Chair:	Anna Langguth, Germany, anna03.langguth@gmail.com
Secretary:	Irene Torres Blas, Spain, irato3@gmail.com
Communications Officer:	Palumbo Loïc, France, palumbo.loic@gmail.com
Workshop Coordinator:	Garyfallenia Tsinopoulou, Greece, gartsin96@hotmail.com
Past-Chair/Advisor:	Marco Vecchiato, Italy, mvecchiato@hotmail.com



Country representatives:

Belgium:	Naomi Terriere
France:	Guillemine Leroy
Germany:	Simon Krückeimer
Italy	Giulia Graziosi
The Netherlands:	Elja Jeunink
Portugal:	Catarina Baptista
Spain:	Ane López Morales
Sweden:	Tina Jansson

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

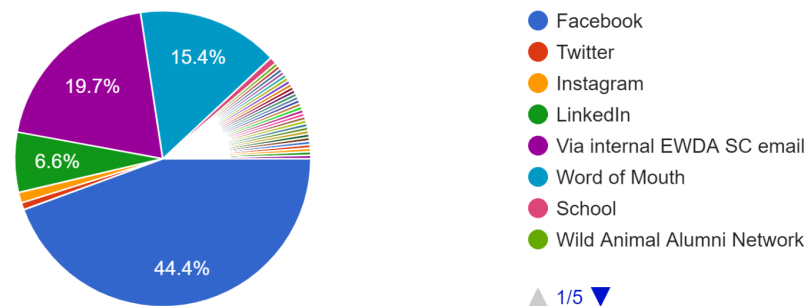
PR & Fundraising

We have increased our presence on social media with the creation and animation of an [Instagram account](#) and a [Linkedin page](#), in addition to the already present [Facebook page](#), [Facebook group](#), and a [Twitter account](#) to promote the EWDA Student Chapter and share knowledge. Besides our social media accounts, we also communicate through our website. For special events (i.e. the biannual workshop), specific Facebook Events are created. Most of the country representatives also keep a Facebook page or group for their national group. In our experience, this is a very valuable tool to connect students to professional events and opportunities, and this was reflected by a survey we

connected to registration for a webinar event we held on the 13th of April 2022:

How did you hear about this webinar?

259 responses



Using these media, our members get updates about the most recent news in the area of wildlife diseases and conservation. We post advertisements of open positions worldwide related to the field of wildlife, and share advertisements about webinars and conferences. We also share reports and pictures of our activities and those of the country representatives. Currently, these channels are also frequently used to share digital wildlife-health related events (among which the WDA/ZWMSG Journal Club). The EWDA student chapter does not have a newsletter but contributes to the EWDA Newsletter.

The EWDA Student Chapter's main financial incomes are sponsorships, donations and grants (including the SAC grant), used mainly for the biannual EWDA Student workshop. The EWDA SC did not establish any sponsorship for the latest webinar (April 2022), which was held online. Country representatives can apply for grants (up to 100 euros) to organise local events. We do not have a specific membership fee, as all EWDA student members are automatically EWDA SC members.

Collaboration

To carry out the WDA's aim, including the future directions of the WDA, and the impact in terms of sustainability of the organisation, we keep in close touch with the EWDA Board, the EWDA Sustainability Committee and with the WDA board via the WDA Student's Activities Committee (SAC) Marianthi Ioannidis. We also work at strengthening relationships and collaborations with Student Chapters from other WDA sections. The North American, South American, South African, Australian, and Asian-Pacific Student Chapters helped us organise and advertise a Webinar event held on the 13th of April 2022.

The WDA and EWDA presented at events that are held by the EWDA Student Chapter and our Country Representatives. A power-point presentation is provided to help our Country Representatives to present the organisations in a consistent way. Additionally, we offer our Country Representatives constant support for any queries they may have when required (e.g. connecting with speakers, brainstorming about events, etc.).

EWDA STUDENT CHAPTER WEBINAR 2022

As a result of the covid19 pandemic, EWDA student activities and student involvement have largely decreased. In order to restart a positive dynamic, we decided to host an event this year, bridging the gap until our biannual workshop; a webinar titled “How to get involved with wildlife? Exploring early career opportunities”, which was held online on the 13th of April 2022. The event was free and open for all students worldwide, hoping to appeal to students of all life sciences, who may consider membership afterwards. Eleven international speakers working in different non-governmental and governmental organisations participated in the event, 5 of which from Europe and 6 from other parts of the world. All WDA geographical sections were represented. A total of 96 participants attended the workshop, connecting from throughout Europe and overseas. Beside lectures and Q&A sessions open to every student, 30 participants were able to register for the interactive session “Bring your own CV!”. This additional event allowed students to discuss their CV and career perspectives with one of the speakers (5 min in one-to-one session).

Promotional material:



Webinar Speakers:

Speaker	EWDA Chapter	Position	Notes
Anja Reckendorff DVM, PhD, ECZM WPH	EWDA (Germany)	Wildlife Veterinarian at the Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research, University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation	-
Naomi Terriere DVM, PhD Candidate	EWDA (Belgium)	PhD Candidate at the University of Ghent, focusing on Wildlife Disease Surveillance	Part of the interactive session
Katharina Seilern-Moy DVM, PhD, MRCVS	EWDA (United Kingdom)	Wildlife Veterinarian at the Zoological Society of London	Part of the interactive session
Dimitris Vavylis BSc., PhD Candidate, Wildlife Poison Officer	EWDA (Greece)	Biologist, Anti Poison Officer, Stakeholders expert and PhD Student with the Hellenic Ornithological Society/BirdLife Greece	-
Johan Espunyes, DVM, MSc, PhD, ECZM Resident	EWDA (Spain)	ECZM WPH Resident at the Autonomous University of Barcelona	Part of the interactive session
Jess Whinfield DVM	Australian WDA SC	Taronga Zoo Resident in Conservation, Zoo- and Wildlife Medicine	-
Chi-Fen Lee DVM, MSc candidate, Pathology Resident	Asian-Pacific WDA SC (Taiwan)	Veterinary pathology resident and Master's candidate at the Graduate Institute of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology at the National Taiwan University	-
Ya-Wen Yang DVM	Asian-Pacific WDA SC (Taiwan)	Graduate Institute of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology School of Veterinary Medicine, National Taiwan University majoring in veterinary forensic science	-
Janine Meuffels, BSc, MVSc, PhD, MRCVS	South African WDA (South Africa)	Veterinarian for Rhino Force in South Africa.	-
Gerardo Acosta, DVM, MSc, PhD	South American WDA, (Chile)	Professor at the Institute of Veterinary Preventive Medicine at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences of the Austral University of Chile.	-
Allison Carter, DVM	North American WDA, (Minnesota)	Wildlife veterinarian at the Wildlife Rehab Center (WRC) in Roseville, Minnesota.	Part of the interactive session

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE EVENTS

We strongly encourage our members to gain experience in raising funds for student activities. This skill may be very useful in the future, when applying for your own research funds. To support our Country Representatives, they can also apply for small grants to help them organise wildlife health events on a national level (if all requirements are met). In September 2021, there were only 2 country representatives still active, so we broadly communicated about the open positions and recruited 6 more country representatives that have just started their activities, therefore few events have yet been organised but several are coming in 2022. Below is a list of the events that have happened since September.

FRANCE

The French representative (Guillemine Leroy) presented the WDA, EWDA and the student chapter during a wildlife course at the French Veterinary school in Lyon on the 10th of December 2021. She was assisted by past French country representative and past Board member of the EWDA SC, Manon Moullec.

Guillemine also gave a talk introducing the WDA and EWDA SC during the Yaboumba Jr Congress 2022 at the VetAgro Sup, Lyon. The Yaboumba Jr Congress 2022 took place over three days (25th, 26th and 27th of February). Students from all 4 French veterinary schools and the Liège Veterinary Faculty (Belgium) were present to attend lectures and workshops activities on zoological medicine and exotic pets. Fifteen vets working in zoos or clinics attended the congress to share their passion and experiences of wildlife medicine and conservation. For this occasion, Karin Lemberger held a lecture about anatomopathology of wild animals, and introduced the EWDA to the audience. Guillemine completed her presentation with a presentation of the EWDA Student Chapter.

GERMANY

The German representative (Simon Krückeimer), based in Berlin is currently assisted by Luca Schick, who is based in Hannover. They have organised 2 events since December 2021.

The first event was an introduction to the WDA and EWDA SC for German students. This online event encompassed a presentation of the association and its activities by Simon, as well as a presentation on zoo animal medicine by Pr. Alex Greenwood (wildlife department, IZW Berlin).

The second event was also held online, on the 16th of February 2022. The Seminar "Education and training opportunities in the field of wildlife" gathered an audience of 110 European students who were able to attend presentations held by a panel of PhD students, interns and wildlife vets that spoke about their jobs and professional journey. Speakers for the event were:

- Marc Gölkel, Veterinarian at the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research
- Luca Schick, PhD student at the Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research

- Anna Langguth, current chair of the EWDA Student Chapter and Master Student in "Wild Animal Health" at the Royal Veterinary College in London
- Elisabeth Hembach, Veterinarian from the "Kölner Zoo"
- Ane Lopez, intern at the Wildcom Research Group of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Beside those events, the German representatives are very active on social media, communicating about news, events and job opportunities related to wildlife health, especially through the facebook page of the German group of the EWDA SC.

ITALY

Although the Italian representatives have not yet been able to host an event, the Italian EWDA student group is very active on Facebook and communicates a lot about news, events and job opportunities related to wildlife health. Their first event will be held on the 6th of June 2022. It will be a hybrid-event with both in-person and online attendance options, focusing on African Swine Fever.

BIANNUAL WORKSHOP 2023

Currently, the Student Chapter is planning the biannual workshop which will likely be hosted in Barcelona in April 2023.

As the final academic calendar 2022/23 has not been released yet by the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), we are currently unable to confirm a fixed date. However, we are pushing for the 7th - 9th of April, as this would coincide with Easter Break for many European students.

As we have all experienced the devastating global effect emerging pathogens can have, the 2023 workshop will focus on how multidisciplinary work and international cooperation can help prevent or mitigate this in the future.

We are keen to invite speakers who have experience with:

- disease outbreak investigations
- wildlife pathology
- ecosystem health
- environmental legislation
- public outreach
- the economic consequences of wildlife diseases

While the first two days of the workshop will be open to all participants, the third day will be exclusively planned for 30-40 active attendees. We aim to rent out both available postmortem rooms of the UAB for one day as part of our interactive sessions.

For the practical part, we will simulate the outbreak of a mock novel pathogen and have student teams compete in a race against the spread of this wildlife disease. This will involve fieldwork to locate carcasses, taking samples, submitting them for "testing" and receiving "results" etc. This will give students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the reality of fieldwork, and will encourage teamwork to get to the bottom of the outbreak.

We have also wondered how we could bring the concept of cross-disciplinary collaboration closer to the students, as it is essential for One Health. Thus, we will split participants of the active event into two main groups which will focus on either veterinary questions (i.e. which pathogen could have caused this; which test do we order etc.) or more biology-related issues (what is the ecology of this species; what are the factors that led to this; what are the consequences for the ecosystem).

We would like to assign a designated "mentor" to each subgroup who will lead their group of students through exercises designed by us. While the vet group will be more focused on post-mortem examinations, the biologist group will gather data in the field. Students will present their findings briefly at the end of the session, enabling all attendees to see the "full picture" of the outbreak which can only be acquired by multidisciplinary research.

Preliminary promotional material:



THANK YOU

We would like to thank the WDA for support and engagement and look forward to future collaboration. We would also thank all other WDA section Student Chapter Boards that helped us with the organisation of the webinar, and we hope to continue this cooperation facilitated by the international nature of this Association!

The EWDA Student Chapter Board 2021-2023,
Anna, Garyfallenia, Irene, Loïc & Marco