

# Training and Education of Toxicologic Pathologists in Europe: Current Status and Future Needs

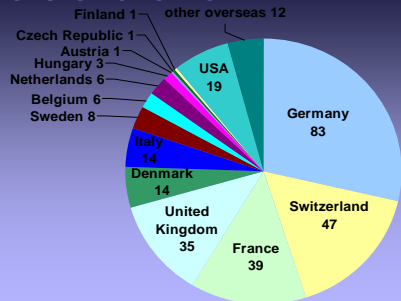
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## Introduction

Training and education of toxicologic pathologists is not uniformly regulated in the different European countries. Most European toxicologic pathologists have backgrounds in veterinary medicine and veterinary pathology. The most widely recognized qualification for veterinary pathologists in Europe is the examination (held since 1999) of the European College of Veterinary Pathologists (ECVP), which largely mirrors that of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP). The exam includes laboratory animal pathology and toxicologic pathology as choices in the veterinary pathology section.

## History and Members of the ESTP

The **European Society of Toxicologic Pathology (ESTP)** was established in October 2002 by a transition of the German "Gesellschaft für Toxikologische Pathologie" (GTP). The former GTP members felt that it was important to adapt to future challenges and form a strong international society with the focus on Europe. Currently, the ESTP has 289 members coming from over 20 countries.



## Training and education in Europe

In several countries, local postgraduate training and education programs can lead to specific certification in veterinary pathology. Some but not all European countries have specific training pathways for toxicologic pathologists. Examples include modules in a regular residency program in anatomic pathology at a university (e.g. University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, Germany) or as an independent training program (e.g. The Netherlands). Generally, almost all Toxicologic Pathologists are veterinarians with special background in Pathology and further education in toxicologic pathology.

## Congresses, meetings and more...

ESTP/ECVP/ESVP and country-specific societies :

- **Annual Congress (ESTP)**, this year in Budapest, Hungary, Sept 28 – Oct 1, 2010
- **Classic Examples in Toxicologic Pathology (ESTP)**, yearly in Hannover, Germany
- **Summer School in Veterinary Pathology (ECVP with European Society of Veterinary Pathology, ESVP)** for postgraduate students, 14d course
- **Annual Congress (ECVP/ESVP)**, this year in Belgrade, Serbia, Sept 8 – 11, 2010
- **others:** Meeting calendar at <http://www.eurotoxpath.org/calendar/index.php>

## ECVP certifying examination (Diplomate ECVP)

The **Board examination eligibility** requires at least:

- satisfactory standing in the profession, be qualified to practice veterinary medicine in Europe or an equivalent qualification, have completed at least 3 years of supervised training in pathology (Residency) and have published at least 2 original papers in internationally recognised journals in the field of veterinary pathology.

The **Board examination** comprises in a written manner for 3 days (annually in February):

- Histopathology, Macroscopic Pathology, General Pathology, Veterinary Pathology, Comprehensive Pathology

## National accreditation procedures

Germany	Switzerland	Netherlands	France
Fachtierarzt für Pathologie	FVH Pathologie (CH)	Lab Animal/Tox Pathologist	DESIV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;5 years training in pathology in recognized institution</li> <li>• cont. Education (&gt; 160h)</li> <li>• dissertation (Dr. med. vet.)</li> <li>• oral examination</li> <li>• 2 years add. for tox path</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;5 years training, &gt;4 in pathology in recognized institution</li> <li>• dissertation (Dr. med. vet.)</li> <li>• review of credentials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• also non-veterinarians</li> <li>• &gt;4 years training in tox path</li> <li>• review of credentials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• see poster of SFPT</li> </ul>
			United Kingdom
			RCPath/Toxpath
			• see poster of BSTP
			others
			No specific certif.
			• partly Residency program
			Italy
			No specific certification
			• Residency program at University for ECVP exam
			Scandinavia
			No specific certification
			• Residency program at University for ECVP exam

## Conclusion

Many courses for trainees and established veterinary and toxicologic pathologists are organized by societies of toxicologic pathology representing the entire region like ESTP or individual nations (e.g. France, Italy, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, to name a few). The main future training need in Europe is to improve and develop existing cooperation between different European and national Societies of veterinary and toxicologic pathology, especially by establishing better contacts to the Eastern European countries.

