European Society of Veterinary Cardiology
Annual General Meeting
ECVIM Congress, 11th Sept 2026
Berlin, Germany
Minutes

1. Present and apologies for absence:

Present:
Serena Crosara, Simon Swift, Aleksandra Domanjko-Petric, Sonja Fonfara, Mark Dirven, Jose Novo Matos, Liva Vatne, Anne van de Watering, Erika Cider, Lisbeth Høier Olsen, Frederic Chiren, Warwick Payne, Anne French, Stefan Adrian, Andrea Vollmar, Maria Wiberg, Nadine Bresemann, Giovanni Romito, Luca Ferasin, Heidi Ferasin, Mikael Svensson, Olof Sjöbring, Ingrid Ljungvall, Jens Häggström, Tobias Hagel, Lena Kluser, Jenny Eberhard, Marin Torti, Jana Friederich, Frane Ivasovic, Nuno Pereria, Josefa Fernandez, Luis Lobo, Joao Escalda, Jessica Schobel, Nora Schreiber, Ilmars Duritis, Paul Motskula, Imke Maerz, Nicolai Hildebrandt, Natalia Slutsky, Maximilian Kaline, Estelle Henrich, Sophia Schafer, Anna Schildknecht, *Rabea Berg*, Sonja Sinzinger, Liza Koster, Virginia Luis Fuentes, Victoria Greet, Andrei Baisan, Elsa Buratti, Michele Borgarelli, Stefano Oricco, Giorgia Santarelli, Ursula Bartoszuk, Marco Baron Toaldo, Dolores Maria Porteiro Vazques, Ruth Willis, Merit Villemson-Kavak, Fruzsina Vizvari.

Some attendants have been excluded as names were not in the membership directory (as of September 2026), so we encourage attendants that can´t find their names in the list above to check if they have paid the membership fee.

Apologies for absence:
Roberto Santilli, Fabio Sarcinella, Javier Lleixà Prieto, Rachel Blake, Laura Novensa, Geoff Culshaw, Ana Dinis, Teja Knapp, Gitte Mapaey, Yolanda Martinez-Pereira, Angelo Basile, Olena Kostiuk, Berith Schmidt, Fortunata Farina, Isabella Finkenstadt, Sabine Riesen, Delphine Brizard, Hannah Stephenson, Paul Wotton, Tommaso Vezzosi, Colin Schwarzwald, Daisuke Asanuma, Christine Baker, Mark Patteson, Mette Kallesen, Andrei Tutuneanu, Patricia Sebastian Marcos, Xavier Navarro-Cubas, Doris Bittenecker

2. Approval of agenda (SC)

The agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the ESVC annual general meeting 2025 (SC)

The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Secretary report (LV)

Membership numbers are stable. There are 444 members plus 11 honorary members as of August 2026, a slight decline since last year. Germany is still the

most represented country followed by the UK. Members were reminded that if their name is not in the membership directory on the website, they should check that they have paid the membership fee. Previous years we have had a few attendants at the AGM that were not registered as members, and attendants this year are encouraged to check if their name is in the directory.

5. Financial matters (MD)

The society has two bank accounts, one held by the society (Europe) for invoices, sponsorship and JVC; one VIN account (USA) for membership fees.

The financial report from 2025 has been audited and approved by Hanneke van Meeuwen and Mikael Svensson. A proposal from the treasurer to keep the same auditors next year was approved unanimously.

The financial situation is quite healthy, however the balance for 2025 was negative when all invoices had been paid. Since 2022 the yearly balance has been intentionally kept negative, to keep the surplus reasonably low, this trend should not continue. To support our members, we want the budget to become neutral again.

Credits (income): membership fee, JVC royalties and fee to cover expenses.
Debits (expenses): grants, awards, JVC journal costs and costs of arranging pre-congress last few years, including 2025 as costs have exceeded income.

The financial report was approved unanimously.

The society is a non-profit organization, and a reserve can be kept as a surplus if approved by the members. This was also unanimously approved.

There were no questions from the floor.

Acknowledgements: MD expresses his gratitude to VIN, and to Mark Rishniw and Elvamae Frofunga in particular, for their involvement, dealing the running of the ESVC website and all financial matters.

6. Membership fee (SC)

To keep the financial situation healthy there was a proposal from the board to increase the membership fee. This has not been done for many years. The proposal was for the membership fee to increase from 75 euros to 95 euros per annum. This was unanimously approved.

7. Update of JVC (SF)

Professor Sonja Fonfara reminded the audience that ESVC membership includes JVC subscription – a journal that is run, owned and supported by the society. JVC is endorsed and supported by both the ACVIM and the ECVIM cardiology specialties.

Editors in chief:
Sonja Fonfara (Co-EIC) sonjafonfara@googlemail.com
Michele Borgarelli mborgarelli@gmail.com

Editorial board:
Jonathan Abbott, John Bonagura, Michele Borgarelli, Marco Baron Toaldo, Mark Dirven, Sonja Fonfara, Philip Fox, Lisbeth Høier Olsen, Hyeon Jeong, Jordi López-Alvarez, Giulio Menciotti, Lynne O'Sullivan, Pedro Oliveira, Chris Orton, Romain Pariaut, Brian Scansen, Anna Tidholm, Massimiliano Tursi, Gunther van Loon, Sonya Wesselowksi

Presentation of submissions, editorial outcomes and published counts:

- The number of submitted papers have increased substantially with 192 papers submitted in 2025 (148 in 2024, 120 in 2023), with a higher number of published papers than before, 80 papers in 2025, and with a slightly lower desk rejection rate at 39% in 2025 compared with 45% in 2024.
- Number of submitted papers as of April this year: 15
- Publication process for 2025 has increased slightly to 254 days from submission to first publication online, ie longer than it was in 2024 at 234 days. The reason for the slow publication process is mainly due to a slow review process.
- The cite score was slightly lower than other journals (such as JSAP, JVIM, JAAHA) but stable in comparison with previous years.

The Science Direct usage is steadily increasing to near 350.000 downloads in 2025, with top ten countries: USA, UK, the republic of Korea, Japan, Italy, Brazil, Spain, China, Canada and Germany.

Submission questions are being standardized using AI to streamline the process, reduce burden and time for authors, editors and business. This is a work in process, if you experience problems, please contact the editorial board.

Special issue: 'The Mitral and Tricuspid Valves' - 2026
Guest editors: Dr Chris Orton, Dr Giulio Menciotti

Final reminder about the constant need for reviewers, as they are the key to scientific publishing. Members are encouraged to update their user profile to include their areas of interest/expertise, and to submit manuscripts.

8. Board member election and amendments to the constitution (SC)

The amendment of our Constitution is a work in progress. The new version will be presented to the members for voting when completed.

Board member Fabio Sarcinella will complete his first term this year, and has agreed to stand for election for a second term. Voting was performed by the raise of hands, and re-election of Fabio Sarcinella was approved unanimously.

9. ECVIM 2026 and 2027 (SC)

Summary of the ECVIM congress 2026:
4 talks, 4 speakers, 3 EU, one from Canada
Abstracts – 31 oral presentations, 31 poster presentations

1 research report
Annual general meeting - AGM
Diplomates´ meeting
Residents´ meeting
Exam information meeting

Information about next year's meeting in Rimini, Italy, 22-25th September 2027:
Pre-congress subject: Anaesthesia, analgesia and risk stratification in veterinary cardiology
Main congress: AI in veterinary cardiology

10. ESVC Research grant 2026 (SC)

There were two applications this year that were evaluated blindly by an external scientific committee; however, no research grant will be awarded due to low scores. Information about an earlier deadline for grant applications next year to increase the possibility of completing the review process prior to the ECVIM congress so that results can be revealed during future AGMs. The guidelines will be updated to include the new deadline date, and more information on what a successful application should include and what type of costs the grant will cover.

11. Young investigator award (SC)

Announcement of prizes for best resident/young investigator abstract/oral presentations 2025 (SC)

Orals:
1. van de Watering et al - Feasibility of a new minimally invasive implantable cardiac monitor for remote heart rhythm monitoring in dogs and a cat.
2. Sehn et al - Impact of including or excluding endocardial borders on left ventricular wall thickness measurements in cats.
3. Apollini et al - Clinical findings and survival time in dogs with myxomatous mitral valve disease at the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine stage D.

Posters:
1. Seu et al - Comparison of different echocardiographic methods to identify left ventricular concentric hypertrophy in dogs with pressure overload.
2. Valeri et al - Left atrioventricular coupling index: an echocardiographic index of atrioventricular disfunction in dogs with myxomatous mitral valve disease.
3. Cimermann et al - Associations between peripheral blood immune cells, cytokines, chemokines, inflammatory blood markers and echocardiographic variables in canine myxomatous mitral valve disease.

12. Task force progression (SC)

Information about a successful task force about MMVD breed screening, with a paper recently published.

13. Any other business (SC)

A plaque was awarded to Lisbeth Høier Olsen as a gratitude for long service as a past member of the ESCV board.

14. Questions from the floor:

Professor Gerhard Wess raised a concern that during the ECVIM congress we only have two days of cardiology, but we pay for three. He proposes the possibility of arranging our own congress to give the society more power to influence future meetings, and that this can easily be achieved by abstaining from submitting abstracts to ECVIM. Professor Sonja Fonfara informs that the society has asked for 3 days during the recent ECVIM committee meeting.

Dr Frane Ivasovic from the ECVIM committee mentions that ESVC didn´t want the research report to be held on the Saturday this year. Professor Sonja Fonfara clarifies that this was because there were no other cardiology sessions during this day, and that having the research report on a Saturday would not have been a problem if there was cardiology all three days of the congress.

Professor Michele Borgarelli suggests that we could arrange a “post congress day” on the Saturday instead of having a “pre-congress” day before the congress. However, Professor Serena Crosara argues that arranging a post congress would still be a considerable cost to the society, unless the costs of this was to be covered by ECVIM.

Dr Joao Lourerio asked for the reason why there is not three days of cardiology during the ECVIM congress.

Dr Frane Ivasovic replied that there is likely a historical reason for this. That this is how it was done before reflecting numbers of abstracts submitted, but that the congress has grown over the years. The amount of submitted cardiology abstracts is growing and ESVC is the biggest society represented at this congress. He reported that he can´t see a reason why the committee would not consider expanding the cardiology programme to three days, but they will have to deal with logistical issues.

Professor Jens Häggström mentions that if we extend to 3 days, this opens the possibility of covering more subjects. He suggests asking the members for input regarding future subjects, and that the third day could cover more than one main subject for a more diverse programme.

Dr Jose Novo Matos informed the audience that the programme for next year is already in the planning, so we must move fast if we want to make changes that would involve ECVIM congress in 2027.

The ESVC board will discuss the possibility of a three day congress with ECVIM, and is also open for the suggestion of a separate cardiology meeting.

There were no further comments or questions from the floor.

L. Vatne
ESVC Secretary