



ECVO residents and mentors meeting 2025

Saturday, 24 May 2025, Assembly Rooms Edinburgh, hybrid meeting
Meeting Minutes

Moderators: Andra-Elena Enache and Georgina Fricker, (Co-Chairs of the ERC), Simon Pot (Chair of Exam Committee)

Note takers: Carolin Chiwitt-Georgas (Executive Secretary) and Mareike Ohnsorge (ECVO Admin)

Start: 12:13 pm

End: 12:40 pm

Welcome:

The committee chairs welcomed all residents and mentors and opened the meeting at 12:13 PM.

General information and updates from the ERC

1. Introduction of the ERC:

Georgina Fricker (member since March 2021, ERC Chair since May 2022)

Andra-Elena Enache (since May 2022) - co-chair since May 2024

Samuela Mazzucchelli (since March 2021) mentors' liaison since 2022

Franziska Matheis (since May 2017) residents' liaison since 2022

Marti Cairo (since February 2020)

Ladina Walser-Reinhard (since March 2021)

Aurelie Bourguet (since March 2021)

Serena Maini (since May 2023)

Savina Gogova (since May 2023)

Azzurra Massidda (since May 2024)

For all questions, please contact residency@ecvo.org.

2. Committee activities:

Training Programme Oversight:

- Ongoing supervision of training programmes.
- Review of residency applications and end-of-year forms.
- Evaluation of end-of-residency questionnaires and training outcomes.

Advisory Role:

- Provide advice and guidance on programme structure and any proposed changes.
- Serve as a point of contact for residents and mentors regarding queries or issues with the process.

Certification and credentialing:

- Issue end-of-residency certificates, enabling residents to apply for credentials and subsequently sit exams.

ECVO Residency Programmes:

- Specific oversight includes application reviews and documentation throughout the residency lifecycle.

3. Announcements

Update IB:

- Meetings every 6 months between resident and supervisor will become compulsory to identify weaknesses and problems. This will be added to the IB. When it will be updated, the residents should change the IB version (they are referring to) on the form and the newer version will be applied.

Guidelines for the residency application process:

- Read instructions in the IB, available on the ECVO website.
- Credentials should be approved BEFORE submission.
- Updated application form to replace Form 2 – to be sent ideally 90 days before
- One application per resident.
- Coming soon: PDF fillable form, one for the training centre (valid for 6 years) and one shorter form for the resident. These forms should be printed as a PDF and sent to the committee. More instructions will hopefully come together with the launch of the new website.
- Once reviewed and found to be in order a certificate of RTP approval for that individual will be issued.
- Online forms are only set up once the resident submits their photograph and biography to communications committee.
- Programme director's statement (formerly form 3) to be returned to ERC within 30 days of residency start.

Reminder change of deadlines:

- Final date for submission to the ERC to be able to submit credentials and become exam eligible for next year is 1st September of the year preceding the exam (formerly 1st August).
- The deadline for credentials submission is therefore 1st October of the year preceding the exam.

Expanded range of congresses allowed for scientific presentation:

The list of acceptable congresses was extended in 2024 and will be in new version of the IB:

- ESVO (European Society Veterinary Ophthalmology)
- AiSVO (Asian Society of Veterinary Ophthalmology)
- Other European Veterinary Colleges Congresses (ECVIM, ECVN, ECVAA, etc.)
- ECVO, ACVO, IEOC (International Equine Ophthalmology Consortium), ARVO (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology)

Breaking news:

The Information Brochure (IB) will be updated to reflect a new policy:

- In cases where a resident submits an abstract that the Scientific Committee (SC) considers more suitable for a poster presentation rather than an oral presentation — and no other presentation opportunities remain for that resident — a poster presentation will be accepted.
- While poster presentations may be accepted in such special circumstances, oral presentations at conferences are still strongly recommended.

Use of Resident title – guidelines:

- The title 'ECVO Resident' may only be used while the residency programme is active.
- It is intended for professional communication with colleagues and should **not** be used to promote clinical services to the public.
- After the programme ends, terms such as "Residency-trained clinician" may be used up until the expiry of the Residency Training Programme (RTP) completion certificate, which is valid for 8 years from the date of issue.

Use of the online form system – guidelines:

- List all presentations and training activities in chronological order.
- For the "other surgeries" section, include procedures such as cyclosporine implants and retinal re-attachments.
- Do not include routine procedures like diamond burr debridement (DBD), ocular ultrasound, or flushing NLDs.
- When entering surgeries under "other," use the exact wording provided whenever possible.

Parental leave:

- An update to the Information Brochure (IB) with a section about parental leave is forthcoming; no new forms are available currently.
- Inform the ERC about the planned parental leave.



- If needed, manual update of the end date in the current form is mandatory.
- Important: maximum of 6 years to complete the training programme.

Mentor parental leave:

- The role of primary advisor can be transferred to another qualified individual within the same institution or at another institution. The residency can be paused, or study time can be used.
- All these change must be approved by the Education and Residency Committee (ERC) before they take effect.

Changed congress format - coming 2026:

- A residency session will be held on Saturday, organised by the ERC. These sessions will be for mentors as well.
- Suggested topics (e.g. journal clubs, discussion forums) are welcome — please send ideas to the ERC.
- An ad-hoc committee is currently being formed to address wellbeing and mental health. This committee is still formed largely of members the ERC but will hopefully become a separate committee which can be approached with mental health issues.
- Sessions on residency and mental health will likely be held as breakfast meetings.
- This initiative will be trialled next year, with feedback gathered to evaluate its effectiveness.

Questions:

James Rushton asked whether pig eye or other cadaver surgeries should be logged in the surgery log or not. Georgie Fricker explained that cadaver surgeries should be logged only for procedures marked with an asterisk, otherwise they should be documented in a separate excel sheet to be sent to the ERC only if surgical requirements are not met on clinical cases.

Updates from the Examination Committee

Simon Pot (Chair of the Examination Committee) provided an overview on changes and updates regarding the examinations.

Changes to the website:

- The information on the website has been reorganised across different sections for improved clarity and structure.



- All relevant sections have been updated to ensure accuracy and consistency.

New stipulations for neurodiverse candidates or candidates with special needs:

- Candidates with neurodiversity (e.g. dyslexia), or similar needs (e.g. requiring specific software or extended exam time) should contact the Examination Committee (the Secretary to be copied in as well).
- Requests must be submitted by 1st July of the year preceding the examination.

Reading list:

- The reading list period has been reduced from 7 years to 6 years.
- These updates are effective immediately and will be updated on the website accordingly.

Practical examination grading:

- Grading sheets for the practical examination have been created and uploaded to the website.
- There is one document for each practical session, detailing the criteria examiners use for assessment.
- These documents provide clear guidance on expectations and are useful resources for both mentors and residents.

Questions and enquiries:

- For any questions, please contact the Examination Committee at any time or raise them during meetings.
- A suggestion was made to add a form to submit questions in an anonymised way. It will be included in the FAQ section on the website.

Courses to prepare for the exam:

- Reminder from the Exam Committee: no specific course is recommended, and no specific course is mandatory to pass the exam!

FAQ: surgery kits to be shared at the exam:

It is frequently asked whether candidates from the same institution can share the surgery kits during the practical examination.

- Sharing is allowed, but the entire responsibility for this lies with the exam candidates, not the Examination Committee.

It was asked if there was any additional question. There was no other question.

GF and SP thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 12:40 PM.