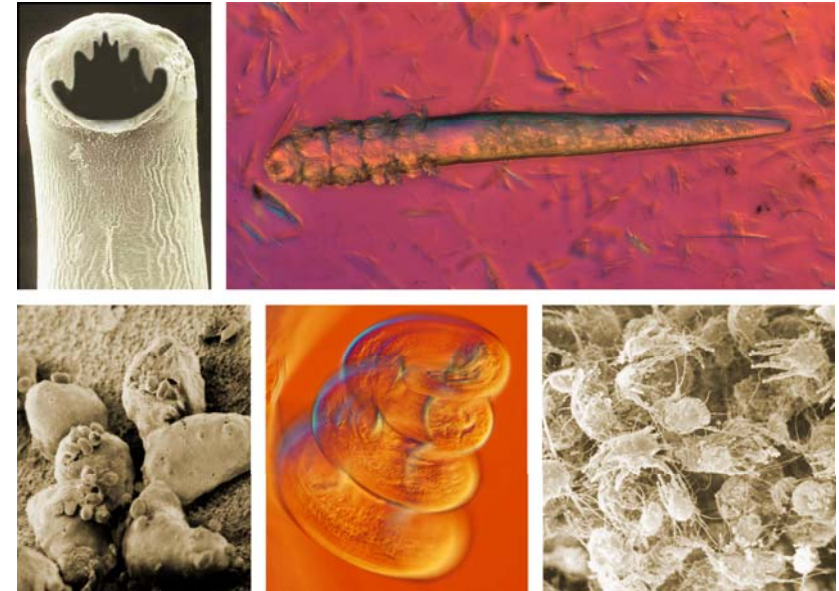


First Announcement

NKVet Symposium

(Nordic Committee for Veterinary Scientific Cooperation)



"IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE parasites control the minds of their hosts, sending them to their destruction.

IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE parasites are masters of chemical warfare and camouflage, able to cloak themselves with their hosts' own molecules.

IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE parasites steer the course of evolution, where the majority of species are parasites.

WELCOME TO EARTH."

Carl Zimmer: Parasite rex. Inside the Bizarre World of Nature's Most Dangerous Creatures, 2001

•Programme Committee:

- Antti Oksanen, Professor, Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira (Chairperson)
- Carl Fredrik Ihler, Associate Professor, The Norwegian School of Veterinary Science
- Eva Osterman-Lind, Laboratory Veterinary Officer, PhD, National Veterinary Institute, Sweden
- Seppo Saari, University Lecturer, University of Helsinki
- Stig M. Thamsborg, Professor, University of Copenhagen

•Local Organizing Committee:

- Tuula Honkanen-Buzalski, Professor, Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira (Chairperson)
- Hilikka Hellgren, Executive Assistant, Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira
- Terttu Katila, Professor, University of Helsinki
- Pirkko Nousiainen, Finance Manager, Finnish Veterinary Association
- Antti Oksanen, Professor, Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira
- Seppo Saari, University Lecturer, University of Helsinki

Parasite infections of domestic animals in the Nordic countries - emerging threats and challenges

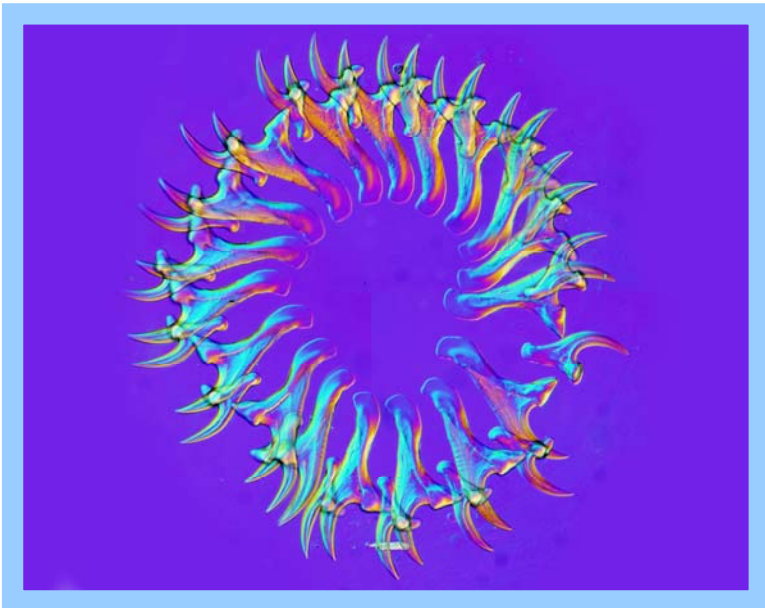
September 8th and 9th, 2008, Helsinki, Finland

(The exact venue of the Symposium will be announced in the Second Announcement in November/December, 2007)

Veterinary parasitology is an applied life science discipline with a utilitarian viewpoint, aiming at benefiting the health and welfare of host animal species, including man, by study and control of parasitic infections. The Symposium is designed to attract and benefit both veterinary practitioners and administrators as well as scientists.

Parasites of livestock and companion animals have major impact on animal welfare and economy, and zoonotic parasites may seriously affect human health. New emerging problems for parasite control come with the generally recognised changes in climate. These effects may be dramatic and are important to predict so as to achieve successful protection of animals and humans against parasitic diseases. Parasitic problems previously considered largely restricted to tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world may become threats to livestock industries and to companion animal health in the Nordic region as well. Establishment of novel parasite species and vectors in new areas is also promoted by increased transport of animals between countries.

Other future challenges are related e.g. to the control of gastrointestinal nematode infections. For many years the major pasture-based livestock industries (ie. cattle, sheep, goats and horses) have used management systems that rely on treatments with anthelmintic drugs. However, this has resulted in the development of anthelmintic resistance in the important nematode species of all domestic livestock. Resistance threatens the commercial viability of anthelmintic drugs and successful control of parasites.



We have a few highly distinguished keynote speakers who plan to give their topics a more in-depth than just topical treatment.

- **Bruno Gottstein**, University of Bern, topics *Echinococcus*, *Neospora*, *Besnoitia*.
- **Richard Wall**, University of Bristol, topics entomopathogenic fungi and effects of antiparasitics on dung degradation.
- **Susan Kutz**, University of Calgary (not confirmed yet), topics climate and global change, effects on Arctic parasites.

In addition, local heroes/stars/idols will strengthen the Nordic perspective.

The symposium will cover:

- 1. Overview: new parasites or changes in infection patterns**
 - establishment of new parasites and vectors in the Nordic countries
 - spread of parasites to new areas
 - parasite-host-environment interactions
- 2. Occurrence of zoonotic parasites - emerging issues**
- 3. Increased transport of animals**
 - increased travel with companion animals: what should the veterinarian be aware of and what have we imported
 - import of new parasites and parasitic infections
- 4. Use of anthelmintics and facing the challenge of increasing resistance**
 - occurrence of resistance in the Nordic countries
 - management of resistance and deworming regimes
- 5. Parasite monitoring and network in the Nordic countries**

Format:

- a number of plenary lectures to cover the main topics
- topic based workshops that are introduced by 2-4 short oral presentations
- two poster sessions

Deadline for abstract submission: May 1st, 2008.