



Report

MAH-IVSA SCHOLARSHIP & TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM

Last summer, through the MAH-IVSA Scholarship Travel Grant Program in collaboration with the IVSA Exchange program, I had the opportunity to have an internship for six weeks in the Veterinary school of Toulouse in France.

Veterinary school of Toulouse has a very active avian pathology department and one of the best specialists in poultry diseases Pr. Jean-Luc Guérin who is involved in many research works, Toulouse also is an area with many poultry breedings for producing “Foie gras” (fat liver) from ducks force-fed which is an old tradition largely met in the south west of France. My internship was one month and a half of practice in both poultry disease service and virology laboratory of Toulouse veterinary school.

My first day of internship was a participation in a scientific day whose theme was Biosafety in Ducks ready to force-feed, organized by “Réseau Cristal” one of the two biggest veterinary groups in avian pathology in France. This event was not the only one I have participated in, I was present in a second scientific day, about Poultry products and how getting the confidence of the consumer, organized by “Chêne vert” the second big group of avian pathology’s veterinarians, such events are highly interesting because I met experienced vets, still up to date and creating a network with specialists in this field.

Regarding the clinical practice, it was like breeding visits in the context of mobile clinic and I attended the last students' rotation in the clinic for 2014/2015 session. A mobile clinic for a week was planned for this final group. I was lucky to be there because it was a full schedule with visiting five farms scattered throughout the west of France without returning to the school and the night we sleep in a motel. It was really an amazing trip and an occasion to visit several villages in France and spending a good time with awesome people. During these visits we have seen many poultry species like ducks, geese, turkey

and guinea fowl for different reasons of consultation. If we found mortality we do autopsy and we take samples for laboratory diagnosis when we return to the school.



For example on of these cases was necrosis of the penis in male geese, the suspicion was *Mycoplasma iowae*, it is a venereal disease transmitted upon coupling from female to male, so we have taken cloacal swabs to confirm the suspicion.

Another case was a respiratory problem and mortality in turkey. After the autopsy we have found typical lesions of aspergillosis disease.

When the clinical activities were ended, I began the second part of my internship which is a practice in the virology laboratory. The work in the laboratory was the based on the research work of my end of study's, supervised by Pr.Jean-Luc Guérin. The subject was about the Co-infections in broiler respiratory syndrome in Tunisia using the nanofluidic Biomark PCR





technique to bring out the presence of more than one agent, thanks to this technique we can screen off until 96 samples for 22 agents at the same time.

I have brought some samples in FTA cards from Tunisia to Toulouse and I have treated them during my practice period in the laboratory. We have found motivating results. so over this year I will take other samples, send them to Toulouse and going back there to follow the evolution of this work.

In Toulouse I had the chance to contact not only French students but having also friends from Spain and Brazil, who was there for Erasmus exchange.

Thanks also to the MAH-IVSA scholarship I had the chance to attend the 64th IVSA congress in Romania, it was an unforgettable experience. I have gone directly after the end of my internship from Toulouse to Romania where I spend the best thirteen days of my trip. The congress was for both learning and entertainment. In the one hand we have had interesting lectures about exotic animal medicine, aquatic veterinary medicine and amazing workshops like animal assisted therapy and trapping wild birds. In the other hand we have visited historical castles, fortress, mountains and bears' sanctuary. But the most important thing that I have met 110 wonderful veterinary students from 31 different countries, I have made my own network and have lived multitude of cultures.

Best regards,

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