



**SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY  
AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**

<http://www.svepm.org.uk>

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**SVEPM Conference 2019, Utrecht, The Netherlands: March 27-29, 2019**

Dear Colleagues,

It was a great pleasure to meet so many of you at this year's annual meeting in Tallinn. The local organisers certainly made everyone feel welcome and entertained, and we had plenty of opportunities for great scientific and social interactions.

I am now pleased to invite you to Utrecht, the Netherlands, to attend the next SVEPM conference to be held from the 27<sup>th</sup> until the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2019.

The conference is kindly being organised by Dr. Gerdien van Schaik and her team, an enthusiastic group of representatives from GD Animal Health, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Utrecht University and Wageningen University and Research. They offer you a beautiful setting in the all-inclusive Woudschoten Hotel and Conference center that creates a lot of opportunity to socialize and interact with the SVEPM community. Woudschoten is located near the City of Utrecht in a wooded area that will be quick and easy to reach with public transport from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, which is only 45 minutes by train. From the train station Driebergen-Zeist a taxi or shuttle bus will take you in 10-15 minutes to the venue. The social programme will give you ample opportunity to get acquainted with the historical and vibrant city of Utrecht. More information about the conference is available at: [svepm2019.org](http://svepm2019.org) and registration for the conference will open in December 2018.

Until then, we encourage you to contribute to the success of the conference by submitting abstracts of your excellent work for presentation. Abstracts are welcome on all topics of veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine, but we would like to see more abstracts being submitted on companion animal epidemiology, aquatic epidemiology, field study-based epidemiology and socioeconomic methods applied to animal health.

We will again use our online abstract submission system. Please read and use the guidance for submissions attached to this mailing. You can also find this information on the Society's website ([www.svepm.org.uk](http://www.svepm.org.uk)). The online submission facilities will remain open until the end of August 31<sup>st</sup> 2018. This deadline is fixed and late submissions will not be accepted.

After the deadline, the abstracts will be scored by Committee members after removing the authors' identification and affiliations. Please ensure the Interpretative Summary is informative and clearly highlights the impact or applications of the presented work. Also ensure that your main abstract provides sufficient detail about methodology as well as results. The decision on acceptance of papers for oral presentation will be taken on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018, and all who submitted an abstract will be contacted soon after this, with an invitation to the successful applicants to speak at the conference. As usual, we will ask presenters to prepare a paper for publication in the proceedings, which are made

available at the conference and the internal member's area of the SVEPM website. The deadline for submission of proceedings papers is 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2018. Successful applicants also will be able to submit a paper for consideration in the SVEPM 2019 special issue of Preventive Veterinary Medicine, with a submission deadline of 15 January 2019.

For SVEPM 2018 we received 63 abstracts for the 21 available presentation slots in the conference programme. In addition, two-minute oral poster pitch slots were made available on a first-come-first-served basis to 25 authors of posters giving some additional time in the spotlight and an opportunity for all delegates to become aware of the most recent and novel work in our field. In general, the displayed posters were of a very high standard. We very much value this aspect of the conference and plan to again offer the poster pitch opportunity and a number of cash prizes for the best-judged posters in 2019. The SRUC prize for the best oral presentation of early career researchers will also be awarded again at SVEPM 2019, and up to three conference bursaries will be awarded.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer and hope that you will join us at the 2019 conference, whether it is for the first time, or as part of your annual tradition.

Best wishes,

Marnie Brennan

**SVEPM President**