



**SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY
AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**

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

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SVEPM Conference 2018, Tallinn, Estonia: March 21-23, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to invite you to Tallinn in Estonia to attend the next SVEPM conference to be held from the 21st until the 23rd of March 2018. It is the first time SVEPM will be held in the Baltic countries, an important step for our Society. The conference is kindly being organised by Dr. Arvo Viltrop and his team from the Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu, Estonia.

Conference venue

The conference will be held at [Sokos Hotel Viru Conference Center](#), a professional, modern and comfortable all-in-one conference facility with on-site accommodation for all conference delegates. The venue is in the heart of the capital and close to the beautiful Old Town. Tallinn is the largest city in Estonia with close to 450,000 inhabitants, and it is located on the northern coast of the country, 80 km south of Helsinki, on the shore of the Gulf of Finland. The conference venue is easily reached by bus from Tallinn International Airport only 4 km out of the city. Registration and information about the conference are now available at: www.svepm2018.org

Conference programme

The conference will retain its popular format including 21 oral presentations and a choice of six workshops on a variety of topics. Posters will be presented both in the traditional way and through 25 oral pitches given in the main auditorium. In the detailed conference programme, you will see that the scientific sessions include a broad range of topics including antimicrobial use in livestock, methods for multifactorial and multivariate analyses of large datasets, chronic bacterial disease epidemiology, several different viral diseases in livestock, surveillance, network analyses and improved disease control methods.

For the opening plenary presentation, Professor Päivi Rajala-Schultz from University of Helsinki, Finland, will provide her insights on veterinary epidemiology at the intersection of livestock disease, production and animal welfare from her profound research experience in both the United States of America and Europe. For the closing Gareth Davis lecture, Dr. Klaus Depner, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health at Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut in Germany, will give an interesting presentation on experiences and lessons learned about epidemiology, politics and practical implementation of control measures for African Swine Fever, a major infectious disease of great concern in this region of the world.

Social programme

As always, there will be a not-to-be-missed social programme – beginning on Tuesday with the Early Career Scientists' evening on March 20th 2018, a reception with food at in 'Kolu Inn' at the Estonian Open Air Museum, and the gala dinner. Estonians have a strong singing tradition, and fittingly our popular gala dinner will take place at the conference centre at the Tallinn Song Festival Grounds, which offers great food and drinks, along with music, at an inspiring and historic place. There are also plenty of opportunities for cultural activities in the area. A tour of Tallinn city will be offered for those interested on the 23rd of March after the conference closes.

I would like to sincerely acknowledge the efforts of the local organisers who have been, and are still, working very hard to prepare the 2018 conference. I would also like to thank my fellow SVEPM Committee members who have put together the scientific programme and who are responsible for editing the proceedings papers, chairing sessions and other conference-related activities.

Bursaries

SVEPM is again offering a number of conference bursary awards that aim to attract delegates from European countries that are not usually well represented at the conference or in the SVEPM membership. Therefore, we particularly welcome applications from budding epidemiologists or veterinary public health professionals in Eastern European and Mediterranean countries, although applications from other eligible candidates will be considered. An application form, with further details, is available at the conference website.

I wish you all a nice and relaxing Christmas and New Year break and hope that you will join us at next year's conference, whether for the first time or following attendance at previous venues. The Committee and I are looking forward to seeing many of you in Tallinn in March 2018!

Best wishes,

Liza Rosenbaum Nielsen

SVEPM President