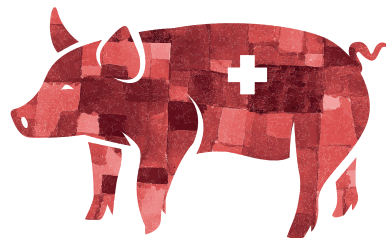




# ESPHM



# 2025 16<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM OF PORCINE HEALTH MANAGEMENT

BERN/SWITZERLAND  
May 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

**ECPHM** EUROPEAN COLLEGE  
OF PORCINE HEALTH  
MANAGEMENT

Universität Bern | Universität Zürich  
**vetsuisse-fakultät**

CONGRESS VENUE Kursaal Bern, Switzerland

PROCEEDINGS



# Programme Book

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# Welcome MESSAGE

Dear Esteemed Members of the Porcine Health Management Community,

It is my great pleasure and honor to extend to you a warm welcome to the European Symposium of Porcine Health Management (ESPHM) 2025, which will be held in the picturesque city of Bern, Switzerland.

As we gather together for this momentous event, we reflect on the journey that has brought us here. Originally announced in 2019 and planned for 2020, our congress faced unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic. However, through resilience and adaptation, we transformed the obstacles into opportunities, convening virtually in 2021 to continue our vital discussions and collaborations in porcine health management.

Now, in May 2025, we are delighted to invite you to join us in person in Bern, Switzerland. Nestled amidst the breathtaking landscapes of the Swiss Alps, Bern offers a captivating backdrop for our congress. Its rich history, vibrant culture, and renowned hospitality promise to enhance our experience as we come together to advance the field of porcine health management.

Our congress is organized jointly with the European College of Porcine Health Management (ECPHM), exemplifying our commitment to excellence in education, research, and practice. With a diverse program featuring keynote lectures, round table discussions, parallel scientific sessions, and endless networking opportunities, the ESPHM 2025 promises to be a stimulating and enriching event for all attendees.

We extend our invitation to all pig veterinarians, researchers, industry professionals, policymakers, and other stakeholders who share our passion for promoting the health and well-being of pigs. Your expertise, insights, and contributions are invaluable as we work together to address the evolving challenges and opportunities in porcine health management.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I invite you to join us in Bern for a congress that promises not only professional growth and collaboration but also unforgettable experiences and connections. Together, let us forge new pathways, share knowledge, and inspire innovation in porcine health management.

We look forward to welcoming you to Bern, Switzerland, for the ESPHM 2025.

Warm regards,

Heiko Nathues

Chair of the local organizing committee of the ESPHM 2025





## LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Prof. Dr. Heiko  
Nathues



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Grahofer



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The ECPHM is a non-profit organization under the umbrella of the European Board of Veterinary Specialization (EBVS).

EBVS recognises and monitors veterinary speciality Colleges in Europe. It defines guidelines for the recognition and registration of specialists in areas of veterinary medicine in Europe, and maintains an updated register of European Veterinary Specialists. EBVS encourages and promotes the enhanced utilization and availability of veterinary specialist services to the public and the veterinary profession.

The ECPHM works for the advancement of health and welfare oriented porcine production management in the herd context in Europe, and the increase of the competency of those who practice in this field.

The major objectives of the ECPHM include:

- Establishing guidelines and standards of training for postgraduate education and experience prerequisite to become a veterinary specialist in the specialty of porcine health management.
- Examining and authenticating veterinarians as specialists in porcine herd health management to serve health and welfare of the animals, the economic outcome of the herd, and the production of safe quality product for consumers in a sustainable animal production by providing expert care for pigs.
- Encouraging research and other contributions to the science and practice of porcine herd health management including husbandry, reproduction, epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, therapy,

prevention, and control of diseases directly or indirectly affecting pigs and the maintenance of healthy and productive pig herds.

- Porcine health management also includes the impact on quality and safety of pork and gives special consideration to herd health and production, production systems and targets, and the management of pig populations.
- Promoting communication and dissemination of knowledge.

The ECPHM is organized through different bodies that take care of the different activities performed:

- the Board represents the College and is its main government body;
- the Education Committee organizes educational events for the ECPHM residents, including the e-learning sessions, the pre-symposium workshop and the summer school. The Education Committee also approves Resident training programs;
- the Examination Committee prepares the annual exam and arranges the examination of residents;
- the Credentials Committee reviews and approves the applications for admittance to the residency program, as well as the applications to sit the exam, and review applications for recertification of the Diplomates;
- the Nominations Committee manages and reviews the proposals for nominations in the different committees and board;
- the ECPHM activities are supported by a permanent Administrative Secretariat in Parma, Italy.

The first ESPHM was organized by the ECPHM in 2009 in Copenhagen (Denmark). Subsequent meetings were organized in Hannover (Germany) and Helsinki (Finland). After the creation of the European Association of Porcine Health Management (EAPHM) in 2010, the following symposia were organized in a three-party fashion, involving the EAPHM, the ECPHM and the local organizers until ESPHM 2021.

ESPHM 2009 Copenhagen (Denmark)  
ESPHM 2010 Hannover (Germany)  
ESPHM 2011 Helsinki (Finland)  
ESPHM 2012 Bruges (Belgium)  
ESPHM 2013 Edinburgh (United Kingdom)  
ESPHM 2014 Sorrento (Italy)  
ESPHM 2015 Nantes (France)  
ESPHM 2016 Dublin (Ireland) co-organized with IPVS  
ESPHM 2017 Prague (Czech Republic)  
ESPHM 2018 Barcelona (Spain)  
ESPHM 2019 Utrecht (The Netherlands)  
ESPHM 2021 Virtual Symposium  
ESPHM 2022 Budapest (Hungary)

By means of this organizational formula, the ESPHM has been held so far in various European Countries. The 14<sup>th</sup> edition will be held in 2023 in Thessaloniki (Greece) and, as in Budapest, is jointly organized by the European College of Porcine Health Management (ECPHM), a renewed council of European pig

practitioners (Veterinary Practitioner Council, VPC) and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

The symposium philosophy consists of mounting a sound program, with cutting-edge scientific-technical knowledge, practically oriented, which is able to catch the attention of swine veterinarians all over Europe, but with full international vocation.

The symposium's content includes invited lectures, initiating always with the state-of-art swine production in the organizing country, as well as oral communications, posters and flash talks. Importantly, the ESPHM is an excellent platform for introducing the ECPHM Residents into the scientific world, by presenting their studies (Resident oral communication sessions) and participating in the College activities organized around the symposium (e.g., Resident workshop, farm visits).

In addition, the ESPHM must serve as a vehicle for potentiating networking among pig veterinary professionals all around Europe, and emphasize the global character of a borderless profession. Also, Annual General Meetings of the ECPHM are organized within the program of the symposium, and facilitate that the critical mass of the college can join together once a year.

Porcine Health Management (PHM) is an open access peer-reviewed journal that aims to publish relevant, novel and revised information regarding all aspects of pig health medicine and production. The journal provides a venue for global research on pig health and production, including infectious and non-infectious diseases, reproduction, epidemiology, management, economics, genetics, housing, nutrition, animal welfare and ethics, legislation, food safety, drugs and surgery. This journal is aiming at readers, and attracting authors, with different levels of experience; Diplomates and Residents of the ECPHM and other colleges as well as PhD students and experienced researchers from outside! Anticipated articles include: original research, reviews, short communications, case reports, case studies and commentaries.

The Editors-in-Chief are **Paolo Martelli** (University of Parma, Italy) and **Heiko Nathues** (University of Bern, Switzerland).

PHM published a total of 52 articles in 2022, reflecting an overall growth trend for the journal in recent years. The journal has been publishing since 2015, and is now indexed in different databases, including MedLine (PubMed) and, more recently, Clarivate's Web of Science. PHM got its first Impact Factor in 2020 (2.190), and in 2022 the Impact Factor increased to 3.535, maintaining the journal's rank in the first quartile of the Veterinary Sciences category. The journal also continues to maintain a fast turnaround time for authors of nearly 90 days for accepted manuscripts. Articles now collectively

receive well over 100,000 unique views by readers per year. A great achievement for a young journal like PHM!

Please use the online submission system to submit your manuscript. For all enquiries about the journal, technical issues, payment of article processing chargers (APCs), etc. please contact: [porcinehealthmanagement@biomedcentral.com](mailto:porcinehealthmanagement@biomedcentral.com).

There are many reasons to publish in PHM:

- High visibility / PHM's open access policy allows maximum visibility of articles published in the journal as they are available to wide, global audience.
- Speed of publication / PHM offers a fast publication schedule whilst maintaining rigorous peer reviews.
- Flexibility / Online publication in PHM gives authors the opportunity to publish large datasets, large numbers of colour illustrations and moving pictures, etc.
- Promotion and press coverage / Articles published in PHM are included in article alerts and regular email updates.
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# Keynote lectures



## PROF. INGER-LISE ANDERSEN



### PROF. INGER-LISE ANDERSEN

Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway

DAY - TIME

### Biosketch

I am a professor of ethology and animal welfare at the Norwegian Univ. of Life Sciences, Dep. of Animal and Aquacultural Sciences, Faculty of Bioscience. I am currently teaching several courses in ethology and animal welfare for graduate and undergraduate students, and supervising bachelor students, master students and PhDs. My main research focus has been behaviour and welfare in pigs in all phases of production including pregnant sows, sows and piglets, weaned and finishing pigs. The topics on pigs include social dynamics, loose-housing systems, maternal behaviour and piglet survival, farrowing environment, environmental enrichment and positive emotions, and welfare of weaned pigs, finishing pigs and sows with their piglets. I also have experience in research and teaching in other farm animal species, such as sheep, goats and horses. In these species I have focused on social dynamics, and more recently on horse signals and communication and how this information can be used to enhance welfare in sport horses. Finally, I am involved in a larger project on stress biology/resilience and pigmentation in juvenile rainbow trout and salmon.

### Abstract

Piglet mortality due to maternal overlying and piglet starvation caused by sibling competition increases with larger litters, especially in loose-housing systems. Nest-building, sow-initiated communication with the piglets and maternal carefulness, are all vital traits for piglet survival that are underemphasized in crated systems. While semi-crated systems offer more freedom than crates, sow welfare is still highly compromised, and a natural interaction with piglets remain limited. An optimal farrowing pen must provide sufficient space for sows to turn around and orient while communicating with their piglets. Clear separation between nest/rest and activity/dunging areas is crucial. Key features for improving piglet survival include access to nest-building materials, enough space for sows to turn and nurse, and sloped, solid walls to reduce crushing risks. Floor heating in the nest area can help newborn piglets dry faster, retain heat, and nurse sooner. Many farrowing pens assume piglets will leave the sow for a warm creep area. However, under natural conditions, piglets stay close to their mother for warmth, protection, and access to milk. Even in high-quality creep areas, piglets prefer resting in body contact with their mother during the first two days. Staying close to the sow provides piglets with the best chance of survival through warmth, comfort, and access to a teat during the colostrum period. For individually loose housed or group housed sows, systematic management routines around the time of farrowing are needed to achieve the same level of piglet survival as in crated systems.





# Programme



WEDNESDAY

21<sup>ST</sup> MAY

11.00 – 13.00

Registrations

13.00 – 13.30

Welcome and opening

13.30 – 15.00

**Keynote Session FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT**

*Chaired by Prof. Heiko Nathues and Dr. Ursula Friedmann*

**"The impact of global warming on pig production/husbandry", Dr. David Renaudeau**

**"Pigs' perception of ambient temperatures: a sustainable approach to thermoregulation",**

*Prof. Irene Camerlink*

Round table discussion

15.00 – 15.30

**Coffee break and poster viewing**

15.30 – 17.30

**Parallel sessions**

**HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT & ECONOMY**

*Chaired by Dr. Martin Pfützner and Dr. Wikke Kuller*

**IMMUNOLOGY & VACCINOLOGY**

*Chaired by Dr. Elena Canelli and Dr. Robert Graage*

17.40 – 18.40

**ECPHM Annual General Meeting (Diplomates and Residents only)**

18.00 – 19.30

Welcome Reception







# Social programme



# WELCOME RECEPTION

## Welcome Reception



Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025  
H. 18.00 - 19.30



Kursaal, Forum

Included in the registration fee



# FAREWELL DINNER



## Farewell Dinner



Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025  
H. 17.30 - 19.00



Kornhauskeller





# General information



# GENERAL INFORMATION



## Conference Venue and Attendance



## Important Info



# GOINK GREEN

ESPHM organizers are very pleased and extremely proud to have improved their green attitude as regards the organization of the annual Symposium, with several actions aiming to reduce our environmental impact.

To preserve our planet should be definitely our common goal. We all share the responsibility to do our best to increasingly adopt a much greener approach in our everyday life. Let's do it together through the following actions to adopt during the Symposium!



**Return** the plastic folder of your badge and the bag: we will recycle them!



Pick up the congress kit just if you **really need it**: we are aiming at reducing waste!



Use **alternative** means of transportation during your stay: shuttle bus, taxi-sharing, bicycles and, why not, pleasant walks along the seaside!



Consult the pocket programme to find all the Symposium materials through **QR codes**: light and eco-friendly!



Download the App and receive **notifications** of important information during the Symposium: no more printed communications!





BERN/SWITZERLAND  
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#### THE ORGANISERS

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OF PORCINE HEALTH  
MANAGEMENT

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#### ORGANISING SECRETARIAT



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