MEMBERSHIP

The Group is composed of internationally recognized scientists in companion animal gastroenterology:

- Dr. Thomas Bilzer,
  University of Dusseldorf (Germany), Pathology
- Dr. Michael Day,
  University of Bristol (England), Pathology
- Dr. Edward Hall,
  University of Bristol (England), Internal Medicine
- Dr. Albert Jergens,
  Iowa State University (USA), Internal Medicine
- Dr. Joanne Mansell,
  Texas A & M University (USA), Pathology
- Dr. Takeo Minami,
  Histo-Vet, Pet-Vet, Yokohama (Japan), Pathology
- Dr. Brian Wilcock,
  University of Guelph/HistoVet (Canada), Pathology
- Dr. Robert Washabau,
  University of Minnesota (USA), Internal Medicine - convener
- Dr. Michael Willard,
  Texas A & M University (USA), Internal Medicine

INTERESTED IN FINDING MORE ABOUT THE GUIDELINES:

Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Standards Available at:
http://www.wsava.org/standardizationgroup.htm


SPONSORSHIP

The Group’s efforts are supported by the WSAVA, an organization with over 75,000 members from 80 member associations, and Hill’s Pet Nutrition, a global leader in pet nutrition.
BACKGROUND

Gastrointestinal diagnosis in companion animals has been plagued by many difficulties, particularly in the histologic interpretation of intestinal biopsies. What constitutes normal intestinal morphology is only now being determined, and the recognition of subtle abnormalities is challenging. Although a number of criteria can be applied in the examination of biopsy specimens, the interpretation by any pathologist is often quite subjective, and discrepancies in biopsy reports between different pathologists are surprisingly common.

Consequently, several groups (including the Comparative Gastroenterology Society, European Society for Comparative Gastroenterology, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, and European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine) have called for national and international efforts to standardize the histologic evaluation of the gastrointestinal tract of cats and dogs.

SPECIFIC AIMS

The aim of this endeavor is to obtain a worldwide standard for the histological evaluation of the gastrointestinal tract of cats and dogs. With the support of the WSAVA, the International Gastrointestinal Standardization Group proposes to develop a standardized histologic evaluation system that will be applied to all companion animal gastrointestinal disorders. Standardization will yield several obvious benefits including uniform diagnosis and staging of disease and the subsequent development of controlled clinical trials for the treatment of G.I. disease.

Meetings of the International Working Group are held at annual meetings of the ACVIM, ECVIM, and WSAVA for the purposes of elevating the visibility and stature of the Working Group in the eyes of the relevant International Specialty Colleges.