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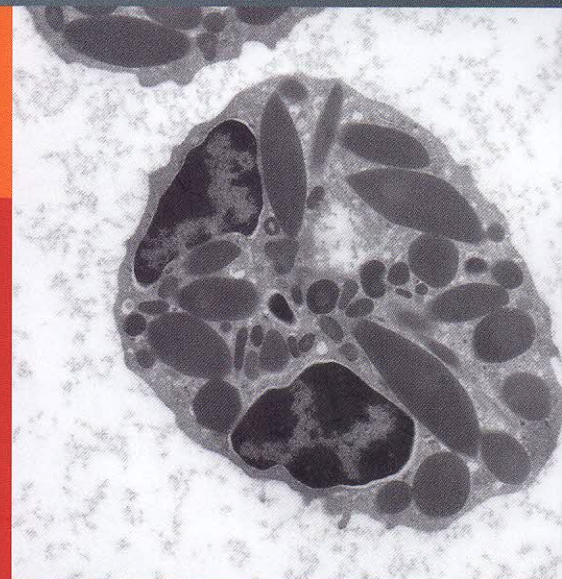
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Guest Editors:

Aurel Damian
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Conclusions: The data suggest that the neuroprotective effect of bFGF in the retina is mediated in part by prevention of the cytotoxic swelling of retinal glial cells. The swelling-inhibitory effect of bFGF might be mediated by induction of autocrine/paracrine glial glutamate signaling.

15 - Potcasts for teaching veterinary anatomy

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Introduction: Students use multimedia-supported teaching material with increasing frequency and intensity. Integration of this material with other formats is of paramount importance and improves students' learning success. The working group "VetAnaTube" at the Institute of Veterinary Anatomy in Leipzig deals with the production of various kinds of multimedial learning material. Among these especially "potcasts" are used frequently by students. Potcasts are audiovisual flash-animations of specimens of the anatomical museum (from formalin-pot to potcast). The objective of the study was to evaluate whether and to which extent potcasts enhance the learning effect in veterinary anatomy in comparison to traditional media.

Methods: Two potcasts featuring the anatomy of the tongue were produced. A photograph of a specimen was combined with a descriptive text and additional information to an animation using the software Adobe Flash Professional. First and 2nd year students ($n = 101$) were randomly allocated to a "potcast-group" and a "text-group". After the same time period of preparation (watching the potcast vs. reading the text) students took a written mini-exam. In addition the potcast-group was asked to fill in a feedback sheet (6 step Lickert-scale).

Results: Evaluation of the test revealed that the potcast-groups of both years achieved better results compared to the text-groups. These differences varied within the individual questions. The total results for given right answers of the 1st year students show that the potcast group (44.1% right) was up to 9.5% better than the text group (34.6% right). In comparison 2nd year students in both groups achieved higher rates of right answers (73.8–81.9%)%, with a difference of 8.1% in favor of the potcast group.

Conclusions: In our study potcasts significantly improve knowledge retention and learning success in comparison to simple text forms. They are suitable for acquiring new as well as for refreshing existing knowledge in veterinary anatomy.

16 - Probiotic effect on Broilers' liver morphology in T-2 mycotoxicosis

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Introduction: T-2 toxin is a trichothecene mycotoxin produced by some *Fusarium* fungi. The harmful consequences on liver activity either after short-term or prolonged administration of dietary T-2 mycotoxin (T2) were noticed. Recently, researchers have focused on the use of probiotics as potential mycotoxin adsorbents. Therefore, the aim of this study was to examine the effect of probiotic *Enterococcus faecium* DSM 7134 (probiotic) on broiler's liver morphology after T-2 mycotoxicosis.

Methods: Eighty day-old broilers were divided in four groups: control (C); T-2 (T2); probiotic (P) and probiotic with T-2 (P+T2). T-2 toxin was given in a single dose of 0.250 mg/bird/day, for three consecutive days, starting from the fourth day. The probiotic in concentration of 3.3×10^9 cfu, was administered in drinking water in quantity of 0.2 g/l, in groups P and P+T2, from day one till the end of the experiment. All animals were given feed and water ad libitum. Twenty-four hours after the last application, the liver was fixed in buffered 10% formalin, embedded in paraffin, serially cut at 5 μ m and stained with haematoxylin and eosin.

Results: Compared to controls, the body weight of T2 group was significantly decreased by 27.26%, while the body weight of P+T2 was decreased by 19.8%, compared to P. The relative liver weight in T2 group was significantly increased by 5.30% compared to control. Histopathological analyses of T2 group showed several destructed areas with cell necrosis, the presence of mononuclear cell infiltration and fatty degeneration. Small lipid vacuoles in hepatocytes' cytoplasm were noticed in P group. Analysis of P+T2 group showed lipid infiltration with mixed big and small vacuoles as well as fewer destructed areas compared to T2 group.

Conclusions: The obtained results underline the potential benefit from the use of *Enterococcus faecium* DSM 7134 probiotic counteracting the mycotoxin effect upon liver morphology.

The experimental protocol was approved by the Local Ethical Committee in conformity with the recommendation provided in the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes (ETS no. 123, Appendix A).