## Update on spermatology

This symposium, arranged by CRU and SLU's Research School GS-VMAS, took place on 11<sup>th</sup> April and was attended by 26 participants. The first speaker, Antonio Rocha, talked about some of the work in reproduction that is going on at the University of Porto, particularly in horse reproduction.

After some questions from the audience, the presentations continued with Alessandra Rota, who led an entertaining discussion on donkey spermatozoa, in particular the differences between donkeys and other equids. It was interesting to have an insight into the differences between closely related species.

Just before the coffee break, the audience was shown some pictures of bovine spermatozoa with abnormal morphology and two questions were posed for the audience to consider during the coffee break. Afterwards, there was a short debate on the cause of the defect seen and what could be done about it.

Joyce Parlevliet who talked about two reproductive pathogens, Taylorella equigenitalis, the causal organism of Contagious Equine Metritis, and Schmallenberg virus. She raised the question of whether these diseases, which caused serious symptoms when they first appeared, are now more of a political issue than a disease one. This question was debated intensively by the audience.

The fourth speaker, Bart Leemans, described his experiments with an *in vitro* model to study spermoviduct interactions. Such a model could be particularly useful for studying the event surrounding equine fertilization, since it is still not possible to perform *in vitro* fertilization in this species.

The whole programme was much appreciated by the audience, who participated enthusiastically with many questions.

## Programme

- Animal Spermatology at the University of Porto. Prof Antonio Rocha, University of Porto
- Donkey sperm move differently. Assoc Prof Alessandra Rota
- Quiz on sperm morphology. Prof Jane Morrell
- Reproductive diseases in livestock. Assoc Prof Joyce Parvlevliet
- A 3D oviduct model to study sperm-oviduct interaction. Dr Bart Leemans, University of Gent