

Dear Friends,

We believe that the European Union (EU) would be our ideal supporter and applaud all our efforts to strengthen palliative care. Our projects on quality standards, education and networking should absolutely fit well into the ambitions of EU! The reality turns out to be different. Our joint proposal (together with many of you) to the Fifth framework programme was not a success - it was turned down. The present EU programme on public health does unfortunately not include anything that would fit into our goals and we have decided not to send in a grant proposal.

However, we are convinced that the networking, and the projects on standards and teaching/education are needed! Without a large EU grant the work will take longer but the direction is the same. For example, the work on standards has begun and a first review on existing standards was presented at the Hague Congress. The abstract can be found on the EAPC web site with a link to the congress programme. A list of standards of palliative care and contact addresses is found on the EAPC-east web site.

Opioid availability. How do you manage to change?

Read a report from Romania on the theme of how to be able to handle opioids otherwise than today. They are in the midst of the changing process. The Romanian report can be downloaded from the web site. If you have questions please do not hesitate to get in contact with the person that has stated name and e-mail address, in this case Daniela Mosoiu.

Italy reforms national policy on pain and opioids

Italy recently took steps to reform its national narcotics and opioid prescribing policy, according to a recent article published in the European Journal of Cancer Care. A working group appointed by Italy's Ministry of Health obtained assistance from the Wisconsin-based Pain & Policy Studies Group (PPSG) and the World Health Organization's guidelines to achieve a more balanced opioids control policy.

The full text of the article can be found on the Pain & Policy Studies Group Website at:
<http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/publicat/03ejcc/italy.pdf>

The Journal of Palliative Medicine

We can offer 21 issues of the Journal of Palliative Medicine issues from 1999-2002. They are sent free of charge to your institution/department/unit etc on a first come first served basis. Let us know if you are interested in receiving them.
The earlier offered journals were sent to the Czech Republic, Georgia, Slovakia.

News for members in EAPC

A pdf file of one selected paper from each issue of Palliative Medicine will be available on the members-only area on the EAPC web site www.eapcnet.org.

British Medical Journal – free online

As we have mentioned before the BMJ is free online and we just want to give some examples of articles that might be of interest.

Doctors told to use positive language in managing pain, Christopher Zinn
BMJ 2003;326 301

Managing communication with young people who have a potentially life threatening chronic illness: qualitative study of patients and parents, Bridget Young, Mary Dixon-Woods, Kate C Windridge, and David Heney

BMJ 2003;326 305 - http://bmj.com/cgi/collection/patient_caregiver_communication

TIPS ON...Giving poster presentation, Mark Griffiths

BMJ 2003;326 46

Information on the web in Russian!

Department of Pain and Palliative Care at Beth Israel Medical Center (US) has produced several modules and translated them into Russian.

You will find them at: <http://stoppain.org/multimedia/russian.html>

We asked a Russian speaking palliatour for her view on the site, Elena Vvedensky:

1. I liked it. It is well done, Russian is perfect.
2. But all information I found in Russian is, I would say, for patients, public (and nurses may be) and doctors who are at the very beginning of their career. All those doctors who have been already involved in PC and medicine as a whole do know this information. This is my opinion.
3. The other part is in English and like many PC sites. May be I couldn't find the Russian version of the PC information on the left site. It is nicely done and interesting.

Pediatric palliative care

A site specially for pediatric palliative care you will find at www.ippcweb.org

The End of Life Physician Education Resource Centre – eperc-update@mcw.edu

Is a web site with lots of useful and generous information specially on educational material. The information below comes from that site.

Popular Power Point from Rallying Points Clay Anderson, MD, who chairs the Missouri End-of-Life Coalition, recently offered to share his 41-slide power point presentation that provides an overview that introduces the subject of end of life care, explains palliative care and talks about how it fits in with hospice and curative treatment across the disease trajectory. It also explains the hopes and rewards of understanding palliative care. Anderson has generously offered to share this presentation with anyone who asks, with the proviso that it receives appropriate attribution. To request the presentation or to join the Rallying Points Midwest listserve, which is open to anyone, contact Carla Gentry at mailto: cgentry@midbio.org

There are some questions and discussion opportunities under Forum on the web site www.eapceast.org. You will have to be registered to get in. If you are not registered yet, then go to the web site and do!

Let us hear from you, share your achievements and also share good ideas for others to get inspired by.

Greetings from Stockholm dressed in a delightful green and sunny colour!

Sylvia Sauter

Carl Johan Fürst

E-mails with old e-mail addresses come bouncing back. Hot-email addresses are sometimes “closed” and we have no possibility to resend the Newsletters and make inquiries. Please help us out and let us know if you change e-mail address or do not wish to get further issues of the Newsletter.