

Report on the EAPC Web Site - www.eapcnet.org

General Assembly 1 April 2001, Palermo 7th Congress of the EAPC

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The EAPC web site was launched in June 1999.

Objectives

- To support the aims of the EAPC by increasing awareness and promoting the development of palliative care
- To provide updated information as quickly as possible to our members
- To include all current and future activities of the EAPC.

Two years after its launch, the site is now being redesigned, reorganised and restructured for a second time - to take advantage of the latest advances in technology and also because of the following:

1. The dynamic development of the EAPC and its activities
2. The adaptation of a structure more suitable to the advancement of the Association
3. The creation of a more complex communication policy, which also includes the *European Journal for Palliative Care* (EJPC) and the Congress web sites.

Our official journal, the *EJPC* is published six times a year in English and French simultaneously. The *EJPC* also has its own web site to which our site is linked. This site not only contains information on current issues covered by the journal, but also information on back issues and lists of articles that have been published. Online feedback allows to comment on any articles and features in the journal. Full details of the site are found in every issue of the journal.

Our experience over the last few years shows that a web site for an association of our kind, especially working on an international basis, requires regular updates. This demands a technology that allows easy and quick updates, which can be carried out by staff who are not IT professionals.

An association's web site should not only report the activities of the Association, but it should be a reference point from which you can access detailed information about palliative care all over the world. Therefore, we will structure the updated version our web site into three main parts:

The first part is linked to the institutional information about the Association

About the EAPC

- President's message
- Aims and objectives
- Board
- By-laws
- Assemblies

Membership (how to join)

- Individual members (English),
- Membres individuels (Français)
- National associations - 'collective' membership (English)
- Associations nationales – membres 'collectives' (Français)
- List of EAPC collective members
- EAPC membership yesterday and today

The second aims to provide everybody with information about EAPC activities:

Task forces

- Internal rules
- Eastern countries
- Education
- Ethics
- Organisation

Research Network

- Internal rules
- Research *general info* (with sub-menu)
 - Research *activities* (with sub-menu)

Publications

- EJPC
- EAPC News

Congresses

- Latest news about EAPC Congresses deadlines

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- The Hague 2003
- Previous Congresses

The third contains lists and directories, where you can access detailed information about the field of palliative care:

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|----------------------|---|
| <u>Publications</u> | - Other publications (under construction) |
| | - Laws and document (under construction) |
| <u>Organisations</u> | - The list of all organisations in palliative care known to the EAPC including the EAPC collective members) |
| <u>Congresses</u> | - Events calendar (to be updated every two weeks or at least every month) |
| <u>Links</u> | - Palliative care associations |
| | - Information services |
| | - Journals and online resources |
| | - Pain |
| | - Education |
| | - Miscellaneous |

What are the challenges for the future?

1. Completing the directory about laws and documents of official (governmental) bodies
2. Making the site interactive – to permit communication with members directly onsite.
 - Discussion forums following EAPC Congresses
 - Moderated discussion forums on burning topics
 - Chat
 - Online help service for professionals.....
3. Encouraging members and National Associations to use the site to learn about and profit from what happens in Europe
4. Getting the members and National Associations to *regularly* forward national and local information they consider important to be brought to the knowledge of all their colleagues.
5. Including an information service about what happens at the European Community, the European Council, and the European Parliament regarding palliative care.

Questions for the future

1. Would an international or European site for patients and family members be useful?
2. Would a section in collaboration with national and international associations for the defence of the rights of the patients be useful?