

Report of the President of the EAPC

Presented at the General Assembly of the EAPC, Granada, Spain, 26 April 2003

Introduction

During the first year of this board (1999-2003) some priorities were identified:

- Communication with the Members
- Improve an open and creative forum for the development of all aspects of palliative care
- Be a partner in the development of palliative care in Eastern Europe
- Organise the biannual EAPC conference, and smaller conferences such as the Congress on Research
- Establish time limited working groups and task forces working on specific topics

There has been a great deal of activity during the last year since the General Assembly was held in Palermo in April 2001. The EAPC counts now about 200 individual members and 27 Associations from 18 countries as collective members representing approximately 50000 persons. Most of the association's activity has been reported regularly in the EAPC web site.

Communication with the members

EAPC Web site www.eapcnet.org

The web site has become an important communication tool and I strongly suggest that all members regularly visit the web to keep updated on the latest developments within the Association. For many of the topics covered in this report, more detailed information is to be found on the EAPC web site. Beginning of the year 2002 the EAPC has contracted a new technical agency, "Effeti", supporting the Webmaster to implement an access with registration and passwords.

The European Journal for Palliative Care (EJPC)

The EJPC is the official journal of the EAPC. It is a multidisciplinary journal, published 6 times a year in both English and French. EAPC members can subscribe at a special rate.

EAPC News and Views

6 issues of the EAPC News and Views have been published in the EJPC and on the EAPC web. I would like to invite our members to contribute with news from their countries to this EAPC news bulletin

Contact with the Associations EAPC Collective Members

Information to the collective members and to involve them to contribute to the European wide development of Palliative Care is prioritised. The EAPC Board of Directors have nominated an EAPC Board member to have personal contact with each Association Collective member co-ordinated by David Oliviere. The EAPC General Assembly and Board meeting in April 2002 were organised in collaboration with the Society Española de Cuidados Paliativos (SECPAL), the Spanish Organisation for Palliative Care in Granada, Spain. I personally like to thank the SECPAL for given us the opportunity to take part in their organisation, and for their great hospitality by given us the opportunity to organise the meetings.

EAPC Projects

Eastern Europe

Another priority is to support the development of palliative care in Eastern Europe. Through a grant from the Open Society Institute (OSI – a George Soros Foundation), the EAPC co-ordination centre at Stockholms Sjukhem Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden, has been funded for its second year.

Research Network

The results of the work of six working groups have now been published. Two more papers are in preparation. The RSC has organised a cross-sectional survey, preliminary results were presented at the 7th Congress of the EAPC in Palermo, 2 April 2001. Two papers are in preparation. The results will be discussed in detail at the Second Congress on Research in Lyon May 2002. Frances Sheldon, had to withdraw from her commitment as member of the Research Steering Committee (RSC), for personal reasons. On behalf of the Board and of the Research Steering Committee, I would like to thank her for all her contribution to EAPC, first within the EAPC Board and lately in the RSC.

Taskforces

The strength and influence of the EAPC depends upon the contribution and activity of its Members. One year ago the EAPC decided to channel the activities into focused areas – by establishing Task Forces.

Members and Collective Members may make proposals for topics of projects to be covered by a Task Force, which will be considered by the Board.

Ethics Task Force

The Board have established a task force to update and revise the position paper on euthanasia that was published in the first edition of the European Journal of Palliative Care (EJPC). The group met twice since the 7th EAPC Congress and has finalised a paper that is presented to the EAPC Board of Directors for comments in April 2002. A more detailed

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Palliative Care and the Elderly

Vittorio Ventafridda, has taken the initiative to host and organise a working party on Palliative Care in the Elderly on behalf of the Floriani Foundation, as collaboration project with WHO and EAPC. An international working group has been established, chaired by Irene Higginson and Vittorio Ventafridda with representatives from Europe and North America. One of the aims is to publish a review/state of the art paper and recommendations on the topic. Marilene Filbet, EAPC Board member has proposed an EAPC task force to follow up the above mentioned meeting.

EAPC Congresses

7th EAPC Congress – Palermo, Italy, 1-5 April 2002

1850 people from 45 Countries participated in the congress. The Congress was a great success for the EAPC and contributed to the promotion of Palliative Care in Italy. I would like to thank Dr. Giorgio Trizzino and Dr. Sebastiano Mercadante for the major contribution in the planning of the congress and the organisation of the event.

2nd Congress on Research – Lyon, France, 23-25 May 2002

At the 2nd Congress more than 500 participants have already registered and the scientific committee has received 216 Abstracts of those 71 Abstracts were included in the scientific programme for oral presentation.

8th EAPC Congress – The Hague, The Netherlands, 2-5 April 2003

The planning and the promotion of the congress is in progress. The Scientific Committee has been established and meets 3 times before the Congress. A contract has been signed with Kenes – Professional Congress Organisers for the organisation of this event. The Local Organising Committee is closely collaborating with Kenes for all that concerns the managing of the organisation on site. The entire work is co-ordinated by the Congress Co-ordinator at the Head Office, Antonella Lio, and the Chair of the Scientific Committee, Stein Kaasa. We are expecting between 1800 and 2500 participants.

3rd Congress on Research – 2004

The Board has recently approved the proposal of the Research Steering Committee to hold the next conference in Milan, in the year 2004.

9th EAPC Congress – 2005

The 9th EAPC Congress will be held in Eastern Europe. The Board has recently received two applications, one from Budapest (Hungary), and one from Lubiana (Slovenia). Further evaluation will be needed to come to a final decision.

EAPC Management

Board of Directors

The EAPC Board of Directors has met 5 times since the last General Assembly: The meetings of the Board and all the committees nominated by EAPC are listed on the EAPC Web site as soon as they are decided.

Head Office

The Head Office of EAPC has been based at the National Cancer Institute of Milan since 1998. I would again like to thank Dr. Franco De Conno, Director of the Division of Rehabilitation and Palliative Care at the Institute for hosting the Head Office. The EAPC Board has appointed Franco De Conno Honorary Director of the EAPC. Heidi Blumhuber has been confirmed Executive Officer of the EAPC. It is now one year that Francesca Salati is working as a secretary with her at the Head Office. The EAPC Congress activities have increased substantially therefore Antonella Lio, previous assistant of the local organiser of the 7th EAPC Congress, Palermo 2001 was hired at the Head Office, being responsible for congress organisations of the EAPC.

Finances

The EAPC is financially healthy thanks to the regular income from the biennial conferences and thanks to the EAPC Web site both important vehicles for the Executive Officer to attract and keep major sponsors to support the EAPC. (For more details please see the financial report and budget Annexes 2/1, 2/2 and 3 of Minutes of the GA 2002).

Election Committee

The EAPC Board decided to establish an Election Committee in order to have a neutral body oversee the organisation and conduct of the elections to the next Board of Directors in 2003. (For more details please see annex 6 of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2002).