

# **Report 2003 of the Research Network of the EAPC**

## **For the General Assembly of the EAPC, The Hague, Netherlands, 02 April 2002**

### **Introduction**

During the last year most of the energy of the Research Steering Committee (RSC) was put in the organisation of the biennial EAPC Research Forum 2002 Lyon, France and 2004 Stresa, Italy. The RSC met once and the Scientific Committee of the Research Forum 2004 met twice. Augusto Caraceni announced to leave the RSC, if elected to the Board of Directors. At the meeting in The Hague two new members were welcomed. Florian Strasser, Switzerland and Pal Klepstad, Norway

### **Experts groups and publications**

The results of seven of the nine expert working groups organised have now been published, one of them in 6 languages and have been made available to the EAPC members. The RSC obtained the right to put a pdf file of 5 of the papers to be downloaded from our Web in <http://www.eapcnet.org/researchNetwork/expertgroups.asp>. One further paper is ready for publication and another one is in preparation.

The RSC committee is preparing the proposals for 2 expert groups and evaluating 7 possible studies at European level.

### **Expressions of Interest to the European Community**

The Research Network has participated in two Expressions of Interest presented to the European Community in 2002. The Expression of Interests are not project applications, but organisations were given the opportunity to express what they thought should be priority topics in the new EU 6th Framework Research Programme.

At the Congress of the Research Network of the EAPC in Lyon Giovanni Gambassi from Università Cattolica in Rome presented a preliminary draft of the Project **PAIN-QUAKE** to the RSC. Following the core group of investigators met at the Division of Rehabilitation and Palliative Care of the National Cancer Institute, in Milan. The Integrated project had the following objectives: to improve the standards of pain control among elderly patients with cancer, thereby ameliorating quality of life for millions of people. It is proposed that this can be achieved with the following intermediate objectives:

1. encourage adoption of evidence-based, clinical practice guideline
2. design, implement and validate improved and innovative intervention strategies
3. translate pharmacy-genomic knowledge about analgesic effect into application for novel drugs discovery, and modelling of new clinical-decision support system.

It is proposed to adopt a strategic intervention combining the adoption of a last-generation comprehensive geriatric assessment instrument (complemented by a pain scale and additional clinical, pharmacological and biochemical data), a decision support system with embedded the most updated clinical practice guidelines, a technological support that would make them easily available, and an educational intervention. In addition, genomic analyses in those patients with inadequate or no response to opioids will be used to inform new and improved guidelines, but also to stimulate novel drugs discovery and health care planning at large.

The second Expression had the title **Terminal Care – Allocating Time, Services and Money**

It can be viewed at: [http://eoi.cordis.lu/dsp\\_details.cfm?ID=36488](http://eoi.cordis.lu/dsp_details.cfm?ID=36488)

Sub-Thematic Priority most relevant to the topic:

- 1.1.7.i Knowledge-based Society and social cohesion Other relevant Sub-Thematic Priorities:  
1.1.7 Citizens and Governance in a Knowledge-based society

Both Expressions had not been selected among the high priorities. The analysis of the Expression of Interest can be downloaded from : <http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/eoi-analysis.htm>

The 6th Framework Programme was launched at the end of last year. It was supposed to be formed by the EOIs, but is formulated in a very broad way. Nor Pain quake neither Terminal care are specifically mentioned. The deadline of the first call for proposals is 15 April 2002 deadline no applications were made.

### **2nd EAPC Research Forum– Lyon, France, 23-25 May 2002**

The forum was organised by Marilene Filbet, chair of the organising committee and Philippe Poulain, chair of the Scientific Committee supported by the Research Steering committee. The event was hosted in the École Normale Supérieure of Lyon and was realised with the support and collaboration of the Société Française d'Accompagnement et de Soins Palliatifs (SFAP).

Five hundred and twenty-five participants from thirty-six countries (from Europe and overseas) have attended the Forum and two hundred and two abstracts have been submitted, showing the increasing interest in Research among palliative care specialists. It is also very interesting the large number of countries (and continents) represented by the abstract submitters: UK, France, The Netherlands, Italy, USA, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Canada, Poland, Sweden, Spain, Austria, Russia, Australia, Latvia, Czech Republic, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Cambodia, Iceland, Israel.

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Sixty-eight Speakers have been invited to share with the participants their experience and knowledge acquired through their activity in the different countries they came from: UK, France, Italy, Israel, Belgium, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Norway, Greece, Spain, Denmark, Canada, Germany.

The purpose was to offer the audience the widest possible overview of the outcomes of Research from a geographical but also from a professional point of view. In fact the invited speakers represented the following professions and specialities: physicians, nurses, social scientists, ethicists, pharmacists, anaesthesiology, neurology, oncology, pain therapy, palliative medicine, pharmacology, psychiatry, psychosomatic medicine and statistics.

Seventy-one abstracts have been selected for an oral presentation, showing the high quality of papers submitted. Some of them were included in the sessions held by the invited speakers, other sessions were specifically organised instead for the selected abstracts and they were well received and attended by a lot of delegates.

One hundred and thirty-one posters were displayed and the quality was excellent. Chosen reviewers have assessed the posters and the six best posters were awarded. The six authors will receive a free registration to the 8th Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care that will be held in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 2-5 April 2002.

On the first day of the congress the Scientific Committee has also offered the participants a Course in Methodology of Research, focused on: Basic principles, Measurement, Selecting a tool for an adequate measurement, The different stages of the development of a scale, Reliability, Validation strategies, Cross-cultural aspects, Case examples in Quality of Life and Pain measurement, Correlation between scales, Interpretation strategies. The course was addressed to young researchers who have recently approached the activity, as well as experienced researchers eager to exchange their expertise with others.

The Research Steering Committee is confident that the Congress has provided a valuable input to the development of palliative care within Europe and the results are evident already from the new ideas and plans for future projects that have derived from the event in Lyon. EAPC and the Research Network have received an income of 36009 Euro each for the Year 2003 for their running cost.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> EAPC Research Forum , Stresa, Lago Maggiore, Italy, 4-6 June 2004**

The scientific committee has met in Milan in September 2002 and on 1 April 2003. The preliminary scientific programme is online <http://www.eapcnet.org/research2004/Programme/> and printed copies have been distributed at the 8<sup>th</sup> EAPC Congress (The Hague, 2-5 April 2003) at the EAPC stand.

The leading theme of the Forum is “**Methodology for Palliative Care Research**”. Therefore, each session will be methodology-oriented.

There will be 4 types of parallel sessions:

- The “**Education**” sessions will be organised as “teaching” sessions. They will be headed by 2 Coordinators who will make a presentation and then interact with the audience. No free communications will be included in this type of sessions.
- The “**New Research Data**” sessions will be organised as “free communication” sessions, based on the highest rated abstracts selected for an oral presentation. These sessions will be headed by 2 Coordinators who will chair the session and moderate the discussion. They will also play a decisive role in the selection of the abstracts – see below “Criteria for selection of abstracts”
- The “**Workshops**” will be organised as “open discussions” on specific topics.
- **Meet the Expert:** In specific time slots in the morning, parallel sessions will be offered for young researchers to meet, in small groups, with experts in palliative care research from throughout Europe and from overseas.

#### **Poster Highlights**

Chosen reviewers will assess the posters that will be displayed during the Forum. Three (one for each day) outstanding posters will be selected and the presenting author will receive an award on the last day of the Forum.

**Deadline for Early registration:** 28 February 2004

The Forum will have an upper limit of 500 participants.

The Registration form is online: <http://www.eapcnet.org/research2004/registration/>

**Deadline for Abstract submission:** 19 October 2003

The Abstract Form is online: <http://www.eapcnet.org/research2004/AbstractForm/>

Accepted Abstracts (both oral and poster) will be published in “**Palliative Medicine**” as well as on the Forum Web Site.

#### **Criteria for selection of the Abstracts:**

Chosen Reviewers will make a first selection.

There will be 2 sets of scores:

1. 1 to 5: related to the various categories (Relation to palliative care; Relation to research; Originality of research; Quality of methodology; Impact on palliative care)
2. 1 to 5: overall score

The Coordinators of each “New Research Data” session will make a second selection, based on the Reviewers' ratings.

The Executive Scientific Committee will make the final selection of the abstracts to be included in the sessions.

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The Presenting Author of the abstracts selected for an **Oral** presentation will have a **10% reduction** on the registration fee.

The official language of the Forum is **English**. No translation will be provided.