

Collective member associations

The EAPC now has 27 collective member associations (CMAs). The EAPC Board of Directors has agreed on the updated conditions and procedures for collective members. Consequently, all members of a CMA have the right to:

- A reduced subscription fee to the *European Journal of Palliative Care (EJPC)*, the official journal of the EAPC. The name of the association should be indicated on the subscription form
 - A reduced registration fee for EAPC events including the biennial congresses. The name of the association should be indicated on the registration form
 - A reduced price for all EAPC publications, which are not free.
- Furthermore, all CMA members can ask the EAPC to send regular information by email. The Board of Directors or a liaison person can provide a list of their members who want to take advantage of this.

The EAPC Board of Directors decided in its last meeting to nominate an EAPC Board member to act as contact person with each CMA. They will contact the collective members personally to see how they can contribute to the EAPC in its activities and receive comments to collectively improve the quality of palliative care worldwide.

Associations can become collective members following a decision by their Board to join the EAPC. The membership application forms of all Board Members should be forwarded to the EAPC Head Office with an official letter from the president, stating the decision of the board to apply for collective membership and citing the minutes of the meeting.

Associations from Eastern Europe, who have financial difficulties, can be represented by one paying member only, who should preferably be the President. The association will be represented with one voting right at the EAPC general assemblies, but all members will still have all other advantages and can regularly receive information from the EAPC. The registration fee for 2002 for one member is 40 Euros.

www.eapcnet.org

The webmasters and the Board of Directors have decided to implement major changes to the EAPC website in 2002, which includes the introduction of a login system with three levels of access:

- Level one – accessible by the general public. No login is necessary
- Level two – a section with access with a password only; to obtain a password, a registration form must be filled in
- Level three – members only access. A user ID and a personalised password is required, which allows the entire site to be seen, and the possibility of participating in discussion forums.

The reorganisation of the site is due to be finalised at the end of April.

9th EAPC Congress to be held in Eastern Europe?

The EAPC Board of Directors wishes to host the 9th EAPC Congress in 2005 in an Eastern European country. EAPC conferences have previously given significant prominence to the development of palliative care in Europe. We would now like to concentrate on palliative care in Eastern Europe. The EAPC East initiative would

like to invite colleagues from any Eastern European country to propose venues to hold the 9th EAPC Congress.

The potential town or city should be prepared to receive more than 2,000 participants. It is important that a national or local organisation or association collaborates with the EAPC and its professional congress organiser. To select the best place for the 2005 conference, we would like you to send us your proposals within the next month (no later than 15 April 2002). Please do not hesitate to contact either the EAPC Head Office (eapccongress@isitutumori.mi.it) or the President of the EAPC, Stein Kaasa (stein.kaasa@medisin.ntnu.no).

I look forward to hearing from you.
Stein Kaasa, EAPC President

Research news

The Research Steering Committee would like to announce that the following article *Episodic (breakthrough) pain* written following a consensus conference of an expert working group of the EAPC has been published in *Cancer* 2002; **94**: 832–839.

Dr Mercadante is currently in contact with the publishers for the rights for EAPC to publish the paper on the web.

The Lyon conference

The Scientific Programme Committee has accepted 200 abstracts from 25 different countries. Of these, 147 were submitted in English and 53 in French. Each abstract has been submitted to experts and professionals who have based their assessment on the following: relation to palliative care; relation to research; originality of research; methodology, quality of results and impact on palliative care.

The Committee has selected the abstracts that are suitable for oral presentation. The authors will be given the opportunity to participate as a speaker in a session of the scientific programme.

EAPC East news

We are happy to announce that six EAPC-OSI grantees for the 2nd Congress of the Research Network of EAPC in Lyon, have been selected. The grantees come from Albania, Latvia, Moldova, Poland and Russia.

The EAPC Task Force on Euthanasia

In 1994, the EAPC produced its first official statement on euthanasia. In February 2001, a multinational group of researchers – the Ethics Task Force on Palliative Care and Euthanasia – was asked by the EAPC board to update its position on this subject – see www.eapcnet.org/taskforces/ethics.html. The original document from 1994 is also available on the web.

Since 1994, major developments have been achieved in palliative care. At the same time, there has been much discussion – some of it controversial – on euthanasia and medically assisted suicide. There has also been new legalisation in some countries. In 1996, both voluntary euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide became legal acts under the Rights of the Terminally Ill Amendment Act 1996, in Australia's Northern Territory. However, the law was repealed by the National Parliament in 1997. That year, physician-assisted suicide (but not euthanasia) was legalised according to the The Oregon Death with Dignity Act. In 2001, the Dutch parliament made the necessary changes to the penal code to make

both euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide legal under certain circumstances – a law that took effect from January 2002. It now seems clear that Belgium will follow suit.

The final meeting of the task force was in Sion, Switzerland, on 14–15 March 2002. The deadline for submitting the task force's proposal to the board is April 2002.

Euthanasia: the position of the Swiss Association for Palliative Care

Since the Swiss Association for Palliative Care (SAPC) considers itself as an important partner in the national debate on euthanasia, the Board decided to conduct a survey among its members.

An anonymous questionnaire was sent to the members, consisting of multiple choice questions on positions that might be adopted in different hypothetical scenarios and one open question about the rationale for the answers. The response rate achieved with one mailing was 56%. The proportion of the respondents who were opposed to different forms of euthanasia ranged from 56% opposed to physician-assisted suicide, to 90% opposed to life-terminating acts without explicit requests. Based on this survey and a discussion among the members of the Board of the SAPC, a position paper has recently been published in the *Schweizerische Arztezeitung*. Professor Friedrich Stiefel, President of the Swiss Association for Palliative Care

Congratulations

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) is pleased to announce that the Clinica Familia: Programa de Cuidados Paliativos from Chile was chosen as the winner for the

2001 IAHPC Institutional Award. The Award is directed towards both public and private non-profit institutions and its goals are to support the development of models of palliative care throughout the world; strengthen healthcare services for patients with incurable illness and their families in order to improve their quality of life; and promote the formation of alliances and work in co-operation among the healthcare professionals, academics and/or government institutions. Congratulations to all the programmes that applied for all their effort and hard work. If you are interested in learning more about Clinica Familia, please visit the IAHPC website: www.hospicecare.com/awards.htm Eduardo Bruera, MD, Chairman, IAHPC Board of Directors; Liliana De Lima, MHA, IAHPC Executive Director

Coming soon ...

For those of you familiar with our website: www.ejpc.co.uk (now www.ejpc.eu.com) you will have noticed that we have now, like the Euro, made our mark in Europe with the *European Journal of Palliative Care* adopting the French title *Journal Européen de Soins Palliatifs*, and the content being translated into Spanish on the website.

We are now becoming even more français with the creation of a completely French website (www.jesp.eu.com). This will be launched during the 2nd Research and Development Conference at Lyon (24–25 May 2002).

The site will be free to browse, use and search but full access to all of its facilities requires an e-subscription. E-subscribers will have access to the entire contents including back issues. For those of you interested in obtaining an e-subscription in English or French, please visit: www.ejpc.eu.com Christopher Tidman, Publisher of the EJPC

We would like to thank our official sponsors for 2001/2002:

