



Board of Directors and General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA) of the EAPC was held on 26 April 2002 in Granada. The minutes of the GA and all annexes are available for EAPC members on the web in the members only section.

The internal rules for the election of the next Board of Directors in 2003 were also approved at the last GA. One of the main items discussed was the rule that a Board member can only be re-elected once, giving him or her a maximum of eight years consecutively on the Board. Under this rule, only five members of the present Board of Directors can stand for re-election. At the last meeting of the Board of Directors, Michèle Salamagne, Charles-Henri Rapin and Tony O'Brien stood down from the Board, to allow new candidates the opportunity to start work immediately.

Article 9 paragraph 3 of the By-laws states that in the event of a member standing down for whatever reason the Board itself shall appoint a new member; the member so appointed remains in office until the next GA. The member then elected by the GA to replace the Board Member shall remain in office for the same period as the replaced board member would have remained.

The Board co-opted three new members. We have the pleasure of informing you that the following members have joined the Board and will remain in office until April 2003. Philip Larkin, Ireland; Françoise Porchet, Switzerland and Bernard Wary, France.

Two Auditors of Accounts stood down from their office due to professional reasons, Dr Longhini and Ersilia Todesca. The General Assembly approved the nomination of Avv. Giuffrè Bruno Giovanni and of Dr Converti Giuliana Maria. The EAPC

Board would like to thank them officially for accepting.

The EAPC Head Office and the Board would also like to express their thanks to Dssa Giovanna Frigerio for supporting the EAPC in the account keeping and drafting of the Financial reports.

The next Board meeting will be held in Italy, 20–21 September 2002.

www.eapcnet.org

The Board has asked Carlos Centeno and Carlo Peruselli to organise a small editorial Board for the EAPC website to support Heidi Blumhuber in her job as web master.

8th Congress of the EAPC

The Second Announcement and Call for Papers has been made. The deadline for abstracts is 15 September 2002. The content with details of the programme is also available on the website (www.eapcnet.org/theHague2003/).

2nd Congress of the EAPC Research Network

Following the extremely positive response to the first congress held in Berlin, in December 2000, the EAPC Research Network organised its second conference which was held in Lyon, France, on 23–25 May 2002.

The Congress was open to all carers interested and/or working in palliative care or in specialties closely connected to the field of palliative care, who wished to increase their knowledge in research.

The purpose of the Congress was to summarise and evaluate the outcomes of research in palliative care over the past years and highlight strategies for the future; as well as to critically

evaluate the latest developments and identify promising new fields. Moreover, its aim was to

- Provide opportunities for experts and people interested in research to meet
- Encourage the development of research respecting the ethical principles of palliative care
- Encourage and address research in all fields of palliative care
- Offer a training course of interest to professionals
- Discuss and assess where research is needed in palliative care
- Discuss if, where and how, such research is feasible in palliative care
- Clarify the current status of palliative care research
- Educate a broad spectrum of carers with the knowledge of research that exists among palliative care experts.

Five hundred and twenty-five participants from 36 countries (from Europe and overseas) have attended the congress and 202 abstracts were submitted, showing the increased interest in research among palliative care specialists.

In the scientific programme (four plenary lectures and 26 parallel sessions), the scientific committee gave special attention to priorities in research in palliative care; methodology; ethics and extreme situations; and research and multidisciplinary.

Sixty-eight speakers were invited to share with the participants their experience and knowledge acquired through their activity in the different countries of origin.

Our purpose was to offer the audience the widest possible overview of the outcomes of research from a geographical and professional point of view. Consequently, the invited speakers represented differing professions, including physicians, nurses, social

scientists, ethicists, pharmacists, anaesthesiology, neurology, oncology, pain therapy, palliative medicine, pharmacology, psychiatry, psychosomatic medicine and statistics.

Each one of the abstracts received has been submitted to experts and professionals who have based their assessment on ratings of:

- Relation to palliative care
- Relation to research
- Originality of research
- Methodology
- Quality of results
- Impact on palliative care.

Seventy-one abstracts were selected for oral presentation. All were well received and the sessions were attended by many delegates. One hundred and thirty-one posters were displayed. Chosen reviewers assessed the posters and the six best posters were awarded a prize. The six winning authors will receive free registration to the 8th EAPC that will be held in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 2–5 April 2002. They are: Angie Rogers, Jane Seymour Michael Wright from the UK; Yael Tibi-Lévi, Veronique Blanchet and Philippe Travade from France.

The delegates also had the opportunity of participating in a course on the methodology of research, organised by the Scientific Committee.

The course was addressed at young researchers who have recently begun in the field, as well as experienced researchers eager to exchange their expertise with others.

A limited amount of sponsor money was available for participants from Eastern European countries thanks to the SOROS Foundation.

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 already

evident from the new ideas and plans for future projects that have derived from Lyon.

Philippe Poulain, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, France; Franco De Conno, Chairman of the Research Network, Italy

3rd EAPC Congress of the Research Network

The EAPC Board approved the idea of having the Research Congress every second year. Consequently, it was proposed that Franco De Conno will chair the Scientific Committee and the 3rd Congress will be held in Italy in 2004. The place and exact dates are still to be decided. The Executive Scientific Committee will be as follows: Franco De Conno, Marie Fallon, Stein Kaasa, Mari Lloyd-Williams, Philippe Poulain, Lukas Radbruch and Florian Strasser.

Research Network news

Friedrich Stiefel stood down from the RSC to concentrate on other commitments and to allow new people to join. He proposed Mari Lloyd-Williams to join the RSC to carry on the work on psychiatry in palliative care and Florian Strasser, as a contact person for the RSC in Switzerland. Juan Manuel Nuñez Olarte had to withdraw his participation in the RSC for personal reasons. Albert Tuca has replaced him and will oversee the projects in which Spain is involved.

Stein Kaasa presented the results of the data analysis for the first two papers of the cross-sectional survey of the Research Network session at the Lyon congress. Lars Johan Materstedt, chair of the EAPC task force on euthanasia, discussed the results from the recent investigation. From this, it was suggested that a study should be established investigating the attitudes of patients towards euthanasia and

physician-assisted suicide; this proposal has now been submitted to the Research Network.

This proposal generated a lively discussion and interest. The RSC arranged an additional meeting on 25 May for all those interested. At this meeting the following countries were represented: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the UK, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

All participants of the meeting agreed that the methodology must be carefully reviewed, and that the protocol should be examined as to its applicability in other countries. Franco De Conno will host a meeting at the end of the year to discuss this.

Out and about with *EJPC*

Many of you will have seen the *European Journal of Palliative Care* (*EJPC*) out and about this year at the recent Palliative Care Congress in Sheffield and the 2nd EAPC Research and Development Congress in Lyon.

Our stand (and more importantly our rugby shirts) attracted many visitors who were keen to find out more about the journal, or to tell us how much they enjoyed reading the publication.

Suggestions for articles were much appreciated and we will be following these up over the coming months.

During our time in Lyon and Sheffield, we ran a prize draw for new subscribers and the winners were Cathy Shipman and Moira Gove, who both received a year's free subscription and a Littman Master Classic stethoscope.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to visit the stand, and we look forward to seeing you at the Hague in 2003.

Christopher Tidman, Publisher of EJPC