EAPC news and views

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EAPC General Assembly

The 2003 EAPC General Assembly will be held in The Hague, the Netherlands, during the 8th Congress of the EAPC. First call: 1 April 2003 at 11:00 at the Hotel Golden Tulip. Second call: 2 April 2003 at 12:00 at the Congress Centre.

In the first assembly, the meeting shall need the presence – in person or by proxy – of at least half the members. In the second assembly, the meeting shall be valid irrespective of the number of members attending. It is anticipated that very few representatives will be able to attend the General Assembly (GA) on the first date given, and the GA cannot be declared quorate. We have, therefore, organised the second meeting on the following day to ensure that the meeting is quorate.

The 2003 EAPC Congress

EAPC Congress audiences are diverse in character. They comprise individuals from many healthcare professions, from the social and human sciences, from public health and planning, and volunteers. Among this diverse group, knowledge and expertise also varies. International experts will be present, as well as relative newcomers to the world of palliative care. This diversity has been acknowledged within the scientific programme.

The scientific programme has now been finalised. You can find the final programme and timetable at: www.eapcnet.org/TheHague2003/

About 600 abstracts have been received. As with past EAPC congresses, the diversity of profession and nationality of the abstract submitters has once more confirmed the growing interest in palliative care and the EAPC congresses – not only in Europe, but also overseas.

The initiative of the scientific committee to invite new PhD students to submit and present their theses on research has been taken up by many researchers. In fact, several theses have been received and the EAPC Board has decided to dedicate an EAPC Award to the best thesis. The prize will be awarded during the plenary session on the last day of the congress.

3rd Forum on Research in Palliative Care

4–6 June 2004, Stresa, Lago Maggiore, Italy

On 4–6 June 2004, the EAPC will hold the 3rd Research Forum of the EAPC: Methodology for Palliative Care Research. The Forum will be held in Stresa, Lago Maggiore (Italy).

The Forum will have an upper limit of 500 participants. The official language is English and no translation will be provided.

The leading theme of the Forum is ‘methodology for palliative care research’. Therefore, each session will be methodology-oriented. There will only be one plenary session with two topics and two speakers. There will also be a one-hour round table with a maximum of three or four speakers from different professions/specialties.

Each one of the parallel sessions will be classified as ‘education’, ‘new research data’ or ‘workshop’.

The abstracts selected for oral presentations will be included in the ‘new research data’ sessions.

The abstracts will be evaluated by the Executive Scientific Committee who will base their assessment on ratings of: relation to palliative care; relation to research; originality of research; methodology; quality of results and impact on palliative care.

The selected abstracts (both oral and poster) will be published in *Palliative Medicine*.

Young researchers will also have the opportunity to meet with experts in palliative care research. Please visit our website for further details.

Deadline for abstract submission: 19 October 2003. Deadline for early registration: 28 February 2004.

For more information, visit: www.eapcnet.org/research2004/

EAPC East

Palliative care organisations in Eastern Europe are fairly new, as is the concept of palliative care. Most palliative care is operating outside the ordinary healthcare system and all possible support to people working in palliative care is essential. Sharing knowledge and information, as well as economic support, is of course welcome.

Being part of the EAPC can provide many useful contacts. However, to be in direct contact with other palliative care organisations might be even more important. Consequently, we have invited our collective member organisations from Western Europe to ‘adopt’ a ‘sister’ palliative care organisation from Eastern Europe by paying their annual EAPC membership fee for two years. Please consider the importance of such an act of solidarity. It may end with this rather limited support, but it could also develop into extended support and possible exchanges. The cost of supporting one Eastern European palliative care organisation is only €40. Thank you in advance for your support. For further information, please email: sylvia.sauter@stockholmssjukhem.se

Sylvia Sauter, Centre Manager, EAPC co-ordination centre for Eastern Europe

Just published

Transitions in End of Life Care: Hospice and related developments in Eastern Europe and Central Asia by David Clark and Michael Wright has recently been published.

An extensive summary of the report can be downloaded from the EAPC East website (www.eapceast.org).

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the book, please contact: info@eapceast.org

Volunteer movement in Europe: update

During the 7th EAPC Congress in Palermo in April 2001, we presented a census of voluntary service associations supporting palliative care in EAPC countries.

Since then, thanks to your co-operation, the available data on your association can be viewed on our website (www.fedcp.org). To update these data, we would be very grateful if you could check the information and let us know any required changes at the following address: fedcp@tin.it

We would like to thank you again for your kind collaboration.

Claude Fusco Karmann and Furio Zucco

Hellenic Society of Palliative and Symptomatic Care of Cancer and Non-cancer Patients

The Hellenic Society of Palliative and Symptomatic Care of Cancer and Non-cancer Patients (HSPSCCNCP), made up of professionals from many different fields, is dedicated to the promotion of palliative care in Greece, both in an educational capacity for healthcare professionals, and in terms of awareness on the part of patients and state authorities alike.

Within the context of continuous palliative care education, the HSPSCCNCP has organised joint meetings with local medical societies, local cancer patient organisations and the anaesthesiology departments and pain clinics of the universities of Patras and Alexandroupolis.

On 6 April 2002, we conducted a training programme on palliative and symptomatic care attended by 45 professionals from various fields.

The Society has also scheduled a one-day conference with the oncology hospital of the largest workers’ health insurance organisation in Greece, which will be held in conjunction with celebrations for the inauguration of a new palliative clinic and a home care unit for cancer patients.

Another home care unit has been established for palliative home care services, which is run by the oldest and largest pain clinic in Athens.

The increasing interest in the subject is most encouraging and we do hope that palliative and symptomatic care will soon become a reality in our country.

Associate Professor A Vadalouka, President of the HSPSCCNCP

The Population-based Palliative Care Research Network

The Population-based Palliative Care Research Network (PoPCRN) is committed to improving care for persons at the end of life by conducting rigorous, high-quality end-of-life research in settings where palliative care is provided. PoPCRN is a research network of organisations that provide hospice/palliative care, which is based at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, Colorado, USA. To date, 143 hospice/palliative care organisations from 29 US states have expressed interest in participating in PoPCRN-based studies, and 36 hospice/palliative care organisations have collected data for 12 network-based studies.

So far, PoPCRN has conducted studies of psychosocial/spiritual issues, bereavement, confusion/delirium, outcomes following hospice discharge, and the role of hospices in the education of healthcare professionals, as well as several studies focusing on symptoms and quality of life in hospice and palliative care settings.

PoPCRN is an innovative approach to improving the care provided to dying people and those around them. By including hospice/palliative care organisations that provide care via a variety of models and in diverse settings, PoPCRN is representative of a spectrum of end-of-life care. This diversity aids the rapid dissemination of study findings to the clinical setting. The collaboration between clinicians and administrators from the participating organisations and the PoPCRN research team ensures that the issues being studied are clinically relevant and that the studies themselves are rigorous and of high quality. The varied interests and areas of expertise of the PoPCRN team permit innovative approaches to conducting research in the hospice/palliative care setting. PoPCRN has the potential to serve as an ongoing ‘laboratory’ for addressing key issues in the care of dying people and those around them.

For additional information about PoPCRN, please visit: www.uchsc.edu/popcrn

We would like to thank our official sponsors for 2003: