

EAPC news and views



Board of Directors

Three board members who had been EAPC members since the beginning stood down at the Board of Directors meeting, in Granada on 27 April 2002. These were: Michele Salamagne (France), Charles Henri Rapin (Switzerland) and Tony O'Brien (Ireland). They were replaced by Phil Larkin, Registered Nurse (Ireland), Françoise Porchet, Registered Nurse (Switzerland) and Bernard Wary, Physician (France), who remained in office until April 2003. In January 2003, Lucie Hacpille replaced Bernard Wary, who stood down due to personal reasons.

Head Office

Since 1998, the Head Office of the EAPC has been based at the National Cancer Institute in Milan. Heidi Blumhuber has been confirmed as Executive Officer and Antonella Lio Congress Officer of the EAPC. In February 2003, Amelia Giordano – who has previously worked in this field and for the EAPC – joined the Head office, replacing Francesca Salati.

Finances

Up to 2002, the EAPC has been financially healthy thanks to the regular income from the biennial conferences and thanks to the EAPC website – both important vehicles in attracting sponsorship for the EAPC. The 2003 budget may need to be revised as the income from the 2003 congress is lower than expected due to fewer participants. For more details please see the financial report and budget.

Communication with our members

www.eapcnet.org

Our website now has a special 'members only' section. In April 2003, an online registration and payment system was launched, allowing members to join online. Collective members will also be able to view the 'members only' area online. The Board has also agreed to establish a web editorial board for 2003, consisting of five members.

Journals

The *European Journal for Palliative Care (EJPC)*, is the official journal of the EAPC. The *European Journal of Palliative Care* produced the Abstract Book for the 8th Congress, as well as a supplement to the journal containing the plenary lectures of the Congress. I would like to thank the editor of the journal, Andrew Hoy, and all the staff of Hayward Medical Communications for their collaboration with the EAPC since 1994.

In 2003, Geoffrey Hanks, Past President of the EAPC, became Editor-in-Chief of *Palliative Medicine (PM)*, the leading peer-reviewed journal in palliative care in Europe. The EAPC Board of Directors has decided that from the beginning of 2003 *PM* will become the 'research journal' of the EAPC, while the *European Journal of Palliative Care* remains our official journal.

We are pleased to offer a bulk subscription offer to *Palliative Medicine*. The usual individual subscription to *PM* is £148 a year, (approximately €253.53). The EAPC Board of Directors decided to use its resources to collect subscriptions online in order to offer an advantageous rate to its members. In fact, if the EAPC receives 500 individual subscriptions to the journal, the price will go down to £135 per year.

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I would like to invite all our members to contribute to this bulletin by keeping us up to date with the news from your country.

EAPC Projects

EAPC Task Force on Euthanasia

The paper produced by the EAPC Task force on euthanasia was accepted for publication in *PM* and the *European Journal of Palliative Care*. This paper is the result of the work of an EAPC task force, and not an official statement of the EAPC. It has been used to invite commentaries from individuals throughout the world and was published in a themed issue of *PM* in April 2003.

Taskforce on nurse education

A task force of palliative nursing experts has been convened. The aim of the task force is to consider recommendations for the development of palliative nurse education in Europe. This group has prepared a draft for recommendations and has circulated it to experts in the field for their comments, views and suggestions.

Taskforce on education for physicians

The EAPC Board considers undergraduate education about palliative medicine of utmost importance for the future of palliative care, and therefore decided to carry out a survey on the state of the art of education for physicians in Europe.

Taskforce on National Palliative Care Standards for organisation, services and delivery

The task force intends to provide common standards for different levels

of palliative care. The standards should be relevant for implementation in units for end of life care, such as hospices, a home care service or hospital palliative care unit.

Palliative care in the elderly

The EAPC is collaborating with a working party organised by the Floriani Foundation and chaired by Irene Higginson. A task force is to be established by Marilène Filbet.

Palliative care for children

The EAPC Board of Directors is prioritising paediatric palliative care through by promoting an EAPC Network in this field. We are in contact with colleagues involved in this field as to possible initiatives. For more information, visit www.eapcnet.org

Council of Europe

The EAPC is recognised as an NGO by the Council of Europe. Maurice Chausson (Director of the Association Pierre Clément based in Strasbourg, and Member of the Board of the Société Française de Soins Palliatifs [SFAP]) is representing the EAPC at the Council of Europe.

During the last Board Meeting of the EAPC in Les Saisies (France), Lucie Hacpille agreed to support Maurice Chausson in facilitating communication between the EAPC and the Council of Europe.

EAPC Research Network

The results of seven of the nine expert working groups organised have now been published, one of them in six languages and have been made available to the EAPC members. The RSC obtained the right to put a pdf file of five of the papers to be downloaded from our site. The RSC committee is

preparing the proposals for two expert groups and evaluating seven possible studies at European level.

3rd EAPC Research Forum

The 3rd EAPC Research Forum will be held in Stresa (Maggiore Lake), 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 and printed copies were distributed at the EAPC stand at the 8th Congress in The Hague.

EAPC Congresses

8th EAPC Congress, The Hague

I would like to thank the NPTN that has hosted the secretariat of the Local Organising committee. Special thanks goes to Frans Baar, André Rhebergen, Corry van Tol and Arianne Stoppelenburg for their major contribution in the planning and execution of the 8th EAPC Congress.

9th EAPC Congress – 2005

The board has advised not to have a full blown/core PCO[?] for this congress. This will require a certain degree of self-financing for the organisation of the congress.

Considering this new situation, the EAPC Board of Directors has decided to entrust one of the EAPC Collective Members with the organisation of our next congress in 2005. The people in charge of this have been members of the EAPC and have been working actively for the EAPC for many years. That means that our 2005 congress will not be hosted in an Eastern European country as originally planned. In fact, the Board agreed unanimously to hold the 9th Congress of the EAPC in Aachen, Germany. Lukas Radbruch and Friedeman Nauck have been appointed local organisers.

The Board aims to have lower registration fees for participants in this congress than in previous ones. The EAPC Congress officer will co-ordinate the Congress in collaboration with the local organisers.

Conclusions

I would like to thank all the members that have been on the Board over the last four years. A special thank you goes to Michele Salamagne, Charles-Henri Rapin and Tony O'Brien. I would also like to thank the National Cancer Institute and specifically Franco De Conno for hosting the EAPC Head office.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Silvio Necchi and his staff for taking care of our financial business, and thanks to all the collective members of the EAPC, and all of you, who have been working hard for the EAPC.

Finally, I would like to announce some of my wishes for the EAPC in the future.

- The overall aim is to improve palliative care for all, 'one voice – one vision' across Europe.
- Communicate and inform society in general and politicians specifically about palliative care.
- Further develop EAPC recommendations on professional education in palliative care, both undergraduate and postgraduate.
- Develop updated standards of palliative care for Europe.
- Improve palliative care, specifically for the geriatric population with and without cancer, and for the paediatric population.
- Improve the quality and quantity of palliative care research.
- Work towards the continual development of the EAPC as an interdisciplinary organisation.

Stein Kaasa, President of the EAPC

We would like to thank our official sponsors for 2003:

