

# EAPC news and views



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During the last year, most of the energy of the Research Steering Committee (RSC) was put into organising the biennial EAPC Research Forums (Lyon, France 2002 and Stresa, Italy 2004). The RSC met once and the Scientific Committee of the Research Forum 2004 met twice. Augusto Caraceni announced his intention 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).

## Expert groups and publications

The results of seven of the nine expert working groups have now been published and made available to EAPC members. A pdf file of five of the papers can be downloaded from our website ([www.eapcnet.org/ResearchNetwork/expertgroups.asp](http://www.eapcnet.org/ResearchNetwork/expertgroups.asp)). One further paper is ready for publication and another is in preparation.

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

## Second EAPC Research Forum *Lyon, France, 23–25 May 2002*

The forum was organised by Marilène Filbet, Chair of the Organising Committee, and Philippe Poulain, Chair of the Scientific Committee, supported by the RSC.

The event was hosted in the École Normale Supérieure in Lyon, with the support and collaboration of the Société Française

d'Accompagnement et de Soins Palliatifs (SFAP).

The RSC is confident that the forum 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 derived from Lyon. The EAPC and the Research Network each receive an income of €36,009 for 2003 for their running costs.

## Expressions of Interest to the European Community

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

At the Congress of the Research Network of the EAPC in Lyon, Giovanni Gambassi (Università Cattolica, Rome) presented a preliminary draft of the project PAIN-QUAKE to the RSC. Subsequently, the core group of investigators met at the Division of Rehabilitation and Palliative Care in the National Cancer Institute, Milan. The integrated project seeks 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 guidelines
2. Design, implement and validate improved and innovative intervention strategies
3. Translate pharmacy-genomic knowledge about analgesic effect

into application for novel drug discovery and modelling of new clinical-decision support systems.

It is proposed to introduce 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 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 create new and improved guidelines and also to stimulate the discovery of new drugs and healthcare planning at large.

The second EOI had the title 'Terminal Care – Allocating Time, Services and Money'. It can be viewed online at [eoi.cordis.lu/dsp\\_details.cfm?ID=36488](http://eoi.cordis.lu/dsp_details.cfm?ID=36488)

Neither EOI was selected among the high priorities. The analysis of the EOIs can be downloaded from [www.cordis.lu/fp6/eoi-analysis.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/fp6/eoi-analysis.htm)

The Sixth Framework Programme was launched at the end of last year. It was supposed to be informed by the EOIs, but is formulated in a very broad way. Neither PAIN-QUAKE nor Terminal Care are specifically mentioned.

## Third EAPC Research Forum *Stresa, Italy, 4–6 June 2004*

The Scientific Committee met in Milan in September 2002 and April 2003. The preliminary scientific programme is online ([www.eapcnet.org/research2004/Programme](http://www.eapcnet.org/research2004/Programme)) and printed copies were distributed at the 8th EAPC

Congress (held at The Hague, on 2–5 April 2003).

The leading theme of next year's forum is 'Methodology for palliative care research'. There will be four types of parallel session.

- The 'education' sessions will be organised as 'teaching' sessions. They will be headed by two co-ordinators, who will make a presentation and then interact with the audience. No free communications will be included.
- 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 two co-ordinators who will chair the session and moderate the discussion. They will also play a decisive role in the selection of the abstracts.

- The 'workshops' will be organised as open discussions focusing on specific topics.
- 'Meet the expert' sessions will be held at specific time slots in the morning. Parallel sessions will be offered for young researchers to meet experts in palliative care research.

The deadline for early registration is 28 February 2004. The forum will have an upper limit of 500 participants. The registration form can be found at [www.eapcnet.org/research2004/registration](http://www.eapcnet.org/research2004/registration)

The deadline for abstract submission is 19 October 2003. The abstract form can be found online ([www.eapcnet.org/research2004/AbstractForm](http://www.eapcnet.org/research2004/AbstractForm)). Accepted abstracts (both oral and poster) will be published in *Palliative Medicine*, as well as on the EAPC website.

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

We would like to thank our official sponsors for 2003:



# 3rd Research Forum of the European Association for Palliative Care

## "Methodology for Palliative Care Research"

Stresa, Lago Maggiore (Italy), 3-6 June 2004

### Executive Scientific Committee

Franco De Conno (I) (Chair)

Cinzia Brunelli (I), Marie Fallon (UK), Stein Kaasa (N), Mari Lloyd-Williams (UK), Philippe Poulain (F), Lukas Radbruch (D), Florian Strasser (CH)

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### Web Site

<http://www.eapcnet.org/research2004/>

### Official Language

English (no translation will be provided)

### Abstract submission

- Deadline: 19 October 2003
- Abstract Form: [www.eapcnet.org/research2004/abstractform](http://www.eapcnet.org/research2004/abstractform)

*This Forum gathers palliative care experts involved and interested in research and experts from specialities closely linked to palliative care, such as pain therapy, oncology, geriatrics and neurology*