

Remembering Frances

The palliative care community is saddened and impoverished following the death of one of its pioneers of psychosocial care. Frances Sheldon died on 26 February at Countess Mountbatten House, Southampton, where she had worked for many years. Subsequently, Frances became a Macmillan Lecturer at the University of Southampton, founding the first Masters in Psychosocial Palliative Care in Europe.

An outstanding social worker, researcher, teacher, writer and friend to many in Europe and beyond, Frances was a member of the first Board of Directors of the EAPC. She was active and innovative; her energy and organisational ability inspired the Fifth Congress of the EAPC at the Barbican, London in 1997 when she chaired the Scientific Committee. Later, she worked on the Research Network. Her wisdom was appreciated by colleagues and she

could always be trusted to contribute from her wide experience and good sense something constructive to diffuse conflict and to find a way forward. Frances' integrity has been remarked upon by many, as was her generosity of spirit and professional friendship.

A true European, she will be missed by many.

David Oliviere and Barbara Monroe, St Christopher's Hospice, London, UK

Messages of condolence from the EAPC

'Frances has been a very important person for all of us, very involved since the beginning in the EAPC.'

'A big piece of palliative care and a great friend has died.'

'We remember her honesty, her competence, and her commitment to palliative care, and her very special values in the respect for all of us.'

'We would like to pass on our support to her family in this sad moment, and gratitude for her work and commitment in palliative care.'

'And what lovely shared memories come back to me now: together, with Frances among us, we built a large working, training and research community for patients, which became the EAPC.'

'She was a great servant to EAPC and a lovely person.'

'We missed her on the board and the Research Steering Committee of the European Association of Palliative Care when she stepped down, we will miss her now much more. We will remember her forever.'

Many voices – one voice of the EAPC.

Overview of current EAPC task forces

In accordance with an internal review of current responsibilities by the Executive

Table 1. An overview of the task forces in progress

Task force	Chair	Status	Action
Euthanasia	Lars Johan Materstvedt (Norway). lars.johan.materstvedt@hf.ntnu.no	Near completion. Requires translation into German.	Phil Larkin to arrange translation. Review translation rules.
Palliative nurse education	Phil Larkin (Ireland). philip.larkin@nuigalway.ie	Near completion. Awaiting publication of editorial in <i>Palliative Medicine</i> and <i>EJPC</i> .	Phil Larkin to liaise with <i>EJPC</i> and <i>Palliative Medicine</i> .
Palliative care for children	Richard Hain (UK). HainRD@Cardiff.ac.uk and TaylorHE@Cardiff.ac.uk	Active.	Scope of task force discussed.
Palliative care development	Carlos Centeno (Spain). c.centeno@wanadoo.es	Active. Full proposal resubmitted to EAPC Board in Dec 2003.	Questionnaire preparation/distribution and literature review due spring 2004.
Palliative care standards	Carl Johan Furst (Sweden). cj.furst@stockholmssjukhem.se and sylvia.sauter@stockholmssjukhem.se	Active. Urska Lunder to visit Stockholm in 2004.	Aim for international publication in 2004. Link to palliative care directory for networking.
Palliative medical education	Marilène Filbet (France). m.filbet@libertysurf.fr	Active. One meeting held (Aachen, Dec 2003). Meta-analysis of education provision completed.	Publish meta-analysis. Further meeting proposed March 2004.
Collaboration with EURAG* (European Federation of Older Persons)	Johann Baumgartner (Austria). johann.baumgartner@kages.at	Proposed link to both the directory and standards task forces.	Conference presentation in Brussels in Jan 2004.

Committee, Phil Larkin, Vice-President, has been given responsibility for the management and development of EAPC task force initiatives. The task force programme, designed to encourage expert groups to address the clinical and organisational aspects of palliative care, continues to be successful. What is most encouraging is the willingness of colleagues to commit to their respective projects and take the time to meet, debate and finalise a project within a set time frame, given the constraints of clinical workloads, teaching and research commitments. The Board of Directors is pleased to ratify those completed projects and commend the ongoing work of those projects listed overleaf.

Table 1 gives an overview of the task forces in progress and contact details for the respective chairs.

Ethics task force on palliative care and euthanasia

Following the phenomenal success of the debate raised by the official research journal of the EAPC, *Palliative Medicine*, this task force is nearing completion in its work. The final paper has been published in English and translated so far into French and Italian, with a German translation under way.

As a result of this, a number of issues arose over the procedures adopted for the translation of this paper and subsequently reflected the need to revise the translation policy in its entirety. Lars Johan Materstvedt (Chair of the euthanasia task force) and David Clark (working group member and member of the EAPC Board of Directors) worked together on this and have refined the rules of translation which have been agreed by the EAPC Board. In effect, only papers translated in accordance with the rules below will be considered acceptable by the Board, providing a standard of equity and reliability across translations of what can often be complicated ethical and philosophical debates. The revised

policy highlights the need for conceptual equivalency in addition to word translation. In the translation of the paper on euthanasia, considerable additional work was required by the authors to ensure that meaning was not lost in the process of translation, particularly where no direct word or concept translation was apparent. The EAPC Board commend the work of this group in addressing this complicated and difficult issue and are grateful for the group's contribution for the benefit of its members.

EAPC translation policy for the ethics task force on palliative care and euthanasia

The EAPC discourages ad hoc translation. Any 'unofficial' translation that may exist should be reported to the EAPC, which will then ask the relevant parties that it be withdrawn, and instead suggest a translation process in accordance with the one described here.

- Official translations should be organised in collaboration with the national associations that are collective members of the EAPC.
- The EAPC grants the right to publish translations in the scientific journals of the national associations, or similar.
- A PDF file of the translation must always be provided for publication on the EAPC website.
- The EAPC will nominate the translator of the document.
- The Chair of the report will nominate a referee to check the translation.
- Referees' judgements would usually take precedence over those of translators.
- Both the translator and referee must be native speakers of the target translation language.
- The names of both translator (and any people who have assisted the translator) and the referee must always be given in a footnote to any translation.

- In that footnote, the English original paper must also be referenced, with a hyperlink to the full text/PDF version of the original paper, as well as to the task force's response to critics.

- The national association will, after both translator and referee have completed the translation, consult with the EAPC to facilitate translation back into English of all translations.

- Finally, after having supervised the work of translator and referee and having checked their work against the translation, the Chair, together with the group of people he chooses to consult, must give approval before any publication can take place.

It is anticipated that translators and referees will work on a voluntary basis. If this is not possible, the national associations will be asked to bear the costs of using an external service, or to provide a translator before commissioning the work.

It must also be noted that English remains the official language of the EAPC and all reports must be presented in English and approved by the Board of the EAPC before any other translation process is undertaken.

Task force on nursing education

This task force has submitted its final report to the Board of Directors, following its international consultation process and presentation at The Hague Congress in 2003. An editorial has been submitted and awaits publication in the *European Journal of Palliative Care (EJPC)* and *Palliative Medicine*. A further detailed paper will be published later this year, with options to translate it for collective members' associations. The PDF version of the report may be downloaded by members through the EAPC website.

An overview of the outstanding task forces will be published in the next issue of the *EJPC*.