



## Report on the 3rd EAPC Research Forum

The EAPC Research Steering and Scientific Committee had chosen the theme of 'Methodology of Research in Palliative Care' for its third forum to underline the difference between the EAPC research fora and the main EAPC congresses.

### The scientific programme

The scientific programme was based on four main aims:

1. To be the meeting point for experienced researchers
2. To educate and encourage new researchers
3. To present as much original information as possible and give new researchers space and visibility
4. To include and encourage clinical studies as well as qualitative and non-clinical research.

The Scientific Committee decided to include only two plenary sessions – one traditional with two keynote speakers and one plenary round table discussion. The rest of the programme consisted of four different types of sessions organised in parallel.

- Workshops – the purpose was to give participants the opportunity to explore knowledge and skills at an advanced level and to develop a critical understanding of research in the form of 'open discussions' with experts to introduce the topics. No free communication was included.
- Educational sessions – the purpose was to give participants the opportunity to learn about key concepts in research in different topics. These more basic 'teaching' sessions were organised by at least two co-ordinators/teachers. No free communication was included.

**Table 1. Distribution of posters**

Category	Selected	Presented
Assessment	24	22
Basic research	8	7
Epidemiology	6	4
Family and bereavement	14	14
Methodology	52	44
Ethics	8	7
Policy and organisation	44	34
Symptoms	40	30
Other	15	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>177</b>

- New research data sessions – these sessions were organised as 'free communication' sessions, with a maximum of eight selected abstracts (each of 15 minutes' duration), followed by discussion led by two or three chairs.

- Poster discussion sessions – these sessions were organised on the second and the third day of the Forum. The chairs selected 12 posters from Friday 4 June and nine from Saturday 5 June and invited their authors to present and discuss their posters. All authors invited to present their posters attended the session. Those posters are listed in the scientific programme online ([www.eapcnet.org/research2004/Programme/default.asp](http://www.eapcnet.org/research2004/Programme/default.asp)). In addition, the programme offered two satellite lunch symposia and two satellite workshops.

Fifty-three invited speakers contributed to the success of the scientific programme as Chairs, co-ordinators or speakers.

A total of 308 abstracts were submitted. They were classified into the groups listed in Table 1 and had been sent to two independent reviewers. The Scientific Committee had made the final selections of the posters and oral presentations based on the reviewers'

scores. The selected abstracts were published in *Palliative Medicine*.

Seventy-six abstracts had been selected to create the 11 new research data sessions, while an additional four presentations were selected for workshops. Over 200 abstracts had been selected for poster presentations. Nine were rejected and eight were withdrawn before the abstract book was published.

The three best posters were selected to receive the EAPC Award. The posters were presented at the closing session and their authors received free registration to the 9th Congress of the EAPC to be held in Aachen (6–10 April 2005). The winners can be viewed at [www.eapcnet.org/research2004/Programme/sunday\\_closing.asp](http://www.eapcnet.org/research2004/Programme/sunday_closing.asp)

For the first time, the pre-registered participants had the opportunity to create a personalised programme online before the conference by indicating their preferences about which sessions they wanted to attend. This also helped to reduce the risk of overcrowding.

### CME accreditation

The EAPC Research Forum had been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) – an institution of the European Union of Medical

Specialists for a maximum of 23 hours of European external CME credits. EACCME credits are recognised by the American Medical Association towards the Physician's Recognition Award. The Italian CME credits for physicians and nurses; as well as accreditation from the Royal College of Physicians had been requested but have not yet been allocated.

### **Participation**

The forum was attended by a total of 720 participants, including 47 exhibitors from five publishers and 11 pharmaceutical companies; 637 came from Western European countries (Table 2), 19 from Eastern European countries, and 64 from countries outside Europe. Of the 449 persons who had indicated their profession, 342 were physicians (76%) and 51 were nurses (11%).

### **Follow up and thanks**

The 'highlights' of each day of the Forum are available as a pdf file on the EAPC

website at: [www.eapcnet.org/Research2004/forum/default.asp](http://www.eapcnet.org/Research2004/forum/default.asp)

In collaboration with Effetti, the Research Steering Committee is planning to create an online course based on some of the presentations to give members who did not attend the opportunity to view some of the sessions. This project is subject to funding and will hopefully be online in spring 2005 and we are looking into the possibility of obtaining CME accreditation.

Finally, we would like to thank the members of the Research and Scientific Committee, the Advisory Board, the abstract reviewers, the abstract handling office, all the invited speakers and authors of the abstracts included in the programme, the sponsors and our congress organiser Effetti. We look forward to welcoming everybody to the 4th EAPC Research Forum, which is to be held in May 2006, in Venice, Italy.

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**Table 2. Participants' origins**

Country	No.
Austria	16
Belgium	77
Denmark	9
Finland	7
France	13
Germany	74
Great Britain	121
Greece	2
Iceland	1
Ireland	12
Italy	115
Malta	2
Netherlands	48
Norway	31
Portugal	18
Spain	49
Sweden	22
Switzerland	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>637</b>