

Task Force on Physician Education in Palliative Care

Chair – Frank Elsner, Germany

The EAPC regards the education of health care professionals in Palliative Care as one of the most important objectives to promote Palliative Care in Europe.

Therefore a Task force has been established to work on recommendations for the development of curricula on under- and postgraduate medical education in Palliative Care. In 2007 the Task force finished a paper called “Curriculum in Palliative Care for Undergraduate Medical Education - Recommendations of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC)” which has already been published on the EAPC-website at:

[eapcnet.org/download/forTask forces/PhysiciansTF/PC-Curr-UndergraduateMedEdu.pdf](http://eapcnet.org/download/forTask%20forces/PhysiciansTF/PC-Curr-UndergraduateMedEdu.pdf)

For the field of postgraduate training the “Recommendations for the development of postgraduate curricula leading to certification in Palliative Medicine” are to be published by the end of November 2009 at the latest.

The Task force has spent a long time discussing the pitfalls that had to be avoided in the preparation of a general European postgraduate curriculum. Differences in the health care systems as well as in the specialist training in the European countries make it hard to find a widely accepted and universally applicable curriculum. Some good examples for postgraduate curricula exist, however, the discussion in the group showed that they would not be applicable one-to-one in other countries. The Task force therefore decided to choose a loose framework of recommendations rather than a concrete curriculum, leaving the adaptation of the mandatory contents to local or national settings to the individual user. In this framework the Task force also wanted to accommodate the fact that in some European countries palliative medicine is acknowledged as a sub-speciality, or even as a specialty, whereas in other countries it is not.

In the future the Task force will have to work on the promotion and dissemination of these recommendations as well as on how to adopt them in the individual and different national settings. Furthermore the difficulties of the supervision of the Palliative Care training development on the under- and postgraduate level within Europe will be an issue as well as regular updates of the recommendations that will be necessary to guarantee an ongoing high level of quality of education in the field.

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