



EFIM
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President: Dr. Frank Bosch (Netherlands)
President Elect: Prof. Runolfur Palsson (Iceland)
Past President: Prof. Nica Cappellini (Italy)
Secretary General: Dr. Pedro Conthe (Spain)
Treasurer: Dr. Antonio Martins Baptista (Portugal)

3rd EFIM Day – 17 March 2017

More than 60 EFIM representatives from 24 national internal medicine societies in Europe assembled for the 3rd EFIM Day at the EFIM Headquarters in Brussels on 17 March. Presidents, Board Members and Young Internists participated in a lively discussion on the current EFIM activities and new avenues to explore in the future.

The EFIM President, Runolfur Palsson, opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates, stressing the importance of a close collaboration between EFIM and the national societies.

Runolfur introduced a new membership application from the Macedonian Association of Internal Medicine. The President of the Macedonian Association, Alexandar Manolev, provided a brief overview of the organisation and the current activities. Runolfur thanked The Macedonian Association of Internal Medicine for their interest in becoming part of the EFIM family.

Next, Runolfur presented the 2016 Annual Report, reflecting on the importance of a positive financial balance for the first time in several years, the implementation of the new membership structure, the adoption of the new Statutes, as well as the approval of the European Curriculum of Internal Medicine by the UEMS Council. Runolfur highlighted some of the activities during the year, emphasizing the success of the European Congress of Internal Medicine in Amsterdam. He also congratulated the directors of the European School of Internal Medicine in Riga and Sardinia, Ieva Ruza and Nicola Montano, on their outstanding work which elevated the schools to a new level.

Nica Cappellini, the ECIM 2017 Chair, updated the representatives on the preparations for the 16th European Congress of Internal Medicine to be held in Milan on 31 August to 2 September. The theme of the congress is “Thinking outside the box in internal medicine”. Nica unveiled an exciting scientific programme and encouraged the participants to attend the congress. Runolfur announced that Wiesbaden has been selected as the venue of the congress in 2018.

Frauke Weidanz, the Chair of the Young Internists Subcommittee, reported on the activities of the Young Internists Assembly. The Young Internists are currently working on innovative sessions for the congress in Milan with emphasis on an interactive format. Furthermore, the Secretary of the Young Internists Subcommittee, Alberto Marra, introduced a new project entitled IMAGINE that focuses on gender differences in medicine. Finally, Frauke announced the end of her term as Chair position and thanked the members of the Assembly for their support. She welcomed Ieva Ruza as the new Chair of the Young Internists Subcommittee.

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Nicola Montano, the EFIM President-Elect and Chair of the Choosing Wisely Working Group, presented the outcome of a very successful meeting of the working group in Milan last January. This was followed by an address by Luis Campos, the new Chair of the Professional Issues and Quality of Care Working Group, who gave the audience a unique insight on the quality of healthcare from different perspectives, using examples from the Quality in the Portuguese National Health Plan. Both presentations stimulated the audience to engage in a discussion of these important issues.

An update on the European Curriculum of internal Medicine was provided by Rijk Gans, the President of the UEMS Section of Internal Medicine and Vice-President of the European Board of Internal Medicine (EBIM). Rijk introduced plans regarding the implementation of the curriculum in the member states and proposed the establishment of a European Education Centre for Internal Medicine. Relaunching of a European Diploma examination in internal medicine was also discussed. Finally, Rijk suggested a change in the structure and governance of the EBIM that would involve participation from all the national societies.

The meeting concluded with a Keynote lecture entitled “Access to safe medicines: where is the link with the European Medicines Agency?”, delivered by Dr. Juan Garcia-Burgos, the EMA Head of Public Engagement Department and Co-Chair of the EMA Patients’ and Healthcare Professionals’ Working Parties. Dr. Garcia-Burgos outlined the work of the EMA and the various activities currently being undertaken to improve and protect human and animal health.

Runolfur thanked all the delegates for their active participation in the meeting and invited them to attend the EFIM General Assembly and the European Congress of Internal Medicine in Milan.

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