



EFIM
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ANNUAL 2017 **REPORT**

AIMS MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM) was established in 1996 through a merger of its predecessor AEMI and the Forum of Presidents of National Internal Medicine Societies in Europe.

From the beginning, the aims of the organisation were as laid down in the Statutes:

- To promote internal medicine scientifically (but also ethically and professionally)
- To publish research and resolutions
- To organize meetings and congresses
- To establish communication between specialists
- To provide information to private and public organisations

The purpose of EFIM is to re-emphasize the importance of internal medicine in patient care in a world of increasing specialisation. Education, research and the promotion of internal medicine are at the heart of the EFIM mission. The European Congress of Internal Medicine, the European School of Internal Medicine and the Clinical Research Seminar have become popular events, bringing together internists from across Europe and around the world. EFIM will continue to build programmes that will raise the profile of internal medicine and encourage greater collaboration of European internists in years to come.

Internal medicine will remain cornerstone of every national health care system.

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Runolfur Palsson
EFIM President

Dear Colleagues,

In 2017, EFIM enjoyed yet another productive year. We expanded our membership with the addition of the Macedonian Association of Internal Medicine as a full member, and the Argentinian Society of Internal Medicine as an associate member. I am grateful for the contribution of the member societies towards our mission of promoting excellence in the clinical practice of internal medicine in Europe.

Once again, the highlight of the year was the European Congress of Internal Medicine held at the University of Milan. The congress was a truly inspirational experience, created by a spectacular venue and a tremendous atmosphere generated by a highly engaged audience. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Congress President, Nica Cappellini, and Nicola Montano, our President-Elect, who led the organisation of this remarkable event.

The European Journal of Internal Medicine has continued to grow and an increase in the Impact Factor was a pleasant reward. We are indebted to the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Pier Mannucci, and his editorial team for their relentless efforts to move the journal forward over the past decade. Prof. Mannucci will retire from his position as Editor-in-Chief in the coming year and a search for a successor is already underway.

Postgraduate training and qualification in internal medicine remains an important activity of EFIM that is primarily accomplished through our work within the European Board of Internal Medicine. Implementation of the European Curriculum of Internal Medicine in the member states is currently the main focus of the work. Nurturing the future generation of internists is one of our principal objectives, as is evident by major activities such as the European School of Internal Medicine and the Exchange Programme. I am particularly pleased with the increasing contribution from the Young Internists Assembly who have launched a number of interesting initiatives, most recently a very promising gender medicine project.

Internists in Europe are currently facing numerous challenges that we need to address together. One salient challenge is the development of strategies to facilitate high-quality, patient-centred care while containing costs. The EFIM Choosing Wisely Project is an important step in this direction.

We can be proud of our achievements in recent years. I firmly believe that EFIM has become more visible and has a stronger voice than ever before.

We look forward to continued success in 2018.

The European Board of Internal Medicine



The European Board of Internal Medicine (EBIM) has continued to be very active. The board has met regularly in order to continue its work on the European Curriculum of Internal Medicine that was presented to EFIM and approved last year. The curriculum had previously been approved by the UEMS. The future of the curriculum depends on the quality of the document and its uptake by the member states of EFIM and UEMS. Some countries already have their own well-defined curriculum and an exit exam. Other countries do not have such sophisticated system and will have to rely on the European curriculum to ensure that the quality of postgraduate training in internal medicine is sufficient to allow all doctors to practise freely across Europe.

The EBIM has generated the curriculum to guide postgraduate education in the specialty of internal medicine. The curriculum presents the minimum training requirements for the qualification as a specialist in internal medicine.

The EBIM is responsible for the development of a strategy for delivering the postgraduate learning needs of internal medicine trainees and throughout the professional career of internists. This goal should be achievable using the following resources:

- 1. E-learning platforms**
modules, journals and private member areas;
- 2. On-line learning systems**
videos, podcasts and livestreaming of lectures and conferences;
- 3. Synopsis of important clinical guidelines**
assessment of evidence by experts in their relevant fields and main points for clinical application;
- 4. Accreditation of CPD activities**
meetings, conferences, exam boards.

The EBIM will use the following objectives for formal and professional accreditation in internal medicine as defined by the curriculum:

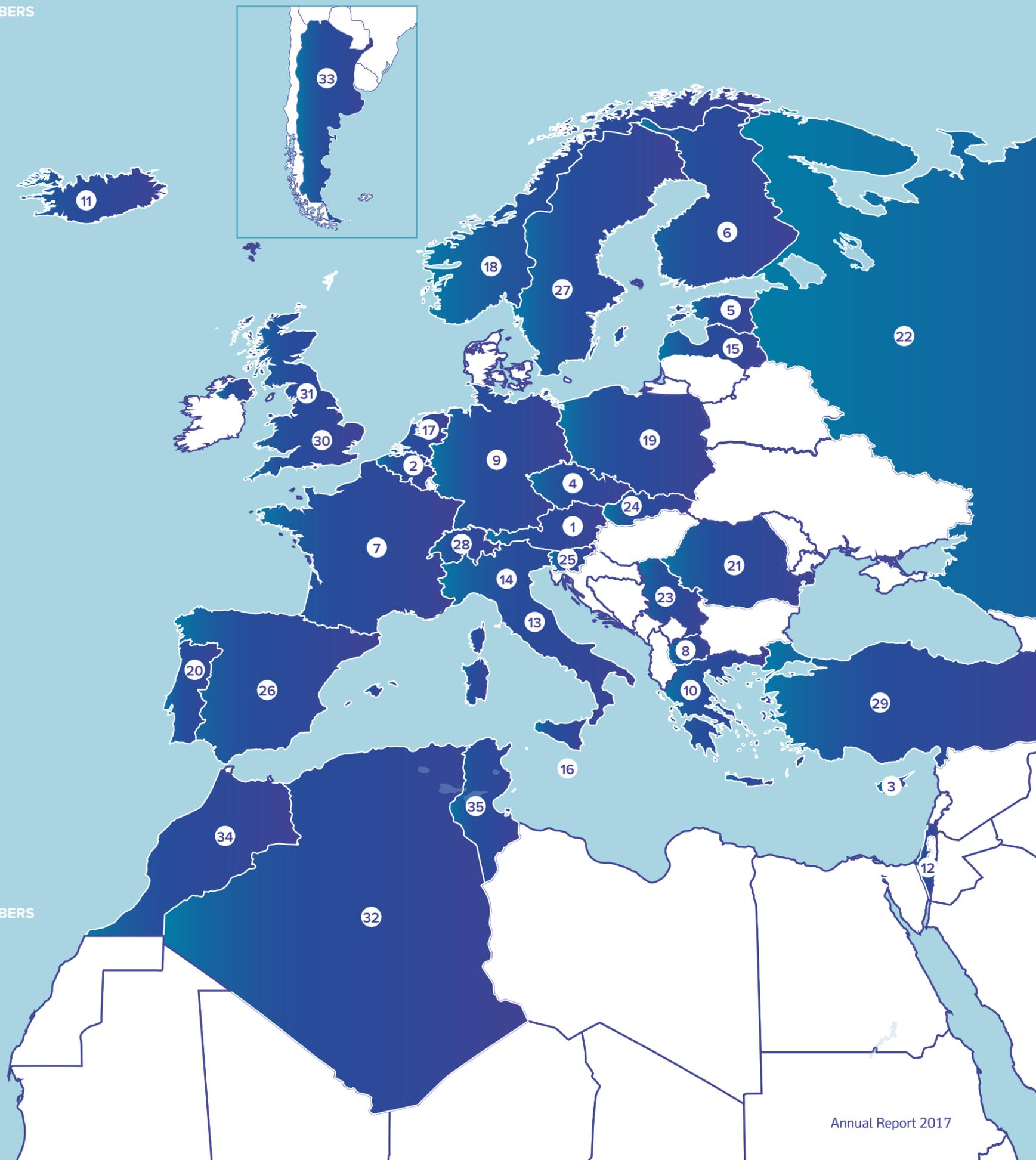
- 1. Specialist assessment exam in internal medicine at the end of training;**
- 2. Self-accreditation of training centres using defined criteria**
through the development of a generic form;
- 3. European Passport for Internists**
through the development of a generic form that allows accreditation by their training centre or current employment with supporting evidence through a centralised process.

The EBIM continues to meet regularly to develop the curriculum further.

COUNTRY	ORDINARY MEMBERS	MEMBERS
1 AUSTRIA	Austrian Society of Internal Medicine	902
2 BELGIUM	Belgian Society of Internal Medicine	141
3 CYPRUS	Cyprus Federation of Internal Medicine	85
4 CZECH REPUBLIC	Czech Society of Internal Medicine	1068
5 ESTONIA	Estonian Society of Internal Medicine	94
6 FINLAND	Finnish Society of Internal Medicine	1070
7 FRANCE	French Society of Internal Medicine	975
8 FYR MACEDONIA	Macedonian Association of Internal Medicine	170
9 GERMANY	German Society of Internal Medicine	8432
10 GREECE	Internal Medicine Society of Greece	600
11 ICELAND	Icelandic Society of Internal Medicine	220
12 ISRAEL	Israeli Society of Internal Medicine	430
13 ITALY	Italian Society of Internal Medicine	2491
14 ITALY	Italian Federation of Associations of Hospital Internists	2320
15 LATVIA	Latvian Society of internal Medicine	333
16 MALTA	Association of Physicians of Malta	80
17 NETHERLANDS	Netherlands Society of Internal Medicine	2000
18 NORWAY	Norwegian Society of Internal Medicine	1475
19 POLAND	Polish Society of Internal Medicine	300
20 PORTUGAL	Portuguese Society of Internal Medicine	2130
21 ROMANIA	Romanian Society of Internal Medicine	560
22 RUSSIA	Russian Scientific Society of Internal Medicine	988
23 SERBIA	Serbian Society of Internal Medicine	385
24 SLOVAKIA	Slovakian Society of Internal Medicine	502
25 SLOVENIA	Slovenian Society of Internal Medicine	300
26 SPAIN	Spanish Society of Internal Medicine	5325
27 SWEDEN	Swedish Society of Internal Medicine	1072
28 SWITZERLAND	Swiss Society of General Internal Medicine	6138
29 TURKEY	Turkish Society of Internal Medicine	1531
30 UNITED KINGDOM	Royal College of Physicians (UK)	2415
31 UNITED KINGDOM	Society for Acute Medicine (UK)	1011

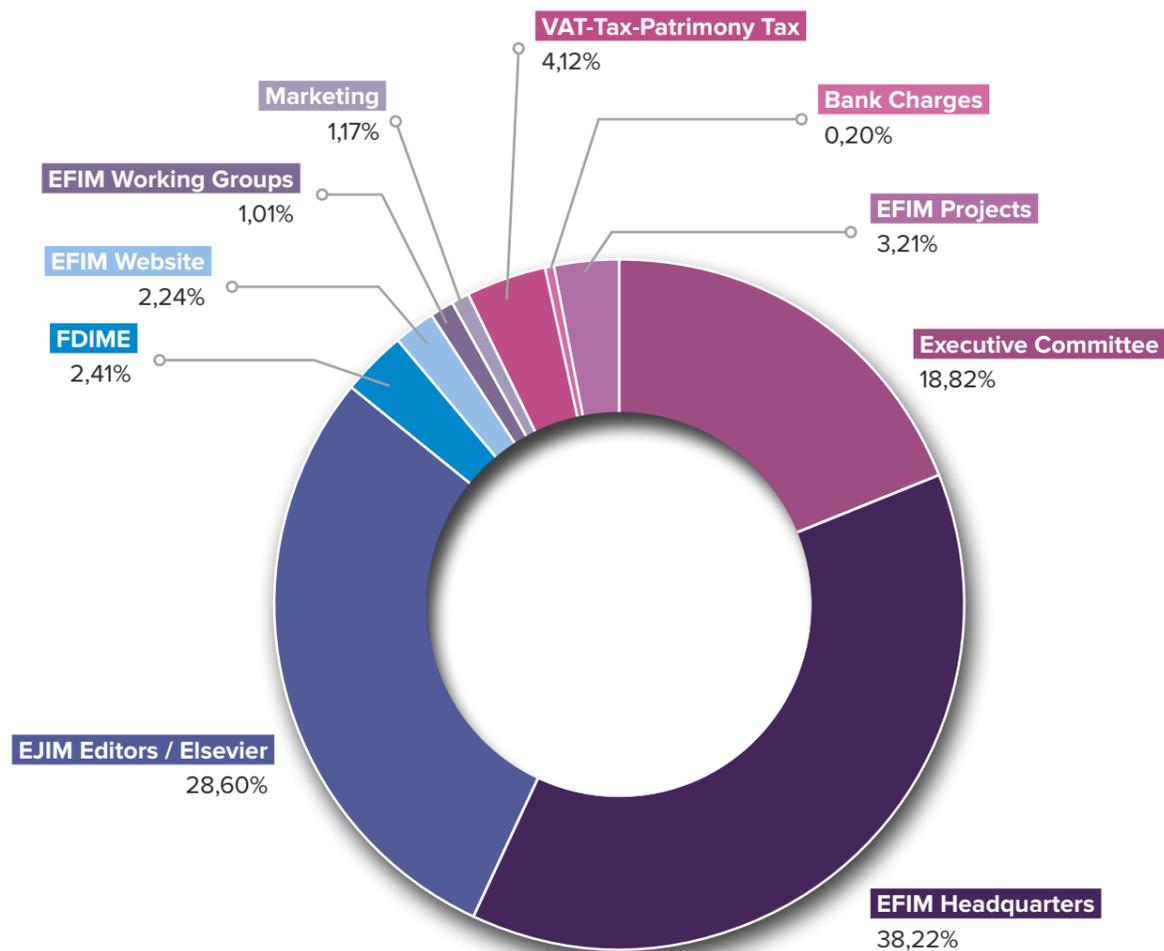
COUNTRY	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	MEMBERS
32 ALGERIA	Algerian Society of Internal Medicine	443
33 ARGENTINA	Argentinian Society of Internal Medicine	650
34 MOROCCO	Moroccan Society of Internal Medicine	210
35 TUNISIA	Tunisian Society of Internal Medicine	101

TOTAL: 46947



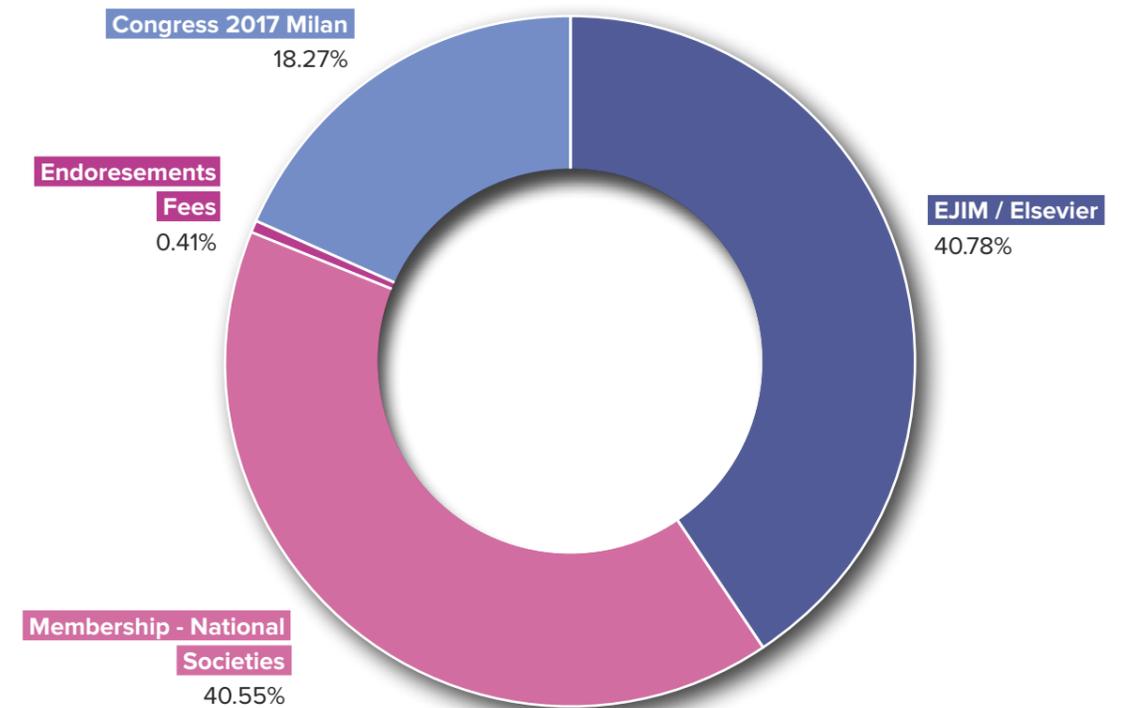
● Expenses

	EXPENSES APPROVED (€)	FINAL 31 DECEMBER 2017 (€)
Executive Committee	35,000.00	39,064.39
EFIM Headquarters	78,235.21	79,327.56
EJIM Editors / Elsevier	69,300.00	59,352.40
FDIME	5,000.00	5,000.00
EFIM Website	9,120.00	4,650.00
EFIM Working Groups	6,000.00	2,106.20
EFIM Subcommittees	1,500.00	0.00
Marketing	5,031.15	2,427.32
VAT - Tax - Patrimony Tax	13,000.00	8,548.83
Bank Charges	500.00	421.89
EFIM Projects	4,000.00	6,657.54
TOTAL EXPENSES	€ 226,686.36	€ 207,556.13



● Income

	INCOME APPROVED (€)	FINAL 31 DECEMBER 2017 (€)
EJIM / Elsevier	70,000.00	129,955.82
Interest	500.00	3.75
Membership - National Societies	125,000.00	129,222.72
Fellowship	300.00	0.00
Congress 2017 Milan	30,000.00	58,216.83
Institutional Membership	5,000.00	0.00
Endorsements Fees		1,300.00
TOTAL INCOME	€ 230,800.00	€ 318,699.12



● 2017 - Results Preview

	ACCOUNTS APPROVED (€)	FINAL 31/12/2017 (€)
Expenditures	226,686.36	207,556.13
Income	230,800.00	318,699.12
Provision 2017: ACP conference, EFIM website design, social liabilities		58,707.56
RESULT	€ 4,113.64	€ 52,435.43

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, Executive Committee members and Young Internists representatives 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, Alexander 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 Ieva Ruza, the director of the Winter School in Riga, and Nicola Montano, the director of the Summer School in Sardinia, 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. 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. Frauke announced the end of her term as Chair and thanked the members of the Assembly for their support. She welcomed Ieva Ruza as the new Chair of the Young Internists Subcommittee. Finally, the Secretary of the Young Internists Subcommittee, Alberto Marra, introduced a new project entitled IMAGINE that focuses on gender differences in medicine.



Nicola Montano, the EFIM President-Elect and Chair of the Choosing Wisely Working Group, presented the outcome of a very successful meeting 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. Both presentations stimulated the audience to engage in their projects.

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. 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.

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 European Medicines Agency (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.

● Welcome to Wiesbaden!

The European Federation of Internal Medicine has the privilege and pleasure to invite you to the 17th European Congress of Internal Medicine taking place in Wiesbaden, Germany. The congress will be held in the RheinMain Congress Center from 30 August to 1 September 2018.

The European Congress of Internal Medicine – ECIM – is a major event where physicians, scientists and other experts in the field of internal medicine exchange the latest information on advances in science and clinical practice.

ECIM is a platform for the interdisciplinary interaction of European internists, including those practising related specialities, as well as for young internists to share their experiences and for networking.

In addition to the presentation of results of clinical and basic research, the ECIM 2018 will focus on innovative and comprehensive overview of the treatment of complex, multimorbid patients. Therefore, the

theme of ECIM 2018 is 'The art of managing clinical complexity: An integrated, patient-centred approach'.

Particular areas of interest include prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the principal features of the metabolic syndrome and the associated spectrum of cardiovascular disease and other comorbid conditions. Gender- and age-related aspects, the emergence of digital medicine, and the impact of health economics will be highlighted.

We look forward to welcoming you to Wiesbaden, one of the oldest spa towns in Europe. Wiesbaden is also the *Wiege (Cradle)* of German Internal Medicine congresses; the German Society of Internal Medicine was founded at the first congress in Wiesbaden in 1882. Wiesbaden is a superb meeting place, located centrally in the Rhine-Main region, with world famous wine-producing areas nearby and a deserved reputation as an attractive tourism destination.

Welcome to ECIM in Wiesbaden 2018.

REGISTER NOW
www.ecim2018.eu

EFIM www.efim.org

17th European Congress of Internal Medicine

Wiesbaden, Germany

30 August to 1 September 2018

President of ECIM 2018: Petra-Maria Schumm-Draeger, Munich, Germany
 EFIM President: Runólfur Pálsson, Reykjavik, Iceland

www.ecim2018.eu

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

18th European Congress of INTERNAL MEDICINE

29-31 August, 2019
 Lisbon, Portugal

Innovation in Health Care: New Opportunities for Internal Medicine

EFIM www.efim.org



● Report of the European Congress of Internal Medicine in Milan

'Thinking outside the box in a world of limited resources'. This was the theme of the 16th European Congress of Internal Medicine, held from 31 August to 2 September at the prestigious University of Milan. The congress was granted 15 CME credits by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS).

Prof. Maria Domenica Cappellini, the ECIM 2017 Chair, and Prof. Runólfur Pálsson, the EFIM President, welcomed approximately 1.100 internists from all over the world. The largest number of participants came from Portugal (254), Italy (122), Turkey (76), Switzerland (73) and Spain (68). A total of 1.326 abstracts were received from 50 different countries. The greatest number of submitted abstracts came from Portugal, Spain and Italy, followed by Turkey, Tunisia and Greece. The conference covered a number of important topics, ranging from the role of internal medicine in a world of limited resources to the aging of the population, and from the concept of 'less is more' to migration medicine.

The Young Internists Corner was a great success. The Young Internists had the opportunity to debate on 'why choosing internal medicine?', 'less is more', refugee medicine, education and quality of care in internal medicine, and gender medicine.

Like in previous congresses, the Foundation for the Development of Internal Medicine in Europe (FDIME) introduced two Research Grant recipients from 2016 and awarded each winner with a check of €10.000.

The FDIME also awarded prizes to the presenting authors of the three best posters at the congress. During the congress, 12 e-posters featuring outstanding case reports were selected for presentation by the authors in a special oral session with the support of the European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine (EJCRIM). The best case reports were selected jointly by the EFIM Young Internists and the EJCRIM. The winners will have the opportunity to publish an article in EJCRIM. We would like to thank John Kellett, the EJCRIM's Editor-in-Chief, who welcomed trainees at the EFIM booth and provided all the needed tips on how to write an article.

The three-day event concluded with closing remarks from Prof. Maria Domenica Cappellini, thanking all the participants, the faculty and the sponsors for their active participation that made this congress a huge success. Prof. Pálsson invited the participants to the next ECIM that will take place in Wiesbaden, Germany, from 30 August to 1 September 2018.

● ESIM Winter

February of 2017 saw the third and final edition of the European Winter School of Internal Medicine in Riga, led once again by Young Internists Secretary, Ieva Ruza. This event brought together 49 internal medicine trainees from 24 European countries for a week of sharing, connecting and comparing - celebrating our commonalities and our specialty. Trainees and faculty alike were impressed with the facilities and excellent location of the venue, and of course with the beauty of the city of Riga. The weather was cold but gloriously clear and sunny, turning the charming old town into a winter wonderland.

The scientific programme of the school was an exciting and a varied mix – there were lectures on glomerulonephritis and obesity as well as the organisational aspects of internal medicine. Highlights yet again were the now customary Young Internists workshop, delivered this year by Mikko Parry from Finland, and the hands-on ultrasound workshop. Among the most educational and enjoyable sessions were the cases presented by the trainees themselves, ranging from sarcoidosis to pyroglutamic acidosis.

The educational part was complemented by a well-thought-out social programme, providing the group with an opportunity to experience the cultural and culinary delights of Riga. Undoubtedly, the highlight was a visit to the Latvian National Opera and Ballet to see the breathtaking ballet performance 'Peer Gynt'. There was time to explore Riga and to try the famous Black Balsam and crafted beers, and while the trainees discovered the local karaoke bars, the faculty sampled some excellent Latvian cuisine. Finally, all the participants came together for an excellent gala dinner before saying goodbye after an intense and thoroughly enjoyable week.

The group connected and interacted incredibly well and their enthusiasm and professionalism gives hope for the future of the specialty and of the European Young Internists movement.



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● ESIM Summer

The first European Summer School of Internal Medicine in Ede, the Netherlands, took place from 25 to 30 June 2017 in the Akoesticum. With fantastic help of The Dutch Society of Internal Medicine, the organising committee produced an excellent event. The general theme of the week was 'Internal Medicine in Harmony', a perfect fit for a school held in a performing arts training centre, in a world where trainees have to perform multiple roles besides the role of medical expert.

The school was directed by Prof. Rijk Gans, and codirected by Jan Willem Elte, Hein Muller, internal medicine trainees Madelon de Rooij and Charlotte de Bree, and former summer school director, Nicola Montano. A total of 34 participants from 19 different countries participated in the school. The trainees enthusiastically engaged in vivid discussions about several important topics, contributing interesting experiences from different cultural settings and educational programmes. Importantly, a unique network of young, talented and inspiring trainees has been created; the future of internal medicine in Europe!

The scientific programme was of high quality, starting with an introduction of the European Curriculum of Internal Medicine by Prof. Runolfur Palsson (current EFIM President). The participants compared the European curriculum with their own national curriculum and presented the differences and similarities. The overall conclusion was that current practice is lacking personalised supervision throughout Europe, which could partially be overcome by introducing entrusted professional activities (EPA's), as presented in the

European curriculum. An interesting workshop about all sorts of bias was delivered by Matthias Raspe (from the Young Internists Assembly) and an excellent hands-on ultrasound workshop by Frank Bosch and Alexis Müller-Marbach. The trainees took part in a 'Delirium Experience' and in a highly appreciated interactive grand rounds and a salt and water workshop. Presentation skills were fine-tuned during the week in the workshop 'The Art of Presenting Science' and a voice workshop. The clinical case presentation sessions were one of the highlights of the school with participation of all the trainees. Two prizes for the best cases were awarded to Maria Ines Costa and Laurentiu Broscaru, who were invited to submit their cases to the European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine.

The social programme was carefully selected by the organising committee. The bonding experience started in the early morning with bootcamp sessions, followed by yoga classes. A trip to Amsterdam was a real treat, including a canal cruise and a lakeside dinner at one of the docks. Another delight was a beautiful cycling tour through the Hoge Veluwe National Park and visit to the fabulous Kröller-Müller museum. A fantastic week ended with a barbeque and the first ESIM pubquiz.

To conclude, the first Dutch edition of the ESIM summer school was a great success and we are looking forward to surpass ourselves in the next two editions!





Executive Summary

Elsevier is happy to report that The European Journal of Internal Medicine shows strong increases in all relevant metrics for 2017.

Submissions

There has been an almost 17% growth in the number of submissions in 2017 in comparison to 2016 with a rejection rate of 74%. The highest number of accepted articles is still coming from Italy and Spain with the US and Spain showing the largest increases in comparison to 2016. Despite this growth, there was a slight decline in the number of published articles of about 9% in comparison to the previous year (168 vs. 184 published articles in 2016). The editorial handling times have remained extremely competitive and further improved, with an average handling time from submission to final decision of 3.4 weeks in comparison to 4.3 weeks in 2016. The time from submission to citable web publication was around 15.8 weeks in 2017 and slightly slower in comparison to 13.4 weeks in 2016. The journal's fast editorial handling times should be in the focus of its promotion as it is a strong competitive advantage.



Top 15 Journal Titles Ranked by 2016 Impact Factor (and EJINME)

The Impact Factor in the 2016 JCR Science edition increased from 2.591 in 2015 to 2.960 in 2016. It is now ranking at 28 out of 154 journals listed in the MEDICINE, GENERAL & INTERNAL category of JCR. While this is a strong gain, it is a bit frustrating that the journal still remains so closely below the 3.0 threshold. We remain positive that this will change soon with the continuous steady development of the journal's Impact Factor performance. Using Scopus is too early to predict how well the Impact Factor has done in 2017.

Usage

The journal is primarily an online journal and is being downloaded through a number of platforms. Please note that the statistics for full text downloads provided in the table below reflect ScienceDirect downloads, downloads from www.ejinme.com and Clinical Key showing a stable download performance in comparison to 2016 (6.2% increase).

Platform	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Science Direct	249,484	262,099	282,616	289,229	306,389	292,747
ejinme.com	15,647	16,602	18,297	22,982	36,457	54,668
Clinical Key	642	8,154	22,822	28,043	31,207	28,948
Totals	265,773	286,855	323,735	340,254	374,053	376,363

Financials

The journal's finances have not yet been completed, however based on an un-audited overview, it would appear to have performed well. Preliminary findings show a slight decrease in overall revenues in comparison to 2016 by 6% with the decrease coming from lower sales of commercial reprints. Commercial reprints were one of the main drivers of the 2016's 40% increase in overall revenues, so that this should still be considered a very strong financial result. It is too early to predict the royalties in 2017.



The European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine (EJCRIM) continues to grow and develop. Case reports are no longer just reports of extremely rare conditions that have never been seen before and are unlikely never to be seen again. Increasingly contributors are submitting cases that demonstrate valuable learning points which provide insights and advice on how a colleague should practice if a similar clinical situation were encountered. Some even are honest enough to admit to things that they would not do again if they were in the same situation.

Many submitted cases give a tedious account of all the exhaustive investigations and treatments performed, as well as a review of the subject that can be easily obtained elsewhere. Nowadays, these can be quickly obtained by a Google search. EJCRIM is not interested so much in increasing the knowledge to practice medicine, but helping provide the wisdom it requires. For any patient with any condition, many tests can be ordered and numerous treatments given. The challenge of medical practice is developing the wisdom to know when to do or not to do something for the particular patient you are looking after.

The journal will continue to welcome cases that will help improve the practice of medicine by demonstrating insights into clinical logic, and especially those that show the benefits and flaws of new diagnostic and therapeutic technology, which, if used inappropriately, only worry the patient and can considerably increase costs and suffering.

In 2017, a further rise by 21% in submissions has been recorded, along with an increase in the rejection rate (51%). Hence, the journal receives more articles, but their quality is often not good enough. Still, the journal has passed from 7 to 10 issues per year.

The geographical origin of the manuscripts is diverse, with Portugal as the leading country (30%) and Spain and UK following in the chart.

The editorial handling times are still relatively fast, if not faster, with 10 days from submission to first decision on average. Publication times range from 6 to 73 days (median, 26 days), depending on the timely author's approval of the copyedited proofs and checkout payment.

Web traffic has slightly increased from the previous year, with most of the traffic coming from direct search (including EJCRIM alerts, Facebook and referrals), hence a sign of the increasing fidelization we are aiming at. Facebook is still a big part of the journal's circulation life. Our readership seems to appreciate this outlet for newly published articles, forthcoming events and flash 'useful news' and announcements. The EJCRIM Facebook page has an average of 2,480 spontaneous likes.

The special 'How to Write a Case Report' videos, hosted by Editor-in-Chief John Kellett, has been shared via Facebook as a weekly appointment. Informal interaction with the journal's editors is most appreciated by authors. At ECIM 2017, a special 'Speed Reviewing' session was held in which prospective authors had a couple of minutes to explain their paper to the Editor-in-Chief and make the most out of his practical suggestions. Some of the articles were later published in EJCRIM. EJCRIM's Best Case Report Competition and Award has become a fixed appointment at the annual European Congress of Internal Medicine, showcasing the best cases on the stage offered by the Young Internist Corner.

To increase the journal's visibility, a new service called Kudos has been activated, i.e. a scientific social media enabling the authors to 'explain' and share their papers and scientific work published in any journal. All corresponding authors are automatically invited to join the platform. EJCRIM's peer-review platform has been upgraded and restyled, making it easier for authors and reviewers to follow the evaluation process. Although indexing had not been considered a priority by EFIM, PubMed indexing is highly demanded by the authors. EJCRIM is going to apply in 2018, with a renewed editorial board, a freshly-updated platform and website. For now, Google Scholar, DOAJ, Crossref, Hinari and CNR-SOLAR cover this role.

● Professional Issues and Quality of Care Working Group

The EFIM working group on professional issues and quality of care in internal medicine was relaunched under the leadership of Prof. Luis Campos from Portugal to address several important issues: to contribute to prospective thinking about the evolution of internal medicine in Europe and its diversity, barriers and opportunities; to identify and disseminate the best strategies; to monitor and improve the quality of care; to improve the standards of education; and to increase the scientific affirmation of internal medicine.

The Professional Issues and Quality of Care Working Group held its first meeting in Lisbon, focusing on establishing a mission and future projects. A second meeting was held during the European Congress of Internal Medicine in Milan to complete the mission

and objectives of the working group. A proposal featuring a list of activities has been submitted to the EFIM Executive Committee for review. Fifteen EFIM national societies' members are currently involved in the projects of the working group.

The representatives of the Professional Issues and Quality of Care Working Group have reached a consensus about a first position paper. The entire working group agreed that the topic 'Alternatives to Inpatient Care' is currently a major challenge, due to the rising demands for hospitalization related to ageing and multiple chronic conditions in the setting of limited resources of most European healthcare systems.



● Exchange Programme

The EFIM Exchange Programme is one of the principal activities of EFIM, providing internal medicine trainees with learning experiences in different healthcare institutions around Europe. The Exchange Programme has grown to be a successful project that strengthens the trainees' clinical skills and enhances their professional development.

Each national internal medicine society can select candidates for the programme with a maximum of 5 trainees per country. EFIM and FDIME support the Exchange Programme with 20 scholarships of €600. There are over 30 hospitals across Europe participating in the Exchange Programme and are offering the trainees a one-month stay. In 2017, we welcomed one new hospital from Italy under the leadership of Prof. Piero Portincasa.

In 2017, 13 trainees participated in the EFIM Exchange programme in different hospital centres across Europe, providing them with an opportunity to gain additional knowledge and skills by experiencing medical and educational activities in another country. It can be fairly stated that the Exchange Programme is a very successful project that will continue to grow in the future.



● Choosing Wisely Working Group



EFIM launched the Choosing Wisely Project under the leadership of Prof. Nicola Montano during the first meeting of the working group in Milan. The initial aim of the working group was to discuss research methodology and implement a plan to test whether this kind of 'appropriateness approach' 'might have relevant implications for patients' outcome and healthcare costs. Each member society was invited to appoint a representative to participate.

Twenty-six member societies from 24 different countries accepted the invitation to participate in the EFIM Choosing Wisely Project. The first selected activity was to collect as many Top 5 lists from the national Choosing Wisely projects as possible. This will be published on our website and an attempt to analyse the data at least in descriptive terms will be performed. The following plan has been proposed:

1. Descriptive research

2. Applied research

3. Educational:

- Clinical cases
- 'Less is More' courses

A second meeting occurred during the 3rd EFIM Day in Brussels, where the contribution of the national societies already involved in the EFIM Choosing Wisely Project were presented - SSGIM, FADOI and SIMI. Several other national societies are busy with the ongoing Choosing Wisely initiatives in Europe, including Belgium, France, Germany, Israel, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey.

During ECIM 2017, the representatives of the Choosing Wisely Working Group met to discuss the progress where the TOP 5 lists from Belgium (Dr. Patrick Lacor), France (Dr. Nathan Peiffer-Smadja), Israel (Prof. Dror. Dicker) and Turkey (provided by Dr. Pinar Yildiz) were briefly presented. A position paper on the challenge of 'Less is More' medicine in Europe was prepared in collaboration with Dr. Omar Kherad from the Swiss Society of Internal Medicine and was distributed among the Choosing Wisely representatives for the preparation of a manuscript which will be submitted to the European Journal of Internal Medicine. Another meeting will take place during the 4th EFIM Day in March 2018 and the first 'Less is More' Course to be organised during the ECIM 2018 in Wiesbaden, Germany.



● Gender Medicine Working Group



According to a proposal of the Young Internists Assembly, the Executive Committee of the European Federation of Internal Medicine decided to launch the Internal Medicine and Assessment of Gender Differences in Europe (IMAGINE) Working Group.

This initiative was conceived in order to strive for: 1) assessment of the awareness of the internal medicine community of sex and gender dimension in approaching clinical and research questions; 2) assessment of evidence gaps in the current literature regarding sex and gender in the broad spectrum of internal medicine conditions; 3) implementation of future prospective studies, that elucidate differences in diagnosis and treatment of diseases with respect to sex and gender; and 4) to foster sex and gender awareness in postgraduate medical education programmes in internal medicine. We hereby describe the aim, the outlines and the methodology of the IMAGINE Working Group.

The IMAGINE Working Group was assembled from senior attending physicians with special expertise in sex and gender medicine and young trainees with a special interest in this subject. The first meeting of the working group took place during the 16th European Congress of Internal Medicine, which was held from 31 August - 1 September, 2017 in Milan.

The first project launched by the IMAGINE Working Group is an online survey aimed at understanding the awareness of the sex and gender dimension among internists, including appropriate use of the terms sex and gender, and the existence of pitfalls and real world applicability of sex- and gender-oriented approach in solving clinical problems and in the design of clinical drugs trials.

Depending on the survey results, the IMAGINE Working Group will generate an update from a sex and gender perspective on high-priority clinical topics for the internal medicine community. Depending on the results of the first phase, different initiatives could be promoted. At first, a call for actions to spread a new methodological approach for assessing gendered innovation will be carried out based on the Phase 1 results. The group will try to finalize the creation of a clinical registry at the European level to assess differences related to sex and gender in the European internal medicine network.

The work of the IMAGINE Working Group may address unsolved questions regarding contributors to suboptimal disease management for women and men that could reduce the sex-based disparities experienced in healthcare.



The Young Internists Assembly played an active role in the organisation of the 16th European Congress of Internal Medicine (ECIM) in Milan, Italy, putting together two parallel sessions and the closing session. The first parallel session, entitled 'Internists Out of the Box', addressed the different professional roles that might be carried out by internists alongside the classical hospitalist function. The following role models were proposed: 'Internists as Academics', involved in research and education of medical students and trainees (by Alberto Marra, Italy); 'Internists as Peri-Operative Physicians' taking care of patients in the surgical wards (by Ewelina Biskup, Switzerland); and lastly the intriguing model of 'Internists as Hospital Directors', as another proof of the central role of internal medicine in healthcare systems (by Roger Duckitt, UK).

In the second session, Dr. Christina Eichstaedt from Heidelberg, Germany, delivered a lecture on the potential role of epigenetics in the future of clinical care.

Finally, the congress organisers granted the Young Internists Assembly the honor to organise the closing session, which dealt with the diminishing emphasis on the 'old-fashioned' clinical examination and the more frequent use of modern technology for diagnosis. This session was entitled 'Internal Medicine – High Tech or High Touch?', featuring talks by Ieva Ruža, Latvia, and Alexis Müller-Marbach, Germany, and was followed by an active discussion among the audience. Furthermore, the Young Internists Corner was implemented in the exhibition area of the congress. Several topics were

addressed at the Corner, where expert speakers were moderated by Young Internists. The complexity of managing refugees, the importance of 'Choosing Wisely', role of education and quality of care in internal medicine, as well as gender medicine issues were discussed. Finally, the Case Report Competition was organised in collaboration with the European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine.

Thanks to a kind donation by Prof. Victor Novack from Israel, the ECIM registration fee was covered for one young internist from a lower income EFIM member country, chosen from the submitted abstracts by a lottery.

The Young Internists also were actively involved in the winter and summer editions of the European School of Internal Medicine. Mikko Parry, Finland, represented the group at the 2017 winter school in Riga, orchestrating a workshop on 'Choosing Wisely', whereas Matthias Raspe, Germany, led a workshop on scientific data accountability at the 2017 summer school in Ede.

The Young Internists Assembly have a representative in each of the EFIM working groups. Besides this responsibility, a new working group on a project entitled the Internal Medicine Assessment of Gender Differences in Europe (IMAGINE), led by Alberto Marra, Italy, was proposed by the Young Internists in 2017.

The Young Internists Assembly is proud of being part of EFIM and is honored to participate in the common vision of bringing European internists together.

ALBERTO MARRA • Secretary of the Young Internists Subcommittee, Italy
IEVA RUŽA • Chair of the Young Internists Subcommittee, Latvia

The Foundation for the Development of Internal Medicine in Europe issued 4 scholarships to young internists for attending the European School of Internal Medicine.

The twelfth edition of the Clinical Research Seminar took place in Paris from 2 to 5 July 2017, with the support of Amgen. Among 42 applicants from 12 different countries, 17 were selected to participate in the seminar.

The Foundation awarded two research grants. The first grant intended for research on rare diseases in adults, was supported by 'Association Enfance et Maladies Orphelines'. The recipient was Dr. Guillaume Moulis of France, who will go to Denmark to study the

prognostic significance of low platelet levels in patients at the time of their admission to the hospital. The second award for clinical research in general internal medicine, supported by 'Association Recherche et Enseignement en Medecine Interne (REMI)', was granted to Dr. Ewelina Biskup of Switzerland to study breast cancer in men. This work will be carried out in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine of Shanghai in China.

The FDIME supported 4 internal medicine trainees to participate in the EFIM Exchange Programme.

Finally, the Foundation provided three prizes to the winners of the best poster awards at the European Congress of Internal Medicine in Milan.



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY

The President of FDIME, Prof. Daniel Sereni, is the representative of EFIM at the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Prof. Sereni participated in meetings of the Healthcare Professionals Working Group of EMA. This working group meets either independently or in conjunction with the Patients and Consumers Working Group to discuss various topics with the EMA, such as distribution of information to professionals and patients, implementation of pharmacovigilance, progress in personalised medicine, orphan drugs and biosimilars. In 2017, a workshop on antimicrobial resistance was held. Occasionally, the EMA asks for advice from internists, either regarding a scientific matter or the content of information to be issued to professionals or patients. The request is usually transferred to one or two experts through the EFIM

secretariat. At the 3rd EFIM Day in 2017, Dr. Juan Garcia-Burgos, the EMA Head of Public Engagement Department and Co-Chair of the EMA Patients' and Healthcare Professionals' gave a lecture entitled 'Access to safe medicines: where is the link with the European Medicines Agency?'

Due to the 'Brexit' the EMA headquarters have moved from London to Amsterdam.



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

EFIM WEBSITE



People from 191 different countries visited the website



Overall website traffic is down 16%



Organic search delivers 74% of overall traffic

Google search is 73% of traffic



18% decrease in desktop visitors

5% decrease in mobile visitors



84% of site visitors are new



EFIM continues to update the content of the website with useful information about the latest news and events, as well as important internal medicine-related issues, allowing the members to stay connected and keep up-to-date. A newsletter is published every quarter.

In addition, the EFIM website offers the members free access to the European Journal of Internal Medicine and the European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine.

The EFIM team is currently working on optimising the EFIM website in order to expand its usage. To further enhance the communication with our members and partners, EFIM has turned to social media, opening Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Users registered on the website

1.545

717

Profiles created by users

CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT AND REGISTER NOW: WWW.EFIM.ORG



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