

# EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

## EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY and ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

On: Saturday 19 March 2011, Bucharest, Romania  
Minutes

Present:

Excused: Peck-Radosavljevic AUSTRIA, Pilger AUSTRIA Ceska CZECH REPUBLIC  
Vaclavik CZECH REPUBLIC Gjoerup DENMARK Koch DENMARK Reardon EIRE  
Tanzeem ENGLAND Lember ESTONIA Guillevin FRANCE  
Schumm-Draeger GERMANY Katsilambros GREECE Raptis GREECE Dukat  
SLOVAKIA Conthe SPAIN  
Lindgren Stefan SWEDEN  
Kramer Mark NL

### Extraordinary General Assembly

**1. Apologies and Welcome (Ramon Pujol)**

RPF thanked the Romanian hosts, and Ion Bruckner in particular, for their wonderful organisation and hospitality. He added it was an honour to be in Romania. He then excused the following Doctors that had sent their apologies for this meeting:

**2. Modifications of the Statutes (Ramon Pujol, Jan Willem Elte)**

The modifications of the statutes and byelaws have been approved. The new statutes and byelaws are enclosed.

ACTIONS: update website, publish moniteur belge

### Administrative Council

**1. Apologies and Welcome (R Pujol)**

Please refer to list below.

**2. Minutes of Administrative Council, Luzern 25/01/2010 (R Pujol)**

The minutes were approved.

**3. Election of Executive Committee Officer (JW Elte)**

S Unal presented shortly and was then elected by acclamation to the position of Executive Committee Officer. He was then nominated.

**4. Fellowship programme (W Bauer)**

Werner Bauer updated the Administrative Council on the latest development of the fellowship programme. At this stage the programme is 96% ready, and we are finalising agreements with ACP and EJIM;

The benefits will be as follows:

- EJIM

- PIER
- Discount for the Congress
- Lunch at the Congress
- Directory
- Diploma
- Pin

The selection criteria:

- Member of a national society,
- 3 years in practice,
- A Credential Committee will examine all candidacies.

The fellows will join the programme for at least 3 years, and a discounted rate of 300 euros will be offered if joining in 2011.

#### **5. Bilateral Meetings EFIM / National Societies (R Pujol)**

RPF stated that the relationship between the Executive Committee and the National Societies is very important. So much is lost communication issues. Therefore specific meetings with the National Societies are an excellent way to develop and improve relationships.

The Executive Committee started with Germany, and the next one will be France. UK and Finland are foreseen for later this year.

J Kobberling noted that although the National Societies are updated on EFIM this was very effective to understand each other better, as the information otherwise doesn't always sink in.

He however suggested that in order to save costs it could be useful to meet with the national board when travelling to the Spring meeting or Congress. P Jaeger supported this proposal. And although it was remarked that it is not always easy to fit this meetings in the planning, it is something that will be strongly pushed.

E Kucharz noted that it could be useful for each National Society representative to shortly update on their country's activities during the Administrative Council. This proposal was supported by N Cappellini and S Unal. This will be taken in consideration for the next Administrative Council meeting.

J Kobberling also informed that Germany partners with another European National Society for each national congress. Their partner this year will be Romania. He encouraged other societies to follow their example.

RPF noted that Portugal and Spain are organising their meetings jointly, one year in Spain and the other Portugal.

N Cappellini added that the Italian Society will welcome EFIM for a joint symposium with EFIM at its next national congress, and would like to encourage others to do the same, probably for a more political than scientific subject, raising the profile of EFIM in Europe.

#### **6. Upcoming Congresses: EFIM-10 (Athens) EFIM-11 (Madrid) EFIM - 12 (Prague) EFIM-13 (Geneva)**

EFIM-10 (Athens) 5 to 8 October 2011

- S GRIVEA from the PCO in charge of the Greek Congress reported on the progress done. She stated that a meeting was held all morning to discuss some issues and further develop the scientific programme. The speakers will be invited at the end of the month.
- She explained that the Greeks had encouraged National Societies to submit suggestions for topics and speakers yet only received 3 to 4 contributions so far. She urged representatives to submit more suggestions urgently and circulated forms.
- The abstract submission system is running and abstracts are being received. National societies are invited to encourage members to submit and also register for the Congress. The deadline was extended to the end of June following K Grundy's offer of help from EJIM.
- Early bird fees have been set at 320 Euros (120 Euros for young internists) until the end of May.
- The request from Young Internists to organise a session for half a day has been granted and L Dagna will coordinate with the Greeks.
- Also, following the 2009 Nurses Day in Istanbul, a second one will take place in Athens.
- There will be pre- and post- congress tours organised
- S Grivea requested National Societies to post a Congress banner on their websites, but also let them have a booth at national congresses.

R Pujol invited the Administrative Council to comment and present their positions.

N Cappellini stated how important the Congress is for EFIM, and it is critical that the speakers are not 90% Greeks. S Grivea answered this was certainly not going to be the case, and the active work with the Executive Committee will ensure that. She also said that all sessions will be in English, with a translation in Greek for the plenary.

N Cappellini also stated that gaining a sponsorship to attend a meeting was getting increasingly difficult in Italy. It was therefore hard to predict how many Italians would be able to attend.

A Soupard stated that Belgium will do everything to help. But he also wondered why the programme was not ready one year in advance, as it is the case in most national congresses. This was approved by many.

A Martins Baptista declared that for Portuguese internists the EFIM congress is very important, and they attend massively. They were very disappointed in the cancellation of the congress in Sweden. He insisted that it is very important to hold EFIM congresses in conjunction with the national congresses.

S Unal however felt that this is not always the key to success. Turkey was only able to make a significantly financial contribution to EFIM because they had held 2 separate congresses.

J Kobberling asked what were the problems the organisation of the Congress was facing, and was answered they were mostly economical issues, linked to the situation in Greece, and making securing sponsorships very difficult.

S Rigby stated that the National Health is broke in the UK and will not support the attendance of any overseas' congresses for consultants and residents, even when an abstract is accepted. It will be therefore a huge problem to send British delegates.

W Bauer presented that the Swiss Society had acted as a travel agent for internists to attend an American Congress. Although participants were paying for themselves, this

coordination service encouraged many to attend and a delegation of 68 is now going to San Diego. He suggested others could follow this example.

EFIM 11 Madrid: no additional information.

EFIM 12 Prague: Please mark the dates, 25 to 28 September 2013

- 7. ESIM: report winter school, announcement summer school, selection of a new location for the summer school from 2012, approval for a new winter school in Saas Fee in 2012 (V Briner, C Davidson)**

#### **Winter school 2011**

V Briner reported on the first winter school in Saas Fee (presentation enclosed). She explained that they were Very lucky with snow and weather. The scientific programme was excellent, with lectures, workshops and case presentations. The evaluations came back very positive, and the only modification requested was to have more time with CPC. Some students also remarked that they felt it was harder to focus in the evenings after sport.

It is proposed to have the winter school in Saas Fee for 2 additional years. This proposal was approved by the Administrative Council by acclamation.

V Briner proposed 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>th</sup> January 2011 as dates for the next school, as this is the low season and it is easier to get excellent accommodation deals.

C Davidson remarked that he had a fantastic time in Saas Fee, and although he had some reserves about mixing ski and lectures, and feared some students will not return in time for the scientific programme, it worked perfectly. He added that V Briner was a wonderful leader and was loved by the residents. He encouraged Administrative Council Members to look at the interviews on the website.

#### **Summer School 2011**

C Davidson reported that the next summer school will take place in Brighton from 4 to 9 September 2011. The programme will be identical. Grants are available, including one from AMGEN of 5000euros.

A Martins Baptista noted it was an excellent decision to split the school. He is really happy for the successes of UK and Switzerland.

#### **Summer school 2012-2014**

One candidacy was received for hosting the school from the summer 2012: Turkey. S Unal said he was honoured to welcome the school in Turkey, and E Akalin stated he would be honoured to be director of the school.

M Durusu presented the Turkish proposal for the school (presentation enclosed)

S Unal suggested to host the first school in Izmir, and maybe to move to another location the next year.

Some concerns were raised about the cost and schedules of the flights to reach Izmir but S Unal ensured it wouldn't be any problem, between charters and direct flights.

A question was raised about the cost of accommodation meeting the budget, and S Unal answered that the budget allowed for a 5 star holiday village.

The Administrative Council approved by acclamation Turkey hosting the European Summer School of Internal Medicine 2012 to 2014.

#### **8. Young internists (R Duckitt)**

R Duckitt reported on the latest developments in the Young Internists subcommittee (presentation enclosed)

He informed that M Durusu and he had stepped down of the Young Internist group and this was his last meeting as chair. He thanked M Durusu for setting up the group and taking it where it is now.

R Duckitt announced the new chair of the sub-committee in the person of L Bosanska.

L Bosanska stressed how important bringing young internists to every meeting is. If not, it is extremely difficult to only communicate by email.

Her priority will be to work closely with the Greeks to present a young internists programme at the congress in Athens.

She also encouraged national societies to offer a young internists programme in national congresses and offered the subcommittee support to help organise such programmes.

R Pujol thanked R Duckitt for his contribution to EFIM. He underlined how he had learnt from him, and what a leader he is. He also admired the capacity of young people to organise half day programmes, but also half nights!

C Davidson and W Bauer invited the Administrative Council members to take example on the Young Internists on networking and pointed at the fellowship programme as an excellent tool for 'mature' internists.

E Kucharz insisted that education should be a point of focus for young internists, as their voice is critical on this subject.

#### **9. Progress report EJIM (K Grundy)**

K Grundy presented on the latest developments for the Journal (enclosed presentation)

Most importantly K Grundy underlined the following points:

- 1.385 impact factor, up by 33%
- Increase in submission
- Publication time down by 33%
- Changes in editorial board occurred in the past months but it is important to have a rotation within national representatives on the Editorial Board. National Societies are invited to propose names to K Grundy and P Mannucci of people that are very active and interested
- New journal website released in March with new applications
- Affiliation and adoption: please consider for your country!
- Case reports: case reports are offering great educational value and are most welcomed by young internists. On the other hand, they do not generate many citations, which is a problem for a scientific journal. It is therefore suggested to limit them to one / two per issue in a separate section of the Journal, for a good balance between hard science and education, with an editorial comment. Given the quality of some case presentations given at the school, some could be submitted for publication.

A Martins Baptista asked how many prints are issued each month. The answer is 2000.

J Kobberling asked if Elsevier is earning money with the journal. The answer is yes, and so is EFIM through the payment of royalties.

S Rigby asked how national societies' representatives are getting their free online access to the journal. The answer is that the contact details for each society are being gathered by the EFIM secretariat and will be sent to ELSEVIER shortly.

C Gutierrez said that forms were being circulated. She also said that a list of Presidents, Vice Presidents and Secretaries General was circulated to be checked and updated if needed.

## **10. Progress report Working Groups**

### - W Bauer reported on the Professional Issues Working Group

W Bauer stated that unfortunately the chairman M Kramer was not able to come to Luzern and Bucharest. A working group workshop will be organised by M Alvarez de Mon in Madrid in June or July. The 3 following papers will be worked on in Madrid:

- A document about the ethics of the relationship between EFIM members and pharmaceutical company
- A translation of the strategic document into a general audience/ more political message. A PPT for every EFIM member to use to present the strategic document will also be prepared.
- A document on academic general internal medicine

The objective is to present these papers in Athens.

### C Semple reported on the European Board of IM /Competencies Working Group

C Semple reminded members that the Competencies project intends to see how internal medicine is practiced / trained all over Europe. The differences are significant and although most think they know what is happening in other countries, most don't.

A survey was conducted in 2009 and 2010 and an incredible amount of data was gathered.

There is enough data to publish 6 separate papers. Their subjects will be as follows:

- Organisation of medical practice
- Organisation of post graduate training
- Assessment methods
- Diseases diagnosed done by Internists in different countries
- Procedures an internist is trained to do in different countries
- Summary paper on ways to go forward

The group was divided in 3 teams that will each focus on 2 aspects. The target is to prepare the papers for the meeting in Athens to review and edit, and publish in 2012.

C Semple added that although a single curriculum was an objective, it is still very long term.

### L Dagna reported on the Rare Diseases Working Group (presentation enclosed)

L Dagna explained that a survey had been prepared and sent to the YI database and national societies. It was suggested to conduct the survey in Athens on computers made available to the participants.

L Bosanska added that it would be useful to add a question about how many patients had been treated in the hospital of the surveyed doctor.

H Bitterman stated that rare diseases offered a unique opportunity in sponsorships at the moment, but that EFIM should work harder on defining rare diseases of interest because the list is too long (6000 to 8000 diseases affecting 30 million people in Europe).

#### H Van Hulsteijn reported on the Quality of Care Working Group

H Van Hulsteijn stated that :

- The first version of the Position Paper in Quality is ready and he hoped to have the document approved in Athens and then published in EJIM.

- Rule of 12 to ensure quality discharge process was issued few years ago. This year the group wants to look at the implementation of these rules. A questionnaire has been prepared. A second version will soon be available and will be translated in 31 languages in Europe.

#### A Martins Baptista reported on the Exchange Working Group

Martins Baptista informed the Administrative Council that he will quit the coordination of the group for personal reason and Pedro Conthe will take over this project.

### **11. Foundation / Clinical Research Course (D Sereni)**

D Sereni reported on the Foundation and on the Clinical Research Course (Presentation enclosed)

S Rigby asked why the applications for the Clinical Research Course were limited to the past attendees of ESIM.

The answer was that for the cohesion of the group and the finances it is important to limit the number of participants to 15. The call for applications to past ESIM attendees already generates 15 to 50 applications, which is more than enough.

Yet it does not mean that recruitment is limited to this channel. Others are welcome and Moshe Vardi is the best example of that process.

### **12. Next Meeting**

Two proposals to host the next Spring meeting were received from Israel and Finland.

The two candidacies were very strong, but as Israel was already a candidate for 2011 and Finland is offering their candidacy for 2013 as well, it is suggested by the Executive Committee to organise the 2012 Spring meeting in Israel. Dates will be communicated in Athens.

Finland is strongly encouraged to re present their candidacy for the 2013 meeting.

This proposal was approved by acclamation by the Administrative Council.

H Bitterman presented Tel Aviv (enclosed presentation).

The next Administrative Council will take place in Athens.

**13. Any other items: to be notified to the Secretary General in advance of the meeting**

Each Administrative Council Member presented an update of the situation in their countries.

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