



# UEMS PSYCHIATRY SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue 3  
Winter 2015 / 2016

## Section Meeting in Berlin

At the October meeting in Berlin, the UEMS Section of Psychiatry addressed a number of important issues: the location of the meeting, Berlin, inspired the discussion of the increasing number of refugees in Europe. The Section took the first step in developing a plan on how to meet the challenges faced by the increasing numbers of people seeking refuge in Europe. The plan will address the training and education of psychiatrists now and in the future. Refugees have complex health needs and they have a high rate of severe mental disorders; trauma related mental disorders as well as physical illness. There are language difficulties that demand the use of interpreters. Only staff with the proper qualifications can meet their needs. The UEMS Section of Psychiatry will define the competencies needed by a psychiatrist to address these challenges.

Our President, Dr Marc Hermans, was obligated to leave the meeting and go to Warsaw for the UEMS Council meeting. On the agenda was the election of new officers. Dr Hermans announced his candidacy for the position as one of the vice-presidents. It has been the strategy of the Section to seek representation in the Council and it is therefore both a personal tribute to our president and great accomplishment for the Section that Dr Hermans succeeded in becoming a vice-president in the Council.

The Standing committee on Training presented Chapter 6 in the UEMS Charter on Training ready for approval (see 2<sup>nd</sup> page). A discussion on psychotherapy in relation to training ensued and it was agreed that the Section must keep psychotherapy on the agenda. Psychotherapy is an integral part of being a psychiatrist. The Section vowed to work for the inclusion of Psychotherapy in conferences and meetings.

Section members on the EPA Committee on Education will discuss the importance of Psychotherapy at their next meeting.

The re-election of President, Honorary Secretary and Officer was also an item on the agenda. It was rather un-dramatic. All candidates were elected unopposed for their second and final term of office: Marc Hermans as President, Torsten Jacobsen as Honorary Secretary and Thea Heeren as Officer.

From elections to the approval of the 2016 Annual Plan, the most important items in the Annual Plan being the further strengthening of the communication strategy. The Plan also encourages the Standing Committee on Training to instigate a process that leads to a European exam in psychiatry.

The last thing worth mentioning is the approval UEMS CAP / Psychiatry Section Transition Working Group to produce guidelines for training to assist with transition from CAP to adult services.

The whole meeting was strongly influenced by the pleasant atmosphere and open mindedness of Berlin and our German Hosts.

## Spring 2016 Meeting in Warsaw

The next meeting of the Psychiatry Section will take place in Warsaw, Poland. Country host Krzysztof Krysta has planned a programme for the visit day that will include talks from the leaders of the Polish Psychiatric Association and a chance to tour the new Forensic Psychiatry facilities in Warsaw. The Section meeting on Friday and Saturday will include a chance to further discuss psychotherapy training in Europe.

## UEMS Section of Psychiatry approves new Chapter 6

A learned body giving its approval to a chapter from a book hardly sounds worth remarking on. On this occasion, however, it is hoped that the Chapter in question will have impact for years to come on the quality of training that psychiatrists in training experience. Because better trained and happier psychiatrists make for better quality treatment, this will improve the service that mentally ill people receive from their psychiatry specialists.

Chapter 6 is the specialty-specific element of the European Charter for Medical Training. Every medical specialty that is represented in UEMS is asked to produce its own version of Chapter 6; setting out the standards that high quality training in the specialty must meet. The standards cover every aspect of a trainee's experience: from how they are selected to undergo specialty training, to how they are assessed as being ready to meet the demands of working as an independent medical specialist in their chosen field.

The standards are relevant to doctors in training, their teachers and supervisors, directors of training programmes and to national bodies setting curricula, examinations and other assessment tools.

Now that the Section of Psychiatry has approved the document, it will be forwarded to the UEMS Council for final approval and submission to the health regulatory bodies of the European Union.

The next task for the Board of Psychiatry is to oversee work to introduce a set of tools that will support the implementation of the standards by monitoring how the standards are delivered. The methods will include self-assessment against the standards and using trainee and trainer surveys. The EFPT has kindly volunteered to help us in developing and piloting these tools.

We'll report back after the April meeting.

## Standing Committee on Training

Although the Standing Committee on Training met for only an hour in Berlin, it was a busy and productive meeting.

The SCT functions as a programme board; commissioning and overseeing a set of projects that will take the Section of Psychiatry's mission to improve the delivery of psychiatry training forward. It has a high level programme planning tool that monitors the state of each project the SCT has commissioned.

At the April meeting in Berlin, the SCT approved the final version of the Psychiatry Chapter 6 of the European Charter on Postgraduate Medical Training (see left) As well as signing off the new Chapter 6, the SCT noted progress on the rewriting of the Profile of a Psychiatrist, the review of the European Framework for Competencies in Psychiatry and the feasibility study on the development of a European Board Examination in Psychiatry.

The SCT implemented the Section's decision to support the proposal to establish a joint Working Group with the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Section to identify curriculum competencies that support the safe transition of patients between children's and adults' mental health services. In response to a discussion in the Section, the SCT commissioned a project to look at how training supports the development of competencies relevant to the diagnosis, treatments and care of people in refugee situations.

UEMS Psychiatry Section Papers and Reports can be found at <http://uemspsy psychiatry.org/>

## The Diary of a President

As you might remember, Marc was appointed a member of the WPA Operational Committee on Training. A first meeting of the newly elected committee took place in Taipei during the Taiwanese Psychiatric Association's Congress. The chair of the Committee, Prof. Edgard Belfort (Venezuela), chairing the WPA Committee on Education as well, welcomed the new members and expressed his hope for a fruitful collaboration. This first meeting was more a kind of a round-up of the actual status on training in psychiatry in the world. Mainstream elements are well known to many of us: budgetary restrictions, reform of training programs, fighting stigma on the profession and its patients.



On 25 November the EPA NPA's Council had its meeting during the DGPPN Congress in Berlin. The DGPPN annually hosts this meeting and its presidential dinner always offers an opportunity to meet well known colleagues from all over Europe to establish new contacts or renew old ones. At the Wednesday morning meeting Prof. Wolfgang Gaebel presented the common EPA-UEMS initiative to refresh the activities of an earlier existing working group with WHO, EFPT, EPA and UEMS: a *Taskforce on Education in European Psychiatry*, the more formal aspects of which still have to be discussed.

Following an invitation from the Polish Psychiatric Association, on 11 December Marc Hermans presented on the role of the UEMS Section of Psychiatry on its annual national congress in Wisła. At this same occasion Andy Brittlebank presented the Standing Committee on Training's endeavours to promote high quality training in Europe. Krzysztof Krysta introduced them with a presentation on the actual status of training in Poland as compared to UEMS standards for training.

During the meeting of the EACCME Advisory Council in the House of the International Associations in Brussels new elements were introduced to the working of the EACCME. On the same occasion Dr. Alejandro Aparicio again stressed the importance of the agreement on mutual recognition of accredited events between the UEMS and the American Medical Association while presenting an update of the accreditation system in the USA. Dr. Hannu Halila, UEMS past president, presented data on the revision of the EU Professional Qualifications Directive 2013/55.

As many of you will know, France has been absent from the Section for a few years due to the internal debates between more than 50 (yes fifty) associations. Prof. Michel Botbol has tried to introduce again the Section into the French psychiatric world. Therefore he invited Marc to take part in a debate on 28 January in Paris on the introduction of a French Classification of Mental Disorders.

## UEMS Elections

During the meeting of the UEMS Council in Warsaw, elections took place for a new Extended Executive Committee (EEC):

Dr. Romuald Krajewski, a neurosurgeon from Poland was re-elected as president for a new term of four years. Prof. Vasilios Papalaios, a transplantation surgeon from the UK and former UEMS vice-president, was now elected Secretary General. Dr. Edwin Borman (UK), secretary general stepped down for professional reasons. Dr. Bernard Mailliet, a Belgian pathologist, now takes the office of treasurer, replacing Sergio Berchicci from Italy. Slatko Fras, a cardiologist from Slovenia, builds further as a liaison officer on his experience from his former mandate. Four vice-presidents were then elected: Hans Hjelmqvist (Sweden) starting a second term, Otmar Haas (Austria), Joao Grenho (Portugal) and Marc Hermans (Belgium).

The EEC has gathered already once physically and has regular telephone conferences, alternated with the ones of the Executive Committee. Tasks have been assigned to everybody and the atmosphere during this meeting was very constructive.

## UEMS Psychiatry Section Officers

Marc Hermans, President  
Torsten Jacobsen, Hon. Secretary  
Maria Fe Bravo Ortiz, Treasurer  
Andrew Brittlebank, Vice President (Training)  
Dan Georgescu, Vice President (CME)  
Thea Heeren, Officer

Secretariat:

Elen Cook [ecook@rcpsych.ac.uk](mailto:ecook@rcpsych.ac.uk)