

NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY



Summer 2005

Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to present our actual newsletter. The board has asked Prof. Raimundo Mateos to develop and prepare this new version together with Dr. Joanna Rymaszewska. Both have done a great job and the result is just laying in front of you.

For your information, the newsletter is divided into sections of all kinds of data on Geriatric Psychiatry in Europe. Moreover, it contains information about actions the board has started so far.

So please enjoy reading it and do not hesitate to contact us with proposals to improve our newsletter.

Prof Dr Ralf Ihl
President of the EAGP

EAGP 32nd SYMPOSIUM

OSLO, NORWAY, 23-25th SEPTEMBER 2004

Minutes of the Annual General Assembly (25/09/04)

Members present:

Profs. Engedal, Ihl, Mateos, Mendonca Lima, Drs. Calabrese and Grass-Kapanke, and 12 other members of the Association.

1. Apologies

Profs. Kiejna, Camus and Dr. Rymaszewska.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 25.09.03 in Wroclaw were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Report by the members of the Executive Committee

Prof. Kanowski is going to write down the history of the EAGP.

Prof. Mendonca Lima announced, that he has to give up his position as the president of the EAGP to become the 1st Brazilian Professor of Old Age Psychiatry.

There have been three meetings of the board of directors since the last congress:

- in Berlin, Dec - 11 - 2003, subsequent to a meeting of the EAGP with the Hirnliga;
- in Geneva, Mar - - 2004, while the AGP congress;
- in Oslo, Sep - 23 - 2004, in the run-up to the EAGP-congress.

Subject of the board meeting in Oslo was to prepare future issues of the EAGP as:

New strategies for the enlargement of our membership. In the future there will be a Nations Board, where contact-persons for each country of the EAGP will be nominated. The Speaker of the Nations Board is Prof. Alistair Burns.

The board plans to issue a journal, called "European Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry".

There have already been negotiations with Elsevier that seems to be promising. Nevertheless, other publishers will be contacted as well. Alistair Burns and Martin Orrell - members of the Board experienced in this area - will be involved.

The new address of our website is

www.eagp.com

There was a meeting concerning a master degree in Old Age Psychiatry before the congress. This will be a cooperation between Basel (Profs. Krebs-Rubiczek, Stoppe), Wroclaw (Prof. Kiejna), Kent/London (Prof. Katona), Düsseldorf (Prof. Ihl), Tours (Prof. Camus) and Santiago de la Compostela (Prof. Mateos). Articles about this subject will be published on the website.

The newsletter changed charge from Christel Kretschmar to Raimundo Mateos. It will be published twice a year (August + February) on the web-site, in the Journal and distributed by e-mail.

4. Financial Status

Prof. Ihl presented the actual financial status. Before the congress there was an amount of 17.000 € available, after costs for the congress approximately 7.000 € will remain. There has been a cash audit by Dr. Mendonca Lima and Prof. Camus. A request for membership fees will be sent soon.

The east-fund ended. Therefore all members from the eastern part of Europe have to pay the regular fees beginning with 2005.

5. Alteration of rules

There was a change in the bodies of our society including now the new Nations Board with its speaker Prof. Alistair Burns. The Nations Board will consist of persons / representatives of national federations with the aim to enhance the international exchange in old age psychiatry.

Members expressed their concern about the selection rules for the representatives. Especially in cases where there is more than one association in a country, difficulties may occur. Furthermore, it should be ensured that the chosen associations are not influenced by the pharmaceutical industry. These issues will be transmitted to Prof. Alistair Burn who will take them into account when inviting potential representatives.

Otherwise there were only minor changes in the rules, mainly necessary for legal reasons. All attendees voted in unison for the new rules.

6. Election of new Board members.

Dr. Mendonca Lima had to quit his position as president due to his new professorship at the University of Rio de Janeiro.

It was proposed that Prof. Ralf Ihl became Chairman (President).

As a new member in the board of directors Prof. Vincent Camus was nominated. Both nominations were fully approved by the members and all were elected unopposed.

The elections resulted in the following board of directors:

President - Prof. Ralf Ihl

Vice-President - Prof. Raimundo Mateos

Secretary - Dr. Joanna Rymaszewska

Treasurer - Dr. Brigitte Grass-Kapanke

Liaison Officer - Dr. Pasquale Calabrese

Speaker of the NB- Prof. Alistair Burns

Special tasks: Prof. Andrzej Kiejna, Prof. Knut Engedal, Prof. Martin Orrell, Prof. Vincent Camus

7. Future meetings

a) Basel 2005

Prof. Krebs-Rubiczeck and her local committee are well on track with regard to planning the 33rd Symposium which would be held in Basel between Oct. 27-29th, 2005. Main topics will be "Diversity and Commonality of Geriatric Psychiatry in Europe" and "Telematics". In addition, educational courses with CME credit will be offered.

b) For 2006 the board will try to find an organiser in Eastern Europe.

c) In 2007 the congress will be held in Santiago de Compostella (Prof. Mateos) in Collaboration with the Sociedad Española de Gerontopsiquiatría y Psicogeriatría and the Associação Portuguesa de Gerontopsiquiatría.

8. Date of next meeting

This would be held during the course of the Basel meeting. Members would be sent the agenda, time and venue by mail.

9. Any other business

Thanks to Prof. Engedal for the organisation of such a successful congress.

Good by, thank you very much for the successful work as the president of our association and best wishes to Prof. Mendonca Lima.

Dr. Brigitte Grass-Kapanke, 25.09.04

Future Congresses

EAGP-congress 2006

Cologne, Germany

Collaboration with the German Association of Geriatric Psychiatry and Psychotherapy

draft date: 21-23 September 2006

EAGP-congress 2007

Santiago de Compostella, Spain

Collaboration with other national associations (Spanish and Portuguese Associations of Psychogeriatrics)

Geriatric Psychiatry in Europe

Geriatric psychiatry in Europe faces a number of challenges, some common to various countries and some not. The European Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (EAGP) is in the unique position to take the field forward by inspiring leadership and initiatives to bring together the best of clinical practice and research. There are a number of exciting developments which could have a uniquely European perspective.

The European Dementia Consensus (EDCON) is attempting to bring together a number of areas where consensus can be achieved in a number of aspects of dementia care. EDCON is chaired by Norman Sartorius, Jacques Selmes is the secretary, and members include Gabriela Stoppe, Gunhild Waldemar, Christine Marking, myself, Marcel Olde-Rikkert and Robert Moulias. EDCON chooses initiatives to debate and discuss, and subjects so far include disclosure of diagnosis of dementia to patients; standards of dementia care across Europe; access to treatment; genetic research; and competency. A multidisciplinary group discusses contentious aspects of these areas with a view to reaching consensus. For example, good practice in terms of diagnosis dictates that disclosure should be the norm with exceptions specifically stated. Standards of care vary across Europe, and availability of services differs from country to country (Burns et al, 2005).

Different approaches to care are at their most stark when considering access to treatments (Waldemar et al., submitted for publication). The National Institute for Clinical Excellence review in the UK casts doubt on the cost effectiveness of the anti-dementia drugs, a view which seems unique to England, with the potential for the differential availability of drugs in the UK now a reality (Burns et al, BMJ, 2005b).

Like many cross-national organizations (for example, the International Psychogeriatric Association), the EAGP could have a significant role in advising government and policy makers about many aspects of geriatric psychiatry. Covering the whole range of mental health problems in older people is an advantage compared to disease-specific organizations who may deal with schizophrenia or Alzheimer's disease. Whether the EAGP has a view on its own, or whether it merely acts as a conduit for the views of individuals, is important, but one would hope that its strength lies in its ability to coalesce thoughts and practical experience which can bring to bear benefit for older people with mental health problems. For example, the International Psychogeriatric Association pioneered and held a number of successful consensus meetings following a format with intensive provision of information, followed by a discussion and the emergence of a consensus. Largely sponsored by industry, these brought together leaders in the field and, for example, laid the foundations for the concept of Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia.

Could the EAGP do the same on a European basis? I guess one of the first considerations is, what is unique to geriatric psychiatry in Europe compared to the rest of the world (aside to the fact that it was invented here!)?

It is often easy to forget that we are organizations without walls and represent a group of likeminded people who meet intermittently to share ideas and information. It is the people who bring their own experience and reputations which cause others to take notice. Particularly, it is the bringing together of experience which transcends the usual boundaries of country or institution which is the real strength. At a time when Europe is arguably at its strongest (but, paradoxically, also divided) that the best opportunity exists. Examples are the two recent consensus meetings on training and stigma and the proposed European curriculum for training in old

age psychiatry (de Mendonça Lima et al, 2003; Draper, 2003).

The EAGP, in a unique position to bring together these strengths, will represent the strongest discipline-based European association, and has the opportunity to make a real difference in the care and treatment of older people with mental health problems.

Prof. Alistair Burns

Burns A (ed) 2005(a) Standards of Care. On behalf of EDCON. Taylor and Francis 2005. ISBN 1-84184-526-4

Burns et al 2005(b) bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/letters/330/7490/495-a#100342

Draper B (2003) Training in old age psychiatry. International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry 18 683-685.

Mendonça Lima, CA (2003) Stigma and discrimination against older people with mental disorders in Europe. International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry 18: 697-682.

Waldemar G, Phung KTT, Burns A, Georges Jean, Ronholdt Hansen F, Iliffe S, Marking C, Olde-Rikkert M, Selmes J, Stoppe G, Sartorius N (2005) (submitted to the International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry). Access to diagnostic evaluation and treatment for dementia in Europe.

EAGP collaboration with other bodies

EAGP symposium of the IPA in Stockholm
September 2005

EAGP and IPA have had talks about further cooperation. One of the results is that we will join our congresses with combined symposia. Thus, in September 20-24, 2005, at the IPA congress in Stockholm we had an EAGP symposium and the IPA will have a symposium at the EAGP congress October 27-29, 2005, in Basel.

The theme and contents of our symposium in Stockholm were:

Quality assurance in Geriatric Psychiatry

Chair: Ralf Ihl, Germany. Co-chair: Jerzey Leszek, Poland

- **How can the quality of services in Geriatric Psychiatry be measured?** Knut Engedal, NORWAY
- **The challenge of geriatric psychiatry in Europe** Alistair Burns, UNITED KINGDOM
- **Increasing the quality of education in Geriatric Psychiatry** Raimundo Mateos and Manuel Sánchez-Pérez, SPAIN
- **Methodological requirements for therapy studies** Ralf Ihl, GERMANY

With the increasing mean age of the population the interest of scientists in Geriatric Psychiatry is rising too. An overwhelming number of publications is the consequence.

The usefulness of results will depend on the quality of methods. However, improving the quality of methods will be an important challenge.

The symposium of the European Association of Geriatric Psychiatry wants to initialize a process of quality assurance in the field of Geriatric Psychiatry. In the re-contribution, the impact of the elderly will be underlined by epidemiological data. For education in the elderly, a second lecture will demonstrate actual and future possibilities. Designs of studies on services as well as on psychosocial and medical therapy will be the themes of two further lectures.

European Collaboration on Dementia (EuroCoDe)

The **EuroCoDe** project was initiated by Alzheimer Europe who prepared an application for funding of the European Commission. The board of the EAGP was asked to participate in the project. Therefore, we had a meeting in Brussels, where the EAGP was represented by Ralf Ihl and Brigitte Grass-Kapanke. Other groups involved are the Cochrane Dementia and Cognitive Impairment Group, the European Alzheimer's Disease Consortium, The European Federation of Neurological Societies, the INTERDEM (Early detection and timely Intervention in dementia) group, the International Association of Gerontology (European Region) and the North Sea Dementia Research Group.

The aim of this network will be to provide essential data for the development of a sustainable health monitoring and information system for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The project would thus aim at developing:

- Consensual prevalence rates for Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia to be used by all the network partners
- European guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of dementia
- European guidelines for non-pharmacological interventions in dementia
- European parameters for the risk factors of dementia and risk reduction and prevention strategies
- A European comparison of the socio-economic costs of dementia
- A European inventory of the support systems provided by Member

States of the European Union to people with dementia and their carers.

Representatives of the EAGP in this project are: Ralf Ihl in the steering committee, Lutz Frölich as a leader of the „risk factors and prevention“ work package and as work group members Andrzej Kiejna in „prevalence“ as well as Brigitte Grass-Kapanke in „diagnosis and treatment“.

As this project would be a good opportunity to increase the cooperation between European organizations in the field of dementia, we all hope to get the consent of the European Commission. Please keep your fingers crossed and I hope I can provide you with good news in the next newsletter.

Dr. B. Grass-Kapanke

PS. Latest news:

The Commission services have decided to **ACCEPT (!!!)** our request for funding. Nevertheless, this does not yet mean that our project has been accepted, as we will need to provide the European Commission with a number of supporting documents.



Dear members of the EAGP

due to some changes of the board, especially in the position of the treasurer, there has not been a call for membership fees for several years. Nevertheless, lots of work has to be done and as you all might know, for running an association properly (e.g. sending newsletters) you need some money. So here it is, our...

Call for the membership fees of 2004 and 2005!

Notice: This call is valid even for members
from countries of Eastern Europe

For the members from countries of Eastern Europe, the east fund covered the fees until 2004. I am sorry to inform you that the east fund ended, so that you will be responsible for your fees from now on, beginning with 2005. Actually the fee is 30 Euro what we think really is a moderate contribution.

There are two ways of paying the membership fees:

- by credit card, please send me the authorization to charge your card. For this I need the following information: type of credit card, number, expiration date.
- via transfer to our account, please find the details here:

EAGP

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BIC DAAEDED

But we give you a chance of saving money in the future:

Win two new members

get one (membership fee for one year)

free!

So if you convince two colleagues of yours to become a member of the EAGP you will get a one year bonus on your fees. Hence, the new members have to mention your name on the application form (that you can find in the internet at www.EAGP.com).

Kind regards
Dr. B. Grass-Kapanke

Rules of The Newsletter

All EAGP members are cordially invited to participate in creating EAGP Newsletter in the future. All propositions and piece of writing are warmly welcome!

In addition to the sections included in this first issue, the following sections are proposed:

OTHER GERONTOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOGERIATRIC EVENTS

Aim: Books, news, webpages etc. related with the psychogeriatric field can be reported in this section.

PSYCHOGERIATRIC NEWS AROUND EUROPE

Aim: To stimulate EAGP members to report any national, even local news related with psychogeriatric field

OPINIONS

Aim: EAGP members may give their personal opinion on psychogeriatric topics in a fresh way.

“SCIENCE RECIPES (JUST COOKING...)”

Aim: to let other EAGP members know the new research projects that EAGP members are starting, in order to get collaboration, advice, or communicate very preliminary findings.

PSYCHOGERIATRIC JOKES

The idea of the section is to promote participation in the sense of humour, new ones or reproduced, with different cultural attitude)



Please send your contributions for the Newsletter either to:

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