



EUMASS - UEMASS

European Union of Medicine in Assurance and Social Security
Union Européenne de Médecine d'Assurance et de Sécurité Sociale

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 24th September 2016 Warsaw, Poland

Those present:

The executive: Dr. G. Lindenger (President), Dr. J.-P. Bronckaers (Vice-President), Dr. G. Hart (Vice-President), Dr. A. Bahemann (Treasurer), Dr. A. de Wind (Secretary-General).

Members of Council: Dr. I. Autti-Rämö, Dr. H. J. Beck, Dr. T. Čakš, Dr F. Cattani, Dr. P. Daniluk, Dr. I. Gkiouzelis, Dr. M. Gouëlle, Dr. L. Goyeryd, Dr. G. Guðmundsson, Dr. D. Kajejic, Dr. D. Kakarigi, Dr. F. Latil, Dr. O. Masten-Cuznar, Dr. J. Matějčková, Dr. C. Oancea, Dr. P. Pliva, Dr. M. Rus, Dr. J.-P. Schenkelaars, Dr. H. Štaňkova.

Apologies:

Dr. N. Agosti, Dr. A. Alves, Dr. S. Brage, Prof. Dr. M. Ciuvica, Dr. K. W. Hara, Prof. Dr. R. Kunz, Dr. J. Margalho Carrilho, Dr. N. Šikić, Dr. V. Sinay, Dr. I. Soare.

Guest:

Dr. C. Dal Pozzo

1. Welcome

Dr. G. Lindenger opens the meeting and welcomes Dr. Cristina Dal Pozzo, who tries to convince her organisation (INAIL) to renew the EUMASS membership.
He thanks the Polish organizers for the interesting scientific and very pleasant social program.

2. Minutes of the meeting in Ljubljana (11th June 2016)

Approval of the minutes.

3. Notices to members

- CIM

CIM has compiled a special edition of their newsletter, reporting about both the EUMASS and ICLAM congress. The systematic reviews on Return to Work (RTW), ICF and work participation, presented at the Ljubljana Congress, are briefly described.

If one is interested in receiving the newsletter, which appears 3 times a year, one can subscribe by using the following link:

<http://cochrane.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7f2f51d9b45535aed49ecd198&id=f4dc299ff4>

- CPME

At the CPME Board meeting in Brussels in April this year, it was decided to create a CPME Working Group on Diet, Nutrition and Physical Activity to consolidate and update the CPME policies in this area so as to better respond to current debates and developments.

In the aftermath of the Brexit vote, the BMA has reaffirmed its commitment to working with the CPME and its members, to safeguard the future of the European medical profession and the patients that it serves.

Dr. M. Gouëlle is a member of the CPME Working Group on pharmaceuticals. The topics this working group has been addressing in the past year are:

- Biosimilars
- Antibiotics
- The relation with the pharmaceutical industry
- Paediatric medicines

- WD-FAB

At the Ljubljana congress there were two presentations from the US on a new ICF-based “Work Disability Functional Assessment Battery” (WD-FAB) which were very well received and caught a lot of interest. This new instrument has recently been developed by the National Institute of Health and Boston University. It has been tested in the US, and found to be reliable and valid, and the research group that has developed the WD-FAB is now seeking international collaboration to have the instrument tested in other countries.

U.S. Social Security Administration and NIH new Functional Ability Battery test



Collaboration to Improve the US Disability Determination Process

The Conceptual Framework for the Work Disability Functional Assessment Battery (WD-FAB)

Diane Brandt, PT, MS, PhD



NIH National Institutes of Health
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August, 2007

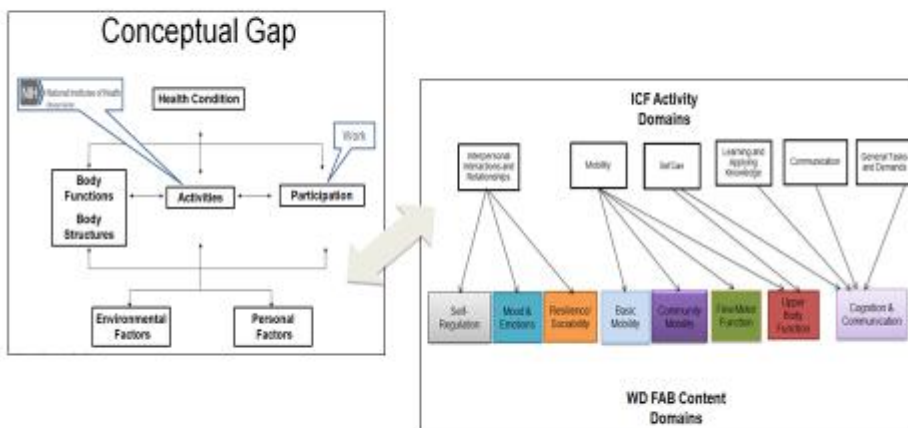
- In this context, SSA sought help from NIH institutes and centers
- Identify new diagnostic tests to expedite allowances
- Paradigm: Diagnosis or impairment = disability

SSA/RMD Inter-Agency Agreement

- 8-year agreement beginning in February 2008
- Brings research funds into NIH-RMD



What measures FAB – as others do not do...?



How measures FAB?



(IRT) Item Response Theory Methodology...

- Questions are chosen to cover the range of function in one dimension (eg. mobility)
- Questions in each domain are ordered hierarchically along a scale
- Each question provides different information about the domain of functioning
- Scores are calibrated to an equal interval score

What is CAT?

Questions selected from a large IRT calibrated 'item bank'

A computerized algorithm selects items based on how a person responds to previous items

And now validation would be of benefit also in European countries.

The Americans have put WD-FAB in line with their procedures and system for doing evaluations. The situation in European countries is undoubtedly different, and the use of the WD-FAB must be adapted to the needs in each individual country. Nevertheless, many countries can find it useful.

Dr. S. Brage has written a first suggestion for an instruction on how to perform validation tests of WD-FAB.

Three issues need discussing:

1. Is their sufficient interest for the testing of WD-FAB in European countries?
2. Should a Working Group have a coordinating role in the testing of WD-FAB, and have close contact with the American research group?
3. Who wants to take part in this WD-FAB-Working Group? Please suggest names.

A detailed discussion follows:

- Boston University asks for a fee of 100\$.
- Validation test parallel to the regular assessment: requires a time investment of the claimant of ± 25 minutes.
- Germany: there is currently a Working Group on personal factors that might be interested and probably could cooperate.
- Who pays for the translation? Is translation available in the Boston IT-system, so that one could use the Boston system instead of having to develop translation?
- Does confidential information stay in the testing country instead of going to Boston?

- It seems an interesting new assessment tool.

A list is sent around registering who is interested in the validation and who is interested to take part in the WD-FAB-Working Group. Dr. G. Lindenger will report back to Dr. S. Brage.

- Kosovo

Kosovo has requested information on the EUMASS membership procedure, which meanwhile has been provided.

4. Evaluation of the Ljubljana Congress

- Dr. M. Rus thanks, on behalf of the entire Organising Committee, all Council members for their help in organising this Congress and for encouraging so many participants to attend this congress.
 - There were 659 registered participants; 514 (78%) registered for 3 days and 145 (22%) for 1 day (mostly Friday).
 - Participants from 24 countries and 3 continents: 358 (54%) from Slovenia and 301 (46%) from abroad (the Netherlands (71), Belgium (58), Croatia (49), Sweden (23), France (18), Norway (17)...)
 - Most participants were aged between 45 and 64.
 - Participants were mostly notified of the congress through their colleagues and professional associations as well while present at the previous congress. Very few found out through electronic means and social networking.
 - The number of submitted contributions exceeded all expectations: 12 plenary sessions, 132 parallel sessions and 40 posters. Participants commented that there were too many interesting presentations at the same time.
 - An evaluation form was sent to all 659 participants (response rate 71%: 466): participants were highly satisfied with the scientific and social program
 - For future congresses most participants suggested Thursday and Friday, while the 3rd day is split between Wednesday and Saturday.
 - Participants suggested plenary sessions, followed by workshops, teaching courses and e-learning as the most suitable forms of active education.
 - The congress abstracts and slides of most presentations are published on the congress website with the lecturers' permission. They will be online until the next EUMASS Congress in autumn 2018.
 - The final financial report of the congress has not been done yet, but based on the preliminary data a positive financial outcome is to be expected.

- Dr. G. Lindenger thanks Dr. M. Rus for his kind words when announcing the Peter Donceel Lecture, which was given in memory of the late Prof. Dr. Peter Donceel who has been for many years a central and inspiring figure in EUMASS.
- Dr. T. Čakš gives a presentation about the EACCME process. He thanks Dr. L. Goyeryd for his help.

He shows the long list of what needed to be provided to UEMS, as well as what needed to be added and completed afterwards. He describes the email exchange with UEMS on insurance medicine not being a recognised European medical specialty, but “all is well that ends well”: the congress was granted 15 European CME credits. 389 Participants have claimed CME credits.

- A discussion arises about insurance medicine not being recognised as a medical specialty at a European level.
A working group, consisting of Dr. A. de Wind, Dr. C. Oancea and Dr. J.-P. Schenkelaars, will inventory the situation in Europe regarding training and education in insurance medicine.
- Dr. M. Rus and Dr. T. Čakš wish the organisers of the 2018 EUMASS Congress in Maastricht good luck.
- The Congress was very well organized. The Council expresses its gratitude to the Ljubljana Organising Committee, which did an excellent job
- The Scientific Committee, as expressed by Dr. Oancea, indicates that it was a lot of work. The Committee is glad that the congress was a success. They took note of the Ljubljana evaluation regarding relevant topics for the Maastricht Congress.
- Dr. G. Lindenger thanks the Scientific Committee for all its hard work.

5. Maastricht Congress 2018

- Organising Committee:

Dr. J.-P. Bronckaers gives a short update on the organisation of the Maastricht Congress, which will be organised jointly by GAV, NVVG and WVV:

Apart from the short presentation that has been given at the Ljubljana Congress, the Organising Committee is currently preparing the first announcement and the congress website.

- Venue: MECC Convention Centre: 4th-6th October 2018
- Title: Building Bridges Between Science and Practice
- Venues for social activities have been booked:
 - Wednesday night: reception for members of the Council, Scientific Committee and Organising Committee at the Maastricht city hall, followed by a dinner.

- Thursday night: reception at the Bonnefanten Museum in Maastricht.
 - Friday night: Congress dinner at La Butte au Bois across the Belgian border.
 - The Congress will be held in English with translation into French for the plenary sessions.
 - Similar to the congress in Ljubljana the EUMASS Congress in Maastricht will be organised, linked to the annual Dutch congress “VG-dagen”, so the VG-dagen-Congress Committee will suggest a program for two parallel sessions (Thursday and Friday afternoon) to the EUMASS Scientific Committee.
 - The timeline is important for the accreditation process.
- Scientific Committee: Dr. C. Oancea gives an update:
 - Recently a call for speakers as well as a call for topics has been sent to Council members.
 - According to the EACCME process the learning gaps will have to be defined. This will be done by the Scientific Committee and Dr. A. de Wind, responsible for the EACCME process at the Maastricht Congress.
 - Topics for the first announcement will be presented at the next Council meeting in Liège.

Website

Dr. J.-P. Bronckaers gives an update and a demonstration of the new EUMASS website (www.eumass.eu):

- Tabs: Lies Van Meerbeek has been busy to put the (old) information under various tabs.
 - Information about national social security systems will be provided whenever possible through links to those systems. It seems appropriate though to write a short introduction per EUMASS Member State about the position and work of insurance physicians in the national field of social security.
 - Add the organisation the Council member represents.
 - Preferably have all member states represented in the EUMASS banner.
 - The link of the preliminary EUMASS website: <https://wp.eumass.eu>.
- Request to Council members: please send any comments or remarks to Lies Van Meerbeek.

6. Babylon Working Group

Dr. G. Lindenger describes the progress of the Working Group:

- Dr. L. Goyeryd is putting all the material in a master file. The results will be put on the EUMASS website.
- Dr. N. Williams has proposed to publish a paper about the work of the Babylon Working Group.
- There is now an open invitation to all countries for translation.

7. ICF Working Group

No information.

8. Mail

- 15-06-2016: email from Dr. A. Bahemann regarding social security in Luxemburg (<http://www.mss.public.lu/acteurs/cmss/>) Dr. M. Gouëlle will seek contact with a Luxembourg representative at ASIP.
- 4th July 2016: mail from Dr. Nazmie Ibishi-Musliu from Kosovo asking for information on the EUMASS membership procedure. Information has been sent.
- 11th September 2016: mail from Dr. J. Margalho Carrilho: unfortunately he cannot attend the meeting but he plans to finally introduce his deputy Dr. Anabela Alves at the June meeting 2017. On his request the final draft of the pioneer course in Portugal on Social Security Medicine will be forwarded to the EUMASS Scientific Committee for analysis and possible constructive suggestions.
- Several mails from Dr. Jacques Saayman, clinical director Atos.
In the past Atos has been a member of EUMASS as they carried out the (work) disability assessments on behalf of DWP. After the retirement of their representative we have not heard from Atos until this recent request to renew the membership. Before responding to the request we asked DWP's (Dr. P.-L. Li) opinion as DWP is the present formal representative of the UK. If Atos is invited to join, it will be understood as an invitation to a private company who is under contract to conduct one type of assessment for a government body for certain parts of the country. Hence, Atos no longer fulfils the requirements of the EUMASS Statutes, so the request for renewal of the EUMASS membership will be denied.

9. Any other business

- Dr. C. Dal Pozzo thanks the Executive Board for the invitation to attend this meeting. She gives an update on the work of INAIL in the past year.
 - As INAIL initiated the 1st Paralympics in 1960, they have been busy with the recent Paralympics. Special athlete prostheses were developed.
 - A main goal of INAIL is rehabilitation and return to work after an injury at work. New legislation was developed to support this:
 - Physical rehabilitation: INAIL covers all costs which are not covered by the NHS
 - Comprehensive system for individual assistance, regarding the adaption of the workplace. This also includes training and vocational rehabilitation.
 - Improvement of the quality of the assessments. This will also improve the outcome of the assessments.
 - A control system for monitoring the quality is being developed.

Dr. C. Dal Pozzo also reports about research she carried out regarding work being executed by convicted people in jail. She would like to conduct such research on a European level.

- As the Czech Republic wants to improve the quality of their assessment they carried out several comparative studies. Would there be interest for these benchmarks among Council members? Suggestion: put the information, through the Scientific Committee on the EUMASS website.
- The need for evidence-based knowledge in European insurance medicine Report to EUMASS Council 2016 : will be put on the website (www.eumass.eu).
- Dr. A. de Wind thanks Council members for their contribution to her research. She shares the recently published article.
- Given the long preparation time required for the organisation of a EUMASS Congress, members are asked to consider their candidature for organising the 2020 Congress.
- The Swedes have made a scenario, which could help future Congress organisers. It is supposed to be a living tool, so the Slovenes are asked to add relevant information and make necessary changes. The question will be forwarded to Dr. Života Lovrenov.
- Ethical Working Group: Dr. I. Autti-Rämö asks about the state of affairs. The work will be resumed soon.
- There is some discussion about the best days to organise future EUMASS meetings: Thursday/Friday vs Friday/Saturday: the Council preferably wants to stick to Friday/Saturday, but occasionally a EUMASS meeting can be organised on Thursday/Friday.
- Call for the organisation of future Council meetings.

10. Next Council meetings

10th- 11th **February** 2017: Liège, Belgium: please note: one month earlier than previously announced.

8th-9th June 2017: Helsinki, Finland: please note: **Thursday-Friday**.

22nd- 23rd September 2017: Zagreb, Croatia

4th – 6th October 2018: Congress Maastricht

Dr. A. de Wind
Secretary-General