



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 11th February 2017 Liège, Belgium

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. N. Agosti, Dr. Z. Alfirević, Dr. I. Autti-Rämö, Dr. H. J. Beck, Dr. S. Brage, Dr. T. Čakš, Dr. K. Grzylinski, Dr. G. Guðmundsson, Dr. C. Oancea, Dr. P. Pliva, Dr. J.-P. Schenkelaars.

Apologies:

Dr. A. Alves, Prof. Dr. M. Ciuvica, Dr. P. Daniluk, Dr. I. Gkiouzelis, Dr. M. Gouëlle, Dr. L. Goyerdy, Dr. K. W. Hara, Prof. Dr. R. Kunz, Dr. J. Margalho Carrilho, Dr. O. Masten-Cuznar, Dr. J. Matějčková, Dr. V. Sinay, Dr. I. Soare, Dr. M. Rus, Dr. H. Štaňkova.

Absent:

Dr F. Cattani, Dr. D. Kajevic.

Guest:

Dr. N. Williams

1. Welcome

Dr. G. Lindenger opens the meeting and welcomes Dr. Zrinka Alfirević who succeeded Dr. D. Kakaragi as representative of the Croatian Institute for Disability Certification, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities and Dr. Krzysztof Grzylinski from PAIM (Deputy of Dr. P. Daniluk). He also welcomes Dr. N. Williams, who, as a former Council member and regular guest, needs no further introduction.

He thanks Dr. J.-P. Schenkelaars for organising a very interesting scientific and most enjoyable social program.

2. Minutes of the meeting in Warsaw (24th September 2016)

Approval of the minutes.

3. Notices to members

- Letter from Dr. D. Kakarigi:

He is leaving his position at the Institute for Disability Certification, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities within the Croatian Ministry of Labour and Pension System and taking a step towards the next phase in his career by returning to curative medicine. He thanks Council members for sharing know-how in social medicine and for the pleasant interactions at meetings and social events. He is looking forward to seeing Council members in September 2017 in Zagreb.

- Prof. Dr. R. Kunz:

Shares with Council members the systematic review on the reliability of medical assessments, published recently in the BMJ. ***Inter-rater agreement in evaluation of disability: systematic review of reproducibility studies*** It has two important findings:

- First, sobering news: it confirms the common perception that medical experts often disagree in their assessment of work disability.
- Second, encouraging news that standardising the assessment process will increase the agreement of medical experts.

- CIM

Recently a webinar on the updated Cochrane review on [interventions to improve return to work in depressed people](#) has been organized by Karen Nieuwhuisen, one of the authors.

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 a meeting with the EU Commissioner, Dr. J. de Haller, CPME President, has discussed the place of the CPME where it comes to medical issues on the European agenda.

During the CPME meeting last November the General Assembly visited the Israel Center for Medical Simulation (MSR) at the Sheba Medical Center, which is one of the

world's most important centers for the simulation-based medical education. MSR strives for better standards and innovative approaches to training and education in health care. Simulation provides a safe environment in which one can learn from his/her mistakes. The emphasis during training is therefore to reflect on their own practice, including through feedback and debriefing education.

CPME Working Groups:

- TTIP: given the outcome of the US presidential election it is unlikely that TTIP will continue, so it was decided by the chairman of the TTIP working group to postpone further discussions.
- Diet, Nutrition, Physical Activity: obesity often starts in childhood, due to food intake (too much sugar and sweets) and lack of physical activity. The call to the CPME members is therefore twofold: seek national attention to reduce the sugar content in foods and make sure the first line pays attention to obesity in childhood.
- Health Security: the CPME representative in the Advisory Forum of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) gave an overview of the activities since ECDC started back in 2005.
- Medication: there is an ongoing discussion about task shifting (medical profession – pharmacists).
- Professional Practice:
A questionnaire, to identify the different rules in the Member States will be sent to General Assembly members shortly.

There are regularly topics on the CPME agenda which also affect the work of the insurance physicians, but nationally Council members do not hear or see anything about the CPME. Therefore relevant CPME news will be forwarded to Council members by the EUMASS secretariat.

4. Maastricht Congress

- Organising Committee:

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

Title: Building Bridges Between Science and Practice

The venues for the Congress and the social events have been booked:

- Congress venue: MECC Convention Centre: 4th-6th October 2018: a plenary room that can accommodate up to 1700 people and 8 sub rooms for parallel sessions.
- Venues for social activities:
- Wednesday night: reception for members of the EUMASS Council, Scientific Committee and Organising Committee at the Maastricht city hall, followed by a dinner at La Bonbonnière.

- Thursday night: reception, guided tour and buffet at the Bonnefanten Museum in Maastricht.
- Friday night: the Congress / Gala dinner with dancing afterwards at La Butte aux Bois across the Belgian border. Bus transportation is provided.

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.

Dr. A. de Wind runs through the EACCME accreditation process and reflects on the consequences of the various components.

During the Executive Board - Scientific Committee - Organising Committee meeting in Maastricht the timeline of the scenario has been adjusted according to the EACCME accreditation requirements.

- Scientific Committee:

Dr. C. Oancea gives an update:

- I. Identify the Learning Gaps and propose the main themes for the EUMASS Congress in Maastricht 2018
- II. Call for proposals for plenary speakers
- III. Project on level of using evidence in practice of insurance medicine

Main themes for the 2018 Maastricht Congress:

- Sick leave certification
 - Return to work (RTW)
 - Disability evaluation and management
 - Work capacity in occupational diseases and employment injuries
- Monitoring healthcare

Call for proposals for plenary speakers:

- Missing subjects:
 - *Disabled and labour market*
 - *Disability evaluation and management*
 - *Work capacity in occupational diseases and employment injuries*
- Procedure:

Consider their qualification, so to be well known, internationally recognized, researchers/professors in the field, good speakers and to propose a general and actual topic, interesting for all the participants, considered essential for the congress by the Scientific Committee

Plenary speakers so far:

- How to get scientific evidence into practice of insurance medicine tasks?
- Survey about the state of the art in evidence based insurance medicine in EUMASS countries
- Removing barriers from work and social participation in older ages. How far can we go?
- Gender aspects in insurance medicine
- Improving return to work through changes in legislation
- Principles of medical error prevention
- Procedures for the quality assurance of medical work in the hospital on behalf of the health insurance companies
- An international work on employer practices and policies on disability management
- Cancer and work

There is debate about the role and contribution of the Council on the recommendation of plenary speakers. To be able to provide the best and varied Congress program, the Council needs an insight into the already proposed topics and speakers in order to suggest and approach the right, additional speakers.

The Scientific Committee promises to send the list of topics already submitted as soon as possible to the Secretary-General, so this list may be recorded in the minutes.

Project on using evidence in insurance medicine:

- A preliminary study was carried out between March-September 2015 within the EUMASS council
- The survey contained two questions:
 - In what area of insurance medicine is evidence-based knowledge lacking most in your country? (Where do you miss evidence-based medicine most?)
 - Do you have an example of successful use of evidence-based knowledge in insurance medicine in your country?
- The results were presented at the congress in Ljubljana by Dr. S. Brage
- The questionnaire was developed (extended and detailed)
- A survey will be carried out among Insurance Physicians in social and private insurance medicine by email and possibly by phone (interviews among the same respondents)
- The role of EUMASS council members: to invite one or more person(s) to fill out the questionnaire
The results will be presented at the EUMASS congress 2018

5. Website

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

Eric v.d. Stolpe is good in building technical databases, but he is less into website design, so meanwhile Patrick Hira has been asked to take care of the website design. They cooperate in developing both the EUMASS website (www.eumass.eu) and the Congress website (usable for future congresses as well).

The 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 preferably 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.
- A closed part will be developed for specific Council topics.
- Lies Van Meerbeek is seeking help from Council members in turning the website into a living tool.

The Congress website is modularly constructed with modules for:

- Abstract submission (already existing)
- Abstract review process (already existing)
- Registration module (existing for the VG-dagen (in the Netherlands))
- Payment process (existing for VG-dagen, but adjustment to European use needed)
- Evaluation form and process (existing for VG-dagen, but adjustment to EACCME requirements needed)

There will be a meeting with Eric v.d. Stolpe shortly to discuss when the various modules must be completed and functional in terms of the scenario.

6. Treasurer's report

Due to bank problems Dr. A. Bahemann did not have access to the EUMASS account. There for the former treasurer Dr. J.-P. Bronckaers presents the Treasurers report 2016 and goes through the revenues and expenditure. He also presents the 2017 budget.



JPB

The membership fee for 2016 was 600€ per EUMASS member state. The Treasurer suggests maintaining the membership fee at 600€. The Council agrees with this proposal.

The secretariat will send out the invoices for the membership fee shortly.

7. Working Groups

- Babylon

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

Aims:

To develop a list of commonly used terms in disability assessment medicine.
To translate such terms across languages of EUMASS Member States, identifying alternative terms where relevant.

Purpose:

- To develop a shared understanding of the meaning of commonly used terms across countries represented in EUMASS.
- To assist new members to understand other countries' social security systems and disability assessment schemes.
- To allow appreciation of differences in the use of terms in member countries.
- To allow researchers to be able to compare both similarities and differences when comparing social security systems and disability assessment schemes.
- To facilitate the writing of abstracts in English on the topic of Insurance Medicine.
 - So far translation into 9 languages and 3 languages in the pipeline. There is now an open invitation to all countries for translation.
 - Different countries though speaking the same language might require different translations and explanations due to the national social security systems.
 - Terms may not be comparable so comments are needed. These comments shall be in two languages (English and the national language).
 - Dr. L. Goyeryd has put all the material in a master file. The result will be put on the EUMASS website as will the aims and objectives of the Babylon Working Group.
 - Dr. N. Williams has proposed to publish a paper about the work of the Babylon Working Group.

- Ethics

Dr. G. Lindenger, Dr. I. Autti-Rämö, Dr. J.-P. Schenkelaars and Dr. K. W. Hara are members of this working group.

Since there are various methods regarding the insurance medical assessments throughout Europe, the working group members have collected information and ethical guidelines related to both the standard European situation where the insurance physician meets the claimant in person and the Scandinavian situation where the claimant is assessed on paper.

The Dutch guidelines have also been collected as the Dutch approach is based on ethics in professional work as a medical doctor (medical deontology), regardless the specific assessment situation.

Suggestion: general ethical guidelines can be made more specific for insurance medicine.

Dr. N. Williams will provide the professional UK information and the information from Occupational Medicine.

The working group members will structure the material that is available.

Dr. A. de Wind will join the working group.

- ICF/FAB

The ICF/FAB working group is currently only working on 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.

WD-FAB views the clients self reported functioning. The computer test takes 25 minutes. The outcome is a score that can be compared (better/worse than...) and leads to a profile of the claimant.

Dr. S. Brage will contact Diane Brandt to check if there are any consequences to the new US administration regarding a possible cooperation.

If the project goes on it might be a topic for a workshop at the Maastricht Congress.

EUMASS and Saskia Decuman will develop a contract for a Belgian pilot study. This can be used as an example for other national contracts with WD-FAB.

8. Mail

- 25-11-2016: email from Dr. D. Kakarigi: he is leaving his position at the Institute for Disability Certification, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities within the Croatian Ministry of Labour and Pension System and taking a step towards the next phase in his career in the Health Security System. He is looking forward to seeing Council members in September in Zagreb.
- 27-01-2017: email from Prof. Dr. R. Kunz regarding the systematic review on the reliability of medical assessments, published recently in the BMJ.

- 06-02-2017: email from Prof. Dr. R. Kunz regarding the new Swiss Council member Dr. Andreas Klipstein, President of Swiss Insurance Medicine (SIM).

9. Any other business

- Issued national reports and/or grey literature are not being reviewed but may nevertheless be of possible interest to Council members / insurance physicians.

It is noted that the difference between peer-reviewed and grey literature is fading nowadays.

In the past, it was decided that website content has to be approved of by the Scientific Committee, but national reports with data from the national social security agencies can be put on the EUMASS website without approval from the Scientific Committee.

Dr. G. Lindenger inquires what would be available in English / French in the respective countries.
ISSA probably has information available.

10. Next Council meetings

8th-9th June 2017: Helsinki, Finland: please note: **Thursday-Friday**. June being a congress month in Helsinki, Dr. I. Aitti-Rämö urges Council members to book accommodation as soon as possible.

22nd- 23rd September 2017: Zagreb, Croatia

2nd -3rd March 2018: Belgium

May/June 2018: Reykjavik

4th – 6th October 2018: Congress Maastricht
6th October 2018: Council meeting

Dr. A. de Wind
Secretary-General

