



# UEMS PSYCHIATRY SECTION NEWSLETTER

Issue 1  
November 2014

## Welcome!

Welcome to the first newsletter from the UEMS Psychiatry Section! We plan to issue a newsletter every quarter to keep the Section delegates and other interested parties up to date on the actions and activities of the Section. If you have items or photos for the newsletter then please email them to us.

### UEMS Psychiatry Section Officers

Marc Hermans, President

Torsten Jacobsen, Hon. Secretary

Brendan Cassidy, Treasurer

Andrew Brittlebank, Vice President (Training)

Dan Georgescu, Vice President (CME)

Thea Heeren, Officer

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## The Diary of a President

Immediately after the Section meeting in Madrid (April 2014) Marc Hermans went to the 7<sup>th</sup> Geneva Conference on Person-Centered Medicine having been invited following a presentation on the UEMS Psychiatry Section in Zagreb at the previous meeting. The Section was asked to support the Geneva Declaration, a document that came out of this conference, and this was considered at the meeting in London in October 2014.

Marc also gave a presentation about the UEMS during the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Congress in London. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, he introduced the Section to trainees during their semi-annual and well attended EFPT meeting.

A few days later in London, during the symposium "Trainees; the Heartland of Psychiatry", he gave a presentation entitled "Is there a Role for a Training Framework?".

The next meeting of the National Psychiatric Associations' Council of the EPA takes place in Antalya during the congress of the Turkish Psychiatric Association where he has been invited to present on "Psychiatric Training: Present Situation and Future Perspectives. The Role of UEMS".

Marc will also represent the Section at the DGPPN Congress in Berlin, during the annual happening "European Leaders in Psychiatry".



*Dr Marc Hermans, UEMS Psychiatry Section President*

Since many colleagues are not acquainted with the role and function of international psychiatric associations, Marc proposed to organize a symposium where WPA, EPA, EFPT and the UEMS Section for Psychiatry present themselves at all major national associations' conferences.

Since the European Parliament has been reelected, the MP's involved in mental health care related activities start again with their regular meetings. As before GAMIAN takes care of the logistics, UEMS contributes to the input.

Finally, from 16 to 18 December, the European Union organizes a conference "From Continuity of Psychopathology to Continuity of Care". It will address "transition psychiatry", the problematic aspects of psychiatric care for adolescents during their transition to adult oriented psychiatric care. Marc will represent both UEMS Psychiatric Sections (Adult and Child and Adolescent) at this meeting.

## Standing Committee on Training

The October Section meeting saw the inauguration of the Standing Committee on Training (SCT). The SCT (members listed in the table below) is responsible for leading the Section's work on setting standards for training and quality assurance.

Dr Andrew Brittlebank (UK) Chair
Dr Maria Fe Bravo Ortiz (Spain)
Professor Edvard Hauff (Norway)
Professor Fritz Hohagen (Germany)
Dr Kryta Krzysztof (Poland)
Dr Joergen Nystrup (Denmark)
Dr Mariana Pinto Da Costa (EFPT)
Dr Tanja Svirskis (Finland)

The agenda for the SCT's first meeting was concerned with establishing its methods and setting its work-plan for the coming year. After discussion, members of the SCT agreed that they would finalise the European Standards for Training in Psychiatry in time for next April's Section meeting in Belgium. By October 2015, the SCT aims to deliver a number of tools that will support the implementation of the Standards.

The SCT also agreed to begin a piece of work with the UEMS Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry to examine a business case for developing a European Board Examination in Psychiatry.

The Committee looked at the revision dates for the European Framework for Competencies in Psychiatry and the Section document "the Profile of a Psychiatrist". It recommended that the revision date for the Framework be extended for three years to allow the Section time to revise the Profile and to consider the results of the European Federation of Psychiatry Trainees survey looking at the impact of the Framework.



*Below (left to Right): Dr Hermans, Dr Pinto Da Costa, Professor Wessely, Dr Ryland and Dr Jacobsen Left: Dr Pinto Da Costa for the motion Right: Dr Ryland speaking against the motion*



## **“Visit Day” London, 9 October 2014**

The hosts of the Section meeting in London wanted to do something a little different in the half day that is normally used for a visit to a local service. Dr Andrew Brittlebank and Dr Amit Malik, hosts of the UK meeting, enlisted the help of the new President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Professor Sir Simon Wessely, and held a British Parliamentary style debate to explore an issue that has started to be of interest to European psychiatrists. Professor Sir Simon kindly chaired the debate and two able teams of psychiatrists addressed the motion, ‘This house believes that a Europe wide psychiatric exam would be good for psychiatry’.

Dr Marc Hermans started proceedings by proposing the motion. European Federation of Psychiatry Trainees’ President, Dr Mariana Pinto Da Costa, seconded him. Honorary Secretary of the Section, Dr Torsten Jacobsen and Dr Howard Ryland, Chair of the Royal College Psychiatric Trainees’ Committee, opposed the motion. The members of the house listened to both sides’ arguments, which for the proposition were to do with enhancing the quality of psychiatric care and for the opposition were concerned with exams restricting deep learning. After the main speeches and contributions from the floor, the House was less impressed by the opposition’s references to dinosaurs and to their opponents’ football allegiances and delivered the verdict, which was to carry the Motion.

## **UEMS Psychiatry Section and its external stakeholders**

The main objective of the Section of Psychiatry of the UEMS is improving the quality of psychiatric care by improving the training, CME and CPD of psychiatrists throughout Europe.

It goes without saying that in order to achieve this we should know what patients and their families expect from psychiatrists when seeking their help. Therefore the Section decided to invest in establishing and maintaining relationships with European organizations both of persons with mental health problems and of their families.

In September 2014 the Officers of the Section had a meeting with Paul Arteel, executive director of GAMIAN (Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Networks-Europe: [www.gamian.eu](http://www.gamian.eu)). We exchanged information about our organizations, our goals and the ways we are trying to achieve them. As in UEMS the full members of GAMIAN are national organizations. They also have associate members, which can be individuals, family associations, Non-European organizations as well as professional organizations and corporations. They organize an annual convention for all members and Regional Seminars. Since 2010 a yearly web based survey is conducted asking patients for their views on topics such as the relation of physical and mental health, mental health and work, inclusion and support for persons with mental illness.

We concluded that exchanging information on a regular basis would help our mutual target of improving care for people with mental illness. We will start by placing links to each other websites and by sending new reports to each other.

## **UEMS Section of Psychiatry agreed on Annual Plan for 2015**

At the spring meeting in London the UEMS Section of Psychiatry agreed on Annual Plan for 2015. The Section has long been agonizingly aware of our rather dull identity. We feel that we do a great job, but the job could be even greater and do more good in the psychiatric community of Europe if we’re able to enhance our image.

To meet this challenge as well as all the others tasks ahead of us, we have formulated an annual plan for the coming year of 2015. The annual plan consists of two separate paragraphs: Internal and external matters.

Most important to our image are the external matters. After finalizing and implementing the new communication strategy, we feel it is important to benchmark the improvement of our communication and collaboration with other organizations in European psychiatry. Benchmarking is also relevant to our communication with national psychiatric organizations. One of the significant changes of the Section is the merger of the European Board into the Section. Instead, we formed the new standing committee on training. This is the new stronghold in the quest for improvement of training in psychiatry. Our Vice President for training, Dr Andrew Brittlebank, Chairs the committee (see above).

Internal matters include the preparation for the upcoming elections of President, Secretary and Treasurer. Before the elections, we want to produce job descriptions for all officers. All these effort should lead to increased activity and therefore we need to improve the administrative and secretarial power of the section.

To view the Annual Plan in full and for more information about the section visit [www.uemspsihchiatry.org](http://www.uemspsihchiatry.org)