



EBCOG

European Board and College of
Obstetrics and Gynaecology



EBCOG

President's Newsletter

October 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Well, 2010 has been an eventful year for EBCOG and the trend looks set to continue, with a lot of important decisions to be made at our next Council meeting. We recently had our autumn Executive meeting and so I'd like to bring you up to date with what has been happening so far.

A number of issues have been under discussion for some time, including strengthening EBCOG's relationship with the European Institutions. EBCOG's Vice-President invited Senator Marleen Temmerman, who is a Belgian MP and also Head of the Department of O & G at the University Hospital in Ghent, to the recent Executive Committee meeting and we had an excellent discussion on the best way for EBCOG to approach the various, relevant, European Parliamentary Committees. Thanks to Senator Temmerman, a meeting is now being organised between EBCOG and a cross-party group of MEPs early in the New Year. One of the first issues for discussion with these MEPs will be the establishment of common European standards of care. This is an important area and lies at the centre of EBCOG's aims and remit. To this end, the Executive Committee proposed that a Working Group on this question be set up and Dr Tahir Mahmood, who has great experience in this area, kindly agreed to Chair this group. I would also like to thank the Vice-President for facilitating our contact with Senator Temmerman and for all his work and support.

In terms of Working Groups, given the enormous amount of work that the Co-ordinator of EBCOG Visiting and Accreditation, Prof Juriy Wladimiroff, has to do, the Executive Committee agreed with the proposal that the Working Group on Visiting be reinstated. Visiting is one of EBCOG's most important and valuable activities and the number of requests for visits continues to rise. The visiting forms have been revised and a follow-up questionnaire sent to all departments accredited during the last 7 years. Prof Wladimiroff has just written to all national delegates asking them to suggest the names of visitors at national level and I would really ask you to support him in this so that we can promote EBCOG visiting, and therefore the introduction of more national visiting systems, as widely as possible.

Subspecialist visiting is developing well and our relationship with our sister subspecialties is still thriving. The representatives of ESGO and EAPM are both stepping down, as their terms of office have now ended and I would like to take this

opportunity to give my warm thanks to Prof Gerald Gitsch and to Prof Cihat Sen and wish them both well. I would also like to welcome their successors, Prof Alexandros Rodolakis and Prof Gerard Visser, with whom I look forward to continuing our very important collaboration.

The mandate periods of EBCOG's Officers has also been a subject of debate in both the Executive and Council, with various proposals made about introducing the Office of President-Elect and possibly also that of Past-President. This discussion is related to the mandate periods of UEMS and, following UEMS's recent adoption of four-year terms, the Executive proposed that EBCOG Officers should have three-year terms of office and that the role of Vice-President should be changed to that of President-Elect. Also, in accordance with the UEMS decision, the Executive proposed that the position of Past-President should not be introduced. These proposals will be discussed in Council in November and should Council agree, these changes should come into effect at the end of the President's term of office. Draft job descriptions have been prepared for all the Officers and future nominees will be asked to provide a brief CV.

Another very important issue that has been raised is that of EBCOG providing some financial support for fellowships. Council will be asked to discuss the Executive's proposal to introduce a pilot project in 2011, offering three fellowships of €3,000 each to give Eastern European trainees the opportunity to study in Western Europe for a month. Clear application and selection criteria need to be established and if this scheme goes ahead, the SCTA will organise the fellowships and will need to create a small working party, closely involving ENTOG, to look at this.

One of the reasons we can consider this is that our finances are in good shape and I would like to thank the Treasurer for his good stewardship of our assets.

Those assets would normally have been boosted significantly by the income from the European Congress, but we have had a rather disappointing conclusion to our work with the Antwerp PCO, Semico. Despite a good level of attendance in Antwerp, with a total of a total of 1,176 participants, the number of paying participants appears to be below 800. The Congress contract is ambiguous, but Semico has said that as the number of paying participants is below 800, they intend to keep the surplus income. On this basis the Executive has agreed that Semico should not be invited to be involved in the Tallinn Congress. With the agreement of the Executive, I have contacted a PCO in Copenhagen with whom I have worked on a number of occasions to discuss how they might assist, as time is moving on and a lot of work needs to happen quickly to prepare the Tallinn Congress. Part of this work will be to draw up a new contract and we have also produced a set of draft Congress guidelines to help make the practical preparation easier and the various roles and responsibilities of the organisations involved clear.

The Chair of the Scientific Committee for Tallinn is Prof Klaus Vetter, who also Chairs the Standing Committee on Training and Assessment (SCTA). Now that the Scientific Committee has been constituted, Klaus can begin work on the Tallinn Programme. Please don't forget to put the dates in your diaries: 9th - 12th May 2012.

The SCTA is currently conducting a survey on CME/CPD as well as working on Training the Trainers (TTT) courses. The Secretary-General is preparing an EBCOG TTT course in 2011 and will publish the dates on the web site in the near future. I would like to thank Chiara very much for all her hard work on this and, of course, as Secretary-General. I would also like to thank Klaus for all his work as Chair of the SCTA and for taking on the important task of Chairing the Tallinn Scientific Committee.

Obviously the EBCOG web site is a vital tool for publicising both such courses and the European Congress. It is also invaluable in helping EBCOG and its member societies keep in touch and share information, and the new site should enable us to do this by being much more interactive. This means we all need to use it as such! The EBCOG web master, Dr Erica Werner and the web designer, Mr Jappe Dekker are both working hard on developing the new web site which should go live shortly. We would very much welcome all your feedback on, and input into, the new site and my thanks go to Erica and Jappe for all their hard work and creativity.

As you may remember, we have discussed the issue of regional representation within FIGO at recent meetings and I was mandated by Council to write to FIGO about EBCOG's concerns. FIGO responded positively and I am pleased to report that at its last Executive meeting, FIGO agreed that each region with more than 10 member societies should have four representatives on its Executive, rather than the current two.

FIGO has also adopted some statements made jointly with the International Federation of Midwives. I was invited to the Annual General Meeting of the European Midwives' Association (EMA) and made a presentation about EBCOG. The EMA is very interested in cooperating with EBCOG and has therefore proposed that it and EBCOG make a joint statement on 'Investing in Women's Health'. We have suggested some small amendments to the text which will hopefully be accepted so that the statement can be published in the names of both organisations. There was a lot of discussion in the Executive about EBCOG's relationship with EMA, given that, the role of the midwife varies greatly at national level and it is therefore impossible to take a unified, European, approach. The general feeling was that it is important for EBCOG to have an ongoing dialogue with EMA and that we are happy to consider cooperating with EMA on specific, focused issues.

Finally I would also like to remind you that the next Council meeting will take place in London on 6th & 7th May 2011, just after the ENTOG Exchange Programme and Council meeting. ENTOG is working really well and has just elected a new Executive Committee:

- President: Nuno Martins (Portugal)
- Secretary General: Pille Pärasmäe (Estonia)
- Treasurer: Mikulas Redecha (Slovakia)
- Member: Elena Pavlova (Bulgaria)
- Member: Karen Rose (United Kingdom)

ENTOG is a very energetic and committed organisation and I would urge you to please make trainees in your country aware of ENTOG and its work. My

congratulations go to the ENTOG Executive and especially the President of ENTOG Dr Nuno Martins. ENTOG is the future and I am delighted that we can support it in its work.

It just leaves me to say that EBCOG has had a busy year and that these are exciting times for us. I sincerely hope that, together, we can continue building on all the challenges and progress that 2010 has brought EBCOG so far.

Professor Peter Hornnes
President of EBCOG

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