

Training PRM in Europe

Alain Delarque | President of the PRM Section of the Union of European Medical Specialists

Dear PRM colleagues in Portugal,

First of all, I would like to thank you for inviting me to attend this congress and giving me this opportunity of presenting the activities of the French PRM association/ the PRM activities in Marseille. I am pleased and honored to participate in this event in Oporto, and to sign a Letter of Intention to Cooperate with the Portuguese PRM Society, along with the Portuguese Journal of PRM and the UEMS PRM Section and Board (UEMS PRM S&B), in my capacity as President of the Union of European Medical Specialists (UEMS) PRM Section and on behalf of Pr Franco Franchignoni, the President of the Board. I appreciate the very warm relations we have established with Dr Jorge Láíns and Dr Fernando Parada Pereira at the UEMS PRM S&B. Both of these members play a key role in our activities. I am also delighted to be meeting here some former trainees of the European School Marseille on Motor Disabilities. This summer school which Pr Jean-Michel Viton, Dr Laurent Bensoussan and Dr Hervé Collado and I run together will be celebrating its first decade this year. Two trainees from Portugal will be coming to attend this course in Marseille next July.

Three years after the White Book

We recently published, with Pr Franco Franchignoni as President of the UEMS PRM Board (UEMS PRM Board), Dr Alessandro Giustini, President of the European Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ESPRM) along with Pr Gustaaf Lankhorst, president of the European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine (EARM), a special report entitled

“the European Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, three years after the White Book”.⁽¹⁾

Two journals have published this report, with online full free text available, the Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine (JRM) and the European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation medicine (EJPRM).

Both journals have recently produced, under the supervision of the original editors, a unified version, that is now available on their website and can be used for translations of the book.

White Book on PRM in Europe

The White Book of PRM in Europe (WB-PRM-Europe) is a comprehensive document, written to describe the specialty and the competencies of PRM specialists across Europe. It has been produced by means of an impressive collaboration, first within the Union of European Medical Specialists (UEMS) Section and Board

of PRM, than within the Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine (EARM), and finally in conjunction with the European Society of PRM (ESPRM)⁽⁹⁾. All the delegates participated in writing it, the three editors were Christoph Gutenbrunner, Anne Chamberlain and Anthony Ward. The copyright holders are the presidents of the UEMS PRM B&S and of the EARM.

The WB-PRM-Europe was published, in the same time, with full free text open access, in the Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine (JRM) and in Europa Medicophysica, now European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (EJPRM). The WB-PRM-Europe, has been cited and used frequently for background information and description of our specialty.

Several translations have been published under the terms of the license to publish taken out by the copyright holders and the editors. A Portuguese version has been available since 2009, and a French one will be available for the national PRM Sofmer congress in Marseille on 14-16 October 2010. Our colleagues from Norway are also about to publish a translation in 2010.

In April 2008, Pr Xanthi Michail, Pr Nicolas Christodoulou and I presented the WB-PRM-Europe to all the other UEMS Boards and Sections during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of this non-profit organization, which currently includes 1.5 million European medical specialists belonging to its 37 specialists board and sections. The president of the UEMS, Dr Zlatko Fras, declared that was most impressed by our various/many activities.

The Action Plan 2008-2010

PRM B&S decided to set up an Action Plan for the period 2008-2010. We are aware of our strengths (active participation of the delegates, efficient systems of organization and management, etc.) as well as our weaker points (insufficient relations between B&S and national PRM bodies and individual PRM specialists and trainees, lack of regular exchanges with PRM journals based in Europe), and propose to increase the range of topics addressed, including environmental factors, the epidemiology of disabled persons, health management and payment systems, the development of the use of ICF and evidence based medicine, etc.

Publications:

The B&S have published their Action Plan for 2008-2010 for Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in Europe in four papers in the EJPRM and one in the Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (APRM)^(4, 5, 6, 7, 8).

These papers were intended to inform physiatrists and their national PRM bodies about the perspectives for EU based PRM activities.

Three fields of activity:

We have defined the three main fields in which we plan to develop our work in the two committees, not only within the UEMS PRM B&S, but also thanks to reinforced cooperation with the national PRM bodies and the PRM journals in Europe.

These three fields are: Education, which will be handled by the Board, Field of Competence (FC), and PRM programs of care (PRM-PC): the last two topics will be handled by the Section.

Cooperation with national PRM Bodies:

All the national PRM bodies have been requested to cooperate with the B&S in these three fields of activity (Education, FC and PRM-PC). Letters of Intention to cooperate have been signed between UEMS PRM B&S and several PRM national societies. We have signed agreements with organizations in France, Italy, Greece, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Portugal, other societies have applied to sign in 2010, in countries such as, Croatia, Sweden, Germany and Austria.

Cooperation with European based PRM journals:

We have established co-operative links with representatives of PRM journals, who kindly attended the General Assembly meeting in Cambridge in March 2009. After this meeting, four journals and their editors in chief (in alphabetic order: Pr Gunnar Grimby from the Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine/JRM, Dr Stefano Negrini from the European Journal of PRM/EJPRM, Pr Ulrich Smolenski from Journal of PRM, Stuttgart and Pr André Thévenon from Annals of PRM) have agreed to publish papers and news about our activities, to promote immediate online access to full free text and reduced rates for certified PRM Board specialists. It is now proposed to pursue these co-operative efforts to the full.

Co-operation with the ESPRM, the ISPRM and participation in National congresses:

We recently participated in two National congresses, the congress of the European Society of PRM in Bruges in 2008 and the congress of the International Society of PRM in Istanbul 2009. Thanks to our excellent relations with the Presidents of these societies and the Presidents of the congresses, we were given an opportunity of presenting our activities in the main fields covered by the UEMS PRM Board and Section: Education, Field of Competence and PRM Programs of Care (PRM-PC).

2010 The Three eBooks

The UEMS PRM Board and Section plans to produce three PRM eBooks in 2010, on Education, Fields of

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The Board and its President, Pr Franco Franchignoni, will be responsible for the eBook on Education. I am prepared to bet that this will be one of the documents most frequently downloaded by PRM trainees, not only in Europe but all over the world.

Each of the two committees of the Section will also produce an eBook.

The eBook on the Field of Competence of PRM,

is under the responsibility of the Professional Practices Committee, chaired by Pr Christoph Gutenbrunner, along with Dr Vera Neumann and the members of the committee.

PRM specialists and their associations have been requested by the national, European and international health authorities to submit contributions in which they clearly describe their fields of competence.

This is not an easy task, even at national level. It requires reaching a consensus among PRM specialists and finding the best arguments to support their proposals. It also requires being aware of the FC of other specialties and the professionals involved.

Descriptions of the field of competence will be based on the International Classification of Diseases (which patients do we care for?), the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (which disabilities, activity limitations, participation restrictions and environmental factors can we prevent or improve?) and the International Classification of Health Interventions (what types of interventions can we perform: supervising trainees, providing PRM expertise, informing patients and their families, along with prevention, information, diagnosis, assessment, and treatment, including PRM programmes of care and research).

Several papers on these lines have been or will be shortly published by Dr Vera Neumann, Pr Christoph Gutenbrunner, Pr Anthony Ward and other authors (2).

The eBook on Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Programs of Care (PRM-PC)

is in the hands of the Committee for Clinical Affairs, headed by Dr Georges de Korvin.

PRM-PC programs can also be defined using the three categories adopted in the WHO system of classification: ICD, ICF and ICHI.

The following items will be addressed in this eBook:

public health problems associated with a specific population, scientific evidence sustaining the program concept, specific goals, structured content, facilities and competencies required for diagnosis, assessment, treatment and other health interventions, admission and discharge criteria, assessment of outcomes, long term follow up, appropriate management and payment systems, assessment of the program itself.

This PRM-PC concept is the basis of the European quality assessment system organized by the PRM Section of the UEMS. This concept is a helpful tool for setting up and improving PRM-PC. Several PRM-PC programs have been accredited by the national authorities responsible. The full list is available on the website of the UEMS PRM Section. Sessions on this topic have been and will continue to be organized at international and national PRM congresses.

The eBook on PRM-PC will include several papers which

will first be published separately. The first paper, which has been submitted to the Annals of PRM, is entitled: "European accreditation of programs of care in PRM, goals, pilot phase, new procedure" by G.De Korvin & the members of the Clinical Affairs Committee. Other papers will be submitted: one will be submitted this year by our team in Marseille on the assessment of patients' satisfaction, in the framework of our accredited programme for the assessment of persons with walking abnormalities. The accredited PRM programmes will also be presented on our Website.

The meeting here in Oporto inspires great confidence for the future of the PRM Board and Section's activities: I am sure the enthusiasm shown by the PRM specialists belonging to the Portuguese PRM society and its President will have positive long-term effects!

Thank you for listening to me and congratulations to all the organizers of this congress.

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