

Assembly of the European Forum for Rehabilitation in Research

02.00-03.00 p.m. 23 May 2014 Marmara University Hospital,

Pendik/Ust Kaynarca, Istanbul, Turkey

Present: Gulseren Akyuz, Gabor Fazekas, Nigel Harris

Apologies: Aarne Ylinen, Aivars Vetra, Matilde Leonardi, Helena Burger, Sven-Uno Marnetoff, Susanne Weinbrenner

There were also 14 members present (Dr. Ioan Sorin Stratulat on skype, 13 from Istanbul).

Chair : Gulseren Akyuz

Secretray : Nigel Harris

After welcome speeches, the agenda was presented by Gulseren Akyuz.

1. The report of the President of the activities of EFRR in 2013 – Gulseren Akyuz

12th EFRR Congress was done between September 11th - 14th, 2013 in Istanbul . According to registration details, the number of full registered participants was 236; total number of actual participants including daily participation and workshops was also 416. The highest participations came from Finland, Germany, Italy and Turkey. As presentation details; there were 128 oral, and 186 poster presentations in our Congress.

The current number of members of EFRR is 346 including internet applications.

Our website has already been managed by Gabor Fazekas and his PhD student . We appreciate them and we are grateful for their great support.

Riga Summer School for Rehabilitation Medicine will be held between August 3th and 16th in Riga, Latvia. The project duration is between 3 and 16 August 2014. The aim of BNF Riga Summer School for Rehabilitation Medicine is to promote development of multi-professional rehabilitation in the Baltic States and Europe.

Here is some details:

Coordinating Institution: Rīga Stradiņš University (Latvia) www.rsu.lv

Contact persons:

Ms Lana Amosova, Project administrative coordinator lane.amosova@rsu.lv

Ms Guna Bērziņa, Project quality coordinator guna.berzina@rsu.lv

Ms Andreta Slavinska, Project quality coordinator andreta.slavinska@rsu.lv

The project partners are as follows:

Semmelweis University (Hungary), University of Tartu (Estonia), Hannover Medical School (Germany)

Vilnius University (Lithuania), Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (Lithuania), University of Gothenburg (Sweden), Karolinska Institute (Sweden), Mid Sweden University (Sweden), Marmara University (Turkey), University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), University of Bath (United Kingdom), University of Helsinki (Finland)

The objectives are;

to develop a comprehension of multi-professional rehabilitation and its importance in daily practice;

to explain theoretical principles of research in rehabilitation and methodology of modern research;

to introduce of innovations of rehabilitation techniques;

to make new international contacts

We would like thank to Professor Aivars Vetra and colleagues, for their efforts in organising this.

2. Report of the treasurer - Aarne Ylinen

Aarne could not attend the General Assembly but he sent an e-mail about financial situation of EFRR and some details of the next EFRR Congress in Helsinki.

EFRR has 5721 Euros on the account, the only costs this year has been Sven-Uno's visit in Helsinki. He will also prepare full economics report for the meeting in September.

We also have a proposal for a new treasurer (as agreed in Istanbul), details will be circulated shortly.

3. Report of the preparation of the Congress in 2015 – Aarne Ylinen

The next EFRR Congress will be held in Helsinki, Finland on May 6-9, 2015.

They will complete the proposal for the programme for 2015 at a meeting in August with Sven-Uno and the scientific committee. The programme will be formally acceptance by the Congress Organising Committee and Council Members of EFRR in a meeting in Helsinki in September 2014.

It was reported that due to changes in the congress office, they have some delays in the website www.efrr2014.org. They hope they will be solved it in early June.

Gulseren has shared her experiences of organising the 2013 Congress. The key thing is to allow good time for the abstract deadline. It was agreed that all abstracts should be evaluated for quality (oral/poster).

Gabor noted that on the website there is September opening and November closing date for abstracts. It was agreed that this is too early to close and we should extend this. The abstract deadline can be discussed further when we meet in September.

Nigel reported that there were over 60 responses to the online survey of the 2013 Congress. He will circulate details of these.

Sven-Uno, on behalf of the scientific chairpersons of the Congress, also sent a brief information about the activities of Scientific Committee. He informed us that they had already added some names to the Scientific Committee:

Bodil Lanstad is a researcher an professor and colleague from Norway. She will advertise our congress in Norway. The other person is **Amparo Assucena** from Spain. She will advertise our congress in Spain and Portugal.

A suggestion for the next Congress of EFRR came from Matilde Leonardi, who proposed an “EFRR poster prize” for best poster for junior researchers below 35. It was suggested that because of poor budget of EFRR this might be “free registration” for the next EFRR Congress. However, it was recognised that a small cash prize would be more attractive and it was suggested that the local organising committee consider including this in their local budget, as it may increase the number of submissions.

There was some discussion about suitable dates for the September meeting of Council in Helsinki. The most suitable date seems 3rd weekend of September (19-20, Friday and Saturday). Gabor Fazekas, Nigel Harris and Gulseren Akyuz will be available at that weekend but this suggestion is open to all EFRR Council Members’ for confirmation. After the finalization of the meeting date, Arne Ylinen will organize the accommodation.

The last issue was about Congress for 2017. Nigel Harris reported that Glasgow had not yet decided whether to be considered as a candidate for 2017, but he would be travelling to Glasgow on the 9th June and would get a final answer then. The members of General Assembly accepted that the Council should ask Susanne Weinbrenner about the possibility of hosting the Congress in Germany in 2017. If neither of these venues is possible, a new call for nominations will be announced.

AOB

Nigel suggested that we should produce a 6 month newsletter to engage with our members. It was agreed that we should do this and discuss comment when we meet together in September.

The General Assembly was finished at 02.40 p.m.