



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY

NEWSLETTER

Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

A very warm welcome to the spring edition of the EAGP Newsletter.

The key highlight from the EAGP is the election of the new President Professor Martin Orrell, Director of Mental Health Institute in Nottingham U.K and change in roles of previous board members.

The new board and the president are keen to raise the profile of the EAGP and are committed to work hard at getting EAGP the wider recognition that it deserves.

All members are very welcome to use the newsletter for sharing their research ideas and views and to highlight key issues in Geriatric psychiatry across Europe. We will be looking forward to your ideas and to many interesting contributions for publication in the future editions.

We hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and wish you all an enjoyable summer!

Katrin Krah
Afifa Qazi

Presidential Message



Dear Members of the EAGP

I am honoured to be your new President and I am keen to make sure the EAGP stays a relevant and dynamic organisation which people are proud to be part of. The new Board has an enthusiastic and revitalized

approach and with our first meeting in March we worked on a strategy for the next 5 years.

We have done well encouraging national geriatric psychiatry organisations to join the EAGP which is boosting the membership and improving opportunities for collaboration.

We hope that this initiative will help to support the development of specialist services for the mental health of older people in more European countries.

The EAGP has a very important role connecting geriatric psychiatrists across European nations, improving teaching and educational opportunities, and promoting research. We have done well encouraging national geriatric psychiatry organisations to join the EAGP which is boosting the membership and improving opportunities.

We are keen to increase the range of advantages of membership starting with a discount at the 2nd EAGP summer school hosted by Professor Armin von Gunten in Lausanne this September. Through this website, the newsletter, and annual congresses and meetings we hope to promote greater connectivity between EAGP members and also encourage trainees in geriatric psychiatry to raise their ambitions and expectations.

Together we can achieve great things!

Professor Martin Orrell

EAGP Annual General Meeting 2014

The 2014 AGM was held on the 3rd December 2014 in Brussels. Eleven members from across Europe were present. The main topics covered were the current situation and the future plans of the EAGP.

For 2015 the EAGP plans many events concerning the European Geriatric Psychiatry throughout Europe. This implies a further development of the existing educational system. Positive feedback from the Lausanne training verifies the need for events of this kind. Additionally the EAGP is going to aim for a higher profile with many different people, and getting even more interest from geriatric psychiatrists. Therefore, the EAGP will aim at collaborating with other associations, such as the Dutch and Belgium associations and the IPA.

The frequency of the newsletter and meetings will be increased. It is also of major importance to receive a greater input from key people in each country, to build standards for Geriatric Psychiatry, and to adjust the existing standards of the different countries to bring forward the EAGP aims. Furthermore the position of the nations board will be restarted to improve the international exchange.

Finally, Martin Orrell was elected as President and Armin von Gunten as Vice President. Katrin Krah, Hans Gutzmann, Afifa Qazi and Richard Oude Voshaar were also elected as new board members.

Katrin Krah

The 1st 1-week EAGP course was held in Lausanne from September 2nd - 6th 2013.

The course was attended by 16 young geriatric psychiatrists from France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Switzerland. The speakers and workshop leaders from France, Germany, Norway, Spain, and the UK have done a great job: a great many thanks to Prof Vincent Camus, Prof Knut Engedal, Prof Ralf Ihl, Prof Cornelius Katona, Prof Raimundo Mateos, Prof John O'Brien, and Prof Martin Orrell.

As the primary person in charge of the meeting, I had a great deal of pleasure to receive these young colleagues and to share this week with them and my senior colleagues. I would also like to thank my secretary, Ms Suzanne Maillard, for her competent organisational work.

I think it was a good opportunity for the participants to meet and, above all, I hope they were able to create some professional links and maybe friendship beyond the limits of the course.

This 1st course had an experimental flair to it as the EAGP board wanted to find out what the best formula might be, suppose this course is useful.

The participants felt this course should be organized again, on a regular basis and that sharing this experience with people from different countries was one of the major assets of the course. Some improvements may, however, be made for future courses and different formulae tried out.

Prof. Armin von Gunten

The 2nd One Week Course 2015 in Lausanne from September 7th-11th

Given this positive experience and feedback, the EAGP Board is pleased to announce the second One-week Course in Geriatric Psychiatry.

This course will again provide a forum for bringing together budding European geriatric psychiatrists with academic or institutional potential and favour networking for future co-operation across Europe.

The attendees will improve their knowledge in old age psychiatry and develop new ideas and share experiences about mental health programmes and organizations. The course will feature workshops, group discussions, and state of the art lectures by European experts in the field of geriatric psychiatry.

The participants will be encouraged to make their own contributions and present their papers/research. We are awaiting the feedback of some of the invited speakers.

Who will be the attendees ?

The course will have 20 spaces for junior geriatric psychiatrists from all over Europe. The interested junior geriatric psychiatrist is usually in their 2nd or 3rd year of general psychiatry training (depending on the national curriculum) and may be promoted by an old age faculty or an EAGP member.

Given the limited space, attendees will be selected on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Where ?

Lausanne, Switzerland, in one of Europe's oldest old-age psychiatry services

When ?

From 7th to 11th September 2015

For more info and registration please contact the course secretary:

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Prof. Armin von Gunten

Assisted suicide for elderly people in Switzerland

In Switzerland, anyone of sound judgement, regardless of age or illness, can obtain assistance if the person concerned no longer wishes to live.

In this regard, it is also possible to use the services of a euthanasia organisation.

So-called assisted suicide for the elderly is a topic that many people find moving.

The debate was initiated by Exit, an organisation for assisted suicide, which wants to make it easier for people in old age to access lethal medication.

The Swiss Society of Gerontology, the Swiss Geriatric Society and the Swiss Society for Geriatric Psychiatry and Psychotherapy view these efforts with concern. They are calling for a clear societal commitment to a good life, through to the very end, and are actively opposing easier access to lethal medication. Their position paper can be read via the following link: <http://www.sgap-sppa.ch/fachleute/fachpublikationen/>

Prof. Armin von Gunten

Congress of the German Society of Geriatric Psychiatry

From March 4th . 6th 2015, the XII. Congress of the German Society of Geriatric Psychiatry took place in the City of Essen. The opening ceremony was honored by a welcome lecture of Ms. Barbara Steffens, Minister of Health, Equalities, Care and Ageing in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The event attracted approximately 300 hundred participants, who joined a well organized meeting with outstanding plenary lectures and multiple symposia. The congress was accompanied by a state-of-the-art curriculum for general practitioners. The lectures in this curriculum focused on key subjects, such as delirium, dementia, depression and substance abuse in old age.

A satellite symposium was held in advance of the regular program on Wednesday 4th of March under the headline +Structures of care in Europe+, focusing on regional geriatric networks and European collaborations such as the %Innovate Dementia+ initiative.

The scientific programme covered several presentations emphasizing interdisciplinary approaches in geriatric psychiatry and preventive strategies. There were symposia with fundamental issues, for instance the debate on checking driving abilities in elderly people, palliative care and ambient assistant living. Medical symposia focused on treatment of pain in geriatric patients, sleep disorders, use of psychotropic drugs in dementia and innovative treatment approaches in late life depression (Botulinum toxin). Old-age psychotherapy was also addressed in several lectures. The congress concluded with debates on legal questions, for example living wills and conciliation cases.

Prof. Hans Gutzmann

Clinical attachment in Old age Psychiatry in U.K

I am pleased to offer 3 month clinical attachment in old age psychiatry to junior or senior clinicians in the field at North East London NHS foundation trust. The 3 month placement will offer a variety of community and inpatient and Home treatment experience and a 4 week placement with the award winning Dementia crisis support team in South west Essex. This team provides integrated and holistic person centred care to people with dementia in a crisis situation with the aim of avoiding inappropriate hospital admissions.

To book the placement please email on Afifa.qazi@nelft.nhs.uk

Dr. Afifa Qazi

Board Meeting in March 2015 in London

After the election of the new board in December 2014 the Board met in March 2015 in London to discuss the future actions of the EAGP.



Actions that will be promoted in the future are:

1. Educational Programs for pre- and post graduate education
2. Involving more nations in the EAGP for a better exchange
3. Planning and Participation in Congresses e.g. Symposium at the IPA Congress 2015 in Berlin
4. Publicity for the EAGP
5. Developing and strengthen the network across Europe

Nadine Cujai