



Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

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

The key highlight from this edition is the very successful 'One Week Course' in Lausanne that took place in September 2015. Moreover the EAGP is proud to introduce the new training program for the post graduate education the 'Three Days Refresher Course' that is organized by the Belgian and Dutch sections of old age psychiatry. You will find more information in this newsletter.

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 winter!

Katrin Krah
Germany

Presidential Message



Dear Members of the EAGP, I am delighted to update you all on the important progress of the EAGP in the last year. We had another successful summer school for psychiatry trainees in Lausanne, exciting workshops and meetings at the IPA congress in Berlin, and are happy to announce our first refresher programme for qualified geriatric psychiatrists in May 2016.

The EAGP has a long and distinguished history being the oldest geriatric psychiatry organisation in the world. It was originally launched in 1971 but it was not formally registered until on 1st October

1987 (Bulletin of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, January 1988). With Europe's rapidly ageing population, the original EAGP aims to advance research, practice and education in the field of geriatric psychiatry are even more relevant than they were back then. The EAGP sought then, and seeks now to cooperate with national and international organisations; working alongside the IPA at their recent congress and looking for opportunities to work with other organisations to further our aims and improve care for older people with mental health problems. To this end we will reach out to national geriatric psychiatry organisations across Europe to work towards a consensus on training needs.

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Professor Martin Orrell
United Kingdom

EAGP Annual General Meeting 2015

The 2015 AGM was held at the 15th October 2015 in Berlin. Sixteen members from across Europe were present. The main topics covered were the different training programmes and future EAGP congresses.

Armin von Gunten summarized the results of the 'One Week Course' in Lausanne and the members



discussed how the course could be further developed so that more people across Europe learn about the course and join the third 'One Week Course' in 2017.

Furthermore the programme of the 'Three Days Refresher Course' was presented by the organizers Richard Oude Voshaar and Filip Bouckaert.

Additionally the EAGP is still going to aim for a higher profile with many different people, and getting even more interest from geriatric psychiatrists. Therefore, the board members are keen to introduce the EAGP to the national associations and promote the international exchange and collaboration between the different associations.

Finally the board thanked Afifa Qazi, who left the board because of job related reasons, for her support for the EAGP. Until the next elections Karin Sparring Björkstén takes on the position of the nations board.

Nadine Cujai
Germany

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

The course was attended by 9 young geriatric psychiatrists from Germany, Belgium, and Switzerland after a short-notice fall-out of 5 attendants.

The speakers and workshop leaders from Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the UK have done a great job: a great many thanks to Profs F Bouckaert, Vandenbulcke, V Camus, J Ghika, R Ihl, U Mosimann, R Oude Voshaar, P Robert, M Orrell, R Tomar, B van Alphen, F Verhey !

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 2nd course still 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. We are still not quite sure what the best formula might be.

The participants clearly 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.

Indeed, the overall interest of the course was rated 89.3% on a scale ranging from 0 to 100%. The different lectures were appreciated / very much appreciated with the attendants rating the individual courses between 69.3% and 91.4%. They appreciated that all the sessions taught were specialized and not basic knowledge. They felt the intensity of the course was high and that it should be kept so except perhaps for arranging for some spare time in the middle of the week given the intensity.

The attendants also appreciated the plenary session and the jam session was rated 87.2%.

They felt the general organization during the meeting was excellent with a rating of 92.2%.

Some improvement from the last course seems to have been realised. Thus, the current group composition was more homogeneous as compared to the first one in 2013 with most attendants now having a level of previous knowledge compatible one with another.

In short, this summer school should be organized again.

Some attendants felt that a follow-up meeting of the summer school would be appropriate. Ultimately, this course could evolve towards some master course of the EAGP as suggested after the first one. Some improvements may, however, be made for future courses such as making the abstracts of the sessions available before the course begins, dedicate a little more time to clinical experience and case reports, host all participants in one place (a suggestion made in the first place but not taken up by most attendants).

A major unresolved issue is the low number of attendants this year. However, the course was booked with about 15 participants as planned with, unfortunately, short-notice drop-outs. We have known that some were not allowed to leave to attend the course due to clinical constraints at their work place. We also know that some colleagues wished to attend but the duration of a whole week was prohibitive for them.

We may want to reduce the course e.g. to 3.5 days (Wednesday noon to Saturday noon) and cover a pre-inscription fee.

Although the organization of the course during the meeting was valued very highly, the advertising of the course was insufficient despite efforts from several EAGP members. It seems, however, that the EAGP is still not well known and its website little accessed. The efforts to have the advertisement divulged by the IPA have been in vain. Organizing the course a year in advance might be helpful so that its advertising could take place at the international IPA meetings a year ahead. Advertising through the old-age psychiatric university departments might be helpful as well.

As the 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.

The EAGP committee will take these remarks and suggestions up and decide about the future of this European course.

Prof. Armin von Gunten
Switzerland

Old Age Psychiatry - a new specialty in Sweden

Although Sweden has an aged population, Old Age Psychiatry has not been a medical specialty for physicians until May 1st, 2015 when the National Board of Health and Welfare introduced new rules and guidelines for all specialities and a few new specialities. Specialized psychiatric services for the elderly are available in few places in Sweden and split between geriatrics and psychiatry, and between dementia and non-dementia. In addition, the care is organised differently in different parts of the country. The split has not been the advantage for developing services for the elderly. The Swedish Association for Old Age Psychiatry started in 1998 by a group of psychiatrists, geriatricians, family doctors and other physicians. One of the aims was to make Old Age Psychiatry a speciality of its own, covering cognitive disorders as well as other psychiatric disorders in the elderly.

After many years of lobbying, Old Age Psychiatry is now an additional speciality for specialist of either psychiatry or geriatrics.

I qualified in psychiatry in 1991 and in geriatrics in 1998, and was recently very happy and proud to become the first physician to get the new Swedish speciality Old Age Psychiatry. Since October 2015 I am also part of the EAGP board to increase the international exchange between specialists across Europe and to strengthen the Old Age Psychiatry in Sweden.

Karin Sparring Björkstén, MD, PhD
Sweden

Intensive EAGP Refresher course* in Old Age Psychiatry 26th-28th May 2016

Course Objectives

Geriatric psychiatry is widely acknowledged as an important subspecialty of psychiatry. Nonetheless, not all countries across Europe do have established training programs. Moreover, opportunities for retraining are limited, since most psychiatric congresses generally pay little attention to geriatric psychiatry and certainly not cover the whole area of geriatric psychiatry.

Aiming to improve geriatric psychiatry across Europe, the EAGP has organised a ~~Refresher Course~~ a three-day, highly quality course.

This intensive three-day course in old age psychiatry will provide an in depth review of selected topics (dementia, depression, anxiety and sleep), guided case discussions and will update you with the latest high-quality research relevant for clinical practice.

Format

Teaching methods will include state of the art *interactive* lectures by international experts, interactive workshops, group discussions, guided case discussions and discussing research papers. A syllabus with research papers and lecture material will be provided.

Continuing Education

CME points will be provided.

This program is designed for consultant old age psychiatrists. The course will have maximum 40 spaces for old age psychiatrists from all over Europe. Given the limited space, registration will be on a first come, first served basis. Registration will start on 1st of november2015.

Where?

Faculty Club, Leuven, Belgium (<http://www.facultyclub.be/en/history/>). Faculty Club is a unique conference centre. It welcomes its guests to an unique historic setting in the beguinage's

Infirmary, which dates back to the 13th century and which was renovated in the 16th and 17th centuries. The ancient historical site of the Grand Beguinage was included in the UNESCO



http://www.leuven.be/de/binaries/Groot%20Begijnhof12_tcm22-14911.jpg

World Heritage List in March 2000, and Faculty Club manages a part of this unique complex.

The city Leuven (close to Brussels) is a pleasant, safe and bustling student town, where centuries-rich history meets cutting edge science with the KU Leuven being a centre of learning for nearly six centuries.

Today, it is Belgium's largest university and, founded in 1425, one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe <http://www.kuleuven.be/about/communicatie/marketing/publicaties/infocus-uk.pdf>

When?

Thursday 26th . Friday 27th and Saturday 28th May 2016

Which language will be spoken?

English

What are the course fees?

Early bird registration will be 800 Euro for EAGP members. 900 Euro (EAGP members when paid after 1/2/2016). Old age psychiatrist who are member of a national society are usually automatically member of the EAGP.

1250 Euro for non-EAGP members. Registration is only valid with payment of the registration fee.

The fees cover attendance of the course (and syllabus), lunches and coffee/thee/beverages and the walking dinner (drinks included) on Thursday evening.

Hotel fees are not included, but the secretariat of the Flemish Association of Psychiatry (info@vvponline.be) can help you with booking a hotel. There are lots of hotels in walking distance from the venue at different prices (from 60 Euro on).

Dinner on Friday night at the Faculty Club is optional (70 Euro for 3 course meal including drinks).

Richard Oude Voshaar
The Netherlands
Filip Bouckaert
Belgium