

EASOM

European Association
of Schools of Occupational Medicine

EASOM BULLETIN

TWENTY FOURTH EDITION

DECEMBER 2022

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For comments and questions about this Bulletin, contributions and suggestions for the next Bulletin, please send an e-mail to: epauncu@gmail.com

Editorial of the President

Begoña Martínez-Jarreta

Dear members of EASOM

Dear colleagues and friends

2022 will soon come to an end and with this Bulletin we would like to send a message of hope to everyone.

We are aware of the hard times we are experiencing, due to the pandemic, which still affects us, and the ongoing war on our continent. In difficult times, staying strong, providing mutual support and being willing to work together, pulling in the same direction, are more important than ever.

In this Bulletin, we look back over the most relevant events of 2022, the latest EASOM activities and news from the last Summer School, including the reappointment for a second term of EASOM Board members during our last General Assembly.

This year's EASOM Summer School has not only been a great success, but also special for several reasons. It was the first to be held in person since the outbreak of the global SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The topic addressed was also of special interest and the program brought together representative members of a number of international organizations and scientific societies, including the WHO, EU-OSHA, ILO, ICOH and UEMS-OM. Undergraduate OM Teaching was the central topic of the 2022 EASOM Summer School. It had been identified years ago as strategic for EASOM (see previous newsletters from our association at www.easom.eu), nevertheless limited attention was paid to it.

Between 2012-2013, however, EASOM carried out a survey in EU countries to get closer to the reality of the Occupational Medicine teaching that future doctors receive in European Medical Schools. The results of this survey showed training shortcomings in some cases and a general lack of harmonization in the teaching of Occupational Medicine to future physicians at European Medical Schools (see Gehanno et al 2014).

Promoting knowledge of our specialty and the vocation for it is an objective that needs to be addressed much more at a time when we are witnessing a significant shortage of Occupational Doctors in many EU countries. This is especially the case when it seems likely that the shortage of specialists will worsen in the near future, because the average age of Occupational Medicine specialists in Europe is high and replacing those who retire could be challenging.

The theme of the Summer School was chosen based on all the above and against a background in which EU-OSHA and other agencies have pointed out the need to introduce occupational health training in the curricula of different university courses.

On the occasion of the 2022 Summer School, and nearly a decade after the survey carried out by Gehanno et al. in 2014, EASOM is replicating that study to establish whether there have or have not been significant advances in this field in European countries in recent years.

Promoting adequate undergraduate training in European Medical Schools also seems to be of recent interest to the UEMS and the collaboration established between the two societies could lead to a joint statement in the near future on the need for improvement in this area.

The recent collaboration with UEMS is also reviewed in this Newsletter. On that basis of UEMS-OM and EASOM cooperation and during the last year we have successfully consolidated the EU examination in Occupational Medicine (3rd edition in 2022) and further collaborative efforts could allow us to work together to promote Occupational Medicine as part of undergraduate medical training.

I cannot finish without mentioning that this year we have new members who were welcomed during the 2022 General Assembly held in Belgrade on the occasion of the Summer School. Two new Institutions from Finland and from Germany represented by Prof. Riita Sauni and Prof Andrea Kaifie-Pechmann, respectively.

We will soon face together the new challenges of 2023 and a new Summer School.

Therefore, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I would be delighted to see you at the next Summer School, which will take place in the beautiful city of Catania in Sicily, in August 2023. There is more information in this Newsletter and on the EASOM website. We look forward to meeting you there.

Until then we will keep in touch.

Best wishes to you and your families for Christmas and the New Year,

Begoña Martínez-Jarreta

President of EASOM

Report on the 21st EASOM Summer School, 25-27 of August 2022, Belgrade, Serbia

“Teaching Occupational Medicine to Undergraduate Students of Medicine: Needs, Methods and a Way Forward”

Petar Bulat

The Faculty of Medicine-University of Belgrade hosted the XXI EASOM Summer School in August 25-27, 2022. Considering the results of the EASOM survey on the education of medical students in the field of occupational medicine, conducted ten years ago, as well as new trends, it was decided that the subject of the twenty-first EASOM Summer School would be “Teaching Occupational Medicine to Undergraduate Students of Medicine: Needs, Methods and a Way Forward”.

In order to perceive as clearly as possible the needs for the education of medical students in the field of occupational medicine, the representatives of international agencies presented views of their organizations: EU OSHA Tim Tregenza -EU OSHA view on needs for occupational medicine teaching; ILO Shengli Niu- ILO view on needs for occupational medicine teaching; WHO Dorota Jarosinska-How WHO sees the need for occupational medicine teaching?; UEMS Fabrizio Mario Gobba-What does UEMS expect from occupational medicine education of medical doctors?; ICOH Marija Bubaš-How does ICOH sees future of occupational medicine education?. All speakers stated that there is need for providing, at least, basics of occupational medicine to the students of medicine.

During afternoon there was fruitful discussion during World caffe. Participants had to discuss four questions:

1. Do we need OM teaching for undergraduate students of medicine?
2. When to teach OM medicine (at first, second... last year)?
3. Do we have to include occupational safety of health care workers in OM program?
4. Do we have to teach other students OM (dentistry, pharmacy, technics...)?

World caffe moderators presented interesting results of discussions that they had with participants. According to moderator reports we should teach undergraduate students on occupational health/medicine topics, because:

1. Work is an essential part everybody’s live

- Everybody will encounter work related issues
- Everybody has a risk on occupational diseases
- No profession is excluded from these risks

2. Students need to know about:

- Safety
- Occupational / work related risks
- How to protect themselves as health care workers
- Health promotion
- Law and legislation
- Ethical issues

The necessity on teaching occupational health/medicine is even more important, because most people are going to GP's or other medical specialists because of the limited access to an OH/OM specialist.

It was proposed that teaching should start in first years if active learning system or PBL is implemented in the learning. If classic learning system is in place, then OM/OH should take place in later years preferably in the 6th year, because the students then have gathered knowledge in most diseases and can then connect all issues easier. Also, 6th year is suitable because the students then are more mature and maturity is needed for preventive work and thinking, the students have more life experience.

At the end of the first day of EASOM Summer School EASOM General Assembly has been organized, followed by Welcome reception and dinner in Belgrade touristic quart (Skadarlija).

The second day started with keynote lecture of Lutgart Braeckman "What are the challenges and what are the opportunities?" Followed by the lecture of Helena Koren "Understanding educational needs from occupational medicine residents' perspective". Second half of the morning session was very interesting since we had opportunity to hear different experiences in teaching occupational medicine to the students of medicine. We had opportunity to learn experiences from Belgium, Croatia, Egypt, Finland, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, The Netherlands. In addition to a significant number of differences in educational approaches, the presentations indicated that there are also many similarities. This session was an excellent introduction to panel discussion "Future of occupational medical education in undergraduate training" and gave the participants opportunity to continue discussions on the occupational health teaching.

Afternoon session of the second day of EASOM Summer School has been focused on Methods of Teaching and Knowledge Assessment in Occupational Medicine in Undergraduate Studies. The first keynote lecture was on Innovative teaching methodologies presented by Jelena Parojčić. The second one was on Netherlands action on improving OM teaching in School of Medicine by Marjolein Bastiaanssen. Both lectures informed participants on the new teaching methods and current trends in education. Miloš Bajčetić presented advantages and disadvantages of E-learning and informed participants on the software packages supporting E-learning. Hana Brborović and Roko Žaja presented "Team-based and case-based learning in occupational medicine - results of Croatian pilot implementation". Innovative teaching methods to change attitudes to OM in undergraduate medical students has been presented by Begoña Abecia. The afternoon session has been finished with very interesting and provoking keynote lecture "Reading OM textbooks or searching online?" By Frank van Dijk. At the end of second day dinner has been organized in Belgrade city center (Aero Klub).



During the third day keynote lecture “Needs for international teaching in OM” has been presented by Claudio Colosio, followed by panel discussion on Minimal recommendations and guidelines for teaching OM in undergraduate teaching. At the end of the third day Caterina Ledda presented next host of EASOM Summer School - Catania and informed participants on details of the next Summer School.



The XXI EASOM Summer School closed in good spirit that we accomplished an important step forward to better integration of OM teaching in the education of medical students.

The XXI EASOM Summer School has been attended by 28 participants.

EASOM Summer School in 2023 – First Announcement

Venerando Rapisarda



UNIVERSITÀ
degli STUDI
di CATANIA

DIPARTIMENTO DI MEDICINA
CLINICA E SPERIMENTALE
Medicina del Lavoro

Dear EASOM President and Board Members,

as local host, I am pleased to give the first announcement of the Summer School to be held in Catania in August-September of next year 2023.

The topic of the Summer School is: "Gender differences in occupational medicine", a very topical issue at European level and of great interest, as it fits into the broader context of gender medicine.

EASOM
European Association
of Schools of Occupational Medicine

SIGILLAE STUDIVM GENERALE
UNIVERSITÀ
degli STUDI
di CATANIA
1434

CATANIA EASOM SUMMER SCHOOL 2023
"Gender differences in occupational medicine"

August -
September 2023

Prof. Venerando Rapisarda and Prof. Caterina Ledda
Occupational Medicine Clinic
Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine of the
University of Catania (Italy)

The final work program will subsequently be defined by the EASOM Board with the contribution of the School of Occupational Medicine of Catania (Southern Italy). Sector experts from the academic world but not only, both from Italy and abroad, will be invited as speakers.

As a matter of fact, gender medicine concerns the present and the future of medicine and the occupational physician must have solid foundations in order to better understand gender differences in relation to the risks present in the workplace.

Therefore, this Summer School represents a great opportunity to increase the knowledge of occupational medicine professors and resident doctors on the subject, in order to be able to develop common European-level approaches towards a highly topical problem that affects many disciplines in the medical field.

Furthermore, the Summer School will be an opportunity to visit Sicily. A land rich in history and culture that has welcomed numerous peoples since the ancient Greeks. The city of Catania is located in Eastern Sicily on the slopes of Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe on whose volcanic slopes important vineyards thrive. The city looks over the Ionian Sea, a short distance from Baroque cities such as Syracuse and Taormina and other UNESCO heritage sites (e.g. Noto, Ibla, etc.).

We are looking forward to seeing you at next EASOM Summer School dedicated to cultural growth, friendship and tourism.

Yours sincerely

Prof. Venerando Rapisarda

Head of the Occupational Medicine Clinic

University of Catania (Italy)

Catania (Italy), 20th November, 2022

RENEWAL OF THE EASOM BOARD

On 25 August the General Assembly (GA) of EASOM was held at the University of Belgrade. At this GA a second term of office of the following Board members Petar Bulat, Lode Godderis, Soile J and Marija Bubas that was approved unanimously. The extension of the mandate of Elena-Ana Păuncu was also approved on the base of her exceptional support and contribution to EASOM. The proposal of Peter Bulat as Vice-President of EASOM and the renewal of Begoña Martínez-Jarreta for a 2nd term as President of EASOM were also unanimously approved.

Dieter Weigel had got his retirement therefore EASOM acknowledge him and gave thanks because his activity in the EASOM Board during the last years. Marjolein Bastianssen was proposed to replace him and join the EASOM Board.



Dieter Weigel in 2016 Winter Board Meeting in Leuven

MARJOLEIN BASTIAANSEN, NEW EASOM BOARD MEMBER



In the last Summer School, Marjolein Bastiaansen become a new EASOM board member.

Welcome!

She is master in medicine, since 1986, and have the qualification of doctor, obtained in 1989 (Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, the Netherlands).

In 1993 obtained the Occupational Health Physician's qualification (SGBO Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, the Netherlands).

She has worked in different branches and sectors and has also been active on a number of Scientific Societies (board member of the Netherlands Society of Occupational Medicine (NVAB) in 2000- 2003 and Policy Officer of Occupational and Public Health Royal Dutch Medical Association (KNMG) in 2002- 2006).

Currently, she works as a company doctor at Radboudumc and Radboud University and since 2019 is Resident Training Director in Occupational Health Education School of Social Medicine (SGBO Radboudumc).

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES

EASOM and UEMS-OM cooperation

Along 2022 the two regular meetings of the UEMS Section of Occupational Medicine were attended by EASOM Board members. The first took place in April 1 and 2 in Perg (Austria) organized by Karl Hochgatterer (representative member of Austria in UEMS-OM) and the second in Aagen (Germany) organized by Tomas Krause (Professor of Aagen University and representative of Germany in UEMS-OM). Both meeting attended by Nicole Majery, General Secretary of EASOM and the first one with the participation of the President of EASOM.

Those meetings allowed to reinforce the EASOM-UEMS OM cooperation and promote the 3rd edition of the European Exam that was an important point in the collaborative agenda. The 3rd European Postgraduate Assessment in Occupational Medicine took place on Monday, the 24th of October 2022, at the Domus Medica Europaea. Once more, the Occupational Medicine European Assessment was a success and EASOM was actively involved in the reinforce and build of the MCQs database and in the examination.



EASOM'S PARTICIPATION IN 2022 CONGRESSES

33rd ICOH meeting

In February 2022 EASOM participated in a special session at the 33rd ICOH meeting in cooperation with UEMS-OM. It focused on the EU exam and delegates involved in the examination and a successful examinee gave presentations (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/safety-and-health-at-work/vol/13/suppl/S>)

2022 Congress of the Portuguese Society of Occupational Medicine

Our Association was invited to participate in the 16th National Forum of Occupational Medicine and 3rd Portuguese International Forum of Occupational Health that took place in Lisbon on 27th and 28th October this year. The invitation came from the President of the Portuguese Society of Occupational Medicine Dr. Jorge Barroso and the title of the conference: *EASOM's mission and OM education and training before and after the COVID-19 pandemic process.*

A close-up photograph of a green Christmas tree decorated with various ornaments. Visible decorations include a blue ball, a red ball, a gold star, a white house-shaped ornament, a red bow, and silver tinsel. The background is filled with the dense green needles of the tree.

**Dear colleagues
and friends,
EASOM members,**

**We wish you a Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year!**