

# EASOM - European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine

## Announcing the 20th anniversary of EASOM Bulletin – Fifteenth Edition – July 2013

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More information about EASOM: <http://www.easom.org>

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## Editorial of the President

Dear Members of EASOM,

Dear Friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year is a great year for EASOM because it celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. The association was founded in 1993 in The Netherlands, the first President, Professor Jean-Francois Caillard, came from France and the Secretary General, Piet Kroon, was a Dutch colleague. Together with others, especially Barbara Nemitz from Germany who has passed away already, they invested lots of time to establish the association and we are very grateful to them for their work. Ten years after the foundation there were already 19 Members of 12 countries, and in 2013 the members list consists of 35 members from 20 European countries, most of them members of the European Union or applicants for membership in EU.

The major aim of this European association as a nonprofit organization is to improve the standards of education and training of physicians working in the field of occupational medicine by making relevant knowledge available to those colleagues.

The first big issue EASOM was involved in was the Leonardo-Da-Vinci-Project of 1999 – 2001. Our contribution to the topic of “Communication of occupational physicians with workers on health and safety issues” was substantial. The results were presented at EASOM’s first Summer School in 2001 in Dresden, Germany. Those Summer Schools have risen to the main activity of the association and from then on they have been taken place in 10 different countries all over Europe. They have dealt with different important topics of training in occupational medicine. This year we will meet at Timisoara, Romania. Further information about the event you will find on [www.easom.org](http://www.easom.org) including a pre-registration form. You are cordially invited to participate and to celebrate our birthday with us. Together with the whole Board of Management I would be glad to meet you there to have fruitful discussions of course also with those ones who have not yet decided to join EASOM.

Best regards and enjoy your summer time wherever you may spend it.

Giso Schmeisser

President of EASOM

## Annual Meeting of Occupational Societies of Three Countries: Germany, Switzerland and Austria in Bregenz 2013

This year in Bregenz, Austria, from March 13th to 16th, 2013, for the first time, the meeting of the three Occupational Medicine Societies took place: the 53rd Annual Conference of the German Society for Occupational and Environmental Medicine (DGAUM), together with the Annual Conference of the Austrian Society of Occupational Medicine (ÖGA) and the spring conference of the Swiss Society of Occupational Medicine (SGARM).

A two countries meeting has been held for the German and Austrian Societies two times before already and once a two-countries meeting – the Swiss and Austrian Societies jointly since.

The organizers were the three societies themselves in cooperation with:

The Association of German Business and Company Doctors (Verband Deutscher Betriebs- und Werksärzte e.V. - Berufsverband Deutscher Arbeitsmediziner), German Statutory Accident Insurance (Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung), Austrian Workers' Compensation Board (Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA)), and the Swiss Accident Insurance (Schweizerische Unfallversicherungsanstalt (SUVA)).

Two main issues were on the program of the meeting: the musculoskeletal diseases and occupational medicine in Europe.

In the scope of the Meeting there were 5 workshops (2 of which were dedicated to the functional diagnosis of musculoskeletal diseases) and 3 enterprise on-site visits.

Under the motto "Work must not make you ill" there were presentations held concerning the occupational musculoskeletal diseases, which are responsible for 20% of sick leave days in Germany, 14% of cases of sick leave in Austria and correspondingly in Switzerland (where every fifth employee complained of back-pain and every eighth of muscle pain in 2005). In the EU 25% of the workforce is suffering of back pain, 23% of the EU-employees are complaining of pain in the muscles. Workers in farming, construction, handicraft, nursing, gastronomy, and even computer workers seem to be at risk of occupational musculoskeletal diseases. The influence of strain at work as the causal factor for the work-associated musculoskeletal disease has been discussed controversially. Apart from inappropriate handling of work-load and strain at the musculoskeletal system, stress and pressure at work in the modern world seems to result in increased complaints and musculoskeletal disorders/diseases. Health promotion as a primary prevention tool has been emphasized to be implemented in addition to implementation of appropriate work place ergonomic and behavioral modifications and psychological work force empowerment.

Very interesting presentations on health promotion on the one hand and studies concerning stress bound effects/psychological problems at work on the other hand have been presented.

The last day of the meeting was dedicated to the status of occupational medicine in Europe, the retrospection and perspectives in the changed world of work.

Apart from the meeting of the Chairs of the German, the Swiss and the Austrian Society of Occupational Medicine, a meeting of the young scientist was organized during the Congress.

On March 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 a separate meeting of the occupational medicine nurses was held.

Apart from the annual society conferences, an ICOH meeting was organized in the scope of the “three country occupational societies’ meeting” in Bregenz.

The meeting was accompanied by an exhibition of occupational safety products, new products concerning immunization at work and publication and book presentations in the field of occupational medicine.

## Final report EMUTOM : A European Module on Undergraduate Teaching in Occupational Medicine [www.emutom.eu](http://www.emutom.eu)

EMUTOM is a project aimed at enhancing cooperation between European medical universities through the design of a module for teaching health and work issues that allows for harmonisation and transparency in terms of competencies and learning outcomes. For most people work is essential for economic, social as well as physical wellbeing. All medical doctors, whichever speciality they practice, have a key role in the prevention of work-related disease and the promotion and maintenance of good health.

This two years project was launched in October 2010 with the funding of the LifeLong Learning programme, Erasmus. Educational experts and specialists in occupational medicine from five different countries (Ghent University, Belgium; Centre HospitalierUniversitaire de Rouen, France; Coronel Institute, AMC, The Netherlands; University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Victor Babeş”, Romania and University of Belgrade, Serbia) offer a research based module in the form of blended learning for qualifying future health professionals in issues around work and health.

The target groups that were reached during the life of the project, are undergraduate students in medicine, academics and staff members of the participating universities as well as professionals in the field. The long term target groups are students in health sciences e.g. nursing but also other disciplines and institutes may benefit from the experience of providing a European joint module on occupational medicine.

In order to reach the general goal, some specific objectives were accomplished: the examination of the undergraduate medical curricula with regard to work-related issues throughout Europe; the analysis of the needs among general practitioners and medical specialists in the partner countries; the development of a competency framework, associated teaching materials and resources; and finally the design of a quality policy.

The surveys on undergraduate teaching concerning the link between work and health and the analyses of needs among several groups of practitioners were completed in the first phase of the project. First, a lack of standardised preparation for practice in these topics across Europe was identified. Whilst some countries have a robust training at medical undergraduate level, others have little or none. Second, differences in needs and demands were observed between countries on one hand and between occupational physicians and general practitioners on the other hand. These activities enabled the partners to formulate core competencies, learning objectives and construct the module and a teaching format. The module includes four chapters: general introduction to work and health, effects of work on health, fitness for work, and workplace health promotion. The module is delivered as a 5-day taught program in a three weeks period with a student workload of 84 hours. A prototype module did run on test-basis during six months and was evaluated by developers, students, teachers and experts. Based on the evaluators' feedback, the module content was optimized and refined.

Further details on the project, its participants, activities, final results and training materials including a teacher manual can be found at [www.emutom.eu](http://www.emutom.eu). and all interested parties can use the material free of charge.

## EASOM Summer School 2013 - Teaching Workplace Health Promotion

Day 1 - Thursday the 29th of August 2013

Time	Presentation	Presenter
9.00 – 9.30	Registration of participants	All
9.30 – 9.50	Welcome speech	Marius Raica, Rector UMFT, Professor, MD, Giso Schmeisser, MD, EASOM president, Theodor Haratau MD, MBA Elena-Ana Păuncu, Professor, MD
9.50 – 10.20	“ENWHP - Network history, development and current activities”	Dr. Maria Dolores Sole, Chair of the ENWHP
10.20 – 10.50	The fundamentals of Workplace Health Promotion	Giuseppe Masanotti, Professor, MD
10.50– 11.15	Coffee break	All
11.15 – 11.35	The economics of Workplace Health Promotion and OSH	Marc de Greef, Professor
11.55 – 12.15	Public Health Teaching Methods in Health Promotion	Theodor Haratau MD, MBA, Sorin Ursoniu, Assoc. Professor, MD
11.55– 12.15	Communication campaigns in Workplace Health Promotion projects	Giuseppe Masanotti, Professor, MD
12.15 – 13.00	Lunch	All
13.00 – 13.15	Introduction to the workgroups discussion	All
13.15 – 14.15	Why, Who, What? (Discussions in work groups) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workplace Health Promotion or Health Promotion at the Workplace?</li> <li>• The task of the occupational physician inWHP</li> <li>• Evidence Based Medicine in WHP</li> </ul> Moderated discussions (3 groups depending on the number of participants)	All
14.15 – 14.45	Reporting form the roundtable discussion	All
14.45 – 15.15	Coffee break	All
15.15 – 16.00	“20 YEARS OF EASOM – past and future” - Special session	Giso Schmeisser, MD Piet Kroon, MD (asked) André Weel, MD

		Jean Francois Gehanno, Professor, MD
16.00 - 16.10	Photo – EASOM family	All
16.10 – 17.30	EASOM GENERAL ASSEMBLY	All EASOM members

Day 2 - Friday the 30th of August 2013

Time	Presentation	Presenter
9.00 – 11.00	Company presentations about their experiences in WHP programs. Discussions.	Companies representatives and All
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break	All
11.30 – 11.50	“Teaching Workplace Health Promotion in Romania and Slovenia – past and future activities and initiatives”	Theodor Haratau, MD, MBA AlenkaŠkerjanc, MSc SimonaTutila,
11.50 – 12.10	“Teaching WHP in Romania – from the past and looking into the future”	Elena-Ana Pauncu, Professor, MD
12.10- 12.30	Evaluation in Workplace Health Promotion	IoanaPrecup, Statistician
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	All
13.30 – 13.50	Dutch activities about Workplace Health Promotion	André Weel, MD
13.50 – 14.10	Workplace Health Promotion – Spain Experience	Begoña Martínez Jarreta, Professor, MD
14.10 – 14.30	Workplace Health Promotion – Switzerland Experience	Sven Hoffmann, programmanager, MD
14.30 – 15.00	Coffee break	All
15.00 – 16.30	How to teach WHP? Roundtable discussion on possible Curricula in Training Workplace Health Promotion in European countries – facilitated discussion	All
19.00	Anniversary Dinner	All invited!

Day 3 - Saturday the 31st of August 2013

Time	Presentation	Presenter
9.00 – 9.30	Training / E-learning and Workplace Health Promotion	Maria Dolores Sole, Chair of the ENWHP, MD
9.30 – 9.50	E-health-literacy	Piet Kroon, MD
9.50 – 10.30	Group Work E-health-literacy, instrument for WHP learning at different levels. Noise induced hearing loss Dermal protection Accident in agriculture Needle stick injuries	All
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break	All
11.00 – 11.30	Romanian Universities and Workplace Health Promotion activities; Workplace Health Promotion within	DorinBardac, Professor, MD MihaelaStoia, lecturer, MD Elena-Ana Pauncu, Professor, MD

	the West and the Centre Regions (CPSLM and VPSSM projects)	Emil Vancu, Assoc. Professor, MD
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Day 3 - Saturday the 31st of August 2013 continued

Time	Presentation	Presenter
11.30 – 11.45	Health circles as a tool for participation. Can medical doctors trust and encourage workers?	Gerhard Elsigan
11.45 – 12.00	Closing the meeting. Conclusions	Elena-Ana Pauncu, Professor, MD Peter Bulat, Professor, MD
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	All

European Association  
of Schools of  
Occupational Medicine

**EASOM**

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## PRE-REGISTRATION

*13<sup>th</sup> EASOM Summer School*  
**TEACHING WORKPLACE HEALTH PROMOTION**  
*Timișoara, Romania, venue Hotel Timișoara*  
**29 - 31 August 2013**

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I want to register for the 13<sup>th</sup> EASOM Summer School. I was informed that the EASOM Summer School Fee is 300 Euro. Please send the registration form and the invoice to the following address:

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone + \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: + \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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*After completion, this form must be sent (preferably by Fax or e-mail) to:*

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