

Bulletin

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

For comments and questions about this Bulletin and contributions and suggestions for the next Bulletin, please send an e-mail to EASOM's Secretary:

andre.weel@mediforce.nl

President's letter

Happy New Year to You All!

New year and new plans, but let's have a quick look at the past year 2006. It was the 14th year of EASOM and we had 34 members in the end of the year. During the year we were happy to receive three new members: they will present themselves in this Bulletin. The coverage of EASOM in Europe is quite good, but could be better. Therefore I challenge you all to spread information of EASOM to your colleague institutions in your own country and in your neighbouring countries. Let's wait and see what will be the result at the end of this year.

During the year 2006 the EASOM board had four meetings: in Zagreb in the end of January, in Bari/ Torre Canne in March and end of August, and in Dresden in December. The sixth Summer School was in Bari / Torre Canne in the beautiful surroundings of the Hotel del Levante. We owe many warm thanks to Professor Giorgio Assennato and his colleagues and co-workers for the arrangements of the Summer School. The topic of the Summer School was Occupational Epidemiology and how to teach it to occupational physicians (Teaching Practical Occupational Epidemiology). We had many good presentations dealing with different aspects of the subject and thereafter fruitful discussions concerning the matter. If you were not able to attend this interesting summer school (and although you were there) you can find the presentations on the EASOM web site (www.easom.org). As a "conclusion" of the summer school a project was started in order to create a common module of Occupational Epidemiology for training physicians specialising to Occupational Medicine. This project is coordinated by Cathy Harrison (chief) and Kristiina Mukala (assistant). There are four groups in the project preparing different parts of the module: contents and methods, e-learning, student's summer school and assessment. If you are interested in the project, do not hesitate to contact Cathy (cathy.harrison1@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or me (kristiina.mukala@ttl.fi). The module is supposed to be ready before the next summer school in 2007.

Our 7th summer school is going to deal with mental health, a growing problem in occupational health. How to deal with it, how to treat and whom to treat? There are many questions to which we like to find answers together in Zaragoza, Spain, during the Summer School (6th of September to 8th of September 2007). Further information of the Summer School will be on our web-pages later in the spring, but you can put the dates in your calendar already now.

At General Assembly in Bari we got two new board members: Prof. Lutgart Braeckman from Ghent, Belgium. and Dr Giso Schmeisser from Dresden, Germany. Welcome “on board” both of you. That was also the last General Assembly chaired by our British president Professor John Harrison, who has served EASOM as board member for eight years, of which the last three as a President. I like to thank you John, for all the work you have done for EASOM. And I am more than happy to have you as an advisor in the board. Thanks are due also to professor Assennato, who “retired” from the EASOM board after eight years of excellent work for the association. Thank You Giorgio!

It is not an easy task to be the chairman after John, but I am looking optimistically to the future and promise to do my best. Fortunately I have two strong men beside me, vice president Petar Bulat from Belgrade, and our secretary general André Weel from the Netherlands. Presidents come and go, but André keeps things running. Thank you André!

With many regards from Helsinki, where there is no snow and +4°C in the middle of the winter!!!

Helsinki 3rd of January 2007
Kristiina Mukala, Chairman of EASOM

Announcement of EASOM Summer School 2007 in Zaragoza, Spain

The Board of EASOM is happy to announce the seventh EASOM Summer School:

TEACHING MANAGEMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

**The Summer School will take place in Zaragoza, Spain,
September 6 - 8, 2007.**

In the next Bulletin and by our web site, we will inform you in detail about the programme, venue and registration.

A students' survey among EASOM members

Core competencies of the European Occupational Physician

This research project was carried out by Christiaan Berg and Patrick de Roover, in the framework of their training in occupational medicine at the Netherlands School of Public & Occupational Health, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The study was carried out in 2006, under the supervision of dr André Weel from the EASOM Board.

The central questions in this research project were:

Is an occupational physician educated and trained in one EU member state able to work in another member state?

What competencies should a Pan-European occupational physician have?

The information was collected in three ways:

- a literature search
- a questionnaire survey among EASOM member schools
- three in-depth interviews.

In spite of reminders, the response on the questionnaire was poor.

Answers were received from eight countries.

Three managers of schools of occupational medicine (in Belgium, France, and the Netherlands) were interviewed.

The main conclusions are:

1. There is a great overlap in competence profiles between countries. Most of them are also similar to the profile agreed at the WHO conference in Bilthoven in 1999.
2. Large differences have been observed between countries, with respect to the professional demands required by the daily practice. These differences are consequences of the diverging roles and positions occupational physicians have.
3. According to the WHO profile, fully trained occupational physicians are supposed to possess a large variety of knowledge domains and skills. Within this profile, medical, legal and technical fields of knowledge; and scientific, management, communication, presentation and advice skills can be distinguished. This 'generalistic' profile is judged not to be feasible. It is found to be useful only to provide a basic layer of knowledge and skills.
4. There is no standard European occupational physician; a standard type of professional is not expected to appear on the scene in the future, due to the diverging demands from practice and the legal

situation. A Pan-European occupational physician is not a realistic concept.

They recommend:

1. The WHO model is useful to define the professional basis for occupational physicians.
2. The first two years of the four-year curriculum should create the basic professional level of competencies. The second part should be dependent on the preference of the students. The selection of a limited number of competencies (risk assessment, sickness absence guidance, management of occupational diseases) may help to create occupational physicians with different profiles. This approach may promote the mobility of professionals over at least a part of the European countries.

Memories of Bari Summer School 2006

EASOM's sixth Summer School was in Torre Canne, a lovely town in the Italian province of Puglia, at the Adriatic coast some 60 kilometers south of the city of Bari. Many elderly people spend their days in Torre Canne in a pleasant way. Life seems so easy there

And also the course of the Summer School was very smooth. Thanks to our host, professor Giorgio Assennato and his assistant Tina Mongelli, who had organised all practical matters very well. The attendance with almost 40 people was very good. There was a special siesta schedule: the afternoon sessions started at 16:30 hr. Time for rest and swimming

The topic was occupational epidemiology. The first day (August 31) we studied the WHY, the importance of epidemiology for the occupational physician. Professor Pier Alberto Bertazzi from Milan gave us a splendid introduction in the matter. Later we looked at the contents of the epidemiology training in the different countries: the WHAT. A large variety of training types was shown.

The second day (September 1) was of a more technical nature: HOW epidemiology may be taught? We were happy with very good presentations, you find them on our web site. There was also plenty of time for discussion, to process all the information and draw our plans.

This was also the day of the Summer School dinner for all participants, in a beautiful Masseria (castle farm) at the countryside of Puglia.

The third day (September 2) we have been working in small groups, to work out the basics of what should become our own European module.

All participants were very involved in the subject and we closed the Summer School with the ambitious plan to carry out an EASOM project for the European epi module: see elsewhere in this Bulletin!

A new EASOM project: the epi module

Definition of the project

The aim of the project is to ensure the formation of a working group who will design a practical teaching module for Occupational Epidemiology that links to the ATOMe Project.

Outlines for this epi module have been set at the Summer School in Torre Canne / Bari, summer 2006.

Progress to date (18 December 2006)

Four main strands of work and lead responsibility were identified;

| | | |
|---|------------------------|---|
| 1 | Contents and Methods | Guido Moens and Ewan MacDonald |
| 2 | E-Learning | Katja Radon |
| 3 | Student Summer School | Brigitta Danuser and Jadranka Mustajbegovic |
| 4 | Assessment of Students | Ewan MacDonald and John Harrison |

The project is managed by Cathy Harrison and Kristiina Mukala.

Each individual who had agreed to contribute to the Epidemiology Module was contacted and asked whether they agreed with the task as allocated.

A time line was suggested;

- An initial report to the Board in December 2006
- Formal update from each strand at the end of March and the end of June 2007
- Final Module to be delivered to the Summer School in September 2007

Positive responses were received, agreeing to responsibility for leadership and the task allocated.

A pre course questionnaire is considered. This could be interactive and on line, to determine who the audience for the module might be and what level of knowledge they might have. This would assist in informing the module requirements / informing on what advice is required for the pre module reading.

We could also consider the development of an E learning notice board (password protected) for the use of both tutors and students.

New EASOM members present themselves

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH ATHENS, GREECE *by Dr Georgios Dounias*

Brief Historical Introduction

“those involved in public health should have received training in a school of public health in their country, so as to allow them to study its public health problems on the spot”

special committee of distinguished public health experts of **League of Nations** (1929),

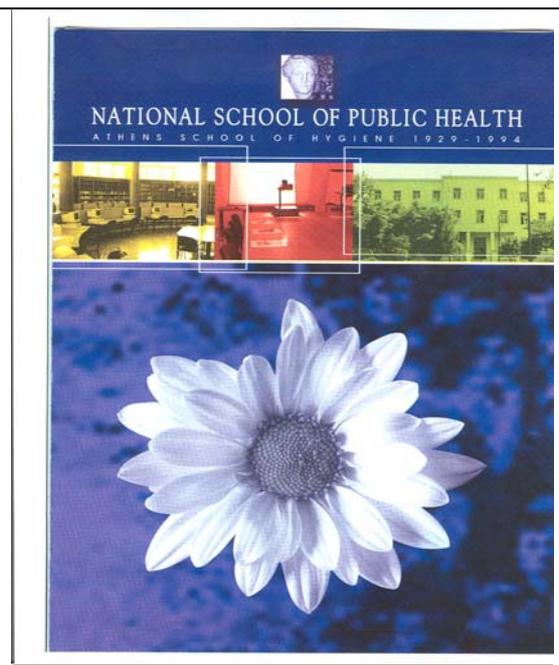
National School of Public Health :

- provide training, post-graduate training and specialised training for scientific health professionals
- study all scientific and technical questions directly or indirectly connected with public health.
- carry out scientific research in all the fields of public health and preventive medicine.
- conduct public health and laboratory investigation and testing in matters of public health.
- supply the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Social Services and other sections of the civil service with its expert opinion on matters which fall within its competence.

Structure and Administration

NSPH is divided into 12 Departments which cover the field. In addition, special reference centers function within the School. The School's administrative authority resides in its Council of Professors, chaired by the Dean. Administrative services are provided by the Secretariat, whose Director is responsible for its administrative and accounting departments. Teaching and research staff of NSPH are elected according to Greek system of higher education. Administration and management of the special Research Account are conducted by a Research Committee and a Secretariat.

Since its foundation, NSPH has occupied the building owned by it at 196 Alexandras Avenue, which has recently been designated / listed for preservation as an architectural monument.



Postgraduate Training Programmes

NSPH has set up and runs postgraduate training programmes in the following fields:

- a. **Public health**, for *physicians, dentists, pharmacists, veterinary surgeons and biologists.*
- b. **Public health management**, for *graduates in law, economics and the social and political sciences.*
- c. **Occupational health**, for *occupational physicians who are already specialised in Occupational Medicine.*
- d. **Health engineering**, for *engineers who are members of the Technical Chamber of Greece.*
- e. **General medicine**, for *doctors undergoing specialised training as GPs.*

Prospective students must submit a curriculum vitae which is assessed and are selected after a personal interview with a board of professors. They may also be admitted by entrance examination. The academic year begins on 1 October and ends on 30 September of the following year. A course

consists of two semesters, with written or oral examinations at the end of each. The subjects taught are divided into core courses and optional subjects. Students are obliged to take at least two options. Apart from achieving pass marks in the subjects taught, students must also submit a degree thesis (diplomatiki-diatriba) on a topic related to public health or public health administration in order to receive their degree. Attendance at lectures and educational visits are compulsory.

The School's training programmes have been assessed by a special committee of the European Association of Public Health Services Studies (EAPHSS) and the WHO, and more recently by a committee of the Association of Universities of Public Health of the European Region (ASPHER).

Department of Occupational & Industrial Hygiene was founded in the means of '70 and constitutes until today the unique academic institution in Greece provides post-graduate education leading to an officially recognised qualification as specialist in Occupational Medicine.

- First professor was elected (1977) **Alexandros Aghelis**, specialist in Internal & Occupational Medicine. Was director of Institute of Social Security (IKA) [1966-1967], chairman of Special Committee of Occupational Illnesses. Published "*Occupational Medicine & Industrial Hygiene*" the first text in Greece [1973]. Existed Dean of NSPH [1979-1981] and chairman of National Council of Health Minister committee that determined the 4 years education program in the speciality of Occupational Medicine [1986]. Honorary chairman of Greek Society of Occupational Medicine [1988]
- After was elected professor **Charilaos Andreou**, [1987-1996] specialist in Internal & Occupational Medicine, organised the first postgraduate course of Occupational Medicine in Greece. Was also chairman of Greek Society of Occupational Medicine and person in charge in its scientific magazine.

Staff:

Director: prof **Vassilios Makropoulos**

vice directory: dr **Georgios Dounias**

Research fellow: **Anastasia Kikemenis**

secretary: **Ioanna Giannaki**



TRAINING IN OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE IN GREECE

A trainee specialist must complete 4 years training programme divided in three parts:

| part | months | Unit | months |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| clinical training | 28 | Internal Medicine | 15 |
| | | Pulmonary Medicine | 6 |
| | | Oculistic | 1 |
| | | Dermatology | 2 |
| | | ORL | 1 |
| | | Orthopedics | 3 |
| theoretical education | 12 | Theoretical course | 845 h |
| | | Laboratory | 255 h |
| | | Portfolio [thesis-diplomatiki] | 120 h |
| | | Worksite visits | 80 h |
| practical training | 8 | Occupational Health Services | 6 |
| | | Safety Inspectorate Labour Minister | 2 |
| Total | 48 | | |

Analytical NSPH Programm of Theoretical Education in Occupational Medicine

The training programme is based on national guidelines. A training logbook based on UEMS schedule [*Core information for Training Logbook in Occupational Medicine, ANNEX B*] is maintained for each trainee. Students must also submit a degree thesis (diplomatiki-diatriba) on a topic related to Occupational Medicine. *MCQs* and oral examinations conducted by a health minister committee are intended to confirm the determination by the board members that the candidate is qualified by training experience to claim competence in qualified in the specialty area of Occupational Medicine.

Specialised Occupational Physicians in Greece

| Academic Year | # | ♂ | ♀ | Military OPs | | | Exam |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | | | | # | ♂ | ♀ | |
| 1998-1999 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| 1999-2000 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 2000-2001 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 2001-2002 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| 2002-2003 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| 2003-2004 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 2004-2005 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 2005-2006 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006-2007 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| tot | 59 | 35 | 24 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 41 |

Updated 22/10/06

NOTE

However how many and which kind are the physicians deal in the so-called field of “occupational health”?

As in other European countries exists enough heterogenicity in their way of specialisation. No quality system control for provided services to the employees exist. The situation in Greece is certainly unsatisfactory because most of occupied physicians belong to other specialities and are part-timers. Specialized occupational physicians [OPs] are the minimal part (approximately 10%). In the past have become unsuccessful efforts of issuing of speciality under conditions. Is again expected similar effort as completion of provisions of Law 1568/85 with proportional content and objective.

Some mathematics : if

- Calculated the needs of Occupational Health Services of benefit the Greek workforce 800 - 2000 OPs [*only enterprises with more than 50 employees have legal obligation to occupy OP and safety technician. The majority remain without similar services. Why ?*] and if
- The Greek ‘production’ of new OPs are only 4 per year

when & how close this **big gap**?



Cape Sounion: *Poseidon Temple*

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|
|  <p>Εθνική Σχολή Δημόσιας Υγείας National School of Public Health Occupational & Industrial Hygiene Department</p> | Tel: | +30210-6442517 |
| | Fax: | +30210-6442037 |
| | email: | occuphyg@nsph.gr gdounias@nsph.gr |
| | Correspondence to | <i>George Dounias</i> |

New EASOM members present themselves

BRUNEL UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF HEALTH RISK MANAGEMENT, IN ASSOCIATION WITH HAMMERSMITH HOSPITAL AND KINGS COLLEGE HOSPITAL

by Prof. John Harrison



2006 is a year of celebration for Brunel University. Apart from membership of EASOM, the University is celebrating its 40th birthday, having become a University in 1966. There are now nearly 14,000 students, 3,000 of which are involved in postgraduate and research study. The special mission of the university is to combine academic rigour a practical, entrepreneurial and imaginative approach reminiscent of the University's namesake I K Brunel, who was born 200 years ago.



Situated in Uxbridge, West London, the Institute of Health Risk Management is a newly created School of Occupational Medicine and Health based in the Business School.

Working closely with the Head of the Business School, Professors John Harrison and Kevin Holland-Elliott are developing courses in occupational health aimed at doctors training in occupational medicine and other people involved in health risk management. There is a programme for specialist training in occupational medicine involving trainees working at Hammersmith Hospital and Kings College that currently involves enrolment at the COEH in Manchester, as well as attendance lectures and tutorials in London. New certificate level courses are being launched. An introductory course in health risk management begins in January 2007. A diploma and MSc course will follow. There is an on-going partnership with the At Work Partnership in creating certificate level courses in CBT for OH professionals and Management in OH services.

New EASOM members present themselves

UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY “VICTOR BABES” DISCIPLINE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH *By Dr Elena-Ana Păuncu*

Timisoara is a city in the [Banat](#) region of western [Romania](#). With a population of 315,977 in [2004](#) (329,554 in [2000](#)), it is the capital city of [Timiș County](#).

Timișoara is mentioned as a city for the first time, in diplomas and documents in 1474.

Located near the [Timis River](#), it was first settled in Neolithic and Roman times. It was an ancient Roman settlement and came under Magyar domination in 896 and was annexed to Hungary in 1010. It was sacked by the Tatars in the 13th century. Its citadel was rebuilt in the 14th century and for a few years became the residence of [Charles I](#) of Hungary. An important frontier fortress, Timișoara was held by the Turks from 1552 until its liberation in 1716 by Eugene of Savoy. The Treaty of Passarowitz (1718) formally restored it to Austria-Hungary. Occupied by Serbia in 1919, Timisoara was allotted to Romania by the 1920 Treaty of [Trianon](#). In December 1989, demonstrations sparked the revolution that led to the downfall of Nicolae Ceaușescu's Communist regime.

The inner city is surrounded by boulevards, which have replaced the former ramparts. The Orthodox and Roman Catholic cathedrals, the city hall, and other important buildings date from the 18th century. A regional museum is housed in the 14th–15th-century Hunyadi castle. The city is also called "Little Vienna", because it belonged a very long time to the [Habsburg Empire](#) and the entire city center is consisted of buildings built in the [Kaiser](#) era, which reminds much the old [Vienna](#). It was the first European city to be lit by [electric](#) street lamps in 1884. It was also, the second European and the first city in what is now Romania with horse pulled trams in 1867. There are numerous claims that [Gustave Eiffel](#), the creator of the [Eiffel Tower](#) in [Paris](#), built one of Timișoara's [footbridges](#) over the [Bega](#).

Today, it is a manufacturing, industrial, commercial, and cultural centre.

Timișoara is a multicultural city with influential minorities, primarily [Hungarians](#), [Germans](#), and [Serbs](#), as well as [Italians](#), [Bulgarians](#), and [Greeks](#).

Timișoara is an Orthodox and a Roman Catholic Episcopal see and has a university (founded 1945) and other institutions of higher education.

Timișoara is also known for its good universities, and for its students, being one of the biggest university centers in Romania. It's been 60 years since His Majesty Michael I of Romania issued a law-decree by which the Western University of Timișoara was founded, encompassing also the Faculty of Human Medicine.

University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Victor Babes” Timisoara



The “Victor Babeș” University of Medicine and Pharmacy from Timișoara is a public institution subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Research of Romania, located in Timișoara. The University was founded in

1945 and now it has three Faculties: Medicine (General Medicine and Physio-Kineto Therapy) , Pharmacy and Dental Medicine and one College with six specializations: Clinical Laboratory, Dental Technology, Dental Prophylactics and Geriatrics, gerontology and social assistance for elderly and Medical Assistance.

University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Victor Babeş” also offers postgraduate studies: PhD and specialization in various medical domains. Scientific research covers fundamental and clinical research; several students are involved in these programs. Ever-since, over 12,000 physicians, 2,500 of which foreigners have graduated from our university.

Currently, there are 2,735 students enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine, 316 of them coming from 23 foreign countries. The teaching staff consists of 609 teachers. For the specialization General Medicine, the first three years are dedicated to preclinical training, and the last three years to clinical training.

Occupational Health discipline is studied in the fourth year, in the Faculty of Medicine. It is located in the ASCAR Clinic, Loga street, no. 68 / 1989 Revolution Boulevard, no.12, Timișoara.



Occupational Health Discipline, second floor

We are teaching occupational medicine for students, residents in Occupational Medicine and other practitioners, like Continuous Medical Education process.

At the moment, our team is a small one, just four person, but with a fantastic good will, hard-working.

Annual number of students taught in Occupational Medicine in our centre consists in 460 undergraduate medical students, 400 Romanian students + 60 foreign students (English speakers), 50-200 Physicians in CME and more than 50 resident physicians in Occupational Health, like first or second specialization.

In Romania the OH Specialization is obtained in four years of residency.

Starting with 2005, the Romanian Government has elaborated the Short and Medium Term Strategy for Ongoing Professional Training (OPT) in Romania, with the purpose of fulfilling the Lisbon strategic objective: the European Union is to become ‘the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of a sustainable economic growth, with better and more workplaces and great social cohesion’. In this context, life-long learning must be approached as an objective, compulsory necessity, imposed by the transition towards a knowledge-based society and economy.

The strategy strives for the development of an ongoing professional training system, flexible and transparent, which would ensure a higher level of employment, adaptability and mobility on the labor market, and which would meet the demand for qualified labor force. The tendency is towards a mentality change regarding professional training, in the sense that the level of awareness is on the rise with regard to the importance of continuous learning, of the degree of motivation for knowledge gathering and developing the individuals’ competences.



The specific legal framework of activities in the sanitary field

Education refers to initial and continuous academic training activities and programs. Ongoing medical training, OMT, represents all the planned theoretical and practical training activities carried out by medical doctors with the purpose of acquiring or improving their level of professional knowledge, abilities and attitudes, with the purpose of increasing the level of quality of medical activities and the level of performance in that particular field.

OH teaching aims are to maintain the employees' health during the process of labor, promoting health in the workplace and to achieve proper conditions in the workplace.

The criteria for crediting OME and the accreditation norms of OME providers are the basis of drafting and application of the national ongoing medical education of the College of Romanian Physicians.

The ongoing medical education provider (OME provider) is an institution or an organization with a medical education specific, which ensures the management of ongoing medical education patterns.

The types of OME providers accredited by the College of Romanian Physicians are:

- providers of post-graduate education, represented by higher medical education institutions, respectively medical universities and faculties, legally accredited;
- the permanent or ongoing medical education providers, represented by the above mentioned higher education institutions, by institutions with a role in education, by territorial colleges, which can ensure the management of an ongoing medical training, as well as other organizations recognized by the College of Romanian Physicians, in collaboration with the above mentioned institutions;
- the providers of distance learning OME, represented by the higher medical education institutions mentioned at point a), and other centers with a role in distance learning, only in collaboration with an accredited medical university or faculty;
- the providers of scientific activities, represented by colleges of physicians, professional medical societies and associations, the higher medical education institutions mentioned at point a), the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the medical research institutes, public health authorities, as well as other OMEN providers accredited by the College of Romanian Physicians;
- medical publishing houses recognized by the College of Romanian Physicians

The future tendencies of occupational health in Europe have determined the harmonizing of the occupational health residency curriculum with the European Directive 93/16/EEC (the new curriculum will be valid starting with 2006).

The Discipline of Occupational Medicine in our university was founded in 1974 in its „new form”. Between 1948 and 1965 it was initiated like Industrial (Occupational) Hygiene, located at the Institute of Hygiene. Actual base of training is the Clinic of Occupational Diseases with 25 beds, in the Municipal Clinical Hospital of Timișoara.

In present the discipline team is engaged in teaching-training activities. We are teaching “Occupational Health” for general medicine students and “Ergonomics and Occupational Safety” for dental technician college students. Postgraduate teaching consists in MCE programs on different topics (professional pneumology, ergonomics, legislation, enterprise surgery management, toxicology etc.). There are organized courses, clinical and practice stages, for generalist / family physicians to obtain the certificate in enterprise medicine.

Since 2005 there were initiated courses for nurses. In Romania, we do not have “Occupational Nurse” specialization.

Scientific research activity is developed in the clinic and on the field, in enterprises, in according with specific topics for our region: silicosis, bronchial asthma, healthy computing, ergonomics, noise and vibration effect, risk assessment.

In 2006, the discipline conditions were improved: the space was modernized and it was made a new stage room with 7 points of Internet for students. By own forces and a PHARE program it was assured a state of the art IT technology.

The teaching materials were harmonized with a new curriculum, in according with EU legislation. Teaching methods combine traditional teaching with modern methods. Occupational health is studied in the fourth year of medicine and consists in 15 hours of lectures and 15 hours of stages.

In October 2004 we started to work in a Socrates-Minerva Project, “Net-based Teaching of Work-Related Medicine (NetWoRM)” that will be finished in 30.09.2007. The aim of the NetWoRM Project is the development, evaluation and implementation of a case-based e-learning tool for occupational medicine to increase the knowledge in clinical aspects of occupational medicine. Within this network, web-based patient cases will be collected and translated into different European languages, expert validated, user evaluated and disseminated. After local expert evaluation the cases will be implemented into the curriculum and evaluated by users. In addition, each of the centers will create new cases. After completion and local evaluation the new cases will again be distributed to the partners. At the moment, we have six adapted cases in Romanian language and we created one case in Romanian and translated it in English.

In 2006 two of us, we worked in an EU project, “PHARE PROJECT RO 2003/005-551.04.07.01 Improvement of the efficiency of the Romanian system for occupational health surveillance and control of occupational diseases, work related diseases and injuries due to occupational risk. EuropeAid/119644/D/SV/RO”. We obtained a trainer certificate, too.

Since 2006, our school was accepted in EASOM.

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Forthcoming events

Paris, 1 and 2 March 2007: EASOM Board Meeting

Zagreb, 12 May 2007: UEMS meeting

Zaragoza, 6 – 8 September 2007: Seventh EASOM Summer School
“Teaching management of mental health problems”

New members

Brunel University / Hammersmith Hospital**Dr John Harrison**

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A request from the Board of EASOM

Members schools are requested to provide us with information about their education and training programmes. We intend to put this information on the EASOM website. Please send this information and your www-links to the secretary.

EASOM wishes all its members, representatives, associates and interested colleagues ...

a happy, healthy and prosperous 2007!

See you in Zaragoza!