



Meeting between the Croatian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine and the PRM Board and Section of the European Union of Medical Specialists

Zagreb, June 18th 2010

Address of the President of the PRM Section of the UEMS

Mr the President of the Croatian Medical Association, Mr the President of the Croatian Society of PRM, Mr the Secretary General of the Croatian Society of PRM, Mr the President of the Board of PRM, Mr the Secretary General of the Board and Section of PRM, my PRM colleagues in Zagreb, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The PRM Section is one the oldest sections of the Union of European Medical Specialists (UEMS). As president of the Section, I would like to thank Pr Zeljko Metelko, the president of the Croatian Medical Association, Pr Ivan Dzidic, the president of the Croatian Society of PRM and Dr Sasa Moslavac, Secretary General of the Croatian Society of PRM, for having invited me to present our activities in the main fields covered by the UEMS PRM Section: Fields of Competence of PRM and PRM Programs of Care (PRM-PC), during the PRM congress in Zagreb.

White Book on PRM in Europe

The first step of my presidency has been the publication of the White Book on PRM in Europe. The White Book of PRM in Europe (WB-PRM-Europe) is a comprehensive document, written to describe the specialty and the competencies of PRM specialists across Europe. It has been produced by means of an impressive collaboration, first within the Union of European Medical Specialists (UEMS) Section and Board of PRM, than within the European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine (EARM), and finally in conjunction with the European Society of PRM (ESPRM) (1-3). All the delegates participated in writing it, the three editors were Christoph Gutenbrunner, Anne Chamberlain and Anthony Ward. The copyright holders are the presidents of the UEMS PRM B&S, Pr Franco Franchignoni and I, and the president of the EARM, Pr Gustaaf Lankhorst.

The WB-PRM-Europe was published, in the same time, with full free text open access, in the Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine (JRM) and in Europa Medicophysica, now European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (EJPRM). The WB-PRM-Europe, has been cited and used frequently for background information and description of our specialty. Both journals have recently produced, under the supervision of the original editors, a unified version, that is now available on their website and can be used for translations of the book.

Several translations have been published under the terms of the license to publish taken out by the copyright holders and the editors. The Croatian version has been published in 2007. A French version will be available for the national PRM SOFMER congress in Marseille on 14-16 October 2010. Our colleagues from Norway are also about to publish a translation in 2010.

The Action Plan 2008-2010

After the publication of the White Book, PRM B&S decided to set up an Action Plan for the period 2008-2010.

Publications:

The Section and Board have published their Action Plan for 2008-2010 for Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in Europe in four papers in the European Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (EJPRM) and one in the Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (APRM) (4-8). These papers were intended to inform physiatrists and their national PRM bodies about the perspectives for EU based PRM activities.

Two fields of activity for the Section:

We have defined the two domains in which we plan to develop our work, not only within the two committees of the UEMS PRM Section, but also, thanks to reinforced cooperation, with the national PRM bodies and the PRM journals in Europe.

These two domains are: Fields of Competence (FC), and PRM programs of care (PRM-PC).

Cooperation with national PRM Bodies:

All the national PRM bodies have been requested to co-operate with the Section in these two fields of activity (FC and PRM-PC). Letters of Intention to co-operate have been signed between UEMS PRM B&S and several PRM national societies. We have signed agreements with national PRM organizations in France, Italy, Greece, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Portugal, Sweden, Germany and today Croatia. Cyprus and Austria have applied to sign in Autumn.

Cooperation with European based PRM journals:

We have established co-operative links with representatives of PRM journals, who kindly attended the General Assembly meeting in Cambridge in March 2009. After this meeting, four journals and their editors in chief (in alphabetic order: Pr Gunnar Grimby from the Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine/JRM, Dr Stefano Negrini from the European Journal of PRM/EJPRM, Pr Ulrich Smolenski from Journal of PRM, Stuttgart and Pr André Thévenon from Annals of PRM) have agreed to publish papers and news about our activities, to promote immediate online access to full free text and reduced rates for certified PRM Board specialists. It is now proposed to pursue these co-operative efforts to the full.

2010 The Three eBooks

The UEMS PRM Section plans to produce two PRM eBooks in 2010, on Fields of Competence and PRM-PC. These eBooks will be fully accessible free of charge on our website: www.euro-prm.org

The eBook on the Fields of Competence of PRM,

is under the responsibility of Pr Christoph Gutenbrunner, head of the Professional Practice Committee of the Section.

PRM specialists and their associations have been requested by the national, European and international health authorities to submit contributions in which they clearly describe their fields of competence.

This is not an easy task, even at national level. It requires reaching a consensus among PRM specialists and finding the best arguments to support their proposals. It also requires being aware of the FC of other specialties and the professionals involved.

Descriptions of the fields of competence will be based on the International Classification of Diseases (which diseases do we care for?), the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (which disabilities, activity limitations, participation restrictions and environmental factors can we act on?) and the International Classification of Health Interventions (what types of interventions can we perform: supervising trainees, providing PRM expertise, informing patients and their families, along with prevention, information, diagnosis, assessment, and treatment, including PRM programmes of care and research).

Several papers on these lines have been or will be shortly published by Dr Vera Neumann, Pr Christoph Gutenbrunner, Pr Anthony Ward and other authors (9).

The eBook on Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Programs of Care (PRM-PC)

is in the hands of the Committee for Clinical Affairs, headed by Dr Georges de Korvin.

PRM-PC can also be defined using the three categories adopted in the World Health Organization (WHO) system of classification: International Classification of Diseases (ICD), International Classification of Functioning (ICF) and International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI).

The following items will be addressed in this eBook: public health problems associated with a specific population, scientific evidence sustaining the program concept, specific goals, structured content, facilities and competencies required for diagnosis, assessment, treatment and other health interventions, admission and discharge criteria, assessment of outcomes, long term follow up, appropriate management and payment systems, assessment of the program itself.

This PRM-PC concept is the basis of the European quality assessment system organized by the PRM Section of the UEMS. This concept is a helpful tool for setting up and improving PRM-PC. Several PRM-PC have been or will be accredited by the UEMS PRM Section, such as the spinal cord programme which has been submitted by Pr Ivan Dzidic and Dr Sasa Moslavac. The full list is available on the website of the UEMS PRM Section. Sessions on

this topic have been and will continue to be organized at international and national PRM congresses.

The eBook on PRM-PC will include several papers which will first be published separately. The first paper, which has been submitted to the Annals of PRM, is entitled: "European accreditation of programs of care in PRM, goals, pilot phase, new procedure" by Georges De Korvin & the members of the Clinical Affairs Committee. Other papers will be submitted: one will be submitted this year by our team in Marseille, on the assessment of patients' satisfaction, in the framework of our accredited programme for the assessment of persons with walking abnormalities. The accredited PRM programmes will also be presented on our Website.

This meeting in Croatia and the signature of the Letter of Intention to cooperate inspires me great confidence for the future of the PRM Section's activities: I am sure the enthusiasm shown by the PRM specialists belonging to the Croatian PRM society will have positive long-term effects!

Thank you for listening to me and participating in the PRM Board and Section's activities,

Pr Alain Delarque

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