A MEETING OF THE EULAR STANDING COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN RHEUMATOLOGY (ESCHPR) WAS HELD: 8:15 – 09.45 FRIDAY 18th June 2010 AT ROOM 7D IN THE CONFERENCE CENTRE IN ROME.

Minutes

Members of the ESCHPR and participants of the meeting

I tried to update the list of the participants/ members of the ESCHPR. Please, check the list below. If any changes take place (e.g. the president of a national society changes) please let the EULAR secretariat know (caroline.pasche@eular.org). Thank you.

Red: will step down soon  
Yellow: status unclear

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Note: The table lists the names, countries, emails, and status of the members of the Standing Committee for Health Professionals of the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR).
Issues discussed | Action to be taken
--- | ---
1. Minutes of last year’s meeting | Approved without changes
2. EULAR HPR Standing Committee Chairperson’s report (Tanja Stamm) and EULAR HP Vice President’s report (Kare Birger Hagen)

**EULAR Standing Committee of Health Professionals in Rheumatology (ESCHPR)**

The ESCHPR (Chair: Tanja Stamm) works in close cooperation with the EULAR Vice President of Health Professionals in Rheumatology (Kare Birger Hagen). The task force activities have been continued regarding the Sub-committee of Education (Teach-the-Teacher course), HPR Scientific Committee (abstract reviews, congress planning, review of research grants), and the HPR Communication Committee (EULAR AHP Newsletter). These committees enable the ESCHPR to perform the following activities:

**Bursaries and grants**

*Research grants (RG):*

Budget 2010 for research grants: € 45’000

Actual situation RG:

1. RG applications received in 2009: 5  
   RG applications received in 2010: 10
2. RG still running:  
   - Jim Woodburn (2007-2009 – all payments made)  
   - Tanja Stamm (2008 - all payments made)
- Alison Hammond (2009 - one payment open: 15'000)  
  - Birgit Prodinger (2010, 30’000) – all payments open

**Travel bursaries (TB):**
Budget 2010 for travel bursaries: € 22,500 (30 x € 750)

**Actual situation:**
1. TB applications received in 2009: 31, whereas 19 were eligible (oral/poster presentation) (awarded: 19).
2. TB applications received in 2010: 51, whereas 27 were eligible (oral/poster presentation) (awarded: 27)

**Educational bursaries (EB):**
Budget 2010 for educational bursaries: € 7,500

**Actual situation:**
1. EB applications received in 2009: 2
   EB applications awarded in 2009: 2
2. EB applications received in 2010: 6
   EB applications awarded in 2010: 6

**Activities of the ESCHPR**
1. **Scientific working group:**
   a. Review of research applications
   b. Review of the abstract applications Rome 2010
      (selection for oral presentations, poster presentations and abstract publications).
   c. Established working groups for evidence based recommendations of special relevance for HP

2. **Educational working group:** The first EULAR Health Professionals Teach-the-Teacher course on Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis was held from 15th till 18th of May 2008 (supported by an EULAR grant). It was a project

Thea Vliet Vlieland and John Verhoef will draft a project in summer 2010 on a
multidisciplinary pilot Teach-the-Teacher course for physiotherapists, nurses and occupational therapists. The 23 participants from 9 different countries were working together at the Leiden University Medical Center, the Netherlands. The experiences of the participating physical therapists were evaluated by a master of science student and the results were published in a thesis ‘Identifying Learning and Organizational Needs of Physiotherapists in Rheumatology’ (Agnes Verbay, Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland). A second Teach-the-Teacher course was held in Brno (Czech Republic, with local organizer supported by an EULAR grant) from 16th till 19th of October 2009. A third Teach-the-Teacher course is currently planned in Spain.

3. Communication (website and newsletter): Jaana Hirvonen continued her work as editor of the HPR Newsletter, with the assistance of Mikko Vaisanen. The website was updated with the help of the EULAR secretariat. A newsletter was distributed during the Copenhagen congress and a new version has been prepared for launching during the Rome congress. There were 2 issues of the NL in 2009

4. The program of EULAR Congress Rome 2010: HPR sessions and joint sessions were established and the early submission for HPR session proposals for the London Congress 2011 started. Professional meetings were in separate rooms. The room for the nurses’ meeting was too small. Meetings should not be held at 8.00 am (too early 😊).

Kare and Tanja: Bigger room for the nurses next year, if possible no meetings at 8.00 am.

basic online course for nurses, PTs and OTs (because they are the biggest groups).
5. Attending the Executive Committee meetings and Scientific Committee meetings: Kare Birger Hagen, John Verhoef (“past chair”) and Tanja Stamm attended these meetings (September 2009 and March 2010 – Tanja Stamm could not attend in March 2010 due to delivery of her second baby). The Scientific Committee meetings were also attended by Jackie Hill.

6. Changes in the ESCHPR: During the London Congress 2011 Tanja Stamm will end her term as Chair ESCHPR. Her successor will be Thea Vliet Vlieland from The Netherlands. Thea will start her term as Chair elect during the Rome congress 2009. The ratification of her nomination will be at the General Assembly in June 2010. Kare Birger Hagen has followed Peter Oesch as EULAR Vice President Health Professionals in Rheumatology starting his term during the Copenhagen congress 2009.

7. Change of name: In the Executive Committee meeting in March 2010, the proposed change of name of the ESCAHP to leave out the “allied” in the official committee’s name was ratified. The new name is “EULAR Standing Committee of Health Professionals in Rheumatology” and the new abbreviation is “ESCHPR”.

8. New projects: The following new projects were approved during the Executive Committee Meetings in September 2009 and March 2010:

   a. Evaluation of the current status of extended roles taken by health professionals within Europe – a pilot study in the form of a web-based survey. Tanja
Stamm, Jackie Hill; Total budget € 14470

b. Rec/ptc role of nurses in management chronic inflamm. arthritis
   Jackie Hill, Turid Heiberg; Total budget € 60,000

c. Developing recommendations on systemic sclerosis.
   Thea Vliet Vlieland; Budget still to be discussed

9. Membership of national Health Professional Organisation in EULAR: In 2009 the HPR national organisations of Norway, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom are members of the EULAR organisation. The applications of the national HP organisation of Denmark and Serbia were ratified during the General Assembly 2010.

10. Meetings with representatives of the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals (ARHP) of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR): during the Copenhagen congress a Health Professionals in Rheumatology booth was organised to offer health professionals a meeting place during the congress. During the Rome congress also a booth will be organised. At this booth and during the business meeting of the EULAR Standing Committee of Health Professionals in Rheumatology the possibilities for future cooperation between the health professionals within the ARHP and within ESCHPR will be further elaborated.

Tanja Stamm, PhD, MSc, MBA, OT
Chair, EULAR Standing Committee of Health Professionals

Kare Birger Hagen, PhD, PT
Vice President Health Professionals in Rheumatology
3. HPR Newsletter: Mrs. Jaana Hirvonen to report

The 7th of June in 2010, Helsinki, Finland

**Yearly report on the EULAR HP Newsletter**

Following the example of the EULAR HP Committee the name of the newsletter was changed into EULAR HP News/Newsletter (leaving the term “allied” out).

The layout of the newsletter has been renewed. However, the number of pages (20) and number of issues (2/year) have remained the same.

We have published so far seven HP newsletters following the publishing concept which started in 2007. We thank EULAR for doing this possible. The status of our newsletter is assessed once a year by EULAR Executive Committee, which decides on the possible support for the next year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Chairperson Tanja Stamm and Vice-president Kåre Birger Hagen for active and timely co-operation. Their dedicated and constructive input has made it easy to develop the HP news.

**Distribution of the newsletter**

After negotiations with EULAR secretariat, we are happy to inform that at the moment the newsletter has a international mailing list of more than 1100 HPs. As usual, the latest issue was e-mailed to all HP attendants of the EULAR Congress. It would be ideal to optimise the distribution of the newsletter with the help of the HP Committee members. For instance only the national distribution of the newsletter in Finland covers more or less 300 HPs. All on-line versions of the newsletter are available at the EULAR HP website where HP’s can also join the e-mailing list of the newsletter.

Ideas for articles should be mailed to either Jaana (Editor) or Mikko (Editorial assistant) 
Jaana.hirvonen@reumaliitto.fi or mikko.vaisanen@reu
malititto.fi
The goal of the newsletter

As stated in the previous report, we find that the EULAR HP News has two main functions. Firstly, it is news channel for the HP Committee’s goals and agenda such as the HP member campaign. Secondly, the newsletter strives to emphasise the role of inter- and multidisciplinary teamwork in the care of rheumatic diseases. The EULAR HP News is a generic newsletter reviewing questions about health professionalism on an everyday level. It is a worthy objective to tell about the scientific HP discoveries in a plain newspaper-like style without undermining the fact that they are based on research or on professional experience. This way, also others than HP researchers could benefit from the newsletter. We wish to publish articles about national health care projects and local ways to provide state-of-the-art treatment with a full spectrum of the HP work. It is vital that, we get tips and HP volunteers to write stories from allover Europe and beyond. Language is not a problem, as all the articles undergo a language check-up before publication.

The editorial office of the EULAR HP News

Jaana Hirvonen
Editor

Mikko Väisänen
Editorial Assistant

4. Collaboration with ARHP

Linda and Pamela suggest a joint session ARHP-ESCHPR in the next conferences and will email concerning this. Linda will attend EULAR in 2011. Linda and Pamela gave an up-date about their

Linda and Pamela will plan the joint session and email about this.
educational courses. Material was available on the booth.

### 5. New member organisations

Two new members (Denmark and Serbia) have been approved during the general assembly in Rome in 2010. New membership should be facilitated. Lene, Janni and Kare B. suggest that a successful country could visit another that has not yet applied for membership and exchange information on what steps needed to be taken to apply for EULAR membership (including deadlines and dates). Information on actions taken by the societies would be helpful. Also, it would be helpful to know how the societies raise money as a membership fee has to paid to EULAR. Forms should be put on website.

Kare B. and Tanja will draft a membership campaign project over summer 2010. Mikko will write an article on what actions the societies do and how the raise money. Caroline could put the forms for membership on the EULAR website.

### 6. Any other business

Urs suggests that the booth should be made more interactive and suggest using a Wii. Another suggestion is (Peter) that the national society takes care of the booth – next year BHPR will take care of the booth.

After 16 years, Urs will step down as Swiss representative and Karin Niedermann will be the new Swiss representative. We thank Urs will much for his contribution to the HPR!

Lindsey and BHPR will organise the booth in London 2011 (together with Kare Birger and Tanja) and will liaise with Urs to take up the idea with the Wii.

The next meeting will be held during the EULAR Congress in London 2011.