

# ECTS MA Annual Meeting Coimbra May 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2009

## Meeting Minutes

Institutions present (number of participants in parenthesis): Bergen (1), Copenhagen (3), Crete (2), Oslo (3), Charité (1), Ljubljana (1), Vienna (2), Turku (1), Warsaw (1), Brussel – VUB (1), Brussel – ULB (2), Turku (1), Lausanne (1), Oviedo (1), Oulu (1), KI (3), Bonn (1), Antwerp (1), Coimbra (5), Porto (1, observer), Heidelberg (2, observers)

Missing: Sofia, Basel, Prague, Saarland, Giessen, Tarragona, La Laguna, Lille, Rennes I, Paris VI, Thessaloniki, Semmelweis, Bari, Perugia, Leiden, Krakow, Bristol, Manchester, Leicester.

Belfast and Saarland were supposed to attend, but had to withdraw in the last minute.

Specially invited – former ECTS ICMG Presidents: João Ralves, Coimbra; Jacques Winand, Brussel; Jean-Pierre Wauters, Lausanne; Tim Jones, Bristol.

*All presentations can be found on <http://www.med-ects.org/meetings.htm>*

## *Friday May 8th*

**Welcome address by Prof. Armando Carvalho, Organizing committee.**

**Welcome address by Borghild Roald, ECTS MA President.**

Presentation of program and topics to be discussed at GA. Thanks to local organizers: Prof. Armando Carvalho, Prof. Marílio Dourado, Prof. Sérgio Matos, Ms. Gabriela Fernandes and Ms. Nicole Dourado.

**Presentation by Borghild Roald, Oslo:** *Mobility as a tool for openness, efficiency and quality* (replaced invited speaker from the EU Commission, who had to withdraw)

### **News from the Board**

No changes in the composition of the board. The board has met four times the last year, in Naples, Oslo, Edinburg and Coimbra. The short and long term goals were presented:

#### *Goals for 2009*

- Increased use of the ECTS MA Web site
- Regular newsletters from the Board, at least twice a year
- More input in our ECTS MA Database, which is up and running
- Contribution to MEDINE2 application, with deadline February 27th 2009
- The 2009 annual ECTS MA in Coimbra, Portugal May 8th and 9th 2009
- Board meetings preferably combined with seminars on Internationalisation in the local University

*Long term goals (by 2011)*

- 100% of Medical Faculties in ECTS MA should properly have implemented the ECTS in their medical curricula
- 10% documented increased mobility for undergraduate medical students in clinical rotation, semester/courses and research
- ECTS implemented in 70% of medical curricula in Europe.
- Increased use of modules, partly harmonized with relevant partner universities
- Arrange an international symposium on "Internationalization in the medical undergraduate education" in relation to the yearly ECTS MA meeting in 2009 or 2010.

**Presentation by Sylvain Meuris, Brussels:** *ECTS Database – An Experimental Observatory*

**Presentation by Kiki Thermos, Crete:** *MEDINE II application update – The Mobility Toolkit.*

**Presentation by Birgit Heller, Charité:** *ECTS MA web site: Open Access to Mobility.*

## **Clearing House**

**Anniversary celebration:** From Coimbra to Coimbra. 20 years with ECTS ICMG, 5 years with ECTS MA.

Interesting and humorous presentations by all former presidents and the current one, focusing on greatest challenges, most important events and accomplishments and most memorable experiences during the time of presidency:

*ECTS pilot phase*

João Ralves, Coimbra: 1989-1995 (presented on Sunday)

*ECTS Inner Circle Medicine Group*

Jacques Winand, Brussel (ULB): 1996-1998

Jean-Pierre Wauters, Lausanne: 1998-2001

Tim Jones, Bristol: 2001-2004

*ECTS Medical Association*

Manuel Vijande, Oviedo: 2004-2007

Borghild Roald, Oslo: 2007-

## *Saturday May 9th*

### **International ECTS Training School** (coordinated by the University of Coimbra)

#### *Introduction*

Chairmen of Honour Jorge Veiga, Former ECTS Institutional Coordinator at the University of Coimbra and Cristina Robalo Cordeiro, Vice Rector of the University of Coimbra.

#### *Past and present of ECTS*

Chairman: Francisco Castro e Sousa, Faculty of Medicine, University of Coimbra

- Madalena Patricio, University of Lisboa. President of AMEE
- João Ralves, Faculty of Medicine, University of Coimbra. First ECTS ICMG president
- Manuel Vijande, University of Oviedo. Former president of ECTS MA.

#### *ECTS Best Practice Experiences – Past and Present of ECTS*

International officer's perspective

- Filomena Marques de Carvalho, Institutional Coordinator, University of Coimbra.
- Ana Isabel Ferreira, DRIIC, University of Coimbra

Teacher and student's perspective

- Catarina Resende de Oliveira, Faculty of Medicine, University of Coimbra
- Miguel Castelo Branco, Faculty of Medicine, University of Coimbra
- Henrique Igreja Dinis, former outgoing Erasmus student, Coimbra
- João Pedro Marques, former outgoing Erasmus student, Coimbra
- Galina Koursari, present incoming student, Prague

### **General assembly**

#### *Withdrawal of application*

Catholic University of Leuven had applied for membership, but since they were unable to attend this meeting and themselves present their university, they decided to postpone their application until next year.

#### *Next year's venue*

University of Warsaw is willing to host next year's meeting. Other members who want to host the meeting, should let the board know within a few weeks after the meeting. In any case, the decision will have to be postponed until we know the outcome of the MEDINE II application, in case of a possible joint meeting, like previous years.

#### *Membership fee*

The board presented their main arguments in favour of introducing an annual membership fee:

- a fee will enable the Executive Board to invite external speakers with travel and subsistence cost covered and thereby to broaden the possibilities considerably
- a fee will enable the association to pay parts of the costs of the Annual General Meeting and thereby lessening the burden on the host institution. This may increase the number of universities/faculties being willing to host the AGM.

- even though it should ideally continue to be common practice that the costs of participation in executive board meetings should be covered by the individual board members' own universities/faculties it should be possible to offer a certain amount of financial support to enable the participation of board members from less privileged universities/faculties. This may be a prerequisite for redressing the present rather 'north-west-tilted' (im-)balance in the composition of the executive board
- it would be nice for the association not to be entirely dependent on the goodwill of a few enthusiastic member universities/faculties concerning the coverage of various categories of e.g. technical and administrative support

The amount proposed was 200 Euros, an amount considered by the board to be symbolic.

Comments from members present:

- If introduced, the member institutions should be sent an invoice, would then be easier to accept for the institutions
- A fee will make the organization more valuable for the members
- Has the board checked whether 200 Euros is too much for some members? Reply: No, but an email was sent out announcing a possible 200 Euros fee, there were no responses to that
- It has been a big problem with invited speakers, a fee will give the board more action room
- Everything at the annual meetings has been free – a strong argument for a fee
- Bill at the beginning of the year!
- Should a letter of embarrassment be formulated if an institution is not willing to pay?
- A fee will make the organization more formal, more professional
- A fee will force the sleeping members to “awake” or to leave the organization

Vote: 17 institutions voted for the introduction of an annual membership fee of 200 Euros, 2 abstained from voting.

### *Sleeping members*

Comments from the board: There are several member institutions which have not attended the annual meetings for many years or not at all: Sofia, Paris VI, Thessaloniki, Leiden, Manchester, Leicester. For the ECTS MA to be a dynamic and active organization, we depend on members who actively participate. Also, sleeping members potentially block the inclusion of institutions that actively seek to become members, as the association doesn't have unlimited membership capacity. The intention was to send a letter to these institutions, asking for their reasons not to attend. If they had no good reasons or didn't reply, we would ask them to consider leaving the association (the constitution doesn't say anything about exclusion of members). However, the introduction of the membership fee will solve this: Institutions that do not pay, will automatically be excluded, unless there are good reasons for their non-payment. The assumption is that the institutions that have no interest in participating, will not pay the fee.

### *Varia*

Ms. Lidia Przepiora-Dziewulska from the University of Warsaw presented their candidature for hosting the next annual meeting.

The University of Heidelberg, who had two observers present at the meeting, will probably apply for membership next year.

**General**

The ECTS MA as such has no income or expenses. Travel and accommodation costs related to board meetings and annual meetings are covered by each member institution, everything else by the host institution.