



ECTS MA Newsletter January 2009

Time passes quickly. 2008 is history. The Board hopes that you had a peaceful and good Christmas holiday. We hope that 2009 will be a good year for us all and for our group, and we want to thank you all for good work and nice collaboration and meetings during 2008.

The 2008 annual meeting in Naples May 16th and 17th was a great success. We are all extremely grateful for the large effort from the local organisers, particularly Prof. Bianca Maria Veneziani, Prof. Sabino Di Placido and Ms. Anna Puca. The venue was excellent, the social program great and the discussions on the topics vivid.

When we look at the short term goals we had for 2008, we think that we by large managed to fulfil those. The **goals for 2009** will follow along the same path:

- Increased use of our ECTS MA Web site (<http://www.med-ects.org/index.htm>)
- 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 meeting in Coimbra, Portugal, May 8th and 9th**
- Board meetings preferably combined with seminars on Internationalisation in the local University.

The Board constitution and meetings

Human Salemi (Vienna) was voted in as a new board member on the annual meeting in Naples, replacing Clare Menzel-Dowling (Saarlandes), who left the board last year. Karel Van Liempt (Antwerp) and Sverre Bjerkeset (Oslo) were re-elected. **The present Board** thus consists of the following: Borghild Roald (President, Oslo), Sverre Bjerkeset (Secretary, Oslo), Karel van Liempt (Treasurer, Antwerp), Kiki Thermos (Crete), Sylvain Meuris (Brussels), Jørgen Hedemark Poulsen (Copenhagen) and Human Salemi (Vienna). In 2008 we have had three board meetings: Heraklion (January), Naples (May) and Oslo (November). The board meetings in Heraklion and Oslo were combined with a seminar on internationalisation at the respective faculties.

Unfortunately an **MEDINE2 application** in 2008 was not finalised to the deadline. However, good work is presently going on, preparing for the new application deadline March 27th 2009. Our project will be submitted to the European Commission, Lifelong Learning program under ERASMUS, Multilateral Academic Networks. Professor Allan Cumming, University of Edinburgh, will chair the Executive Board and coordinate the application, which is thought to comprise four task forces: 1: Mobility and language, 2: Tuning and quality enhancement, 3: Medical education resources and information, and 4: Research. ECTS-MA will be involved in Task force 1: Mobility and language. We are in close collaboration Allan Cumming and Friday January 16th and Saturday January 17th will we have a combined Board Meeting and application-writing Task Force meeting in Edinburgh January 16th and 17th, partly together with other task force groups.

The 2009 annual meeting will be in Coimbra, Portugal Friday May 8th and Saturday May 9th. As we lack central funding from MEDINE, we hope that your institutions see the importance of attending the annual meeting, and, consequently, are willing to fund you. More detailed information on the meeting will follow. We hope to see you there!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- ?? Please report any changes in the **contact information** on the Coordinators and Institutions list <http://www.med-ects.org/institutions.htm> to birgit.heller@charite.de, with cc to sverre.bjerkeset@medisin.uio.no.
- ?? All members are encouraged to **make links to the ECTS MA Web site** (<http://www.med-ects.org/index.htm>) from their own web sites.
- ?? **The Data base for Erasmus exchange within ECTS MA** is a very useful tool for the group. Update your institutions data, link <http://www.med-ects.org/docs.htm>. If you have not already activated your faculty link, please provide the name and email of a contact person at your institution to Ms. Monique Léonard, erasmus.sante@ulb.ac.be (or Monique.leonard@ulb.ac.be). Username and password will then be emailed back, and the person receiving this is expected to complete the information asked for. Once completed, the on-line software will immediately generate data table with all your student exchanges. **We urge you to complete and/or update this important information as soon as possible and not later than end of January 2009.**

Remember also our long term goals (by 2011):

- 100% of Medical Faculties in the ECTS MA should properly have implemented the ECTS in their medical curricula
- 10% documented increased mobility for undergraduate medical students in clinical rotations, 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

Last but not least, the Board sends its warm regards to all local coordinators and member institutions. We wish you ALL THE BEST for 2009!

On behalf of the ECTS MA Executive Board,

Professor Borghild Roald, President