

ECTS Inner Circle Medicine Group

Newsletter No 14

December 2003



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Editorial

Following up Oviedo

As there has been a considerable amount of email correspondence over the last few months, I will keep this Newsletter quite short. I think you all know what your Steering Committee has been doing on your behalf since the annual meeting in Oviedo. It is for that reason that this Newsletter is the first for 12 months and I apologise for its absence for so long.

The annual meeting in Oviedo was a turning point for the Group in many ways. It demonstrated that members wanted the Group to continue; that a majority wanted the further development of the Group; that, to be effective, the Group needed some kind of legal basis; and that members of the Group wanted involvement in the Bologna Process through being part of a Thematic Network in Medical Education.

As you know, your Steering Committee, as requested by the members in Oviedo, drafted and submitted a pre-proposal application for a Thematic Network. This can be found at the ECTS ICMG Web site <http://www.med-ects.org/>. Two other proposals have been submitted to the European Commission and a decision on the way forward is expected from the Commission soon after Christmas. There will then, no doubt, be much work to

do to for those who submitted the successful pre-proposal if a full proposal is to be submitted by 1 March 2004.

Crete 2004

We are all looking forward to the next annual meeting in Crete on 8 May 2004. I remember the last time the annual meeting was held there and the organisation was excellent. I have no doubt that Kiki Thermos and her colleagues will do us proud!

That meeting is likely to see the Group transformed into a legal organisation, provided of course that you all agree. There are two proposals for the future and both will be linked to this Newsletter on our web site. If either proposal is adopted, a new Committee to run the new organisation will need to be elected. The members of the existing Steering Committee will all stand down. Those that wish of course have the opportunity to stand for election to the new body. If neither proposal is accepted, the Group will have to continue as now, which would mean elections for new members of the Steering Committee. A procedure will be agreed by the Steering Committee in January and circulated at the end of that month or early February.

The Steering Committee will, at its next meeting on 16/17 January 2004, give thought to the format of the annual meeting. I anticipate that the morning will consist, as previously, of a talk and a discussion on an up to the minute topic, followed by the usual student exchange session. I think that the future organisation of the Group is so important that it probably needs most of the period after lunch for deliberations and decisions, including new elections.

Please let me have your views on the format of the annual meeting in time for the Steering Committee meeting on 16/17 January. In particular, it would be helpful to know whether there should continue to be workshops and, if so, at what stage of the day and on what topics.

Christmas

It only remains for me to wish you a very Happy Christmas and successful 2004, especially in the area of student exchange!

Tim Jones
Chairman
ECTS ICMG