

ECTS MA Newsletter December 20th 2007

Dear ECTS MA friends,

As 2007 goes into history, it is time to reflect on the year which is about to end and look to the future.

At the annual meeting in Oslo in May, the Board got a new composition. Manuel Vijande (Oviedo) stepped down as president and Michael Halaska (Prague) as board member. By election, they were replaced by Borghild Roald (Oslo) and Jørgen Hedemark Poulsen (Copenhagen) respectively. Kiki Thermos (Crete/Heraklion) was re-elected as board member. A few months after the meeting in Oslo, Clare Menzel-Dowling left her position at the University of Saarland and consequently stepped down as board member. The new Board thus consist of Borghild Roald (Oslo), Karel van Liempt (Antwerp), Sylvain Meuris (Brussels), Kiki Thermos (Crete/Heraklion), Jørgen Hedemark Poulsen (Copenhagen) and Sverre Bjerkeset (Oslo).

The Oslo Meeting focused on the MEDINE work and hopes for the new grant application in addition to new challenges for ECTS MA. Unfortunately the MEDINE application did not result in a renewal of grants, but good work is going on preparing for the next application deadline March 2008.

The new ECTS MA Board had its first meeting in Antwerp on October 19-20, with all members present in addition to invited key persons Birgit Heller (Berlin, in charge of the web site) and Monique Leonard (Brussels, in charge of the ECTS MA data base). We had fruitful discussions and agreed on some short and long term goals. We hereby invite the members to comment on these goals.

Short term goals for 2008:

- Improved ECTS MA Web site (<http://www.med-ects.org/index.htm>)
- Regular newsletters from the Board, at least twice a year
- ECTS MA Database up and running
- Contribution to MEDINE 2 application, by March 2008
- ECTS MA yearly meeting 2008 in Naples, Italy, May 16-17
- Board meeting in Heraklion 31.01 – 01-02.08, also including a Seminar on Internationalisation at the University there.

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

Next annual meeting

The annual meeting next year will take place on May 16th and 17th in Naples. The agenda will focus on the short term goals for 2008 (see above). This time, there will be no joint MEDINE – ECTS MA meeting, as MEDINE II, given that the application is approved, can start its activity on October 1st at the earliest. Please remember that ECTS MA, unlike MEDINE, does not have funding for travel and subsistence. We indeed hope that your home universities see the importance of attending the annual meeting, and, consequently, are willing to fund you. More detailed information on the meeting will follow.

Data base for Erasmus exchange within ECTS MA

We think it is important to have easily accessible on-line information on the amount of student mobility within the ECTS MA. To facilitate this, we have developed a new tool, an easy to complete database. In order to activate your faculty link, please provide the name and email of a contact person at your institution to Ms. Monique Léonard, erasmus.medecine@ulb.ac.be (or Monique.leonard@ulb.ac.be). Username and password will then be emailed to this person, who is expected to complete the statistical and background information asked for. Once completed, the on-line software will immediately generate a data table with all your student exchanges.

We think the database will be a very useful tool for the group. Therefore we urge you to complete this important information as soon as possible and not later than the 21st of January 2008.

Contact information

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.bjerkset@medisin.uio.no.

Web site

All members are encouraged to make links to the ECTS MA web site from their own web sites.

Last but not least, the Board sends its warm regards to all local coordinators and member institutions. We wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and ALL THE BEST for 2008!

On behalf of the ECTS MA Executive Board,
Prof. Borghild Roald