

**Minutes OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
ON THE EXCHANGE OF RESIDENTS
EFIM**

Royal College of Physicians, LONDON November 3, 2006.

Present: DAVIES Kevin, FRANKEL Andrew, GIBSON Terence, HEYMAN Tim, KINIRONS Mark, PIRSON Yves, SCHIFFERLI Jürg, and LOUIS-SIMONET Martine.

Excused: DAVIDSON Christopher, FEVERY Johan, GLYNN, Michael, HALLER Hermann, LAMBERT Michel, LESAVRE Philippe, NICHOLL Claire, PERRIER Arnaud, SCHIFFERLI Simone (Secretary Steering Committee)

Presentation of new members and centres

Martine LOUIS-SIMONET will be responsible for the rotations at the Geneva University Hospital for the Clinique de Médecine directed by Arnaud Perrier, who will continue to receive our information. Yves PIRSON from the Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc replaces this year Michel Lambert. We send our best wishes to Michel and will see him next year with pleasure.

Activities of the centres

Over recent years the core centres have continued with active one-way and two way exchanges, particularly active were Geneva, Basel, Paris, and London (Hammersmith Hospital/ Charing Cross, Guy's, Brighton). Kingston is starting with a planned exchange for 07. It has however to be stated that the whole exchange with the UK is in some sort of "foog" for the next 1-2 years because of the radical changes which take place in the organisation of the post-graduate education in the UK. This has made the recruitment of new centres difficult: Edinburgh seems to be unwilling to join. No successful contact could be established with Oxford. Whereas the initial contact with the Royal Free Hospital in London was good, it appears that it is more difficult to convince its members to join us now. Claire Nicholl from the Addenbrookes Hospital will not continue to work in the scheme, declaring that no viable exchange could be organized over the last years because of local changes with the training of junior doctors. This is somehow sad since Keith Peters, who was the Regius Professor of Medicine at Cambridge until very recently, has been one of the initiators of the program some 29 years ago. Claire copied the information about our meeting to John Firth, who is in charge of the junior doctor rotation and who seems to be well known by some members of our group (e.g. Martine Louis-Simonet). We would be very glad if we could win him and Cambridge back to our scheme. *Jürg Schifferli and Martine Louis-Simonet will contact him.* It was however emphasized that we should this year mainly try to keep the core centres working, and think about expanding only when the "UK foog" has cleared. It was generally thought

that Hannover, Leuven and Rotterdam should reactivate or activate exchanges as well – even if learning to work in Dutch or Flemish appears more difficult, such exchanges have been possible in the past. Yves Pirson suggested that we could do triple exchanges: from Bruxelles (French/Flemish speaking candidate) to Holland, then from Holland to the UK, and finally from the UK back to Bruxelles (French speaking candidate). *Yves Pirson will contact some Dutch colleagues to see whether there might be interested centres.*

Exchange review of the last and coming years

See the enclosed data sheets (rounds 27 to 30). Since some data are incomplete we ask all the members of the Exchange to control the sheets, correct them and send it back to Basel. The exchanges projected in the future are proposals for the partners to contact each other, but it is evident that other exchanges might be favoured, according also to the wishes of candidates. Some centres find it easier to organise one way exchanges.

Report of the exchanges

We received 4 reports from the exchangees going from London to Geneva (2), from Bruxelles to London (N Demoulin), and from London to Paris (J Wilson). The latter report has been published in the BMJ (3 reports are enclosed, *Thank you Yves/Andrew to provide me with the electronic document of N Demoulin.*) These reports should be kept on file, and will from now on be sent to the members of the exchange scheme. They should help in preparing our candidates for the exchange, and they may incite some more candidates as well.

New training program for junior doctors in the UK

A new training scheme will be introduced in the UK: Two years of rotations in a “foundation program (years F1 and F2)”, followed by specialist training over 3 to 5 years. This program is more in line with the European guidelines (Eurodoc = 2 years, then specialty training). There are however parallel jobs: NHS positions not approved for training but in fact providing the same training in UK centres, and academic positions, which include rotations in the diverse specialities of medicine. Thus although the system appears rigid, it might be possible for academic centres to have some flexibility in particular to accommodate the exchange if the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board leaves the door open. For this we will need some support, not only from the members of our own group (Andrew Frankel has sent a letter on the 1.6.06 to Professor Peter Rubin, the Chairman of the board), but also from the RCP. *Jürg Schifferli - with the help of Andrew Frankel and Kevin Davies - will also write to Professor Rubin to emphasize the exceptional value for UK and Continental junior doctors to have such exchanges. A similar supportive letter from the RCP would be very valuable as well. Andrew Frankel will contact Mrs Manuela Claite from the International Office of the RCP to see how additional support can be obtained.*

Finances

Exchanges with BASEL will benefit from a small educational support obtained in Basel from Novartis-CH: £ 1'000.- or Euro 1'500.- will be given to centres who get an exchangee from Basel on presentation of a bill. This money should cover some of the administrative costs and help in organising the exchange. A similar sum of money is

provided locally for exchangees coming to Basel. We have been unsuccessful in getting an educational grant for the whole exchange, but it might be possible for every centre to negotiate with Pharma Co. small local educational grants. Jürg Schifferli will contact Prof Sereni (Paris) who has taken over the Foundation for the development of Internal Medicine in Europe at EFIM. Andrew Frankel and Kevin Davies will contact Garret Williams and Tony Weetman to see whether it would be possible to have some support in the UK for “scholarships”.

Varia

Tim HEYMAN has now started to build up the database for the Alumni. One of his fellows will contact the “old” exchangees. The idea is to have an enlarged meeting with “science and careers” as themes with invitations for all old exchangees and members of the exchange program (possibly in 2008).

The next meeting in 2007 will be held in Bruxelles in honour of Charles van Ypersele, who was with others (C Dickinson, CH Dowling, DK Peters, A Seed, A Müller, etc) at the base of this exchange scheme and started it in 1977 with a first exchange in 1978. Yves Pirson will provide us with the necessary information about the precise place of the meeting and the local arrangements. A dinner the evening before of just after the meeting would be welcome.

We thank the Royal College of Physicians for hosting us, and particularly Mrs Manuela Claite for her support in the organization of the meeting.

Next meeting

Friday 9th of November 2007

Starting at 2pm - until 5pm followed by a dinner (or in the morning if the dinner is organized on the 8th)– Bruxelles

Information about the location and hotel accomodations will be provided later.