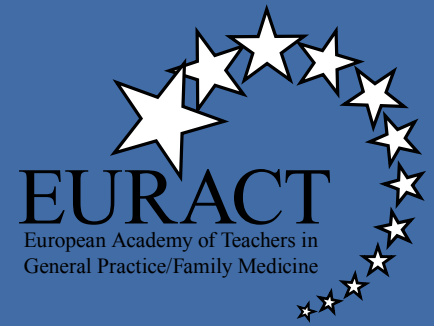


EURACT

MESSENGER



Prof. Janko Kersnik, EURACT President 2010–2015

*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.*

Mary Elizabeth Frye



With profound regret, EURACT – the European Academy of Teachers in General Practice/Family Medicine – announces the death on the 16th May 2015 of its beloved President, esteemed colleague and dear friend Professor Janko Kersnik at the age of 55 years.

With his passing, the international community of family doctors loses a good friend, a devoted doctor, an excellent scientist and a tireless advocate of family medicine.

EURACT expresses its deepest sympathy to Janko's family and joins them in their sorrow over the loss of their beloved husband, father and grandfather.

May Janko rest in peace.

The Executive Board and Council, European Academy of Teachers in General Practice/Family Medicine

Council Meeting 23-26 April 2015

Prof. Janko Kersnik honoured in Prague

Prof. Janko Kersnik from Slovenia gave a speech to Czech General Practitioners at the IX. Spring Interactive Conference of SVL ČLS JEP held on Sunday, April 26th, 2015, at Slovanský Dům, Prague.

On the proposal of the Institute of General Practice 1st Faculty of Medicine, on behalf of the Dean spectabilis Prof. Alexi Sedo and the Scientific Board of the 1st Faculty of Medicine

at Charles University in Prague, and in front of hundreds of Czech colleagues, Prof. Kersnik was honoured by being presented with an award, the ceremonial medal of the 1st Faculty of Medicine.

The award acknowledges Prof. Kersnik's contribution to the development of general practice as an academic discipline in countries of Eastern and Central Europe and particularly in the

Czech Republic.

Prof. Kersnik, a member of the WONCA Europe executive, was in Prague as the President of one of the most important and prestigious WONCA Europe networks, the European Academy of Teachers in General Practice/Family Medicine (EURACT) in order to participate in the EURACT Spring Council Meeting held in Prague during April 23rd – 26th, 2015

EURACT members' participation in Czech Trainers' Meeting, Prague, April 2015

During the EURACT Council meeting held in Prague on 23-26 April 2015, three Council members gave the following presentations to Czech trainers:

- CME-CPD and re-certification of GPs in Europe - Ruth Kalda (Estonia)
- Framework for continuing educational development of trainers in GP-FM in Europe - Adam Windak (Poland)
- What FM teaching in BME can add to the students' knowledge, skills and attitudes- Janko Kersnik (Slovenia)

EURACT Council member Dr Jachym Bednar gave a presentation entitled 'Czech Republic – heart of Europe', after which Dr Josef Stolf, leader of Czech ST trainers, talked about Specialist Training in the Czech Republic.



New EURACT Council Member from Israel

My given name is Martine, a French name, because I was born in France, but moved to settle down in Israel in the middle of my medical studies. I graduated at Tel Aviv University and undertook 4 years' specialty training in Family Medicine (FM) there too. I'm married and the mother of 3 grown up children.

I'm presently working half time as a Family Physician in a community clinic (belonging to Clalit Health Services), and the second half directing the Department of Family Medicine of Sharon Shomron District (one of the 14 academic Departments of FM in Israel).

My department is affiliated to Tel Aviv University:

- we participate in the selection and teaching of medical students in years 1, 2, 3 and 6, and in the final internship
- we select and train residents in FM throughout their 4 years post-graduate program (about 35 residents at any given time)
- we organize Continuous Medical Education programs on a weekly basis for 80 in-service and fully trained family physicians
- we teach community nurses in a national post-graduate program.
- we take part in the development of national final exams for fully trained Family Physicians (equivalent to the Board examinations in USA)
- we do research in the field of Family Medicine

In addition, I have been in charge of Faculty Development at the Department of FM of Tel



Aviv University for 10 years, then chairing the Israeli Association of Teachers in FM for 6 years, and have developed and coordinated several courses for Faculty Development, some of them with my colleagues and friends Yonah Yaphe and Howard Tandeter, who have preceded me as Israel representatives on the EURACT Council.

I'm now very honored to be the Israel representative since 2015. The Council meeting in Prague was my first one, and I have been very impressed by the persons I've met and had the chance to work with. My only regret is not to have been able to participate in several working groups simultaneously! All the topics were very interesting and relevant for me, and I've been very impressed by the quality of the work and

the participants I had the chance to get to know a little. There are many more and I hope to get to know them better in the future.

I must congratulate Jachym Bednar for the excellent organization and the wonderful atmosphere he has created during this meeting. His enthusiasm concerning Prague's history and beautiful sites made this short stay a unique and unforgettable experience. Thanks also to Janko Kersnik for his warm welcome and remarkable leadership!

I need to write a few words about another attracting pole for me: China, where I've spent 5 years (1989-1994), half in Hong Kong and half in Beijing. There I worked with the Hong Kong College of GPs, and then I worked for the development of GP/FM in China on behalf of WONCA, as a member of the WONCA Task Force in China.

Since then I have returned many times to Beijing to give seminars to teachers/trainers in FM at the National Training Center of General Practice, based at The Capital Medical University in Beijing, and also to lead Balint groups in doctor-patient communication workshops at Peking Union Medical University and at Beijing Cancer Hospital. Although from a European culture and background, I'm very fond of China and love to be there!

Within EURACT, I hope to concentrate on Faculty Development, Trainers training and accreditation, and on research in FM.

I look forward to future meetings.

Martine Granek-Catarivas.

Basic Medical Education Committee

The development in our long and really difficult research on "Activities to enforce General Practice / Family Medicine around Europe - a Delphi method" was presented. Natalia Zarbailov (Moldova) reframed the material, defined research questions and adequate methods and went through the whole data to proceed until next council meeting.

During a meeting we agreed to present a workshop at the EURACT Educational Conference in Dublin, September 2016. We decided to focus on our last publications: Core Curriculum and Mapping of Undergraduate Education in Europe, to be managed as a workshop.

Ilse Hellemann (Austria) will manage the overall timetable during the period until September 2016 including the speakers' duties and the abstract. Valentina Madjova and Francesco Carelli will develop the questionnaire concerning Mapping of Undergraduate Education. Also, a questionnaire for workshop participants concerning Core Curriculum will be developed.

It was a really hard-working committee meeting in Prague.

Francesco Carelli
Committee Chairman, Italy

Short reports of Task Forces

Appraisal Task Group

EURACT is a partner in an EU funded project to develop an appraisal system for GP/FM Educators. The project is on schedule and will be ready to be passed on to EURACT for implementation by December 2015. The e-portfolio is reaching completion having been trialled at the last partners' meeting. The electronic platform is straightforward to use and the process of assessment is simple and not time consuming. The group considered how EURACT can take this project forward to the implementation stage.

It was agreed that the EURACT Council will need to have an overview of the process and it was thought that this would best be done by a permanent task group. It was suggested that assessment at the competent level could be a benefit of membership, but that it was reasonable to charge a fee for the assessment at expert level to cover administrative costs.

The assessment at the competent level will generally be done at a country level by one appraiser. The competent level will be able to be completed in the national language and while there is a facility for making translation

Member Services Committee

The session was devoted to clarify conditions that could attract new members and (new) Organizations in Collaboration (OiC).

It was decided that any Organization seeking OiC membership in EURACT must

- be actively involved in teaching of General Practice/Family Medicine
- submit the dedicated application form with at least 4 individuals appointed as EURACT members
- membership fees must be timely and fully paid
- should support their country's delegate to EURACT Council

Benefits for Organizations in Collaboration

- OiCs will be listed on EURACT website
- OiC can use the EURACT logo
- Members of the OiC are eligible to reductions on participation fees for EURACT's courses and conferences
- Free use of educational material developed by EURACT
- Take advantage of EURACT's expertise and network in different fields of medical education

Bruce Brinkley
Committee Member, Switzerland

CME/CPD Committee

First to be discussed was the WONCA Conference in Istanbul, to which the Committee submitted 2 abstracts for workshops:

1. Multimorbidity in family practice - educational needs.
2. Learning cultural competence in family medicine. Development of teaching curriculum in culturally responsive healthcare for medical education in Europe.

The project: "Continuing Educational Development and Harmonization of Expert Teachers in GP/FM in Europe through a systematic process of quality improvement" was also discussed, because several of the Committee members participated in the recent workshop in Vienna.

Possible topics for future WONCA workshops/ Council meetings were discussed and the proposals were as follows:

- Dublin 2016: GP in 2030 (modern equipment of GP office, telemedicine and other IT solutions)
- Vaccination challenges in a future years: proposed by Peter Vajer (he will present a poster in Istanbul about pneumococcal vaccination)

CPD/CME curriculum on multimorbidity was also discussed - the Committee found that there is lack of educational material and queried if some kind of structured curriculum is needed.

Jachym Bednar
Committee Chairman, Czech Republic

Specialty Training Committee

The Specialty Training Committee's main activity between the last two meetings and during the meeting in Prague was its work on producing a statement on Research in GP/FM Specialty Training (ST).

As research we accept a process of literature review and data analysis providing added value to the body of knowledge using rigorous scientific methods. There are differences across Europe and we want to produce a statement which can help countries to implement re-

search in ST. Also the third part of the document should establish standards for grading research in specialty training. Giving examples from different countries, we want to show the different ways of implementation of research in country members of the EURACT. The document was discussed between the members of the ST committee and we will work on it during the period between the two meetings..

Katerina Stavric
Committee Chairperson, FYR Macedonia

straightforward, the expense of translation will need to be met by individual countries. The expert level will be assessed internationally and in English.

It is envisaged that council members and authors of the project would be expected to take on the role of appraisers and implement the system in their country. Training will be provided in a two-stage process at the council meetings in October 2015 and April 2016. The appraiser will not be paid even at the expert level. It was felt that this could be seen to be part of our academic

role and it is not expected to be onerous. The assessment will generally take about 30 minutes once the appraiser is familiar with the process.

The national representative will promote the process at a national level. Workshops at international conferences such as WONCA will be used to disseminate information and training about the project. The project provides an opportunity to increase EURACT's profile and expand the membership.

Jo Buchanan
Task Group Chairperson, UK

Educational Research task group

We started with the critical assessment of a research paper: 'A competency based selection procedure for Dutch postgraduate GP training, a pilot study on validity and reliability' by Margit Vermeulen et al.

We discussed the psychometrics of a test.

We had a discussion on the goal of selection procedures: predicting poor performance of selecting the best candidates?

We decided to propose to the council that a survey is performed on selection procedures, to answer the following research questions:

- How many countries have a selection procedure?
- What is the purpose of the selection?
- What kind of selection procedure is used?
- Who is performing the selection procedure?
- Who defines the number of vacancies for primary care specialty training?
- How many vacancies are available each year, how many candidates apply, how many candidates are not admitted?
- Is there an entrance limitation for medical school?
- How many doctors qualify every year from medical school?
- How many doctors that were trained abroad apply for primary care specialty training?
- Who is financing the training programme and the salary of the trainees?

Council members agreed with the survey, which will be held before the meeting in Autumn 2015.

Nynke Scherpbier de Haan
task group member, Netherlands

Website task group

The task group discussed the rebuilding/transfer of the EURACT website.

A site-map and list of articles is needed before rebuilding or moving the website. This would enable us to take the decision what needs to be archived and what needs to be kept for the new website. This work will be shared between members of the editorial board according to a timetable. Articles would be rated as follows: essential, useful, to be archived, to be omitted.

Regarding the rebuilding/transfer option, rebuilding the website in Ireland would cost 3-4000 Euros. As regards transferring it, contact has been made with WONCA Europe who has offered to host the EURACT website on www.woncaeurope.org.

The advantages of the latter option are:

- no cost to EURACT
- website still managed by EURACT, with different people given different roles
- allows regular servicing and upgrades
- present website (www.euract.eu) would be maintained until new website on WONCA Europe website is ready, or as a fall-back option if problems are encountered
- the WONCA Europe webmaster has already been in contact the webmaster of the current website
- WONCA Europe webmaster has done an analysis of the current website and no major challenges to the transfer were encountered

The Website Task Group thus agreed to recommend to Council that an official decision be taken that the EURACT website is transferred to the WONCA Europe website.

Mario R Sammut
task group member, Malta

EURACT Assessment Course in Portugal, October 2014

Portugal has an interesting history of post-graduate training in family medicine. From the unique experience of in-service training of approximately 5000 general practitioners that took place throughout the 90s, to currently having one of Europe's most well structured Family Medicine internships, the country has a long tradition in primary care postgraduate training. Over the last years, the partnership between the Portuguese Association of Teachers and Trainers in Family Medicine and EURACT translated into the dissemination of various instances of Teachers' Level 1 and Level 2, together with Assessment EURACT courses across the country.

Keeping pace with this tradition, a EURACT

assessment course for trainers in family medicine took place in Porto, last October 2014. The course was directed to current or future trainers in general/family practice involved in one-to-one or university-based teaching, who wished to improve their knowledge, skills and competence. Luís Filipe Gomes, a long time EURACT collaborator, led this course with a team of 5 other facilitators with varying degrees of experience. The course took place in Porto, in the Cultural and Congress Centre of the Portuguese Medical Council. This entry-level course was organised in 8 different sessions: introduction, overview of methods in use in family medicine, theoretical background for assessment meth-

odologies, multiple choice questions including extended matching questions, communication skills assessment, work based assessment methods, OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examinations) and oral examinations.

Over three demanding days, 36 participants engaged in lively and fruitful discussions about each of the topics introduced by the facilitators. A unique feeling of accomplishment was felt by the end of the course. This event was another small but structured step towards generating a force of competent trainers of Family Medicine in Portugal.

Luís Alves
Portugal