



UEMS Section of Occupational Medicine

MINUTES

Oslo 22.04.06 11.15 – 18.00

1. Participants and apologies

Participants:

Monica Ballester Roca	Spain
Jonas Brisman	Sweden
Kaj Husman	Finland
Vlasta Deckovic-Vukres	Croatia
Anne-Christine Markset	Norway
Clodagh Cashman	Ireland
Paulo Coelho dos Santos	Portugal
Ole Carstensen	Denmark
Annette Gässler	Germany
Alenka Skerjanc	Slovenia
Milan Tucek	Czech Republic
Paavo Jäppinen	Finland
Jacques van der Vliet	The Netherlands
Ewan Macdonald	UK
Tom McMahon	Ireland
Reinhard Jäger	Austria
Stanislav Pusnik	Slovenia
Luc Quaeghebeur	Belgium
Mats Berg	Sweden
Andre Weel	The Netherlands/ EASOM
Consol Serra (President)	Spain
Knut Skyberg (Secretary)	Norway
Andy Slovak (Treasurer)	UK
Bernard Maillet	UEMS
Jos Verbeek	Cochrane Collaboration
Ørn Terje Foss	Norway

Apologies:

Elsbeth Huber	Austria
Jadranka Mustajbegovic	Croatia
Gert Thomsen	Denmark
Giorgio Assenato	Italy
Sergio Iavicoli	Italy
Claus Piekarski	Germany
John Harrison	UK / EASOM
Dick Spreeuwers	The Netherlands

2. Welcome

Consol welcomed all section members, observers, EASOM representative Dr. André Weel and special guests: Dr. Bernard Maillet, Secretary General of UEMS, Dr. Kristian Vetlesen, president of the Norwegian Association of Occupational Physicians, and Dr. Jos Verbeek, Co-ordinator of the Cochrane Occupational Health Field, FIOH (Helsinki). She also thanked the Norwegian delegation, especially Drs.

Knut Skyberg and Ørn Terje Foss, for the excellent arrangements for the meeting and the social program.

3. Minutes of last meeting (Nordwijkerhout 22.10.05)

No corrections were made. The minutes were approved.

4. Presentations

UEMS

The organisation of the UEMS was presented by Secretary General Dr. Bernard Maillet. He also covered in detail country representation, CME and UEMS accreditation (EACCME). There was a discussion of the accreditation points system, and suggestions were made to give UEMS CME credits to participation in UEMS Sections meetings.

Occupational medicine in Norway

Kristian Vetlesen gave a presentation of occupational medicine in a multinational company in Norway. Knut Skyberg presented the OHS organization at a chocolate factory in Norway and a health promotion project ("Green job") in the company.

5. Matters arising

Report from working group "Ageing"

Kaj gave a presentation from the working group "Ageing and health." He referred to Ilmarinen's research. He pointed out the lack of established clear criteria of what was required from the group.

It was agreed the need of policy/position papers by each working group, of maximum 10 pages, including a description of the problem and the current situation in Europe, the role of OM and the competencies that Occupational Physicians should have/develop related to each topic. Doctors' health and rehabilitation was also mentioned. Jacques offered to take part.

**Action Kaj,
Elsbeth and
Jacques**

Action plan 2006-9

Consol presented the proposed action plan. The 10 years of the Section reflect a process of three past periods: creation (Tom and Ewan, 1997-2000), cohesion (Ewan and Reinhard, 2001-2005) and now visibility should be the next step. In order to decide the priorities in a participative way, a website-based questionnaire about the ranking of priorities was sent to all Section members. Nine responses were received from eight countries (Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain and The Netherlands (2 responses).

The section was divided into 3 groups to further discuss the priorities. The results were:

Group 1: New list of overall priorities: 2,3,4,1,14,15,23,24.

Group 2 (politics): The rank order was PO6, PO4, PO2, PO3, PO1, PO5.

Group 3 (profession): PR 1 and 2, PR 4, PR5, PR3.

Other topics were also ranked (see new version of action plan to follow). Each member is encouraged to volunteer for contribution to topics of own interest. Consol will review the action plan and suggest responsible persons for each action. This will be discussed in next meeting. The final document with the priorities will be attached to these minutes and included in the Section's webpage.

Action Consol

The Cochrane Occupational Health Field

Jos Verbeek gave a presentation about evidence-based medicine in occupational health. He advocated more OH interventions and noise-induced hearing loss was used as an example. Upcoming topics were also mentioned. A wish list of OH reviews was proposed. Jos asked for input from the section members and stressed the relevance of our contribution to systematic reviews and the promotion of an evidence-based OM practice, either by proposing topics and priorities for reviews and/or promoting the conduct of SR in European countries. A discussion followed on the involvement of the Section in research, and different opinions were apparent. It was agreed to include research as part of the profession heading in the action plan. Annette raised the question of funding. Consol proposed the possibility to organise country-based Cochrane groups to collaborate with the COHF.

Action all

5. Current business

The Leonardo project.

A meeting was held the same morning. For those who want the minutes, contact Nundita Reetoo at k.n.reetoo@clinmed.gla.ac.uk

Quality and peer audit.

Tom: Brought Quality & peer audit documents to be distributed among all members so that they can give them to the persons who should be answering the 'quality audit for occupational physicians' in each country. All members must send the questionnaire to the person/s responsible for quality of OM practice in each country and send the answers to Tom. Clodagh will help Tom in treating the data. The document is confidential, but we have been allowed to use it in this way. All members should make this very clear to the persons answering the questionnaire.

Action all

Hepatitis B project

There has been response from 9 countries. The deadline has been expanded to allow the response to those who have not still done so. (Improved response after reminder later.)

Action all

Our section's website.

The draft site now provides most documents produced by the section. It will be developed lay-out-wise with funding from the section. A budget limit of €1,000 was approved. All members who have produced documents are asked to send them to Ole in order to put them in the website.

Action Ole and Consol

ICOH Milan Section symposium

Our UEMS session is scheduled for Wednesday 3.30-4.30. Presenters are Ewan, Clodagh, Nundita (ATOMe), Annette, Jadranka, Ørn and Consol. All will be oral presentations. A dinner will be organised with those members attending the conference.

Recruitment of new members to our section.

France has been approached by Consol. Poland: should also be given priority. Greece. Switzerland. Hungary: Jacques. Slovakia: Milan.

Action Milan, Jacques, Consol and others

Membership payment status.

Andy told that the new electronic system of billing is working well. Several countries have already paid for this year. €150 per representative per year has been the rule so far. What do we do about those who have not paid? We are sitting on € 10 000. How do we use the money? It was agreed that a plan and criteria will be presented by the trio of president, secretary and treasurer. It was agreed that travel costs and participation fee for attending the yearly UEMS presidents and secretaries meetings will be covered by the Section. Andy will write down the rules and they will be sent out.

Action Andy

Conferences.

Andre: the next EASOM summer school is in Italy, everyone is welcome. How to teach occupational epidemiology. Why? What? How?

Ewan: A short Leonardo meeting will be held in Milan during the ICOH conference.

6. Any other business

Jacques informed us of a Dutch research project on OH in different countries. It was commented that data already was available from existing sources.

7. Date and place of next meeting:

Barcelona, 11th November.
ATOMe work-shop: 9-10th November.

Consol thanked all participants for coming and for their interesting contributions and discussions during the meeting, and closed the meeting at 6:00 p.m. All participants were invited to a dinner at the Soria Moria hotel.

8 May 2006

Consol Serra
(president)

Knut Skyberg
(secretary)