

European Board Newsletter

The UEMS Section and Board of Physical & Rehabilitation Medicine (EBPRM) meeting was organised by Dr Anthony Ward, (UK delegate) in May 2002 in Brighton, England. This followed the successful *13th European Congress of Physical & Rehabilitation Medicine* which was organised under the leadership of Dr Ward. The theme of the Congress was *'Promoting Standards in Rehabilitation'* and the content more than fulfilled this goal.

The Board devoted most of its time and energy at the meetings to its educational functions and responsibilities. Reports were received also from the Clinical Affairs and Professional committees.

Education and training

The PRM Board continues to seek to provide a unified system of training within Europe that will provide World Class standards in training and education. The Board however seeks to recognise difficulties pertaining to local circumstances and to take account of these in assessments when these are justified.

Attitudes to postgraduate medical training continue to undergo change and development and the process requires to have the appropriate structures and supports for effective assessment of training processes. Training experience will have to be provided in an environment of approved posts and through rotational programmes that are recognised as appropriate for specialist training. The performance of candidates throughout their period of training is evaluated on completion of their training programme.

The process of certification of trainees by training experience and examination and of trainers and training centres through site visits of PRM experts are well established in the speciality. These processes of evaluation are set to continue and improve through the monitoring programmes of the Board and to further develop in the future. As part of these developments, the Board will continue to study and examine the most appropriate combination and suitable balance of assessment methods in the certification process for physicians of the speciality and training centres, going forward.

The Board certificate will be issued to the specialist on completion of the assessment process. This will take place when both the National and Board requirements have been fully completed with respect to each applicant. This

certification is the measure of having attained the appropriate training within the PRM speciality in the European Union.

The EBPRM provides certificates of eligibility for 10 years to the successful candidates.

The organisation of the annual examination in different countries of the EU is a major task for the Board. To facilitate the effective operation of the examination system the Board has made two new appointments: namely *Professor Guy Vanderstraeten* (Belgium) as *Director General of the Examinations Board* and *Professor Xanthi Michail* (Greece) as *Secretary for Examinations*.

Re-accreditation

The rules for the *'Re-accreditation of PRM Training Centres'* were discussed and agreed at Brighton by the Board. The normal period of re-accreditation of PRM Training Centres is *5 years*. It was noted that many centres are due for re-accreditation in 2002.

The process of re-accreditation may occur when any **one** of the following conditions obtain:

1. If the Medical Team is unchanged and the goals of the centre and systems of training are identical to those that existed when the Certification process of evaluation occurred on the last occasion, re-certification may be granted without a further site visit.
2. Centres are required to carefully and fully complete the Board's questionnaire and return the completed document to the Chairman of the Site Visit Committee, *Professor Alex Chantraine* (Switzerland). After due consideration the findings of the site visit committee will be presented to the PRM Executive Committee for decision to renew certification (or otherwise).
3. If any material change has taken place at the Training Centre, e.g. change of Department Head, alteration of goals and objectives or modification of training programmes or facilities, this must be communicated to the Chairman, Professor Chantraine. Arrangements will be made for a site visit to the centre.

For further information on the PRM Board, you are invited to visit the Board's website at www.euro-prm.org.