Teaching the headache

According to the by-laws, one of the goals of the European Headache Federation (EHF) is to educate Europe about headache through the teaching of the key players, such as young doctors and all those involved in headache management about the seriousness of headache disorders. The close geographical relationship in Europe is the prerequisite to foster the exchange of the faculty and the participants. This was the working and the successful mechanism for the past years. A summer school has been organized in different European countries since 1992 every year: Antalya, Stresa, Oporto, Cambridge, Copenhagen, Kiel. Afterwards a permanent Summer Headache School was established in Cambridge (every alter year) and in 2002 the last summer headache school was held in Vilnius. In the last decade a “patronage activity” was also set up in the way that two countries (one developed, one developing) exchanged doctors and student for training. This activity was successfully endorsed by Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovakia, Italy, Norway, Albania, Slovenia, Russia and Lithuania. In some setting, clinical and research practice was organized in long staying reaching an higher standard of training and creating “clusters” of headache interested people in Europe. However, the fast expansion of insight in headache (new molecules, new headache categories etc.) contribute to

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The Eurohead project

EUROHEAD is the acronym of a scientific project (sponsored by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Programme) that gathers the activities of a European research consortium, currently seeking to unravel the genetic and neuro-biological basis of migraine. The EUROHEAD project relies on the combined efforts of a multidisciplinary (geneticists, neurologists, neurophysiologists and electro-physiologists) research group, composed of nine member organisations from seven EU countries (the Netherlands, Finland, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Denmark, and Belgium). The EUROHEAD consortium members operate at the highest level in the international migraine research field, and thus apply the highest research standards and latest scientific and technological advances. The EURO-
The British Association for the Study of Headache (BASH) is the United Kingdom national society member of the International Headache Society (IHS) and the European Headache Federation (EHF). Membership is open to all health care professionals with an interest in headache. The Association was founded in 1992 and incorporated in 1998.

As in all limited companies, the management of BASH is in the hands of a Board of Directors, which is known as Council. The members of Council are also the Trustees of the Charity, and have responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Association. BASH does not so far have subcommittees but creates working groups to deal with specific tasks, which are usually time-limited.

Council

The members of Council are elected by the full membership of the Association every two years at an Annual General Meeting for a term of office of two years. Up to three consecutive terms of office may be served. The general intention is that approximately one third of Council retire biennially whilst two thirds remain in office, so that there is both continuity and turn-over.

Council consists of the Honorary Officers together with not less than four or more than ten ordinary members elected at an Annual General Meeting. Council has power to appoint any member of the Association to be an ordinary member of Council to fill a casual vacancy or up to three further members of the Association as additional members of Council to hold office until the conclusion of the next following Annual General Meeting.

Honorary Officers

The Association does not have an Office of President. The four Honorary Officers are Chairman of Council, Vice-Chairman of Council, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer (see below). The Honorary Secretary has the responsibilities and performs the duties of Company Secretary.

Chairman Dr P T G Davies
Vice Chairman Dr David Kernick
Treasurer Professor P J Goadsby
Secretary Dr Roger Cull

Council Members

Dr Andrew J Dowson, Dr Giles Elrington, Dr Manuela Fontebasso, Dr S L Lipscombe, Dr Tom Whitmarsh, Dr. Richard Peatfield, Dr Brendan Davis, Dr Fayyaz Ahmed

WORKING GROUPS

Those in existence at present are:

- Diagnosis and Management of Migraine.
- Working Group on Organisation of Headache Services in Primary Care Groups.
- Working Group on Headache Education.

http://www.bash.org.uk/

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HEAD project complies fully with Priority 1 of the Work Programme and is designed to promote the 6th Framework Programme 1.1.1 entitled "Life Sciences, Genomics and Biotechnology for Health", ii) Combating major diseases: Studying the brain and combating diseases of the nervous system LSH 2002-2.1.3-8 "Genetics and neurobiology of pain". List of participants includes: Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum (Prof. M.D. Ferrari); University of Helsinki (Prof. A. Palotie); Institute of Neurology, University College London (Prof. P. Goadsby; ) University of Padua ( Prof. D. Pietrobon;) Istituto Scientifico Universitario San Raffaele (Dr. G. Casari); University Duisburg Essen ( Prof. H.-C. Diener); Glostrup University Hospital (Prof. J. Olsen) ; University of Liège (Prof. J.Schoenen) and IRCCS Mondino Institute of Neurology (Prof. G. Nappi).

The first symposium of the Eurohead project will be on May 19-20, 2005, Pavia, Italy.
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widen the gap between developing and developed countries. Moreover, we have evidence that during the last 4 years, due to the relative restriction of the national/international drug companies budget, only relatively inexpensive teaching course could be organized (i.e. Lithuania in 2002). Under such circumstances, countries that were developing a medical culture on headache would be more and more impaired. Therefore, the aim of EHF guidelines is to promote education about headache in Europe on a national basis organizing courses that should meet standardized requirements of excellence and guarantee (code of conduct), both as investment and increase in knowledge. We have developed guidelines directed to the National neurological societies in Europe. The aim is to to gain knowledge, skills, and understanding in the area of primary and secondary headache. We have detailed the ideal length of a Headache Course, number of lectures, participants, and teachers. The contents have been reported in a template of a course and a check-list will help the organizers to fullfil the criteria for a Headache School organized by the EHF and obtain the patronage. The full text will be available soon on a forthcoming issue of Functional Neurology.

F. Antonaci (Pavia)