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EHF NEWS

An e-newsletter from the European Headache Federation

The European Headache Federation: heading in the right direction

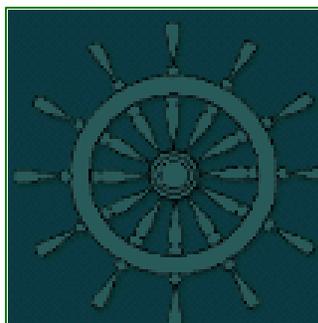
The Federation incorporated in December, 2000, and shortly after obtained registration as a charity in the UK. In the wake of these major changes in its constitution, which brought with them accountability and a range of responsibilities, EHF has worked with the public relations company, Burson-Marsteller, to review its positioning amongst the other international groups and, accordingly, its strategic objectives.

Since its foundation in 1992 as a non-profit organisation, EHF has sought to improve life for those affected by headache in Europe. The Executive has given much thought to how best to do this, having in mind the activities of other important groups such as IHS and WHA. The overriding requirement, to which EHF must continue to dedicate its efforts, is improving awareness amongst governments, health care providers and consumers across Europe of headache disorders and their huge public health and socioeconomic impact. Only this can lead to improved health care, and access to health care, for the hundred million people in Europe directly or indirectly affected by headache.

The Executive has identified these priorities:

education and influence in Europe. EHF has made its first objective the teaching of key players; high amongst these, investing in the future, are young doctors and others who are or may become involved in headache management. EHF's second objective is to become the single voice of headache in Europe, to which those who seek dialogue will turn. Thereby, in time, EHF will influence political decision-making in the headache field in Europe, able to lobby governments for appropriate resourcing of headache services and improved access to care. Europe is a region of unequal opportunity, but these needs exist in all countries. Since the Federation's strength comes from its members, EHF will continue to promote the formation of and, within the limits of its own resources, give support to national headache societies in Europe with appropriate objectives, structures and governance.

So, in 2001, EHF recommenced its series of annual summer schools on headache and related disorders with *Headache at Trinity II*, organised at Trinity College Cambridge in September 2001 by the British Association for the Study of Headache. The next is at an advanced stage of planning by the Lithuanian Headache



held in Vilnius in August 2002. Future schools will alternate between Cambridge and venues around Europe, hopefully with sponsorship that gives opportunity to young doctors from Eastern Europe who would otherwise have difficulty attending. EHF is enormously grateful to Pfizer Inc for generous unrestricted support in the last two years.

The programme of biennial congresses for doctors and clinical and non-clinical scientists continues with the 6th EHF Congress in Istanbul, organised with great dedication by Professor Çankat Tulunay with support from the Turkish Headache Federation. As EHF gave up its congress in 2000 to be part of Headache World 2000 in London, this is the first stand-alone EHF Congress since Corfu in 1998. There is no reason to hide the fact that the events of September 11th last year have had a significant impact on this year's Congress, creating huge uncertainties for the organisers and our sponsors alike. Professor Tulunay has been undaunted, and we

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owe him much for his unstinting efforts. Thanks are due also to our two major sponsors, Pfizer and GSK, who held firm during a difficult time for all. It will be worthwhile: Professor Jean Schoenen chairs the Scientific Programme Committee which has brought flair as well as enormous expertise to planning the congress sessions.

Dr. Fabio Antonaci continues to edit *EHF News*, a monthly newsletter published for distribution throughout Europe, now exclusively by email. Like other organisations, EHF

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What's on...

◆ 26-30 June 2002,
Istanbul, Turkey



6th Headache Congress
Information: www.6thehf.org

◆ 26-30 August 2002,
Vilnius, Lithuania



EHF Summer School 2002
Information:
audroneja@hotmail.com

◆ 19-21 September 2002
Marrakech, Morocco

1^{er} Congres Francophone du Groupe
Francophone d'Etude des Cephalées
Information:
gfec@b-c-a.fr

◆ 23-26 September 2002, London
UK

14th Migraine Trust
Information:
www.migrainetrust.org/research

Note

Final programme
available at:
www.ehf.ws

EHF NEWS

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Purpose: EHF Newsletter, a European Headache Federation publication, is dedicated to increasing physicians' awareness by educating and informing them as to what is going on in the field of headache in Europe.

This newsletter seeks to provide timely and accurate information from the most knowledgeable sources. The newsletter is mailed to EHF members, national drug companies and medical journalists in line with information given by board members. The views expressed in the articles in EHF News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the EHF and the Publisher.

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is reviewing the possibilities afforded by its website, which is being reconstructed.

EHF expects achievement through partnerships, and sets great store in forging these. The proposed collaboration between EHF, IHS, WHA and the World Health Organization towards relieving the burdens of headache world-wide may be crucially important for some parts of Europe. Discussions with IHS instigated by its president, Professor Michel Ferrari, have led to an important agreement between the two charities – a strategic alliance that on the one hand brings potential support to EHF for activities that promote common objectives in Europe and on the other allows IHS to concentrate its efforts on needy areas elsewhere. EHF welcomes moves towards the formation of a lay European Headache Alliance, and the possibility of partnership with them in due course. And, of course, EHF gratefully acknowledges that, without fi-

nancial support from its industry partners, it would be much less able to achieve the objectives it has set itself. EHF is not yet financially secure.

As a charity, EHF has adopted more formal arrangements for its own governance. It is no longer possible to rely entirely on well-meaning volunteers, however willing and able. The Executive has been in discussion with a management agency. Subject to a final decision in June, they will in future provide a permanent secretariat for the Federation, a fixed address and point of reference for our members, and act as core Congress Organising Agency from 2004 onwards.

At the Annual General Meeting, I will complete my term as president, an honour and a task I have enjoyed greatly and, I hope, undertaken conscientiously. Three longstanding members of the Executive will be standing down. Professor Çankat Tulunay, second vice-president, Pro-

fessor Çiçek Wöber-Bingöl, general secretary, and Professor Jose Pereira Monteiro, treasurer, will leave the Executive with the Federation's gratitude and my personal and warmest thanks for their years of committed service. Members of the new Executive will benefit immeasurably from the presidency of Professor Pramod Saxena, physician, scientist, leader and gentleman of the first order. They will have much to do to build upon the foundations laid since incorporation: subcommittees are planned so that there is stronger focus on EHF's strategic objectives. It will not be easy to create a better environment for headache sufferers and their carers across all Europe, eventually ensuring that headache sufferers have access to appropriate treatment and therefore enjoy a better quality of life.

**T.J. Steiner EHF President,
2000-2002**

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