

EAHP News

Dr Roberto Frontini to lead EAHP

On 20 June 2009, at the EAHP General Assembly (GA) meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia, Dr Roberto Frontini took over as President of EAHP.

Dr Frontini was first co-opted in 2005 and since then has served as Director of Finances and for one year as President-Elect. Roberto has been instrumental in taking the association several steps further, especially regarding professionalisation. The EAHP now has 31 member countries, over 22,000 individual members, an Academy, new statutes, a staff of four and a very active office in Brussels, which is soon to be the organisation's headquarters.

Roberto was an orchestra conductor prior to becoming a pharmacist more than 20 years ago. Since 2001, he has been the Chief



Dr Roberto Frontini, the new EAHP President

Pharmacist of the University of Leipzig hospital pharmacy. He has taken the EAHP through some turbulence as Director of Finances but confirmed the present solid footing of the association at the recent Congress (see Eur J Hosp Pharm. 2009; 15(3):21). He plans that the EAHP will bring better value to its members, through training, advocacy and learning from one other.

Mrs Jacqueline Surugue, EAHP President for seven years, remains on the Board for another year as the Immediate Past President. She will be pursuing services instrumental to EAHP's future, such as the organisation of the congress, the IHE project on interoperability and the next EAHP business plan.

This was her last GA as the President of EAHP and Jacqueline left the position with great emotion, expressing her warm gratitude to all EAHP colleagues. Over the past year, Jacqueline and Roberto have worked closely to ensure a smooth transition. She wished him the best of luck and warned him that he should be careful as, like her, he may get "hooked" and find himself in the job for longer than he anticipates.

Mr Tony West was elected Director of Finances for three years, Dr Tajda Miharija-Gala was re-elected Director of Professional and Practice Aspects for two years, Professor Vagn Handlos is continuing as Director of Education, Science and Research for another three years. Well done to all!

EAHP General Assembly adopts major changes

This year the GA had to decide on three major changes. First, the Board asked delegates' agreement to register the EAHP in Belgium and therefore to transfer the head office to Belgium where *de facto* the staff and most of our activities are situated. Another proposal was to move the start of the financial year from 1 January to 1 April, to acknowledge the fact that our annual congress is held in March every year.

In addition, the GA was asked to close the EAHP Foundation as this particular legal entity does not exist formally in Belgium and does not bring any financial benefits to the association. The Foundation seminars are now integrated into the main activities of the association and the organisational chart has been modified slightly to incorporate the seminars. All the proposals were adopted and the new statutes were accepted unanimously. Read them on the EAHP website: www.eahp.eu/About-EAHP.

Finally, Dr Roberto Frontini suggested a new logo to incorporate the association's initials, a representation of the profession of hospital pharmacy (maybe a mortar) and the fact that it is a European association. As the GA could not agree on a logo, it was decided to continue reflection on the subject. Volunteer a logo if you are artistic.

EAHP welcomes Bosnia Herzegovina and Bulgaria

Bosnia Herzegovina and Bulgaria are the newest additions to EAHP, the 30th and 31st members of the association.

Bosnia Herzegovina was represented by Ms Sanja Stjepanovic and Ms Enisa Salihefendic who gave the GA a brief overview of hospital pharmacy there. Bosnia Herzegovina has 24 hospitals, 10,000 beds, 17 hospital pharmacies, an average of 400 citizens per hospital bed and a population of about four million inhabitants. Founded in April 2009, the hospital pharmacy section of the Bosnian Herzegovina Pharmaceutical Association must be the youngest group within EAHP.

Mr Ilko Getov and Ms Nikolina Parvanova Hristova introduced the Bulgarian Association of Hospital Pharmacists, which was created in May 2006 in Sofia. The association has 96 members and serves them in a variety of ways: post-graduate courses, scientific events and forums and the dissemination of the latest developments in pharmacy, to name just a few.

There are 324 hospitals and similar health facilities in Bulgaria for a population of about 7.2 million inhabitants. The EAHP is looking forward to fruitful cooperation with Bosnia Herzegovina and Bulgaria.

Catherine Hartmann
EAHP Executive Director
ed@eahp.eu

