

EACPR General Assembly Report

Saturday 16 May 2015 | EuroPREvent Lisbon

The EACPR General Assembly was held on Saturday 16 May, at the EuroPREvent Congress in Lisbon, in presence of 41 EACPR members.

1. President Report | A. Pelliccia

Prof. Pelliccia welcomed the participants and presented a report on the EACPR activities, including the recent publication of the ESC Textbook of Preventive Cardiology, the launch of the Research Support Project (mentoring programme), recent developments on International Relations and the availability of HeartQoL for research and audit projects.

Questions:

Prof Adams expressed concerns about the procedure for the Viviane Conraads award: the initial proposal from Prof. Conraads' colleagues was to establish a young investigator award, and it was felt that the current outstanding achievement award does not have the same purpose. Prof Adams also asked if a selection committee was set up.

Prof. Pelliccia explained that the EACPR science committee was in charge of grading proposals, to make a recommendation to the EACPR Board for final decision. As EACPR already offers 4 Young Investigator Awards, The scope of this award was enlarged; nevertheless, the EACPR Board is open to a discussion on this issue.

2. Changes to the Mission Statement | P. Dendale

P Dendale presented the proposal for the revision of the mission statement, which was suggested by Prof. Pelliccia and supported by the EACPR Board in January 2015. The wording was agreed upon by the EACPR Board in May 2015. The proposal aims at including Cardiovascular Health as a key component of the EACPR mission and to rephrase *Prevention and Rehabilitation* into *Primary and Secondary prevention* to be more inclusive, and better illustrate the scope of the Association.

"To promote excellence in research, practice, education and policy in cardiovascular health, primary and secondary prevention."

Questions:

D Vanuzzo: asked why rehabilitation was no longer in the mission statement

P Dendale explained that Cardiac Rehabilitation is a component of secondary prevention, and the Board felt that this wording would be more comprehensive and more inclusive.

Prof Beckers: Highlighted that the EACPR emerged from previous Working Groups on Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prof Schmid Added that rehabilitation is the name used by the profession, and is a core activity of the Association.

Prof Halle expressed his support for the proposal, highlighting that it would not be possible to list all specialties in the mission statement, and that the new proposed wording "secondary prevention" still comprises rehabilitation.

A Pelliccia explained that the purpose is to bring everyone under one the same roof, and that the main change is on the cardiovascular health aspect. He invited the audience to think in terms of strategy and policy, rather by field of interest.

Prof. Barna commented on the fact that primary and secondary prevention would be listed as two separate topics, and suggested maintaining rehabilitation in the mission statement.

Prof Davos questioned the need for a change in the current statement at this stage for the Association.

Prof Grobbee noted that the reason for changing the statement is to bring in additional specialties, such as primary care and general cardiology, not to lose or exclude any component of the Association. The mission statement should define the main intentions of the Association.

P Dendale invited the members to express their vote by raising hands

- In favour of the new mission statement: **17 votes**
- Against: **8 votes**

Questions were raised about the number of members present for this vote. [*The quorum required by the current EACPR constitution to validate a General Assembly is of 30 members; and 41 members were present at the GA*].

Some of the participants suggested proceeding with an online vote.

Prof Pelliccia reminded that per EACPR constitution, such decisions should be taken by the General Assembly. An alternative could be to conduct an online poll to get feedback from the members, and postpone the vote until the next General Assembly.

Paul Dendale invited the members to express their opinion on this issue by raising hands:

- In favour of an online poll / postponing the decision: **12 votes**
- Against: **14 votes**

The vote in favour of changing the mission statement was therefore validated.

Participants asked whether this change in the mission statement calls for a change in the Association's name – Prof. Pelliccia indicated that this was not in the immediate plan, should this be requested in the future, this would be discussed at the General Assembly.

3. EJPC Editor in Chief Report | D. Grobbee

D. Grobbee, EJPC Editor-in-Chief, presented an update on the journal | **view slides**

Prof Grobbee noted a marked rise in new submissions in 2014 (+25%). There is a marked decrease in the rate of revised submissions - this probably reflects the increased number of rejected papers last year.

Despite the increased submission rate, journal processing times have continued to decrease sharply. Time to first decision (accept, revise, reject) on submitted papers is 18.2 days (50% faster than 2013).

The deputy editors (Joline Beulens, Ilonca Vaartjes, and Hendrik Nathoe) have clearly been highly effective in reducing journal decision times in 2014, screening approximately 240 papers each. Prof. Grobbee explained that their role is to judge papers that do not fit journal scope or meet publication criteria (e.g. insufficient sample size, uncontrolled study, findings not novel, etc.) in order to avoid sending these papers out to peer review.

The percentage of reject decisions on 1st submissions is increasing progressively, in line with the editorial policy to increase the rejection rate (currently 85.4%).

Prof. Grobbee explained that there is an ongoing clean up of the reviewers database, and a new policy has been implemented to invite accepted authors to become reviewers.

The total number of downloads increased by 31% in 2014, and Prof. Grobbee highlighted that there were over 29,000 downloads for the article "Yoga has the same potential as exercise to reduce the risk factor of CVD" (published in December 2014)

Total citations are of 3,307 in 2014, and Prof. Grobbee invited all participants to cite EJPC in their publications.

Finally, Prof. Grobbee highlighted the successful collaboration with SAGE, to leverage content and reputation to attract authors and readers and maximise impact of published research by encouraging conversation and debate around the journal and its content (social media).

4. **EuroPREvent 2015** | J. De Sutter

J. De Sutter gave a short report on EuroPREvent 2015, stating that thanks to the quality of the scientific programme and promotional efforts, the congress gathered over 1200 delegates. The number of oral abstract presentations was increased, and this is likely to be kept for future congresses.

A survey will be sent to all participants, and J De Sutter invited all delegates to send their feedback to help us shape future congress and better meet the audience's expectations.

5. **EuroPREvent 2016** | J-P. Schmid

JPS announced that the next EuroPREvent congress, which will be held from 5-7 May in Istanbul, Turkey, with a spotlight on cardiovascular health in the young.

He invited the participants to submit proposals of pre-arranged sessions to the committee.

- Online services open on 30 September 2015
- Abstract Submission deadline is set to 1st January 2016

As there were no further questions, A Pelliccia thanked all participants for their input, and closed the General Assembly.

Next General Assembly

The next EACPR General Assembly will take place during ESC Congress in London, Sunday 30 August, from 12:45-13:45 (ESC Meeting Room 01)