



July 31, 2011

Dear ENPM members,

Very important things are going on. At the last ECPR/EACLPP meeting in Innsbruck, June 2010, the European Network on Psychosomatic Medicine (ENPM, which was founded in 2006 as formal scientific initiative after the Berlin ECPR meeting) decided to become a “European Federation of Psychosomatic Medicine” as an umbrella organization of all European scientists and societies in Psychosomatic Medicine (with G. Schüssler, Austria, as president, M. Beresnavaite, Lithuania, as Vice-president, Ramiro Verissimo, Portugal, as 2nd vice-president and Bohdan Wasilewski, Poland, as Treasurer). There was an ongoing discussion focused by Giovanni Fava, whether the members of this society are individuals or national societies alone. We didn't decide upon this in Innsbruck.

At the ENPM meeting in Warszawa 21-23th, January 2011 we discussed in several sessions (list of participants see below) the further development – either on remaining the foundation of the “European Federation of Psychosomatic Medicine” or combining the ENPM with the EACLPP in the next year. There was a main group that gave support for the foundation of a European Federation.

B. Wasilewski should organize the founding of this society under European conditions (until now it is not in legality).

Before this meeting I got an invitation together with G. Schüssler (while representing ENPM) for a meeting in Nuremberg (November 2010) by Albert Leentjes, the former president and Wolfgang Söllner, the present president of EACLPP. They wanted to bring together an over 57 years historical grown psychosomatic development with ECPR meetings since 1953 changing with the World Congress of Psychosomatic Medicine all two years (organized by the International College of Psychosomatic Medicine), and the EACLPP meetings which took place once a year since 1998, to bring together EACLPP and ENPM in changing the aims and the focus of EACLPP:

1. Members should not only be psychiatrists, but also other medical specialities, including psychologists, nurses and other care professionals.
2. The name of the EACLPP has to change and this combined society (EACLPP/ENPM) should be named as “European Association of Psychosomatic

Medicine” focused on the whole field of Integrative Care in Medicine not only on Consultation Liaison Psychiatry and Psychosomatics alone. Members could be individuals and societies.

In the membership meeting in June, 30th 2011 the members of the EACLPP decided to change the focus and the name of their society in this direction and - if the ENPM members are interested - to combine both groups at the next ECPR/EACLPP meeting in Arhus/Denmark 2012.

These events have consequences for the European Network on Psychosomatic Medicine in its present shape, as it mainly focused on informal discussions and creative informal scientific discussions on e.g. psychosomatic aspects in primary care, development of European Guidelines in all chronic diseases (e.g. CHD, GI disorders) and psychosomatic diploma in Europe. The psychosomatic scene in Europe as a whole will be changed:

- All national Societies of Psychosomatic Medicine in Europe

Should be members of EAPM

- All national societies of Consultation-liaison & Psychosomatics

Should be members of EAPM

- International College of Psychosomatic Medicine

1. ICPM/ECPR Meetings, which are held every other year, should remain that way; therefore the next Lisbon WCPM Meeting (2013) should be coordinate with the ECPR/EAPM Meeting (2014) to be held in Romania (Dan Dumitrascu).
2. The ideas and aims of ICPM within an European perspective are very close to those of the new forming “EAPM”. Most in a similar way of our Asian colleagues do with the Asian College of Psychosomatic Medicine, the European Psychosomatic Medicine should be coordinated at a one continent level as well.
3. Since ICPM only takes individuals as members, EAPM can’t be a member of ICPM; nevertheless there should be established some sort of formal cooperation between both associations,
4. How shall we consider the question of the European Scientific Journal on Psychosomatics, considering that at present time we already actually support Journal of Psychosomatic Research and Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics?

- International Society of Behavioural Medicine (ISBM)

ISBM was founded in 1990 in Uppsala, Sweden. The “founding fathers” were five national societies of behavioural medicine, behaviour being used in a broad sense comprising social, psychological and biological interactions.

1. In which way can we cooperate in European guidelines, European research funding, and in coordinating conferences?
2. In which terms can EAPM have a formal cooperation with European ISBM partners, or accept them as members?

- Cooperation with other national psychosomatic societies outside Europe

- American Psychosomatic society
- Japanese Psychosomatic society
- American Psychosomatic Academy
- And others

I want to invite you all to discuss these issues within our “ENPM network” during the next 6 months -- coordinated by Ramiro Verissimo, Porto (rave@netcabo.pt / www.enpm.eu) so as we can come to a decision about this cooperation with EACLPP in order to found a new association by the June 2012 Meeting in Aarhus, Denmark.

We should try and find out the best way to implement effective Psychosomatic Medicine structures in Europe; coordinating scientists as well as clinicians involved in the area of Psychosomatic Medicine.

For those of us willing to further debate face to face important issues, there is the possibility to get together in March 30, 2012, at 1.00 pm, during the upcoming German Psychosomatic Annual Meeting.

Looking forward to hear from you

Kind regards

Yours

Hans-Christian Deter

P.S.: If you feel like we should, we may also forward this debate to the present (W. Söllner) and former (A. Leentjes) presidents of EACLPP