European Committee for Homeopathy

MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL

Meeting name	**Council, by Zoom**		
Date	13.01.22	**Time**	19.00 - 21.00 CET
Attendees	Jean Pierre Jansen (JPJ) Ileana Rîndașu (IR) Edward De Beukelaer (EB) Susann Buchheim (SB) Tiziana Di Giampietro (TDG) Ilse Muchitsch (IM) Neli-Kinga Olah (NO) Dora Pachova (DP) Cristal Skaling-Klopstock (CSK) Joan Vidal (JV) Margaret Wyllie (MW)	**Apology**	Natalia Tzima (NT)
Minutes to be written by	Margaret Wyllie	**Moderator**	Cristal Skaling-Klopstock
Next meeting	**10 Feb 2022, 7.00 - 9.00pm (CET)**	**Version**	Draft 1

DISCUSSION OF TOPICS

1	*19.06*	*Welcome; amendments to agenda*	*Margaret*
Discussion summary		CSK expected to be 10' late due to traffic problems and had asked MW to begin the meeting.	
a) Agenda Item 4 - Strategy Proposals: JPJ needed further time to work on this. b) EB wished to report back on the structure of EuroCAM.			
Conclusions		a) Strategy proposals postponed to February meeting. b) EuroCAM to be Item 4.	

2	*19.08*	*Approval of Minutes of 16.12.2021*	*Margaret*
Discussion summary		The Minutes were approved. JP proposed that future feedback should be given promptly.	
IM reported that the leader of the SC Pharmacy Accreditation team, Christian Thoma, is concerned about the Council decision not to include the ECH logo on the Certificate of Attendance for the Basic Curriculum for Pharmacists. His objection should be put in writing to give Council members time to consider it. SB suggested the solution that an application to begin the first Module of the Diploma course is dependent on the person having attended the Basic Curriculum.			
Conclusions			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Feedback on the draft Minutes should be sent promptly.	All	within a week of being received
Submit objection to Council decision.	IM	by 8 Feb

3	*19.14*	*IT and Social Media/Newsletter (paper tabled)*	*Margaret*
Discussion summary		a) Proposal 1: increase Andrea Blazquez's payment to €30 per hour, in line with rate to be paid to Rebecca De Beukelaer. b) Proposal 2: once all issues regarding security (anti-virus, back-up, password protection, file-sharing etc) have been resolved, offer Andrea Blazquez a monthly retainer rather than an hourly rate.	
Conclusions		a) Unanimously agreed. b) Unanimously agreed.	

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
a) Change rate in new SLA.	MW	end Jan
b) Ascertain appropriate monthly rate.	MW	when IT systems in place

4	*19.17*	*EuroCAM*	*Edward*
Discussion summary	EB reminded members of internal discussions regarding setting up a representative committee of 2 doctors, 2 non-doctors and 2 patients to ensure no one group would be disadvantaged (given that there are more non-doctor than doctor organisations). However, this is not a concern as the voting system precludes this. The general feeling is that the Executive Committee should consist of the office-bearers plus reliable people who are prepared to do the work, rather than a somewhat artificial 2:2:2 ratio. The aim is for EuroCAM to be as professional and effective as possible, and the Committee's role would be to ensure that EuroCAM's mission, set by the Board, is fulfilled. EB received an enthusiastic response from doctors' organisations who he invited to discuss this further. Meeting arranged for Mon 17 Jan and interested Council members are welcome to attend. JPJ reiterated a previous comment, by Hetty Buitelaar, that EuroCAM is a small organisation and an extra layer of governance simply uses more already scarce resources.		
Conclusions			
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**

5	*19.26*	*E-learning module (paper tabled)*	*Dora*
Discussion summary	Gino Santini, SC Education, has produced a sample, university-level e-learning module: i) video of Hahnemann's life (now complete, apart from a slight adjustment to the speed); ii) Q & A; iii) evaluation. DP asked members to view the video and provide feedback to be forwarded to the e-learning team. How do we protect this information and how do we use it? SC Education proposed the following:		

a) ECH pays the server rental fee and provides module to accredited schools at no cost.

Gino Santini is uploading this to his university's server, which is considerably cheaper (cost c €1,200 annually) than for ECH to host this independently (c €10,000). All felt this smaller cost was a worthwhile investment. It is good to have the module integrated into a university platform but would also be sensible to have our own domain name - ECH Academy - in case we no longer have a connection to a particular university and need to change the host server.

JPJ asked if the video could be used for PR or to recoup some of the costs. DP explained that some Schools may not be able to use it in English and may have to invest in a translation and would therefore prefer to use their own evaluation process. The Schools already pay for accreditation and diplomas and SC Education felt this might therefore be provided free to fully-accredited schools. The complete version could be made available to others for a fee.

JV explained that the first year Master's course in Barcelona uses an inexpensive platform, Canvas, which included all their materials under their own logo. He will provide more information. There are several inexpensive cloud-based platforms that include assessments etc. These should be investigated if we plan to

grow an online ECH teaching library.	
b) Shorter version (15-20') of video to be uploaded to the website and used as PR to spread main facts about Hahnemann as a scientist and doctor. EB questioned whether the theme of Hahnemann's life is an appropriate window into homeopathy and good PR for ECH. Having such material on our website suggests that ECH is focussing on the past, not offering a modern cutting-edge medicine for the future. DP agreed but pointed out that this is basic knowledge which all homeopathic students have to be aware of. Many people are very interested in the history of homeopathy. Other modules could be made in the future to provide more learning hours for students and also to form an ECH teaching library, thus ensuring a similar educational standard throughout Europe. SC Education has identified two priorities: an introductory module and research. The same process could be followed for further smaller modules, providing some introductory information under the ECH logo. CSK suggested it would attract a larger - and younger - audience if we set up our own YouTube channel for videos.	
c) Module will have an additional database with links to further information, artefacts etc from Hahnemann's life. This is now being collated and an invitation would be extended in a future newsletter for individuals or museums to share their documents or other memorabilia.	
d) Once things are in place, a meeting will be organised to present the module to homeopathic educators in Europe and invite their feedback.	
Conclusions	a) Proceed with university host at present. Agreed Module to be free of charge for fully-accredited Schools.
c) All agreed.	
d) All agreed that this is an excellent proposal.	
There were many questions, eg payments, contract with host server, copyrighting the text, editing of shorter version, launch date, etc - members to consider these and send thoughts to Dora.	

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Send feedback from video and other ideas to DP.	All	Mon 17 Jan or asap
Provide information about system used in Barcelona	JV	by 8 February

6	*20.05*	*BREAK*	

7	*20.16*	*Affiliated Schools - rules (paper tabled)*	*Dora*
Discussion summary	SC Education is seeking approval to set the course length for the new category of affiliated schools at the previous European standard of 350 hours. DP explained that this category is for teaching centres and university courses in homeopathy which		

	cannot reach the 600-hour LMHI/ECH standard required of fully-accredited Schools, for example Turkey and Romania have governmentally-approved university programmes of less than 600 hours. The longer programme is less attractive for students. The category of affiliated Schools is a way to include those with good programmes but which don't fulfil the common LMHI/ECH standard. The standard of education provided by the shorter courses remains unchanged. Some already accredited Schools might choose to become affiliated Schools at the end of their 6-year accreditation period. Affiliated Schools will be helped to upgrade to 600 hours. The cost remains the same for accreditation and affiliation - €100. JV asked about the Materia Medica and Repertorisation. DP explained that students will study 160 remedies, following the MHES lists – pages 44-47 https://homeopathyeurope.org/downloads/medical-homeopathic-education-standards-2015.pdf The importance of repertorisation will be stressed.
Conclusions	All agreed with the proposal.

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**

8	*20.30*	*Introductory Courses (paper tabled)*	*Dora*
Discussion summary	This is an internal working document following discussions in SC Education to design a model for introductory courses; it presents ideas for teaching members of ECH to help with preparation of short introductory course. The priority is to make a video about homeopathy to present to younger people. Once the text has been approved, it will be sent to Schools for use and to upload on their internal websites. IM commented that this introduction was for 15-20 hours, compared to the Basic pharmacy course of 30 hours. She suggested a better description might be 'information' rather than 'introductory'. DP explained the intention is to attract people to then subscribe to a basic course. This is not part of a curriculum, but simply a way of presenting homeopathy to the public, using ideas from people who are already doing this and who have achieved good results. CSK pointed out that much of the misunderstanding arose from the use of the word 'course' in the description. Various suggestions were put forward, eg Open Door to Healing Your Patients - an introductory Workshop - or anything similar that would attract people's attention JPJ recommended adding the opportunity for a student to observe a practitioner working with 2 or 3 patients.		
Conclusions	All supported the idea, with the proviso that a name other than 'course' be used.		

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**

9	*19.14*	*ECH and Integrative Medicine (paper tabled)*	*Edward*
Discussion summary		Following the Presidents' meeting in December, Edward had summarised ideas to see how we could bring members on board and take this forward, while also allowing space for differing views. His paper is a starting point for discussion and can inform other elements of our strategy. It is especially important to involve the national Presidents and the members they represent as some fear that homeopathy will lose its identity. The target is to reach agreement on the principles outlined in the document at the weekend in May. EB asked members to read it quickly and send him first impressions, then take some time for a more careful reading and send further thoughts.	
Conclusions			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Send initial response and then further thoughts to EB.	All	by 8 Feb

10	*20.55*	*AOB*	*All*
Discussion summary		TDG reported that Francesco di Lorenzo is leaving Italy and will not be available for the proposed agrohomeopathy group.	

Outline schedule for 6-8 May online meeting:

Fri 6	14.00-15.30 - Council meeting
	16.00-18.00 - SC meetings, if wished
Sat 7	10.00-13.00 - Symposium
	14.00-18.00 - SC meetings
Sun 8	10.00-11.30 - Council meeting

Symposium ideas:

a) JPJ - present strategy to members, with proposed timeline. (45')

b) TG - part 2 of Research presentations: Clinical Research; however, it had previously been agreed that this should be the topic of a seminar, not the Symposium. Other such potential 2-hour seminar topics might be provings, the manufacture of remedies (eg presentation by NO on starting/raw materials and new/authorised remedies) etc. Weekend Symposia should deal with presentation of starting points for a continuous process.

c) JPJ - modernising Hahnemannian concepts: begin project on terminology and concepts, eg vital force. This is a topic for SC Research to organise.

e) EB - nosodes. NO informed members that only a few remedies can be authorised as nosodes at the European level and their use is crucial in antibiotic resistance and AMR issues. ECHAMP is considering asking HMPWG how to protect nosodes and JPJ invited NO to participate in discussions. There was then some brainstorming about possible follow-up. JPJ asked SC Pharmacy to prepare an overview of the situation, with a risk analysis of what nosodes we need to protect and who is useful in such a network.

Conclusions	

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
SC Pharmacy to prepare nosode overview and risk analysis	IM	end March

11	*21.20*	*Close of meeting*	*Cristal*