European Committee for Homeopathy

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COUNCIL

Meeting name/purpose	Council meeting		
Date	13 and 15.4.2018	**Time**	09.00 am
Location	Athens, Royal Olympic Hotel		
Attendees	Hélène Renoux, Sara Eames, Arlette Blanchy, Ilse Muchitsch, Dora Pachova, Caroline Vandeschoor, Cristal Sumner, Anna Pla, Hetty Buitelaar, Jaume Costa	**Apologies**	Jean Pierre Jansen
Minutes written by	Jaume Costa	**Moderator**	Sara Eames
Distribution	Council members	**Enclosures**	Minutes of Sofia Symposium preparatory meeting of 14.4.2018. Summary of ECH-ECHAMP meeting of 7.2.2018

AGENDA

Item	Time 13/4/18	Agenda topic	Presenter
1	09:00 – 09:10	*Welcome and approval of agenda*	Sara Eames
2	09:10 – 09:25	*Financial situation.*	Arlette Blanchy
3	09:25 – 10:00	*2018 Symposium/Seminar/workshops (final programme, sponsors, finances, increasing participation)*	Dora Pachova Jean Pierre Jansen Anna Pla
4	10:00 – 10:30	*Communication: New hosting provider, websites, security, statistics from community manager, leaflet, ECH LinkedIn group, electronic newsletter*	Jaume Costa Sara Eames
	10:30 – 10:45	*Coffee break*	
5	10:45 – 11:10	*Statutes, By-law proposal from Belgian lawyer, Relationships with IAVH*	Hélène Renoux Hetty Buitelaar Arlette Blanchy
6	11:10 – 11:40	*Politics: HRI Global project, WHO training benchmarks on homeopathy, national implementation of CEN Standards (guidelines, follow-up, updating), EU Strategy, EUROCAM, sceptics attacks, agrohomoepathy*	Hetty Buitelaar, Dora Pachova, Sara Eames, Jaume Costa, Hélène Renoux
7	11:40 – 12:10	*2020 ECH Congress (visit to Riga, contract, organising, local and scientific committees)*	Hélène Renoux

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8	12:10 – 12.30	*Pharmacy: Meeting with ECHAMP, European pharmacy guidelines and European Diploma of Homeopathic Pharmacy, European supply chain design, HMPWG consultations, Assessment guidelines on the efficacy of preparations according to pharmacological-toxicological criteria by the German Bundesapothekerkammer, Invitation to Remedy Bank Clients to advertise in the ECH website*	Ilse Muchitsch Hélène Renoux
9	14:00 – 14:30	*Next ECH meetings: 2019 Spring meeting, 2019 Autumn meeting, 2020 Spring meeting*	Hélène Renoux Dora Pachova
10	14:30 – 14:40	*Candidacies to ECH Council*	Hélène Renoux
11	14:40 – 15:00	*Research: Relations with HRI, HomCase project, JPIAMR, EU funds*	Anna Pla Jaume Costa
12	15:00 – 15:20	*Education: LMHI-ECH accreditation*	Dora Pachova
13	15:20 – 15:40	*Documentation: website, tips for a bibliographic research*	Caroline Vandeschoor
14	15:40 – 16:00	*Patients: Meeting in Scotland, availability*	Cristal Sumner
Item	**Time 14/4/18**	**Agenda topic**	**Presenter**
15	09:00 – 10:30	*Briefings from Subcommittee meetings*	All Subcommittee coordinators
16	10:30 – 11:15	*Procedures: conflict of interest forms, Dropbox, procedure for more efficient discussion, ECH archive*	Sara Eames Hélène Renoux Jaume Costa Caroline Vandeschoor
17	11:15 – 11:30	*AOB*	ALL

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DISCUSSION OF TOPICS

1	*9-9.05*	*Welcome and approval of agenda*	*Sara Eames*
Discussion summary		The agenda was approved	

2	*9.05-9.30*	*Financial situation.*	*Arlette Blanchy*
Discussion summary		Arlette presented the accounts for the first 3 months of 2018 that she had previously forwarded to the Council members. Expenses and income are as planned. Caroline reminded the Council that it was agreed that this financial information should be sent at least two weeks in advance.	
Conclusions		The financing and expenses of the Sofia Symposium should be discussed to clarify contributions from sponsors and from IAVH.	
There is need to clarify the financial contribution of IAVH to ECH.			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Council members to use expense forms for reimbursement within one month after ECH meetings	ALL	Ongoing
Clarify financial contribution of IAVH to Sofia Symposium	Dora Pachova	1/6/2018

3	*9.30-10.00*	*2018 Symposium/Seminar/workshops (final programme, sponsors, finances, increasing participation)*	*Dora Pachova Hélène Renoux Anna Pla*
Discussion summary		The speakers at the Sofia Symposium are, except Professor Frass and Susanne Diez, regular attendants of ECH meetings, so no extra expenses for speakers are allocated.	
Professor Leonid Kosmodeynsky, LMHI vice-president for Russia, is available to attend the Symposium and possibly give a lecture			
Depending on attendance numbers translation into Russian and Turkish should be considered. One possibility is that ECH pays for the translation cabins and the national associations for the translators' fees.			
The research and provings workshops will be attended each one by about 40 people. There is no fee for these workshops. Participants will have to pay for their food.			
The vets seminars are advertised with the Symposium.			
The Symposium website is running.			
Alpen Pharma is the general sponsor of the Symposium. Negotiations are advanced with Archibel and Remedia on sponsorship. Narayana is interested to sell their books during the Symposium and			

negotiations are underway. Guna is also a potential sponsor.	
A group of Turkish pharmacists are interested in training on magistral preparations.	
The Documentation Subcommittee will be meeting before the Symposium on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday the whole day and Friday afternoon.	
The Pharmacy Subcommittee expects that the pharmacy training guidelines level 1 will be adopted during the General Assembly prior to the Symposium.	
Conclusions	There is need to increase sponsorship of the Symposium.
A preparatory meeting on the Sofia Symposium will take place at 8.00 am on 14.4.2018	

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Invite members of the Politics subcommittee to suggest sponsors for the Symposium	Hetty Buitelaar	1/6/2018
Invite members of the subcommittees to volunteer for interviews	ALL (Dora Pachova)	1/6/2018

4	*10-10.30*	*Communication: New hosting provider, websites, security, statistics from community manager, leaflet, ECH LinkedIn group, electronic newsletter*	*Jaume Costa*
Discussion summary		Jaume presented the statistics on the ECH social media. There has been an increase in traffic. Adam has been very effective in including positive posts from different European countries in several languages.	
Jaume informed the Council on the attack to the ECH website, the new hosting provider which caters also for security, the cleaning of the website, the problem with plug ins and the need for a new website with a new architecture.			
Adam should have support from an experienced IT expert that could help him migrate to the new website. There was a proposal by the son of Frederik Schroyens, Manuel Shroyens, in 2013.			
Conclusions		There is need to identify and contract an IT expert that helps Adam to migrate to the new website.	
It is important that the website is fully operational for the early registration of the Sofia Symposium by June.			
It is decided that ECH should launch an electronic monthly newsletter. Adam could be in charge of it.			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Identify IT programmer for website migration	Jaume Costa	20/4/2018
Discuss e-newsletter with Adam	Jaume Costa	20/4/2018

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5	*11-11.15*	*Statutes, By-law proposal from Belgian lawyer, Relationships with IAVH*	*Hélène Renoux Hetty Buitelaar Arlette Blanchy*
Discussion summary	IAVH is mentioned in the statutes as having 2 votes. A bylaw will need to be drafted so that IAVH could be full member.		
The Politics Subcommittee should discuss the future participation of IAVH in ECH. This includes the possibility of setting up a Veterinarians' Subcommittee.			
The IAVH fees will be of €20 for each individual member.			
Conclusions	Discuss bylaw on IAVH at the Politics Subcommittee and inform IAVH of fees.		

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Send to Council opinion from Belgian lawyer about participation of vets in the Council	Arlette Blanchy	14/4/2018
Discuss bylaw on IAVH at Politics Subcommittee	Hetty Buitelaar	16/11/2018
Vote bylaw on IAVH at ECH General Assembly	Hetty Buitelaar	17/11/2018
Inform IAVH of their ECH fees	Arlette Blanchy	1/7/2018

6	*11.15-11.40*	*Politics: HRI Global project, WHO training benchmarks on homeopathy, national implementation of CEN Standards (guidelines, follow-up, updating), EU Strategy, EUROCAM, sceptics attacks, agrohomoepathy, 2020 ECH Congress (visit to Riga, contract, organising, local and scientific committees)*	*Hetty Buitelaar, Dora Pachova, Sara Eames, Jaume Costa, Hélène Renoux*
Discussion summary	HRI has launched the "Global Project" to research the sceptics' campaigns in different countries. Several ECH national associations have been contacted by HRI for information. ECH has requested HRI to be informed of the results when available.		
Ton Nicolai will discuss the WHO training benchmarks on homeopathy at his next meeting with WHO. Alok Pareek informed Hélène that LMHI is very keen to support the lobbying to WHO for the homeopathy training benchmarks. Alok intends to suggest letters to WHO from Brazil and Argentina.			
Sara informed on the CAMDOC and EUROCAM situation. Hetty considered that ECH should not accept to increase the fees to EUROCAM.			
Boiron Bulgaria stated to the media that homeopathy in Germany and the UK is practised only by lay homeopaths. The same company also stated that they were against the CEN standards.			
Classical homeopathy is in a very difficult situation in the Czech Republic. The classical homeopathy association is quite small. Pluralist homeopathic associations intend to use partially the CEN Standards to produce a regulation on homeopathy and acupuncture.			
ECH should consider agrohomeopathy. This could be discussed by the Politics Subcommittee. Rafaella Pomposetti intends to present a poster on agrohomeopathy at the Sofia Symposium. At the Subcommitte Politics it was suggested to set up a networking group on agrohomeopathy first.			

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Conclusions	It was considered that ECH should have a stronger presence in EUROCAM. Sara will continue to represent ECH and Jaume could attend some meetings. Hélène plans also to attend once a year to increase the links.
EUROCAM agendas should be discussed in the ECH Council before EUROCAM meetings.	

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Remind LMHI general secretary about letters to WHO on training benchmarks	Jaume Costa	1/6/2018
Ask Ton Nicolai about discussions with WHO on training benchmarks	Jaume Costa	1/6/2018
Remind HRI of ECH interest on Global Project results	Jaume Costa	1/6/2018
Requests dates of next EUROCAM meetings to Ton Nicolai	Jaume Costa	1/5/2018
Get in contact with Rafaella Pomposetti and other Italian members to assess the possibility to launch a subcommittee on agrohomeopathy	Hélène Renoux Hetty Buitelaar Arlette Blanchy	30/11/2018

7	*11.40-12.10*	*2020 ECH Congress (visit to Riga, contract, organising, local and scientific committees)*	*Hélène Renoux*
Discussion summary		Hélène informed of her visit to Riga and her email exchanges with Marina. There is no agreement on the title of the Congress between ECH, IAVH and BHU and there are difficulties in the composition of the organizing committee. It was considered that there are already many national congresses and that the symposium format allows for better exchanges. In addition, ECH congresses could be a competition for LMHI congresses.	
Vote(s)		The members of the Council decided by unanimity to recommend to the Congress organizing committee that the Riga Congress is cancelled because of the considerable initial difficulties.	

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Attend Riga Congress organizing committee	Jaume Costa, Hélène Renoux, Ilse Muchitsch, Cristal Sumner	14/4/2018

8	*12.10-12.30*	*Pharmacy: Meeting with ECHAMP, European pharmacy guidelines and European Diploma of Homeopathic Pharmacy, European supply chain design, HMPWG consultations, Assessment guidelines on the efficacy*	*Ilse Muchitsch* *Hélène Renoux*

		of preparations according to pharmacological-toxicological criteria by the German Bundesapothekerkammer, Invitation to Remedy Bank Clients to advertise in the ECH website	
Discussion summary		Ilse informed on the promotion of over the counter complex remedies in several countries, e.g. Germany and Austria. Hetty considered that over the counter remedies could be an introduction to homeopathy for many patients. Ilse pointed out the necessity to increase the education level for competent counselling of homeopathic medical products in pharmacies.	
Hélène summarised the meeting with ECHAMP. The minutes had been circulated and the summary by Hélène is attached. Cristal had provided information to ECHAMP on EFHPA's behalf. Hélène considered that the decision-making tool for homeopathy prescribing developed under the Joint Programming Initiative on Amicrobial Resistance could be used by patients and practitioners. ECHAMP is not prepared to continue attending the Pharmacy Subcommittee but they are keen to continue having meetings of their Board with ECH President, General Secretary and Pharmacy Subcommittee Coordinator twice a year. ECHAMP is considering requesting to become ECH associated member.			
Ilse considered that some of the ECHAMP members are more interested in complex remedies and not in the promotion of single remedies due to marketing strategies			
Ilse presented the guidelines on training of homeopathic pharmacists in three levels. It was considered that the initial training, level 1, should be common for all health professionals - pharmacists, medical doctors, veterinarians, dentists and midwifes- and it could be taught by different homeopathic health professionals.			
Conclusions		There is a change in the relation between ECHAMP and ECH. It is important that the channels between both organizations continue opened.	
The guidelines on training of homeopathic pharmacies should be jointly discussed by the Pharmacy and Education Subcommittees.			
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Circulate guidelines on training of homeopathic pharmacists		Ilse Muchitsch	30/11/2018
Arrange discussion of homeopathic pharmacists training guidelines by Pharmacy and Education Subcommittees		Ilse Muchitsch Dora Pachova	30/4/2018

9	*14-14.15*	*Next ECH meetings: 2019 Spring meeting, 2019 Autumn meeting, 2020 Spring meeting*	*Hélène Renoux* *Dora Pachova*
Discussion summary		The 2019 Spring meeting will take place in Scotland on 10-12 May. Margaret Wyllie is the contact person. It has been suggested to have the 2020 Spring meeting in Poland. Tomazs Kokoscinky will discuss this with his Polish colleagues and give feedback in the coming months	
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**

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Invite subcommittees members to put forward proposals for the 2019 Autumn and 2020 Spring meetings	ALL Subcommittee coordinators	30/11/2018
Contact Margaret Wyllie and remind her about the 2019 Spring meeting	Cristal Sumner	30/4/2018

10	*14.15-14.30*	*Candidacies to ECH Council*	*Hélène Renoux*
Discussion summary		Tiziana di Giampietro has put forward her name for the position of Research Subcommittee Coordinator.	
Nobody has put his name forward for the Pharmacy Subcommittee Coordinator post.			
Hélène requested Ilse to reconsider her decision about stepping down as Pharmacy Subcommittee Coordinator.			
Sara and Arlette are prepared to continue as Vice-president and Treasurer respectively.			
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Inform subcommittee members that the positions of Pharmacy, Research and Documentation Subcommittee Coordinators, Vice-president and Treasurer are for election at the next General Assembly		ALL subcommittee coordinators	30/4/2018

11	*14.30-14.50*	*Research: Relations with HRI, HomCase project, JPIAMR, EU funds*	*Anna Pla Jaume Costa*
Discussion summary		Anna informed on the HomCase project, which is being developed mainly in The Netherlands and Barcelona. The cases are uploaded into RadarOpus. Dora considered that the guidelines on homeopathic case collection and analyses should be taught at the homeopathic medical schools.	
It was considered that it is important to increase synergies and avoid duplication with HRI.			
Jaume informed of the presentations on EU research funding at the last EUROCAM meeting.			
Hélène had previously informed about the JPIAMR project that was also presented at the last EUROCAM meeting.			
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Send Pwps on EU research to Anna		Jaume Costa	30/4/2018

12	*14.50-15.10*	*Education: LMHI-ECH accreditation*	*Dora Pachova*
Discussion summary		Dora informed on the exchanges with LMHI on accreditation of training centres.	
Hélène discussed with Alok Pareek the accreditation of training centres in the European region. He agreed to enforce the agreement between LMHI and ECH as detailed in the minutes of the Leipzig			

meeting between both organisations.			
Dora informed that several Italian schools already accredited by LMHI want to be accredited by ECH.			
Pietro Federico has resigned as Coordinator of the LMHI Education Working Group			
Conclusions	Schools in the European region accredited by LMHI that want to be accredited by ECH should comply with the ECH application process for accreditation.		
Members of the ECH Education Subcommittee should be able to participate at the LMHI Education Working Group.			
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Draft letter to Italian schools		Sara Eames	15/5/2018
Forward Leipzig minutes to Sara		Dora Pachova	30/4/2018

13	*15.10-15.15*	*Documentation: website, tips for a bibliographic research*	*Caroline Vandeschoor*
Discussion summary	Caroline informed that due to the change from Chris to Adam and because of the problems with the website no progress has been made in relation to the documentation page of the website. She is very concerned about a lot of information already put onto the website that could be lost.		

14	*15.15-15.20*	*Patients: Meeting in Scotland, availability*	*Cristal Sumner*
Discussion summary	Cristal informed of the last meeting of EFHPA that welcomed a new member association from Barcelona. Next Annual General Meeting will be in Germany (Stuttgart). ECHAMP has supported EFHPA's website and social media. EFHPA has launched an e-newsletter. A membership badge/logo has been created to use on websites and stationary to denote an organisation's membership of EFHPA.		

15	*9-11.00*	*Briefings from Subcommittees and other meetings*	*All coordinators*
Discussion summary	Dora informed that the preparatory meeting of the Sofia Symposium took place yesterday. Minutes are attached. It is foreseen a press conference during the Symposium, which will be organised with the support of the main sponsor. Ilse will contact potential sponsors for the Symposium. The Symposium has a cash flow problem now, so it was agreed that Dora could forward invoices to Arlette for payment. The ECH website should include a link to the Symposium website. The workshops will be for free and open to non ECH members. The flyer of the proving workshop should be send to ECH schools and members of the Politics Subcommittee should be asked to contact non ECH accredited school.		

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It was agreed with Marina to cancel the 2020 Riga Congress. A letter should be drafted by Hélène, with the support of Sara and Jaume, and sent as registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt as soon as possible.
The Pharmacy Subcommittee has asked Ilse to continue as coordinator and she has agreed. The Council was delighted with the news. She asked for assistance and help due the high workload as coordinator for the last 4 years. It was agreed by the Subcommittee Pharmacy members that the Subcommittee Pharmacy´s work will be split. The Subcommittee will continue to discuss the guidelines on training of homeopathic pharmacists. A joint discussion with the Education Subcommittee on the guidelines for training of pharmacists will take place in Sofia. It was decided that Susann should have support for the contributions to HMPWG. It was discussed a “European supply chain management design” for pharmacies and the possibility of having this information in the ECH website.
Hetty informed on the discussions at the Politics Subcommittee. The Greek associations attended the meeting and suggested to contact UEMS and CEOM. A committee on homeopathy could be set up at UEMS if some members of UEMS apply for it. Dimosthenes Papamethodiou will send an email to ECH with further information on UEMS. Potential applicants could be Greece, Latvia and Austria. Many short videos promoting homeopathy are available and they could be uploaded into the ECH YouTube channel and promoted through the ECH social media with short trailers. It was suggested that ECH contracts a journalist to improve public relations. ECH should comply with the new GDPR legislation. Philippe Devos will forward the Belgian GDPR guidelines. There is a proposal from Karen Chapman to produce the one-page flyer on homeopathy. It was suggested that ECH contracts a journalist for its communication strategy. It was considered the possibility of setting an agrohomeopathy networking group to start with. It was agreed that ECH forwards a letter to the Czech Ministry of Health informing them about the CEN Standards. It is important that invoices are sent with a cover letter to facilitate payment. Arlette will ask Charlotte about already available standard cover letters for invoices.
Anna informed on the discussions at the Education Subcommittee. Tiziana intends to develop a project on assessment of published research papers on homeopathy. Philippe Marchat has produced an analysis, available in his blog in French, on the sceptics’ movement. He intends to draft an article both in French and English and publish it on “La revue d’Homéopathie”. It will be circulated to the Council members when available
Caroline stated that before uploading any further information in the ECH website backups should be produced on a regular basis to avoid that data could be lost again.
Dora informed on the discussions at the Education Subcommittee. It was proposed that the guidelines for homeopathic cases were taught to students of the homeopathic medical schools. The Council supports Claudia Garn candidacy as secretary of the LMHI education working group. The Subcommittee discussed strategies for recruitment of students who have been practising for quite a while. Recruitment of students should be done on topics of interest to medical doctors such as antimicrobial resistance. It was decided to improve the dialogue between the Subcommittee and the schools. Education to the general public should be done in a more light and humorous tone. Arlette suggested to send a questionnaire to schools to know which their priorities are. The Subcommittee Pharmacy would like to know which the priorities in homeopathic pharmacy education in different schools are.
Caroline foresees that the Documentation Subcommittee will be attended by 8 people maximum.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Inform Claudia Garn that the Council supports her candidacy as secretary of the LMHI education working group	Jaume Costa	30/4/2018
Include link to Sofia Symposium website in ECH website	Jaume Costa	30/5/2018

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Send flyer of proving workshop to ECH and LMHI accredited schools and to the listed European universities providing homeopathic trainings	Dora Pachova (Charlotte)	30/5/2018
Request members of Politics Subcommittee to inform non-accredited schools about proving workshop	Hetty Buitelaar	30/5/2018
Draft and send letter to Galina informing of cancellation of the Riga Congress	Hélène Renoux Sara Eames	21/4/2018
Remind Dimosthenes Papamethodiou of requested information on UEMS (if not received)	Hélène Renoux	30/4/2018
Upload short videos in the ECH YouTube account	Jaume Costa (Adam)	1/6/2018 and ongoing
Comply with new GDPR legislation	Jaume Costa	15/5/2018
Draft letter to the Czech Ministry of Health to Hélène's signature	Jaume Costa	30/4/2018
Ask Charlotte to forward cover letters for fee invoices to Sara	Arlette Blanchy	15/5/2018
Draft new cover letters for fee invoices if appropriate	Sara Eames	30/6/2018
Discuss ECH website backups with Adam	Jaume Costa	30/4/2018

16	*11-11.15*	*Procedures: conflict of interest forms, Dropbox, procedure for more efficient discussion, ECH archive*	*Sara Eames Hélène Renoux Jaume Costa Caroline Vandeschoor*
Discussion summary		Sara has circulated a form on conflict of interest. It was discussed and she will circulate a new version for comments.	
It was decided not to use Dropbox and review this decision in 6 months' time.			
The documents (minutes etc.) for 2017 should be sent to Charlotte, so she can forward them to the archives.			
Hélène will send official letters to the three Greek homeopathic associations thanking them for the good organization of the Spring meeting.			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Forward edited conflict of interest form to Council members	Sara Eames	30/5/2018
Review decision on Dropbox	ALL (Jaume)	30/11/2018
Forward minutes of 2017 Council, Board and Subcommittee meetings to Charlotte for archives.	Jaume Costa	15/5/2018
Send letter to Greek homeopathic associations	Hélène Renoux	30/4/2018

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17	*11.15-11.25*	*AOB*	*ALL*
Discussion summary		The new GDPR legislation needs to be implemented from May 2018.	
Jack Hendrickx is concerned and would like more information about medical doctors and veterinarians producing their own remedies.			
Conclusions		Hetty will ask the members of the Politics Subcommittee what is the situation in their countries in relation to medical doctors producing their own remedies.	
Action items		**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Request information from Politics Subcommittee on production of remedies by medical doctors		Hetty Buitelaar	30/11/2018