Proceedings of the EUROPET Annual Meeting and Conference, Gelsenkirchen 2007

Vorwort

EUROPET, the paediatric Erasmus Thematic Network of the European Commission is to help promoting the European Higher Education Area – European Research Area (EHEA-ERA). For this reason links were also promoted to the German Society for Medical Education and the following abstracts set for publication in GMS.

According to the Lisbon and Bologna missions, the 2007 EUROPET Annual Meeting focused on formational issues (concentrated in a pre-conference workshop), and in certain areas was also linked to state of the art development in major paediatrics-relevant clinical and research frontiers. Only some 50% of the contributions presented during the Meeting are documented here as short abstracts. The reader is encouraged to directly contact EUROPET via the homepage (http://www.europet.org) for more complete information and details of the entire set of presentations and individual contributions.

Inclusion of abstracts into this collection is on the basis of commonly shared scientific concepts and under the philosophy, to outline the wide spectrum of paediatric related working groups in EUROPET.

Abstracts on formational issues are weakly represented due to the fact that another set of workshops is planned in 2007 and 2008 on this topic. Only after their commencement a complete report will follow on that working area, closely linked to established co-operation to the respective activities of EAP/CESP and a number of national paediatrics societies. Abstracts do not always reflect unanimous or even the content-wise agreement of the majority of references. This is due to both,

i) lack of in depth information on the technical and theoretical details and

ii) divergence from traditional scientific concepts.

Examples of these kind of abstracts are the contributions of Popp and of Schlebusch. Though only loosely linked to paediatrics yet, matters of biophotonics and coherent radiation are considered to have great potential for experimenting with a wide range of stimulating new pathways in research and eventually biological and even up to clinical applications. Molecular Diagnostics, chip technology and biochemical contributions for the detection and treatment of paediatric pathophysiology are only covered in part in this collection of abstracts. Yet they highlight important routes of further EUROPET activities.

Postnatal individual development, neuro-paediatric monitoring, research and therapeutic approaches to autism, ADHS, the efficacy of music and arts therapy are also linked to WHO-ICF concepts. Altogether this complex will form another major activity area of EUROPET, and thus some of the abstracts included have been allowed to present more detail.

Paediatric oncology with a major on rare tumour policies was very soundly represented during the last Annual Meeting though numerical inclusion of abstracts is weak due to copy right issues, and a more extensive proceedings book is also in preparation under EUROPET. Furthermore, a specific oncology workshop with overlapping aspects to other already mentioned majors is in preparation for 2008 and will be announced in due time on the EUROPET homepage.

Obesity, patient and medication safety contributions are clearly underrepresented by abstracts. Again, copyright issues are the prevailing reason for that. Yet intense working activities are pursued in all these areas by EUROPET and will be addressed high profile at the next Annual Meeting at the end of June 2008 in Oulu, Finland (contact: olli.vainio@oulu.fi).

EHEA-ERA philosophies, set for EUROPET by the EC life long learning agency, do also include intercultural and beyond EUROPE aspects. Profile amongst EUROPET partners in this area is developing, though not yet representative in the present abstract collection. A currently launched spin off activity through widely and soundly planned European-African and North-South co-operations under the project HEALTH CAPE is hoped to take off, also financially, in 2008. This concept will also include health management, health sector economizations, medical technology and integrated training approaches, yet its major focus is on paediatrics-relevant realizations of WHO policies, as well as European Development Fund and UN millennium development goals.

Corresponding author:

• Prof. Dr. med. Winrich Breipohl, Institut Arbeit und Technik (IAT), Munscheidstraße 14, 45886 Gelsenkirchen, Deutschland, Tel.: 0209/1707-138, Fax: 0209/1707-245 breipohl@iat.eu

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