

SIG Business Meeting 28.06.09

Psychology and Counselling

Present members of the board:

- Coordinator: Petra Thorn
- Senior Deputies: Chris Verhaak, Jan Norré
- Junior Deputy: Uschi Van den Broeck
- Past Coordinators: Patricia Baetens, Jacky Boivin

1. Thanks to the past coordinator Patricia Baetens

2. Announcements:

- Timing of Business meeting: ESHRE proposed to have all the SIG business meetings at the same time during lunch on Tuesday in the main programme, however Petra Thorn has argued that for maximum attendance of our business meeting it should remain on Sunday as many members only attend the pre-congress course due to time and financial constraints. The members of the business meeting voted unanimously FOR keeping the meeting on Sunday after the SIG pre-congress course.
- Certificate of Attendance may only be provided in the future upon a completed evaluation sheet submitted electronically. This will be for the 2010 conference at the earliest.

3. New election System as of 2009 (ESHRE)

The position of the coordinator and deputies have up until now always been nominated by the members of the SIG. However, ESHRE has decided after careful consideration to shift to a more democratic procedure namely an electronic voting as well as an election system. The elections will be led by the main office. Furthermore, a time frame for the mandates has been issued.

The appointment of the terms of office of the SIG steering Committees will be as follows:

- All members of the steering committee are elected by the members of the SIG
- All members of the steering committee will serve a term of two years, however
- After one year, the members will elect the coordinator-elect from the two deputies. The coordinator-elect will automatically become the new coordinator one year later;
- The coordinator will automatically become past-coordinator after 2 years as coordinator;
- Re-election can take place.

The SIG members will be asked for nominees to stand as candidate for the election. A short list of candidates will then be drawn-up, from which the SIG members can then elect new members for the steering committee.

4. First CAMPUS WORKSHOP to be held in BASEL, SWITZERLAND

On August 29th the first campus workshop of the SIG Psychology and Counselling will be held in Basel, Switzerland. The main office has announced that over 30 participants have registered, so the workshop can now proceed.

The organizing committee will convene on the night before the workshop to discuss details of the following day and afterwards a dinner will be held for the speakers in which we will review the day's events and evaluate the success of the workshop.

If the workshop received positive reviews and comments, we will consider either a repetition of the current workshop in different countries across Europe (such as Eastern Europe where demand for training is high but financial resources to attend trainings is limited; as well as Spain, Portugal etc.). However, language should be considered as a possible obstacle and will need to be discussed further.

In addition other workshops could be considered in the future e.g. a workshop on issues with donation or cross-border-reproductive care.

5. Participation of SIG P&C members in other ESHRE Campus Workshops

Workshop Leuven: *"Important insights for nurses/midwives and allied health professionals, working in reproductive health: psychological aspects of care, endometriosis, quality of care and nursing aspects."* was organized as an ESHRE Campus symposium in Leuven, Belgium on 29-30 May 2009.

- Patricia Baetens, Chris Verhaak and Uschi Van den Broeck attended and were invited speaker for a section on 'psychological aspects in infertility'.

In 2010 Petra Thorn will collaborate in a Campus Workshop on Early Ovarian Failure.

It is the SIG members joined belief that more visibility and participation in Campus Workshops of other SIGS not only increases the validity of the SIG P&C but can enable us to 'spread the word' on the psychosocial issues in infertility counseling thus lowering the threshold for 'psychology' in Reproductive Medicine.

6. Updating the ESHRE Guidelines for Infertility Counselling

Tewes Wischmann and Petra Thorn attended the 'guidelines for guidelines' course organized by ESHRE. This is a very formalized procedure to follow to ensure the high quality of the guidelines. However, for our SIG this will entail a thorough revision and adjustment of the current guidelines.

Jacky Boivin remarked that it would be interesting to collaborate with others such as BICA, Spain and other international groups which have already developed good guidelines or are in the stages of developing guidelines.

Furthermore a working group should be set up to discuss how we will build and organize the new guidelines.

The conclusion of the discussion is as follows:

- 1) An e-mail will be sent out by the coordinator after the summer to inquire who is interested to join the working group to discuss the guidelines. This is an expression of interest (and by no means an obligation to write or participate in the construction of the new guidelines afterwards). In this e-mail a link to the current ESHRE guidelines will be provided.
- 2) The working group will get together (either via e-mail, a face-to-face meeting or next year in Rome remains unclear) to discuss some ideas and see how we can implement the 'guidelines for guidelines' proposed by ESHRE in our subject of Psychology and Counselling.
- 3) This preliminary meeting should have consensus on whether the group feels it is possible to update the guidelines within the 'guidelines for guidelines' framework and which members will participate in the construction of the new guidelines.

7. Future campus Workshops?

Question to the members: 'Is there a need for future workshops?'

- Proposal J. Boivin (UK): It would be valuable to embed the course into other groups as to deliver the psychological message to a lot of people/professions simultaneously.
- Comment T. Vanhaecke (Belgium): A course on the 'role of counsellors' would also be interesting discussion between need for education within our groups versus delivering the message of 'psychology in infertility' outside of the group to increase our impact.
- Comment U. Van den Broeck (Belgium): perhaps interesting idea to alternate workshops with focusing on clinical issues and counseling one year and the next reaching out to other disciplines and spreading the message.
- Another comment is made by the group in terms of accessibility of workshops: We discussed the possibility of videotaping the course, but this option turned out to be too costly. Therefore, the proceedings will be published on our website and potentially in an additional format.

CONCLUSION of the discussion:

- The next workshop will be on a broader topic that reaches out to other disciplines e.g. :
 - o How to help doctors deal with patients: counselors teaching doctors the skills and technique to deal with patients
 - o How can psychosocial interventions help other professionals? (cfr M. Emery (Switzerland) has meetings with her medical colleagues twice a year as a teaching moment)
 - o Psycho-education on infertility for different disciplines
 - o Proposal to question the other disciplines on their need for education: what do they want our help for?

PSYCHOSOCIAL 'TOOLKIT' in DAY TO DAY PRACTICE:

- We will need a more fitting word for 'toolkit'
- Jacky Boivin has the expertise in this area
- Petra Thorn will send out an e-mail to ALL members to brainstorm on questions and topics for this workshop (after the Basel workshop has finished).

20. July 2009

Uschi van den Broeck