

**Section of Psychiatry**

Minutes of the fifteenth meeting of the UEMS Section for Psychiatry held in Lisbon, Portugal on 8 October 1998.

**1. Present**

Dr V. Martin - Belgium - Belge Professionelles des Neurologues et Psychiatres  
Dr I. Tuma - Czech Republic - Psychiatric Association of the Czech Medical Association  
Dr A. Lindhardt - Denmark - Danish Psychiatric Association  
Dr H. Aggernaes - Denmark - Danish Psychiatric Association  
Dr R. Salokangas - Finland - Finnish Psychiatric Association  
Dr H. Sontag - France - Association Francaise de Psychiatres  
Dr J. Laboutiere - France - Association Francais de Psychiatres  
Prof. F. Hohagen - Germany - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Psychiatrie Psychotherapie und Nervenheilkunde  
Dr S. Treichel - Germany - Berufsverband Deutscher Nervenartzte  
Prof. G. Christodoulou - Greece - Hellenic Psychiatric Association  
Prof. J. Furedi - Hungary - Hungarian Psychiatric Association  
Dr C. Smith - Ireland - Irish Medical Association  
Dr J. Saliba - Malta - Association of Maltese Psychiatrists  
Prof. W. Schudel - Netherlands - Nederlandse Vereniging voor Psychiatrie  
Mr R. Doesschate - Netherlands - Nederlandse Vereniging voor Psychiatrie  
Dr E. Hagemo - Norway - Norwegian Medical Association  
Prof. A. Piotrowski - Poland - Polish Psychiatric Association  
Dr A. De Albuquerque - Portugal - Ordem dos Medicos  
Dr S. Zihel - Slovenia - Slovenian Psychiatric Association  
Prof. M. Gomez-Beneyto - Spain - Asociacion Espanola de Neuropsiquiatria  
Dr H. Nybäck - Sweden - Swedish Psychiatric Association  
Dr A. Kubli - Switzerland - Societe Suisse de Psychiatrie et Psychotherapie  
Dame Fiona Caldicott - UK - Royal College of Psychiatrists  
Prof. A. Mann - UK - Royal College of Psychiatrists

**2. Apologies**

Prof. P. König - Austria - Osterr Gesellschaft für Neurologie und Psychiatrie  
Prof. P. Lievens - Belgium - Association Professioneel Belge des Neurologues et des Psychiatres  
Dr K. Pylkkänen - Finland - Finnish Psychiatric Association  
Prof. N. Walsh - Ireland - Higher Training Committee  
Prof. P. Furlan - Italy  
Prof. S. Opjordsmoen - Norway - Norwegian Psychiatric Association  
Dr K. Svärd - Sweden - Swedish Psychiatric Association  
Dr G. Zarotti - Switzerland - Swiss Psychiatric Association  
Dr A. Carney - Permanent Working Group on Junior Doctors

Dame Fiona Caldicott, the President, opened the meeting by welcoming members to Lisbon.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 1998**

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting held in Helsinki, Finland on 25 April 1998, subject to the following changes:

Item 1 - That Dr F Hohagen was not present at the meeting and had presented his apologies and that Dr Salokangas was present at the meeting. It was noted that it had previously been agreed that the national association of the member should be included in the list of those present.

Item 4(a) - It was noted that the document, 'Recommendations for Continuing Medical Education', had not been revised and circulated to members. The document was therefore revised during the meeting and duly circulated. It was agreed to send this document to the UEMS management group.

It was noted that the document on the core skills required by a psychiatrist, which had come out of a meeting with other Royal Medical Colleges in London in March, had not as yet been published. It was agreed that this would be distributed when available.

#### **4 Matters Arising From the Minutes**

##### **a) Item 4 (a) Reports from the Working Groups**

###### **(i) Biological Psychiatry Chaired by Dr Fritz Hohagen**

Prof Hohagen presented to the Section an overview of the results of the Biological Psychiatry questionnaire. It was agreed to distribute a statement, including recommendations for requirements for training in biological psychiatry, to Section members for discussion at the next meeting. Following this a statement would be circulated to national associations for comment.

There followed a lively discussion on the public perception of the role of pharmaceuticals in psychiatry. It was agreed to discuss this further under Item 7 'Any Other Business'.

###### **(ii) Social Psychiatry Chaired by Dr Ellen Hagemo**

The Committee discussed the report produced by the working group on Social and Community Psychiatry. The definitions, principles and recommendations were agreed following an adjustment to the definition of 'site' and the inclusion of a comment on the implications of social psychiatry. It was agreed that the report would be added to the document 'Requirements for Training in Psychiatry', further to the incorporation of these amendments.

###### **(iii) Quality Assurance Chaired by Dr Karl-Otto Svärd**

Dr Anne Lindhardt reported that the working group had received only two responses to its draft document on quality assurance. This was clearly not representative of the Section and as such it was impossible to finalise the document. It was agreed to circulate the document again. Dr Lindhardt asked the members to present the document to their National Associations for comment at the earliest possible opportunity.

##### **b) Item 4(b) Notion of the Medical Act**

It was proposed that this item be removed from the agenda. This was agreed.

##### **c) Item 4(a) Continuing Medical Education**

(i) The French members reported that a psychiatrist practising in France had recently been punished by the Courts after a patient in his care had committed suicide. The Section agreed that this was a matter of concern.

###### **(ii) Letter received from Dr König**

A letter was received from Dr König regarding his expenses while working as the Section representative on the CME committee. It was agreed to discuss this under Item 6 (b) 'Budget for 1999' below.

The President reported that Dr König had suggested that there be closer links between the Section members and local CME initiative panels. The Secretary agreed to write to Dr König regarding this.

d) Item 4(c) (i) Mental Health Legislation

The question of mental health legislation was discussed. It was noted that while there was free movement of personnel between member countries it was important to ensure that trainees in psychiatry were fully aware of the mental health legislation in the country in which they proposed to work. This matter was discussed in some detail.

Dr Aggernaes offered to circulate a revised version of the questionnaire on mental health legislation, previously distributed in 1993. Responses would be collated, following which it would be decided whether a working group should attempt to form a set of recommendations.

It was agreed that the mental health legislation of member countries should be available if required. It was therefore decided to hold copies of mental health legislation (preferably translated into English) at the UEMS office.

e) Collaboration with other European Associations

Item 4(e) - It was agreed to write to Professor Mezzich, the Secretary-General of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) to request an application form for affiliation to the WPA.

## 5. UEMS Matters

a) UEMS Management Council

In Dr Kari Pykkänen's absence no report was received.

b) UEMS Section Representatives Meeting

The President asked the membership to inform her of any issues that they wished to be raised at the next meeting of the UEMS Section representatives.

It was agreed that the following would be raised:

- Language requirements for EU psychiatrists working in countries from which they did not receive their primary medical qualification.
- The issue of mental health legislation

c) Report from Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

It was agreed that the minutes of the Child and Adolescent Section in Psychiatry would be circulated when available.

## 6. Treasurers Report

This report was received. The Treasurer noted a decrease in general expenses and an increase in incidental expenses caused by the publication of the supplement.

It was agreed that in future the figures would be presented in Euros.

The 1999 budget had been prepared allowing a surplus of 20,000 Belgian francs. It was agreed that this should be set aside to contribute to the travelling expenses of a member to attend an agreed meeting. It was agreed to allow Dr König to apply for this as a contribution to his expenses to attend the conference on CME.

## 7. Any other Business

### (a) Relationship between UEMS and AEP

The Section discussed the relationship between the Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP) and the UEMS Section and Board of Psychiatry. The Secretary expressed disappointment that at a recent symposium organised by the AEP and attended by several members of the UEMS, few members of the AEP were aware of the work of the UEMS. It was proposed that links with this organisation be made stronger.

It was noted that Regional Congresses of the World Psychiatric Association would meet in Athens from 24 to 28 February 1999 and in Hamburg from 6 to 13 August. It was hoped that UEMS members would be able to make a presentation at these events.

### (b) Working Groups

The Section considered the formation of the following new working groups:

- (i) Mental Health Legislation
- (ii) Old Age Psychiatry
- (ii) Relationships between Psychologists and Psychiatrists
- (iv) Psychiatric Health Care Provision

It was agreed to form working groups on Mental Health Legislation and Old Age Psychiatry.

The Mental Health Legislation group decided to focus initially on producing descriptions of the legislation currently in use in member countries. The working group on Old Age Psychiatry intended to circulate a questionnaire to ascertain the current state of elderly and mental health provision in member countries.

### (c) Application from Cyprus

The Section received an application from the Psychiatric Association in Cyprus to join the UEMS Section and Board in Psychiatry. It was agreed that the President would raise the matter at the UEMS Section Representatives meeting in Brussels.

### (d) UEMS Web-site

Dr Martin gave a presentation on the proposed web-site. He suggested that the Section and Board did not at this stage require their own web-site and proposed that certain key documents be attached to the UEMS home pages. He had approached the site's web editor concerning this and was currently awaiting a reply.

### (e) Portuguese Medical Association

Dr Albuquerque informed the Section that the Portuguese Medical Association was currently lobbying government on the issue of funding for neuroleptics and antidepressants. A petition was circulated in support of this, which he asked section members to sign.

### (f) Communication channels within EU bodies

It was noted with concern that under Directives 97/50 [October 6th 1997] a Committee of Senior Health Officers, comprised of civil servants, has been granted increasing influence within the EU organisational structure. In turn the Advisory Committee on Medical Training, comprised of medical practitioners, has seen their influence decline.

### (g) Non-medical psychotherapy in France

Dr Sontag reported that an unregulated body called the European Association for Psychotherapists was currently acting as an advisory body to the French government. Concern was expressed that a similar situation may arise elsewhere in Europe. The President agreed to raise this matter at the Section Representatives Meeting in Brussels.

(h) Relationship between psychiatrists and psychologists

Dr Hohagen reported that in Germany patients could now be referred directly to a psychologist without first seeing a psychiatrist. It was agreed that Dr Hohagen would circulate a questionnaire requesting details of referral procedures in membership countries. The responses to this questionnaire would be discussed at the next meeting of the Section.

(i) Meeting in Budapest 15 -17 April 1999

Dr Furedi presented the programme of the next UEMS meeting in Budapest. He asked that all members return the initial application form to him, either during the meeting or in its immediate aftermath.

**8. Dates of Next Meeting**

15 -17 April 1999	Budapest, Hungary
7 - 9 October 1999	Malta
13 - 15 April 2000	France
5 - 7 October 2000	Slovenia, or alternatively Belgium