

THE WORLD AS IT IS

THE EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF BAROMEDICINE

Ramiro Cali-Corleo and Peter HJ Mueller

Key Words

Hyperbaric research, qualifications, training, underwater medicine.

History was made at the Annual Scientific Meeting 2000 of the European Underwater and Baromedical Society (EUBS) September 14-17 in Malta with the foundation of the European College of Baromedicine.

Introduction

The concept of setting up an international academic institution with the aim of sustaining and improving the academic and professional qualifications of all those working in the field of underwater, aerospace and hyperbaric medicine has been supported by many of the members of EUBS.

The European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine (ECHM) and the European Diving Technology Committee (EDTC) have been working to create harmonised European standards and the formation of a College to carry on this work and to provide for the requirements of modern medical science is a natural progression. A College would also enhance the credibility of Baromedicine in both national and international medical and political spheres.

The beginning

In 1999, during the EUBS annual meeting in Israel, a steering committee was formed with the task of putting together the necessary instruments and structures, such as statutes, registrations and working committees, with the ambitious target of setting up and launching the College in the following year.

The result

The College Steering Committee, under the Chairmanship of Professor Francis Wattel from France, succeeded in its task and during its first formal meeting the statute and statutory instruments were approved and the first College Council elected. The officers and members of the first Council and their positions are displayed in the box in the next column.

<p>President Prof. Francis Wattel (France)</p>
<p>Secretary General Prof. Alessandro Marroni (Italy)</p>
<p>Secretary Academic Affairs Prof. Daniel Mathieu (France)</p>
<p>Registrar Dr. Ramiro Cali-Corleo (Malta)</p>
<p>Members Dr. Costantino Balestra (Belgium) Dr. Dirk Bakker (The Netherlands) Prof. Peter Bennett (USA) Prof. Alf Brubakk (Norway) Prof. Giancarlo Cianfrone (Italy) Dr. Jordi Desola (Spain) Prof. David Elliott (United Kingdom) Prof. Tomislav Jovanovic (Yugoslavia) Prof. Igor Mekjavic (Slovenia) Dr. Yehuda Melamed (Israel) Dr. Joerg Schmutz (Switzerland) Dr. Juerg Wendling (Switzerland)</p>

The first General Meeting of the new College of Baromedicine was held at the beginning of the afternoon session of the Annual Scientific Meeting 2000 of EUBS on Saturday 16th September. After Professor Wattel addressed the meeting Dr Cali-Corleo gave a presentation on the structure, functions and aims of the College. At the end of the presentation, the attendees were invited to declare their interest to form part of the College by completing a form. The presentation was very well received and over 80 individuals completed and handed in a declaration of interest form. They will be sent more information from the College as well as a request for details of their professional status.

Aims and objectives of the College

The College is intended to function primarily as a certifying and registration body working with already established, and supporting new, academic and training institutions. Its primary and principal objective is encouraging, fostering and maintaining the highest possible standards in the teaching and practice of pressure related medicine as advocated by the European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine.

The College will be working towards sustaining and improving the academic and professional qualifications of its members and for that purpose will be organising and supporting courses, examinations and continued medical education seminars. It will also take, or join with others in taking, any steps consistent with these activities such as the granting of diplomas or other certificates of proficiency or standards as an academic institution in its own right or jointly with universities and other academic bodies.

The College does not aim to replace or compete with national universities and training institutions but plans to work with them. This work will be especially important in those countries that are unable to sustain a regular academic program in Baromedicine due to the small numbers of applicants at any one time as well as the difficulties in putting together a faculty of experts to train them.

Another of its main aims is to safeguard, protect and promote the professional interests of its members. It will ensure that the speciality is coherent with present and

future National and European regulations, especially with regard to the practice of the speciality. One of these requirements is the creation of a specialist register in Baromedicine. It will also conduct, direct, encourage, support or provide for research in matters relating to Baromedicine and promote publication.

Any person wishing to learn more about the College is invited to contact

Professor Marroni or
Dr Cali-Corleo

at the DAN Europe Foundation address:

Enfin, Marmora Str, St Julians SGN 10, MALTA
E-mail: <irocali@daneurope.org>.

Correspondence to Dr. med. Peter HJ Mueller, Editor, European Journal of Underwater and Hyperbaric Medicine (EJUHM). Dr Mueller's address is C/o HBO Rhein-Neckar, Speyerer Strasse 91-93, D-68163 Mannheim, Germany. E-mail <eubs@hbo-mannheim.de>.

DIVE SMART DIVE SECURE

Be a DAN Member

World-wide, Caring Experience Has Its Benefits...

- Worldwide Emergency Evacuation • Diving Injury & Personal Accident Insurance
- 24-hour Diving Emergency Hotlines • Dive Safety Education and Research
- Access to First Aid and Oxygen Training
- ID card, Dive First Aid Manual Decal and Alert Diver quarterly Magazine

TO JOIN...
please contact DAN SEAP
directly, sign up on our website
or pick up a brochure
from your dive store.



Your Buddy in Dive Safety

Tel: 61-3-9886 9166 Fax: 61-3-9886 9155
email: info@danseap.org Web site: www.danseap.org