

S P R I N G 2 0 1 4

# EFIM News

European Federation of Internal Medicine – Newsletter 4



## Spring is here!

Welcome to the fourth newsletter from the EFIM Exec team and Young Internists. We extend a very warm greeting to all of the EFIM members. As announced earlier this newsletter will be produced every quarter to update you on events and activities from 2014 and into 2015.

The European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM) is a scientific organisation founded in 1996 and dedicated to the progression and development of Internal Medicine across Europe.

[More EFIM info](#)

We welcome contributions from all of the EFIM member countries and from individual members who would like to share ideas opportunities and pictures from EFIM events that you have attended.

Please contact us via e-mail at [info@EFIM.org](mailto:info@EFIM.org)

## Welcome and Invitation to EFIM AC Meeting – Geneva May 2014

The agenda for the Administrative Council meeting that is taking place in Geneva on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May is full of interesting and important decisions for the future. EFIM is looking forward to increasing the number of participants to the ESCIM Geneva 2014 Congress and therefore we should all make a big effort to publicise and spread news of the event and have a highly successful Congress in scientific terms. This is the most important yearly meeting point for European internists. A lot of EFIM activities are going to be updated during the AC meeting including the launch of the new EFIM website, 2014 and 2015 European Schools of Internal Medicine, EFIM journals, upcoming congresses and EFIM subcommittees. We are looking forward to meeting with you in Geneva!

Pedro Conthe – Secretary General, EFIM

### Save the Date!

#### ESCIM

14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May '14

Annual Congress of EFIM and Swiss Society in Geneva.

#### European School

16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June '14

ESIM welcomes you to Sardinia for ESIM 2014

#### Research Seminar

7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> July '14

10<sup>th</sup> EFIM – FDIME Research Seminar in Paris.





## ESCIM – 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May 2014

The first joint European and Swiss Congress of Internal Medicine will be held from 14 to 16 May 2014 in Geneva, under the aegis of the Swiss Society of General Internal Medicine (SSGIM) and the European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM.)

*Arnaud Perrier* (SSGIM Congress President and ESCIM 2014 President of the scientific committee.)

### How did this initiative come about?

There is a very strong tradition of general internal medicine in Switzerland, be it in outpatient practice or in hospitals, including university hospitals. The existence of a shared educational pathway for internal medicine in hospitals for both future general practitioners and future general internal medicine specialists is virtually unique in Europe. In order to promote this model and benefit from other experiences, the SSGIM has been fostering links with the European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM) for many years. The EFIM brings together 33 national societies of internal medicine, comprising a

total of around 33,000 members. Dr. Werner Bauer, who was also the President of the SSGIM, has even chaired the Council of the EFIM. The idea of incorporating the EFIM into the annual SSGIM congress, in order to increase our audience and promote ex- changes between colleagues from various European countries, therefore came about quite naturally.

### The Programme

The trend lectures will allow us to approach a wide range of topics of general importance for our activity. We will have the good fortune of being able to rely on the participation of esteemed speakers from North America and Europe, such as Zeke Emanuel from the University of Pennsylvania, who will encourage us to ponder the ethical nature of the rationing of care; David Bates from the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, who will discuss whether the recent concerns about quality changes anything for the reality of our patients; Sanjay Saint from Ann Arbor, who will discuss the influence of bias in clinical reasoning on diagnostic error; and Jacques Cornuz from the SSGIM, and Erdal Alkalin from the EFIM, who will speak on the current state of the *Choosing wisely* activities in Switzerland and Europe. Louis Loutan from Geneva will speak on health and migrations, a crucial and topical issue. Sophia de Rooij from the Netherlands will propose a number of approaches for dealing with the challenge of caring for the *oldest old*. Victor Montori, from the Mayo Clinic, will give a lecture on the growing participation of our patients as stakeholders in the healthcare system. Finally, William Ghali, a renowned hospitalist from Calgary, will describe his experience of the healthcare unit of tomorrow.

The special session on integrated care has already been mentioned. To this we must add the half- day organised by the Young Internists Young Internists, who are very active within the EFIM, and for whom a Swiss section was created a year ago. The programme of this half-day is always very attractive and will allow internal medicine specialists undergoing postgraduate training from all over Europe to exchange views and to network.

### More Information and video interviews



[VIDEO 1](#)



[VIDEO 2](#)



[VIDEO 3](#)



[VIDEO 4](#)

# The Swiss Society of General Internal Medicine

Prof. J.-M. Gaspoz

President of the Swiss Society of General Internal Medicine

In Switzerland, General Internal Medicine constitutes a long-standing tradition, as much in terms of outpatient practices, as in terms of hospital care and training, and of contribution to teaching in medical schools. The existence of a specific postgraduate training program, with a common basis shared by both general practitioners and general internists, is practically unique in Europe. In addition to being deeply involved in post-graduate training, the 83 year-old Swiss Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM), through its continuous medical education program, creates the conditions for its 4'350 members to achieve high quality standards of professionalism, in order to deliver comprehensive, patient-centered, evidence-based and cost-effective care. The SGIM organizes two important congresses each year: its annual scientific congress in May and "Great Update" in September, a congress more directly addressing the specific interests of general practitioners through workshops and seminars.

In addition, the SGIM has developed a close partnership with MFe (Médecins de Famille et de l'Enfance), a union that defends the political and economic interests of family physicians and pediatricians in Switzerland, to obtain a fair reimbursement of out-patient care; the SGIM is also at the frontline of the defense of a correct reimbursement and financing of hospital divisions of general internal medicine through the DRG system.

By means of scholarships, prizes and direct involvement of its members in the academic institutions, the SGIM supports research in its field, both in the in- and outpatient settings. The SGIM is also a major contributor to the development of new health care models in Switzerland and abroad, such as integrated or chronic care models. Through its Foundation, the SGIM has sponsored pilot projects to promote and improve transitional care in Switzerland. It is now launching a challenging campaign in line with the "Choosing wisely" initiative in the USA, which will be called "Smarter Medicine". The initial event of this campaign will take place at the Opening Lecture of the ESCIM Congress (European and Swiss Congress of Internal Medicine) in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 14<sup>th</sup>, with the official announcement of a "Top five" list for general internists in ambulatory care. That list will include 5 diagnostic or therapeutic procedures that the SGIM will recommend against, because of their absence of added value to patients but a non-negligible potential for harms and for economically inefficient care. A "Top five" list for in-patient general internal medicine will be issued next year.

SGIM's longstanding contacts with the European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM) will culminate with the organization of the above-mentioned common annual congress at Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland, from May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The SGIM also maintains close relationships with the American College of Physicians (ACP). Many members of the SGIM participate to the annual ACP congress in the USA. Through the SGIM, its young members, some of them regrouped in a "young internist" section of the society, can acquire the MKSAP teaching material at special rates; SGIM members will also be able to access soon the interactive «ACP Smart-Medicine» self-assessment platform.



<http://www.escim2014.org>

# European School of Internal Medicine

## Welcome to Sardinia!

The **ESIM Summer School 2014** is currently in preparation. It will maintain the general format of the previous very successful courses, with lectures, workshops, case presentations by the students, interactive sessions and, of course, some social activities. The participants will actively get involved in evidence-based patient management issues with a particular emphasis on methodology. Clinical methodology will be one of the leading focus of the School, intermingled with acute and geriatric medicine topics. Moreover, a half-of-a-day session on guidelines critical appraisal will serve as a “gym” to finalize a possible publication. We are very happy to confirm that Richard Smith, former Editor of the British Medical Journal, will be a faculty of the School, and he will take charge of a “Less is More” daily section **Sardinia** is one of the biggest Mediterranean Island. The location of the course is a resort (Free Beach Club) offering an amazing beach and any kind of water activities. We hope that the mixture of culture, nature and human interaction may continue to maintain the ESIM School as a unique experience. We are looking forward to meeting you during ESIM 2014.



## Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine

[www.ejcrim.com](http://www.ejcrim.com)

European Journal of Case Reports in Internal Medicine welcomes manuscripts describing unusual and complex clinical cases, case series, novel manifestations of a specific pathology, examples of the impact of technology on internal medicine practice, and so forth. A submission and publication fee totaling 100 Euros is required, the lowest among open access journals. Editors are committed to fast peer-review times in order to grant quick publication of meritorious papers. The first articles have begun appearing online in January 2014. To date 41 manuscripts have been received and 9 articles have been published at [www.ejcrim.com](http://www.ejcrim.com). Indexing by Google Scholar is underway and further coverage by major indexing institutes will commence as soon as a sufficient number of articles are published. EJCRIM is grateful to all authors whose contributions add further experience to the daily clinical practice of European internists.

**SUBMIT to [www.ejcrim.com](http://www.ejcrim.com)**

# European Medicines Agency EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

EFIM is officially recognized as a Healthcare Professionals Organization by the EMA. As such, EFIM is invited to participate in different activities of the EMA. The most visible is the participation of EFIM's delegate (Prof Daniel Sereni) or his substitute (Prof Lorenzo Dagna) to the meetings of the Health Care Professionals (HCPs) Working Group. The objectives of this group are to give the opinion of HCPs to the Agency on matters such as pharmacovigilance, communication to professionals about safety and efficacy issues regarding approved medicines, implementation of new tools for post marketing evaluation etc.. Some of these meetings are partly joint with the Consumers and Patients Organisations representatives. The EMA keeps us informed about important warnings concerning safety that we circulate to national societies and on specific issues like shortages in certain medicines.

The last meeting in February 2014 was a workshop on regulatory and methodological standards to improve benefit/ risk evaluation of medicines. EFIM is also asked to provide the EMA with names of experts in particular fields. Overall, EFIM is therefore able to transmit to the EMA authorities the opinion of the European Internists on important topics regarding the use of medicines

## FADOI Congress on Not-for-Profit Research

FADOI (Federation of Associations of Hospital Internists) is an Italian Scientific Society of Internal Medicine, deeply involved in clinical research and medical education, and affiliated to EFIM.

On March 12-13, 2014, FADOI has promoted the Third Edition of the National Congress on Not-for-Profit Research, with the aim to analyze critical issues and future perspectives of clinical research in Italy, especially to that promoted by Not-for-profit organizations. In particular, the Congress was focused on several aspects of a general topic: *"Globalization and competitiveness: a challenge for non-profit research"*. Coherently with the theme of the Congress, the Program included a Round-Table organized in cooperation with EFIM, to present and to discuss the scenario of not-for-profit clinical research in a number of different Health Systems. The session was attended by Frank Bosch (The Netherlands), Kevin Davies (UK), Valentin Kokorin (Russia), Ramon Pujol (Spain), Ranieri Guerra (USA), Giorgio Vescovo (Italy), under moderation of EFIM President, Nica Cappellini and EFIM Italian Delegate, Roberto Nardi. Major differences emerged among countries in terms of regulatory, resources, timing, etc... In spite of this the Round Table confirmed that, in a moment of overall difficulty, Not-for-profit research may represent a viable alternative for the promotion of projects clinically relevant. The cooperation among countries should be encouraged for a more effective use of the available resources.

## EFIM Secretariat Meeting



EFIM 1<sup>st</sup> secretaries' meeting was held in Brussels on Tuesday, 4 February. 11 representatives from different National Societies attended the meeting. The idea behind the meeting was to establish closer relationship with the National societies and raise the importance of EFIM activities among national society's members. The meeting was very productive and brought lots of new ideas for better communication. Nica Cappellini, Frank Bosch, Jan Willem Elte and Pedro Conthe gave presentations on EFIM history, present activities and future projects, while Aneta Trajkovska informed the participants on the practical information and EFIM day-to-day activities. The communication with the representing societies has significantly improved since this meeting. We will discuss in Geneva the possibility of organising the second meeting.

## EFIM and Rare Diseases

The European Commission has recently created an ad hoc Commission of Experts aimed to counsel and advise the Commission in all its activities in the field of Rare Diseases. Last January 2014, EFIM was officially selected and appointed to be part of the EU Commission Expert Group on Rare Diseases. Prof. Lorenzo Dagna and Prof. Maria Domenica Cappellini will be representing EFIM in this Expert Group.

The Expert Group first met on February 2014 in Luxembourg and Prof. Lorenzo Dagna from EFIM was elected to coordinate the other scientific societies taking part to the Group (the European Societies of Pediatrics, Human Genetics and Hematology).

This achievement, together other activities including the participation of EFIM as represented by Prof. Daniel Sereni in the European Medicines Agency (EMA) Healthcare Professionals Working Party, is another crucial step that strongly increases the role of EFIM in Europe. Also, taking part to this Commission of Experts will set new ambitious objectives for the EFIM Rare Disease Working Group.

## Young Internists

Dear Friends and Colleagues!

The **Young Internists Group** is the trainee organization within (EFIM). Our mission is to create a network of physicians in training in Europe, facilitate research projects and promote high quality training in Internal Medicine.

Interested in meeting medical trainees from other countries to share experiences and exchange ideas? Why not apply to attend one of the popular European Schools of Internal Medicine? Another way to get involved in EFIM activities is to participate in the yearly Clinical Research Seminar, held in Paris every summer. Or you could take part in the EXCHANGE Programme and spend time living and working in another European country.

We also hope to see you all on **Friday, 16 May 2014** for our **8<sup>th</sup> Young Internists' Day** at the European Congress in Geneva, which offers guest lectures ("What do you want to be" by Prof. Jens Eckstein and "How to be a great leader and team-player" by Prof. Ferdinando Schiraldi from Italy), debates ("Live or let die" a case-based debate on end-of-life decisions) and our popular Clinical Gymnasium among other topics.

**What else are we doing?** We just finished one of our European surveys: "Assessment of working conditions and trainee satisfaction amongst European Young Internists". We received more than 500 responses and the results will be presented during our next **9<sup>th</sup> YI Assembly in Geneva**. And soon we planned to start our new Survey: End-of-life decisions that explores the attitudes of European Internists towards the provision of life-sustaining treatments in common clinical scenarios. It is aimed at specialists and physicians in training practising Internal Medicine in Europe.

Please visit our website at [www.younginternists.efim.org](http://www.younginternists.efim.org) for more information

and keep an eye on our Facebook group page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/158107447541885/>

## NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON



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