THE WORLD AS IT IS

THE EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF BAROMEDICINE

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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.

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>.
SOUTH PACIFIC UNDERWATER MEDICINE SOCIETY NOTICES

South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society
Diploma of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine

Requirements for candidates

In order for the Diploma of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine to be awarded by the society, the candidate must comply with the following conditions:
1. The candidate must be a financial member of the Society.
2. The candidate must supply evidence of satisfactory completion of examined courses in both Basic and Advanced Course in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine at an approved institution.
3. The candidate must have completed the equivalent (as determined by the Education Officer) of at least six months full time training in an approved Hyperbaric Medicine Unit.
4. The candidate must submit a written research proposal in a standard format for approval by the Education Officer before commencing their research project.
5. The candidate must produce, to the satisfaction of the Education Officer, a written report on the approved research project, in the form of a scientific paper suitable for publication.

Additional information

The candidate must contact the Education Officer to advise of their intended candidacy, seek approval of their courses in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine and training time in the intended Hyperbaric Medicine Unit, discuss the proposed subject matter of their research proposed, and obtain instructions before submitting any written material or commencing a research project.

All research reports must clearly test a hypothesis. Preference will be given to reports of original basic or clinical research. Case series reports may be acceptable if thoroughly documented, subject to quantitative analysis, and the subject is extensively researched and discussed in detail. Reports of a single case are insufficient. Review articles may be acceptable if the world literature is thoroughly analysed and discussed, and the subject has not recently been similarly reviewed. Previously published material will not be considered.

It is expected that all research will be conducted in accordance with the “Joint NH&MRC/AVCC statement and guidelines on research practice” (available at http://www.health.gov.au/nhmrc/research/nhmrcavc.htm). All research involving humans or animals must be accompanied by documentary evidence of approval by an appropriate research ethics committee. It is expected that research project and the written report will be primarily the work of the candidate.

The Education Officer reserves the right to modify any of these requirements from time to time.

The Education Officer’s address is Dr David Doolette, Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia 5005. Telephone (0)8-8303-6382. Fax (0)8-8303-3909. E-mail <David.Doolette@adelaide.edu.au>.

THE 2001 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING of the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society will be held from May 26th to June 2nd 2001 in Madang, Papua New Guinea

Guest speaker
Dr James Francis

Due to circumstances beyond our control Dr Craig Conoscenti will not be speaking at this meeting

Convenor Dr Guy Williams

Theme
Diving and the Lung

Workshop
Drowning/Near Drowning

Members wishing to present papers should contact Dr Guy Williams
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Fax +61-(0)3-9885-1164
E-mail <allwaysdive@atlasmail.com>
MINUTES OF THE  
SPUMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
held at the HTNA meeting in Brisbane on 2000/9/10

Opened 0915

Present  
Drs R Walker (President), G Williams (Immediate  
Past-President), C Meehan (Secretary), J Knight (Editor),  
C Acott, D Walker (Committee Members), M Bennett  
(ANZHMG Representative)

Apologies  
P Dupont (Treasurer), D Doolette (Education  
Officer), S Mitchell (Committee Member)

1 Minutes of the previous meeting (May 2000)  
Moved that the minutes be accepted as a true record.  
Proposed J Knight, seconded D Walker, carried.

2 Matters arising from the minutes
2.1 Job description of the Convener.  
A statement on the allocation of FOC (free of  
charge) airline seats and hotel rooms should be  
included, as well as discussion about providing a  
dive guide if necessary. Dr G Williams will do  
this and then circulate to the committee for  
comment.

2.2 Update on the SPUMS website given by the  
SPUMS administrator, Steve Goble, and Dr C  
Meehan. S Goble can now update most of the  
pages on the site, although some further software  
needs to be purchased. The home page has been  
redesigned to make movement around the site  
more efficient and this will soon be posted. The  
Journal index, which is downloadable, cannot be  
on the website as a searchable database except at  
considerable expense. Discussion has been made  
on the setting up of a new active server for the  
ANZ HMG. The Journal index could be housed  
on this site, along with Dr M Bennett’s journal  
evaluations database.

2.3 SPUMS dive medical will soon be placed on the  
website in Adobe Acrobat portable document  
format (PDF) which will be accessible to those  
with Acrobat Reader, which is available free from  
the Adobe website.

2.4 Insurance for SPUMS equipment.  
Most equipment will be covered by the home  
insurance of the individual caring for the  
equipment. There was discussion of this and the  
difficulty when taking equipment overseas or to  
different premises. At present it is not possible  
to have one SPUMS policy to cover all of these  
possibilities. Individual travel insurance would  
be needed to cover overseas travel as well as an  
all purpose insurance if equipment is removed  
from its usual location. The difficulty lies mainly  
with the data projector. Dr C Acott will discuss  
with the ANZCA the policy they have and see if  
SPUMS can incorporate some of its equipment  
in a similar policy.

2.5 Update by the Education Officer, Dr D Doolette,  
was circulated. The diploma has been awarded  
to 4 new candidates, Drs David Vote, Lalith  
Ekanayake, Pauline Whyte and Mike Bennett.  
Guidelines for the research papers have been  
circulated. The original diploma certificates have  
disappeared are to be reprinted if not found. An  
Academic Board has now replaced the Board of  
Censors.

2.6 Update on “Indexing the Journal”. Current  
Contents and EMBASE indexing agencies are  
considering whether to add the South Pacific  
Underwater Medicine Society Journal to their  
databases.

2.7 GST update. The SPUMS administrator Steve  
Goble has this in hand.

2.8 SPUMS involvement with an UHMS meeting  
proposed in Sydney. No definite decision has  
been made by UHMS to date. SPUMS and  
HTNA will need to decide their involvement if  
the meeting goes ahead. It is possible that it could  
go ahead in 2004. There will need to be two years  
for organisation.

2.9 An update by the administrator on membership  
and finances was given.

2.10 The Secretary mentioned that the training  
agencies have introduced training courses which  
do not lead to certification and claim that, because  
they do not lead to certification, they do not need  
to observe the minimum age limit in AS 4005.1  
(A4.2 Age). They have introduced courses with  
minimum ages as low as 10 years. The  
Committee reiterated that the SPUMS  
recommended minimum age for medical fitness  
to dive is 14 years.

2.11 Update on NZ Chapter. Dr Walker will  
communicate with Dr Kluger with regard to the  
winding up of the New Zealand chapter, including  
the accounts and library.

2.12 Update from ANZ HMG (Australian and New  
Zealand Hyperbaric Medicine Group). This was  
given by Dr M Bennett.

3 Annual Scientific Meetings
3.1 1999 ASM, Layang Layang.  
Final figures for profit and loss are still to be  
provided.

3.2 2000 ASM, Castaway Island, Fiji.  
Final figures for profit and loss are still to be  
provided.

3.3 2001 ASM, Madang, PNG.  
The program is coming together. There has been  
a call for abstracts. There needs to be some
recommendation on malaria prophylaxis.

3.4 Future ASM. Suggestion were made including Iriki Island, Vanuatu

4 Treasurer’s Report
The resignation of the treasurer, Dr P Dupont was tendered and accepted by the Committee. Dr Walker will discuss the situation with the accountant and the bank, and attempt to sort out the accounts.

5 Correspondence
3.1 Letter WHS. This letter was discussed.
3.2 Letter International Travel House Ltd. No action
3.3 Letter Guy Williams re GST on diving medicals. The AMA has clarified the situation which is that GST should be added to all diving medicals.
3.4 Letter Copyright Agency Ltd. This was discussed. No action to be taken at present.
3.5 Letter from College of Oceaneering. This was discussed.
3.6 E-mail from the Education officer with update and 3 attachments. These were discussed.
3.7 Letter from Dr Mike Davis. R Walker to reply.
3.8 Letter from Queensland Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations. C Meehan to reply.

6 Other Business
6.1 Postal charge for overseas members. Economy Air no longer applies to letters. All overseas members Journals will have to be Air Mailed. Dr Knight suggested that a postal charge equivalent to the GST for Australian members be charged to all overseas members.
6.2 2299 medical form. There are some changes that need to be made to this form. These have been discussed with Dr I Miller, who designed the form.
6.3 Dr Knight gave notice that he would not be seeking appointment in 2002 when his term expires and suggested that the Committee start looking for the next Editor of the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society Journal.
6.4 Suggestions for methods of handling the SPUMS finances were discussed.
6.5 Discussion as to whether the 2001 face-to-face meeting will be held at the next HTNA meeting in Fremantle.
6.6 The costs of producing the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society Journal were discussed.

Closed 1430

Key Words
Meeting.