

**Report of the Primary Care Section of the European Board of Paediatrics –
Meeting at Evora, Portugal, May 26th & 27th 2000**

The meeting was attended by 10 delegates.

There was some discussion about the difficulties in securing a high quality of training in primary care paediatrics in various European countries. The problems include the lack of any payment system in many countries for trainees who are attached to a primary care paediatrician for further training. This means that the paediatrician has to teach without any remuneration, yet having a trainee inevitably takes up more time and reduces the number of patients that can be seen.

Many trainees in Europe receive most of their training in the hospital setting even though they will have to carry out much of their practice in a primary care or office type of practice.

Changes being proposed in some countries in the way paediatric care is delivered would also affect training opportunities. The representative from Hungary noted that her survey had indicated better outcomes for paediatric care for children referred by paediatricians than those referred by general practitioners.

There was then a brief discussion about the merits of an examination which would set a minimum standard across Europe. In general this received cautious support. It was felt that perhaps paediatricians who had taken and passed such an examination would be better placed to argue that they were well-trained in paediatrics as compared to general practitioners who would not have any such certificate. However, there was uncertainty about the point in training when this would be most appropriate. Some people thought that such an exam might be too easy if taken at the end of training. On the other hand, it would still have the merit of indicating that at least a minimum standard had been achieved.

There was no further debate about the question of voting on the European board.

There was a brief discussion about the use of log books or portfolios which in general was supported; again, there was uncertainty as to how this would work in practice.

The chairman, David Hall, suggested that as he was taking over the chair of the European Board, it would be sensible to appoint a new chairperson for the primary care section. It was agreed that there would be 2 chairpersons for future meetings – Wilhelm Sedlak from Austria, and John Messaritakis from Greece. These 2 would share the chairmanship over the next 2 years.

David Hall, Sheffield, UK

15.6.00