

The EBP and RCPCH agreed to set up a European Diploma in General Paediatrics.

A general agreement between the European Board of Paediatrics (EBP) and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has been reached to develop and implement a European Diploma in General Paediatrics in London, on the 31st August, 2016.

The RCPCH has a long-lasting experience in paediatric education and assessments. The current MRCPCH exam cover three separate areas outlined in three separate textbooks; 'The Foundation of Practice', 'Theory and Practice', and 'Clinical Applications'. The scoring assessments and question setting are critical. A full database of tested and validated MCQs is now used to deliver the various MRCPCH exams (Part 1a & b, Part 2), not only in the UK, but also in various parts of the world including previously Commonwealth countries but not exclusively. Thus, the RCPCH is confident that their exams could be safely used in Europe.

As the RCPCH is looking to increase the primary care and mental health component of the syllabus and the exam, the EBP can contribute to the question pool most usefully. It was agreed that the EBP needs to start developing questions that can be integrated into the pool of questions already held by the RCPCH. As suggested by Prof. Neena Modi, president of the RCPCH, initially the exams will be separate, but in the long-term it's likely that a single pan-European exam would emerge.

The question to integrate this process into the UEMS/CESMA (Council for European Specialist Medical Assessment) initiative was felt to be solved by a CESMA appraisal of the first "European Diploma in General Paediatrics" exam to be held in 2018 (?maybe during the EAPS meeting).

However, several issues, including, intellectual property, logistics, and financing need to be solved. Noticeably, Europaediatrics Mastercourse edited by Malcolm Levine and Alfred Tenore in 2011 need to be refreshed. The RCPCH has produced three books replacing the original Mastercourse, ie, 'The science of paediatrics' edited by Will Carroll, 'Clinical cases for theory and science of paediatrics', and 'Clinical cases for applied knowledge in paediatrics'. An option may be to publish a European edition of the Science of Paediatrics, and then generate the two Clinical cases books as European ones.

Several meetings have already been organized to follow-up this founding EBP-RCPCH meeting:

- An invitation of the EBP working group to attend the RCPCH Exam and Assessment Boards in Crawley, UK, on 8-9th November, 2016
- An invitation to Prof. Neena Mody, President RCPCH, Dr. Andrew Long, Vice-president for Education, and Dr. Will Carroll, Chair of Theory exam for the RCPCH to attend the EAP meeting (EBP or General Assembly) in Brussels, on 2nd-3rd December, 2016
- An invitation at the second EBP-RCPCH joint meeting to be held in London, on 16th January, 2017, to be followed by several other working meetings.

A new exciting era is now open whereby the British and Europeans will work together with the aim of *"Improving Care Through Better Knowledge"*.

29th September 2016

Jean-Christophe Mercier, EBP Chair

Robert Ross-Russell, TCG Chair

Tom Stiris EAP/UEMS; President

