



Editorial

Letter from the AEP President

Dear Colleagues,

In 2004, the AEP continues its dynamic development.

We are working at the new structure of the Congress of the Association, which will assume the name of “The European Congress of Psychiatry” and will take place every year, always in the month of March. Four sites—Madrid, Munich, Nice and Vienna—will rotate. The Congress will have a very clear identity, easily recognizable by European psychiatrists. A Core Organizing Committee and a Core Scientific Committee have been already appointed, as well as a Core PCO. The new structure of the Congress will be in operation from the year 2006. The first Congress of the new series will take place in Nice, France from 4 to 8 March 2006.

Our Programme of Itinerant CME Courses is progressing very successfully. Twenty-two national psychiatric societies in Europe are now participating in the programme. We are reaching with international experts some countries which have previously been almost ignored by the psychiatric community. Moreover, in several countries, we are facilitating fruitful contacts between the teachers of the courses and the leaders of the national psychiatric societies in crucial areas like, for instance, community mental health care and consultation/liaison psychiatry.

In collaboration with the UEMS, the WHO and the WPA, we are addressing the sensitive issue of accreditation of international psychiatric events in Europe. At present, there is much confusion in this area: several different bodies provide credits, and these credits are often not recognized by the

national authorities of European countries. An official European system, recognized by the European Union, providing credits accepted by the relevant authorities of the countries which are part of the Union, will become functional by the end of this year.

During the Geneva Congress, we have awarded three Research Prizes to the best scientific papers published by European young psychiatrists in international journals in the years 2002 and 2003. We received 25 high-quality applications for these Prizes, and the selected papers are really outstanding. Three Research Prizes will also be awarded during the Munich Congress of the Association (April 2–6, 2005) for the best papers published in the year 2004.

Significant developments are also taking place in the activities of the Scientific Sections of the AEP (with the establishment of new Sections on Neuroimaging in Psychiatry and on Philosophy and Psychiatry, which are already being very active) and in the collaboration of the Association with the Council of Europe (the AEP has recently been granted participatory status by the Council).

We look forward to receiving your comments on the above activities, as well as ideas about further initiatives.

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