Successful Skin Cancer Awareness Day debate at the European Parliament

For the third consecutive year, to mark Skin Cancer Awareness Day, a series of events was organised by EADV’s Media and PR Committee and partners in the European Parliament in Brussels to raise awareness about skin cancer among European decision-makers.

A lunch debate was held on 5 November 2013 on “Protecting Outdoor Workers in the EU: Skin Cancer Prevention Status and Gaps”. It was hosted by a cross-party group of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs): Prof Hans-Gert Pöttering (EPP), Christel Schaldemose (S&D) and Alojz Peterle (EPP), in collaboration with Kriton Arsenis (S&D), Dr Peter Liese (EPP), Michèle Rivasi (Greens/ALE), Hannu Takkula (ALDE), Charles Tannock (ECR) and Eleni Theocharous (EPP).

Each year, the EADV-led initiative, in partnership with Euromelanoma and the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), focuses on a particular theme linking the latest research on skin cancer to the EU policy agenda. This year, the theme was occupational skin cancers by solar UV radiation.

In addition, to help the MEPs better understand the issues, EADV and Euromelanoma offered free screenings inside the European Parliament to inform MEPs and their staff about the dangers of different types of skin cancer, to present primary and secondary prevention options and to propose ways with which European policy-makers can take action to reverse the increasing incidence of the disease in Europe.

Occupational skin cancers

The debate was attended by representatives of other EU and UN institutions, other MEPs and skin cancer experts and was also an opportunity to lobby to include continued on page 3

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23rd EADV CONGRESS
"Building Bridges"

Amsterdam RAI Convention Centre
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

8-12 October 2014
www.eadvamsterdam2014.org
occupational skin cancers both in current discussions on the future “EU Strategy on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020” and in the existing EU Directive on Optical Radiation (where they are sadly missing!).

The debate highlighted the need to improve prevention of skin cancer among outdoor workers and the importance of EADV’s pan-European “Healthy Skin@Work” campaign (see page 6).

There is a growing body of scientific evidence linking sun exposure in outdoor workers to the rapidly increasing incidence of skin cancer in Europe. For example, outdoor workers are at a 43% higher risk of basal cell carcinoma, and at a 77% higher risk of squamous cell carcinoma.

It is expected that in Europe many more than 20 million workers are exposed to UV rays. WHO/IARC have ranked solar UV radiation as a Group 1 carcinogen, a group which also comprises substances like arsenic and plutonium. A joint EADV/WHO symposium in Geneva recently revealed the increasing importance of the problem on a global scale, including in emerging countries like China and India. In a WHO-led procedure UN guidelines on non-ionising radiation, including setting exposure limits to workplace UV, will now be developed.

Speakers included EADV President Prof Jana Hercogová, Matthias Augustin and Prof Swen Malte John, followed by a panel discussion, moderated by the Chair of EADV’s Media and PR Committee, Prof Myrto Trakatelli, with representatives of the European Agency for Safety & Health (EU OSHA); ECL; Eva Török, Head of Cabinet to European Commissioner Andor, responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; and Prof Véronique del Marmol, chair of the Euromelanoma campaign.

Petition

A petition calling on all relevant decision-makers, including the European Commission, was presented by the participating MEPs to bring forward the issue of occupational skin cancer and its implementation in the European “Recommendation on Occupational Diseases” which is currently being prepared in collaboration with EADV.

We would like to thank our partners ECL and Euromelanoma, as well as all the participating dermatologists that have helped over these past three years to promote our common cause.

Ass Prof Myrto Trakatelli  
Chair, EADV Media & PR Committee

Prof Swen Malte John  
Chairman, “Healthy Skin@Work” Campaign  
Chairman, EADV Task Force on Occupational Skin Diseases

Viribus unititis

Sociology is a fascinating subject. Animals also live in societies that can be both complex and dynamic, but human society is more. Perhaps it is because our societies collectively reflect the individual’s intellectual capacity of our species that humans are so biologically successful.

Much attention has been given to human organisations that succeed: Who doesn’t want to be successful? Here some argue that the health of an organisation is reflected in its capacity to absorb dissent, whilst others view dissent as a clear threat of impending anarchy. As in so many other aspects of human life, no absolute truth exists here, but even traditionally highly hierarchical organisations have moved towards more scope for dissent over time. It is argued that a frank exchange of opinions allows a more flexible approach to problem-solving in the organisation whilst at the same time encouraging active participation, thereby enlarging the intellectual resources of the organisation.

What, then, stands between dissent and anarchy? First and foremost: loyalty by the members to the goals of the organisation. Unity of purpose makes organisations effective and successful, which is why many organisations spend vast sums on team-building etc. This is however not particularly important in altruistic organisations driven by a clear understanding of their own goals.

Rules regulate how the goals are set and a number of other practical aspects, and in democratic organisations such as EADV, these rules are transparent and generally aimed at giving the members the opportunity to participate and voice their opinions. EADV was created by many different voices, who managed to find a common tune and create a rules-based, democratic organisation for the benefit of dermatology in Europe. It is a dynamic structure, capable of absorbing much internal discussion, as long as we remember that until an opinion has become democratically accepted by the organisation it is just an opinion held by an individual and not our collective voice.

Gregor Jemec  
Editor
President's Perspective

Great Istanbul – thanks to all of you

Dear Colleagues,

The 22nd EADV Congress was a great success. Thanks to the tireless enthusiasm of our Turkish colleagues we finally met in Istanbul. I would like to thank the Local Organising Committee, our internal PCO, the Scientific Programming (SPC) and the CME committees all Chairs and Co-Chairs and you – the participants - who could evaluate easily the result. I strongly believe the period of meetings is not over at all. We need not only to write a few messages via internet or SMS, but to meet and discuss. I would also like personally to thank Prof Gürer and Prof Baykal and their team.

Apoptosis

Many members approached me with genuine enthusiasm asking me how they can serve EADV. My answer is that they must wait and apply when a suitable position becomes available. Cellular apoptosis, where cells that have completed their cycle are replaced by new cells in the best interest of the organ and of the whole body (with the exception of cancer), is a good analogy for the life span of those colleagues who served and are serving EADV. Although not always. Some colleagues, usually in bona fide, think that the quality of their service to EADV is so excellent that they cannot be or should not be replaced. Independently of our evaluation of the reasons, we are requested to make decisions: to follow the physiology or to accept pathological behaviours.

Longevity in EADV

The growing number of active, motivated and young colleagues are the Academy’s future. EADV can grow only thanks to its founders and predecessors who started the Academy 26 years ago. But each society needs to refresh itself by changing the leadership. On the one hand, we have rules for how long each Board, Committee member and Chair can stay, but we do not have any rule for how many years in total any one person can serve EADV. I strongly believe each of us should be replaced after our tenure. My proposals to the Board in Istanbul were:

- An EADV member can serve EADV in any leading position (as Officer, Board member, Committee Chair, JEADV Editor) for a maximum duration of 12 years (that is double the time allowed for being a Board Director). The Editor of EADV News should be replaced according to the same rule applied to the JEADV Editor.

The more I think of the everyday needs of dermatologists in Europe, the more I am dissatisfied with the low support for former Eastern Bloc countries. Look at our great new projects which were agreed by the Board and will be financed over the next few years: projects to fight leprosy in India, to provide histopathological examination in Africa, to teach dermatovenereology in China and India etc. There is not one project for Eastern Europe. According to EU law, any citizen of the EU has the right to be treated in any country and, of course, in the best possible way. Do you think this is a reality? Is the dermato-venereological care comparable in, for example, Germany and Ukraine? Have you ever visited the dermatology department in, for example, Pristina? They are not EU countries, but does it matter? That is why I suggested one year ago to the Executive Committee and then to the Board to organise a Summer Week for Dermatology Residents. A full week of teaching, organised at a university at low cost, as the “EADV parallel” to the much appreciated Euroderm Excellence which is not accessible for many, mainly former Eastern Bloc countries. And I must say I am only partially happy that the so-called Master Class will take off in Belgrade (as it will be only one day of teaching).

Regional representation

Dermatologists, EADV members, are taking care of patients all over Europe. Patient care, educational and research opportunities differ from one country to another and should be harmonised. A great example is the SPC which is already making an excellent job of preparing the scientific programmes. This particular committee can work so efficiently thanks to having representatives from the western, eastern, northern and southern European regions. I have proposed to the Board the possibility of incorporating this regional representation in all EADV committees and task forces. It could be done by introducing this concept into the Internal Rules.

Future congress venues

Thanks to the excellent job of the working group of chairs of the Finance Committee, SPC and CME Committee, we have selected the future venues for the congresses. I would like to ask the working group to provide and publish not only the results, but also the scoring of each city which is under consideration to become eligible for hosting EADV congress. I would like to get the scores for both, for the next selected venues (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Geneva, Vienna) and for new selected venues for 2018 and 2019. It is possible there are some new venues to host our congresses to enlarge the range of cities to go to.

Finally, let me wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable end of the year, keep good health and optimism in 2014 and do not forget EADV!

Sincerely yours,

Jana Hercogová
EADV President (2012-2014)
For the third time since 2005 enthusiastic participants and lecturers gathered in the University Hospital in Ghent, Belgium, to receive a week of basic dermatopathology training. The course is spread over two years with the first year focusing on functional dermatopathology and the second year on tumorous dermatopathology.

Thirty residents from 16 different countries were selected to join in the course. Their dermatopathology knowledge was variable with some of them truly starting from zero while others were somewhat more experienced. Selecting a more homogeneous group of participants is challenging. Another solution would be to organise separate basic and advanced courses.

The course started with Prof Canninga from Utrecht giving a basic introduction to pattern recognition. Dr Arlette De Coninck (spongiotic dermatitis), Dr Josette André (psoriasiform pattern), Dr Anne Theunis (benign epithelial tumours and cysts, connective tissue disorders), Dr Frank Vermander (panniculitis), Dr David Creytens (special lecture on molecular techniques in melanoma) and myself (sub-epidermal blistering diseases) completed the Belgian delegation of lecturers. Loyal Summer School lecturers supporting us since the first edition in 2005 were present again: Dr Eduardo Calonje came from London to talk on granulomatous disorders; Prof Hanke on intraepidermal vesiculobullous/pustular diseases; and Prof Zelger on vasculitis, histiocytosis and mastocytosis, completed this first part of the course.

In the afternoon “hands-on” sessions at individual microscopes were held on the different topics. The participants were encouraged to present an interesting case from their own department which all of them did in an excellent way.

On Thursday evening a social dinner was held in the warm and friendly atmosphere of restaurant “De Graslei”. Ghent by night was waiting for us…

The course was evaluated as good to very good by all participants. On a scale of 1 to 5, relevance of training was scored 4.6, usefulness of sessions for sharing findings scored 4.56, relevance to educational needs 4.56 and influence on career scored 4.16.

As always it was a great time to build or renew friendships between participants and lecturers and to refresh memories from previous Summer Schools (2005-2006, 2009-2010).

Looking forward to next summer!

Sofie De Schepper
Course Chair
In 2012, EADV’s “Healthy Skin@Work” campaign was approved as an official partner of the healthy workplaces campaign of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) in recognition of the success that such campaigns can have in verifiably and sustainably raising public and political awareness and bringing about substantial change for the better.

This follows the signing of the first European framework agreement on the protection of occupational health and safety in the hairdressing sector, on 26 April 2012 in Brussels, by László Andor, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, and the EU social partners of the hairdressing industry, UNI Europa Hair & Beauty (employees) and Coiffure EU (employers), in the presence of representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labor Organization (ILO). This unique – and voluntary – framework agreement is another important step in the EU-funded SafeHair project (see EADV News Nos 36, 39), the first European Commission initiative in the field of prevention of occupational skin diseases (OSD) in risk professions, which comes under the umbrella of the “Healthy Skin@Work” campaign.

SafeHair 2.0

After undertaking an assessment of the current practices on the use of skin protective measures in professional hairdressing in the different European countries, a virtual modular “SafeHair Skin & Beauty Toolbox” has been developed with comprehensive materials and information for skin protective measures in seven languages for ready access to hairdressers, apprentices and other target groups involved in education and administration in the field of professional hairdressing (www.safehair.eu).

Commissioner Andor welcomed the SafeHair project as hairdressers on a global scale are particularly prone to occupational skin diseases due to their continuous contact with liquids and chemical agents. According to the EU, up to 70% of hairdressers suffer from work-related skin problems. Hence, taking account of the most recent scientific findings, the framework agreement emphasises the need for a common prevention strategy and the correct use of materials, products and tools for hairdressers in all Member States as a top priority. In pursuance of the Framework Directive 89/591/EEC the parties recommend undertaking a risk assessment in order to identify the possible risks that hairdressers are exposed to at the workplace.

Currently, and advised by the EADV campaign, a number of consecutive scientific activities funded by the European Commission are carried out to address social partners in all European countries and gain further scientific insight into the cost-effectiveness of OSD prevention. The Commission’s objective is to develop the framework agreement into an EU directive.

It is likely that other OSD risk professions will follow the example of hairdressers, supported by a recent breakthrough EU research grant, “Development and Implementation of European Standards on Prevention of Occupational Skin Diseases (StanDerm)”, comprising 26 countries and running until 2016. The EADV campaign applied via the EADV Task Force on Occupational Skin Diseases/EPOS (see below). StanDerm will now allow us to systematically develop, implement and evaluate compatibility, transferability and the sustainability of OSD-preventive concepts for our patients’ benefit.

Various national activities under the EADV campaign umbrella are presently being initiated, eg in Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark and Germany, and are making clear to the public and politicians that the dermatologist is the responsible specialist for the complete spectrum of skin health risks at workplaces, ranging from irritant/allergic contact dermatitis to occupational skin cancer, for example by work-related UV-exposure. In Germany, the national sub-campaign linked to “Healthy Skin@Work” has recently led to a 25% increase of OSD notifications; at the same time costs for job-retraining have been decreased by 41% due to earlier dermatological interventions in the remit of the campaign.

As OSD are the leading cause of occupational illnesses with costs...
Update from the Task Force on Skin Disease in Pregnancy

Informational leaflets and support

Since this task force was founded by 11 dermatologists from eight European countries at the EADV Congress in Vienna in 2007, it has become an active network for the benefit of pregnant women with dermatological problems throughout Europe.

Its aims are to produce patient information material about particular dermatoses and physiological changes that may be pregnancy-related or unrelated and to give treatment advice for pregnant women and their physicians, taking safety issues and treatment effectiveness into account.

Over the years the task force has produced 13 informational leaflets about common skin problems and commonly used treatments in dermatology. In July 2013 the leaflets were all updated and translated into six European languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

All leaflets are available on the EADV website under «Patient Corner» http://www.eadv.org/patient-corner/leaflets/.

This means that they are free of charge and ready to use in your clinical practice for you and your patients.

We are looking to develop more informational material which ideally will again be translated into the six languages. If we see an increasing demand, translations into other important languages also spoken outside Europe (such as Portuguese and Arabic) will be considered.

Currently, leaflets on the following topics are available:

1. Common skin changes in pregnancy
2. Atopic eruption of pregnancy
3. Intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy
4. Pemphigoid gestationis
5. Polymorphic eruption of pregnancy
6. Moles and malignant melanoma
7. Mollusca contagiosa
8. Scabies
9. Condylomata
10. Genital herpes
11. Vulvovaginal candidiasis
12. Acne
13. Topical steroids
14. Biologics (being developed)
15. Psoriasis (being developed)
16. Syphilis (being developed)

If you find the leaflets useful we would be delighted if you would like to promote them by recommending them to your colleagues. You may also wish to consider contacting your local dermatological and gynaecological societies which may be able to provide a link to the EADV website (enabling free and easy access for more physicians and patients).

Please get in touch with us via nadja@

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(exceeding €5 billion each year in the EU
due to loss of productivity, “every euro
invested in prevention saves at least €2
invested in cures and job rehab”, noted
Prof John.

One goal of the EADV’s “Healthy Skin@Work” campaign is thus to bring together knowledge through its scientifically guided network of 104 experts from 65 dermatological centres in 26 European countries. Known as the European Initiative for the Prevention of Occupational Skin Diseases [EPOS]
(www.epos2010.eu and www.eadv.org/
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Hail and Farewell - Ave Atque Vale - from Catullus 101 is the traditional memento for continuity through change. It is a reminder of how an organisation like EADV from its start in 1987 has constantly changed in a way that ensures its success and survival. Otherwise it would become fossilised or completely out of touch with the dermatology and venereology world as it is.

There have been changes, in my estimation, all for the better. When we started, much of Europe was still ruled by Marxist-Leninist doctrines. I was lucky around that time to be invited by the then Secretary General of the International Union against Venereal Diseases (now IUSTI - International Union against Sexually-Transmitted Infections) and thus get to know as warm friends not distant colleagues eminent dermatologists from Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Croatia and Slovenia. And when they entered into EADV what an enormous contribution these good people have made to EADV, not least our President Prof Jana Hercogová.

We have also seen more attendees at EADV congresses from Asia, Africa, Oceania, and both Americas, a sign that others see us as a source for learning. Like ants, all our own little contributions when added together make an enormous difference.

Collegiality

At the 22nd Congress in Istanbul the Board expressed its opinions about collegiality. This is a most important concept. We are there to encourage one another and to help and support and learn from one another. It is what the British call teamwork. We need to suppress our own egotism at times for the greater good. Professional lives do not last all that long: 50 years if one is lucky, most far shorter. Dermatologists exist to serve their patients and through research and teaching to make sure first-class progress always succeeds. The Honours and Awards Committee has put forward the good idea of EADV pin badges as rewards for long service. Some at the President’s Dinner in Istanbul will have seen a long queue of mostly not so young gentlemen receiving the first batch of gold pins.

Members of committees

As the Chair of the Ethics Committee I realised that new committee members needed to be encouraged to apply and gain the votes to get onto committees. They will learn quickly the democratic way such committees formulate opinions that are later be examined by the Executive and the Board. They will also learn the responsibility needed for leadership.

Thanks

I would like to thank the administrative and secretarial staff of EADV in Brussels and Lugano. Their help and kindness over 27 years has been enormous, especially as it has been at a time when computers have become the main tool for communication. I have seen presidents come and go, and as the Chair of Ethics Committee I have listened rather like a priest in the confessional to matters which are best kept from prying ears. I have enjoyed my time. I should like to thank all those committee members in my time for their help and wise counsel. I wish Herbert Höängsmann, our new Chair, a happy and successful chairmanship.

Michael Waugh

Immediate Past Chairman

Ethics Committee

Dusan Buchvald
(Slovakia)

“I graduated from the School of Medicine at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia in 1984 and was a research fellow at the Institute of Immunology, Comenius University, from 1985 to 1990. Since 1990, I have been working at the Department of Paediatric Dermatovenereology at its University School of Medicine, currently as Associate Professor (since 2011).

I am a specialist in dermatovenereology and clinical immunology and my main interests in research and education are atopic dermatitis and allergic contact dermatitis. My experience in basic and clinical research was significantly enriched by spending a year on a scholarship at the Department of Microbiology, Trondheim University Hospital in Norway and, during that stay, time at the Karolinska Institute's Department of Dermatology in Stockholm, Sweden as a guest researcher.

I have published more than 40 articles in peer-reviewed journals, co-authored five textbooks and I am a member of editorial boards of two national dermatology journals. In 2007, I was appointed to the Board of the Slovak Dermatovenereological Society and am currently the president of our national society for a second term. On an international level, I am a member of the UEMS European Board of Dermato-Venereology.

I joined EADV in 2006 and since 2011 I have been a member of its Nomination and Election Monitoring Committee. As a Board member I will promote the mission of the Academy as a leading educational institution in the field of our specialty and I will support close co-operation between national dermatovenereological societies and EADV.”
Marcel F Jonkman
(Netherlands)

“I graduated from medical school at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, in 1984. In 1989 I defended my PhD thesis on artificial skin at the same university. Subsequently I trained to be a dermato-venereologist at the University Medical Centre Groningen and in 1993 I was appointed to a position as assistant professor at that university.

In 1996 I was a research fellow at Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

In 1997 I reached the position of associate professor, and in 2002 that of full Professor in Dermatology at the University of Groningen, becoming Chair of its Department of Dermatology in 2003. From 2004-2012 I was programme director of the dermatological residents programme in Groningen.

In an academic position I am blessed to be able to practise all items of the academic trias in full: research, education, and patient care. The object of my research is bullous diseases.

My major discoveries are the role of BP180 in junctional epidermolysis bullosa, revertant mosaicism in skin and revertant cell therapy, desmoplakin as cause of lethal acantholytic epidermolysis bullosa, and various improvements of immunofluorescence diagnosis.

I have published more than 330 papers: the number of times cited without self-citations being 3243, on average 10.83 citations per paper (H-index 29).

In 1997 I established the National Centre for Blistering Diseases in Groningen. Multidisciplinary patient care programmes for autoimmune bullous diseases and epidermolysis bullosa are running. Professional education is initiated at national and European level. In 1999 I founded the Netherlands Society of Experimental Dermatology. I was also active on the ESDR Board from 2002-2006.

Since 2009, I have chaired the Dutch residents’ courses in which I changed the format and content to patient-orientated, interactive teaching, active learning, and open book online testing.

From 2009-2012 I was chair of annual Dermatology Days (CME) in the Netherlands. I would like to bring the practical, patient-orientated, competence-based teaching principle to EADV meetings.

I have been a member of EADV for many years and often participated in the scientific programme as a session chair and speaker. I consider developing leadership in young members important for securing the future of dermatology.

In the Netherlands I founded the Dermatology Residents’ Mentor Programme in 2009 that encourages residents to see the mentor of their choice at work. The mutual inspiration between mentor and mentee stimulates leadership. This could also happen in Europe.”
The Honours & Awards Committee was established by the EADV Board with limited activities in 1999, and was given a greater scope in 2007. It became fully responsible for the Academy’s honours and awards since 2010 under the chairmanship of Prof Nicolai Tsankov.

The EADV Board has recently accepted several proposals from the Honours & Awards Committee towards new activities supporting the education of young dermatologists from Europe and abroad and helping them to enter and stay in the Academy. New activities to recognise senior EADV members have also been initiated.

Following the consolidation of the EADV Awards in Scholarships, Grants and Fellowships, a standardised, objective and transparent candidate selection system was established and multifaceted promotional activities, especially through the EADV website, were undertaken.

The EADV Scholarships include the Michael Hornstein Memorial Scholarship, which was currently modified to accept applicants not only from central and eastern Europe but also from western and northern Europe; the John Stratigos Memorial Scholarship, for candidates from southern Europe and Mediterranean countries; and the Imrich Sarkany Non-European Memorial Scholarship for candidates from the rest of the world.

In 2013, EADV welcomed 53 scholarship awardees as its new members among 178 candidates, an increase of 22% in comparison to 2012 (see Table 1).

The Society grants include the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Grants (3), the British Society of Paediatric Dermatology (BSPD) Grants (2), the Scottish Dermatological Society (SDS) Grant (1) and the one-off EADV grants in 2013 for International Investigative Dermatology. The first three categories of grants are kindly provided by AAD, BSPD and SDS respectively, whereas EADV provides three grants for young AAD members towards their participation at EADV congresses. In this way, in 2013, six young EADV members were selected to go to the annual congresses of the supporting societies from among 52 candidates, an increase of 63% compared to 2012 (Table 1).

Finally, 254 Fellowships were awarded in 2013 to help with their participation at the 10th EADV Spring Symposium in Cracow and the 22nd EADV Congress in Istanbul (Table 1). A Fellowship is associated with a reduced registration fee of €100 for an EADV Congress or Spring Symposium. EADV members are eligible to receive a fellowship on more than one occasion, while non-members can get it only once.

Alumni Club

One of the newest Honours & Awards Committee activities is the EADV Scholarship Alumni Club, which was launched in 2012. It represents a “crucible of young excellence” and was enthusiastically welcomed among the Board members leading to its unanimous acceptance. All previous EADV Scholarships awardees are eligible to become Scholarship Alumni Club members, provided that they are or become again active EADV members. The aim of the Alumni Club is to create networking and friendships among former and future awardees establishing a pool of cooperating, highly qualified young dermatologists, who will become...
The EADV distinction pins for former EADV Executive Committee members (gold), former Board members and Committee chairs (silver), long-term EADV members (bronze) and Scholarship Alumni Club members

the future leaders of our specialty and EADV. Moreover, the Alumni Club aims to promote collaboration between young and senior EADV members. A full description and application form can be found at http://www.eadv.org/scholarships/scholarship-alumni-club

Understand the process

One year on and the Club is getting more attractive for former scholars. At the beginning of 2013, 48 EADV scholars had joined the Club and numerous applications are still reaching the EADV office. The flagship of the Club is the EADV Scholarship Alumni Club Lectureship of the Year. The competition to become an EADV Scholarship Alumni Club Lecturer of the Year became harder. While in 2012 Dr Thrasivoulos Tzellos from Thessaloniki was selected among three candidates, in 2013 12 highly qualified candidates had to be evaluated before Dr Emiliano Antiga from Florence was announced the Lecturer of the Year. Dr Antiga will give his talk on how the EADV Scholarship supported his scientific and professional career in Istanbul, not only in front of the new scholars but - for the first time - also in front of the first members of the Alumni Club, who have been invited to participate at the Scholarship Ceremony.

One of the problems the committee faces is the evaluation process of scholarships and grants applications. Despite the professionalism and transparency of the application guidelines, the Committee members often face improperly filled-in application forms, a fact that results in mismeasurement of the curriculum of the applicant. That is why the Committee strongly encourages the candidates to get fully acquainted with the application form section and requirements, available on the EADV website.

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The Committee is not only responsible for awards but also for honours and, therefore, it is proud to announce that a system of honours for distinguished EADV members has been inaugurated and will be first presented at the EADV Congress in Istanbul. Active EADV members, with a long-term contribution to its activities, as well as EADV officials will receive special recognition with visibility. A gold pin will be awarded to former EADV Executive Committee members (past presidents, secretary generals, and treasurers) for their great contribution to the Academy. A silver pin will be awarded to former EADV Board members and Committee chairs; and a bronze pin will be awarded to long-term EADV members who have been continuous members of the Academy for 10 years. Scholarship Alumni Club members will also receive the EADV Scholarship Alumni Club membership pin.

EADV envoys

A recently inaugurated project, the EADV Envoys - National Annual Meeting Award, has to be filled with future life. Upon request by a national dermatological society, an EADV envoy representative will receive a financial grant for giving a lecture at the annual meeting of the national EADV member society. The aim of this award is to enable the transfer of knowledge and best practice among European countries and to support networking.

Developing new projects and consolidating the established activities are the major tasks of the EADV Honours & Awards Committee. We count on every single member of the Academy for feedback regarding our work and we are open to new ideas.

Table 1. EADV Scholarships, Awards and Fellowships in the years 2012-2013 (award winners/candidates)

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<th>2012</th>
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<td>Scholarships</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>AAD</td>
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<td>SDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowships</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Committee Members

Christos C Zouboulis, Dessau, Germany, Chair
Michael Boffa, Floriana, Malta
Zsuzsanna Szalai, Budapest, Hungary
Vladimir Vasku, Brno, Czech Republic
Razvigor Darlenksi, Sofia, Bulgaria, Junior Member
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is my sincere pleasure and honour to invite you, on behalf of the Local Organising Committee, to attend the 11th EADV Spring Symposium which will be held in Belgrade, Serbia from 22 - 25 May 2014. This is the first time that an EADV Symposium has been organised in Serbia. The Serbian Association of Dermatovenereologists, founded in 1927, is proud to have been selected to host this important event under the theme “Tradition and Innovation”.

Why Belgrade?

- Throughout history, Belgrade has been at the crossroads between the West and the East.
- Belgrade is a recent nominee for the European Capital of Culture 2020.
- Belgrade is the birthplace of Novak Djokovic.
- Ivo Andrić wrote his Nobel Prize-winning literature in Belgrade.
- Belgrade was recently referred to as “The New Capital of Cool”.
- Belgrade is an open, lively, optimistic and genuinely friendly city, easy to fall in love with.

So, I and my colleagues and friends invite you to come and discover Belgrade. Belgrade is one of the oldest cities in Europe and home to one of its most important prehistoric cultures, the Vinča, which evolved within the Belgrade area in the 6th millennium BC. In antiquity, Thraco-Dacians inhabited the region, and after 279 BC Celts conquered the city, naming it Singidun. The name Belgrade was mentioned for the first time in 878, and during its long and turbulent history the city has been occupied by 40 different armies and rebuilt from its ashes 38 times. As each conqueror claimed it, they immediately changed its name, but the new name almost always spoke of its beauty and whiteness. It was called Belgrad, Bello Grado, Alba Urbs, Alba Graeca, Griechisch Weissenburg, Nándor Fehérvár, Nándor Alba, and Castelbianco. All these names are translations of the Slavic word Beograd.

Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, is the third largest city in south-eastern Europe after Istanbul and Athens. Its geographical position, its cultural and historical diversity, the multitude of local and regional attractions as well as its great accommodation make Belgrade an exciting travel destination.

Belgrade, recently referred to as the “The New Capital of Cool”, is well known for its lifestyle, famous restaurants as well as its many unique floating restaurants and discotheques with a lively nightlife, excellent national cuisine, and numerous museums, cultural and historical heritage sites.

Belgrade is the city of youth. More than 40% of its citizens are between 15 and 44 years of age. All citizens of Belgrade love to talk of the spirit of the city, like being in motion and therefore the streets, walkways, cafes and restaurants are always filled with people. Belgraders like everyone, so get to know Belgrade by getting to know Belgraders!

Scientific programme

Held under the motto “The Best and the Latest in Dermatology - EADV Reviews and Updates”, with a new format, the 11th EADV Spring Symposium will be completely different from the previous events. For the first time, the spring symposium will be compact and focused on a selected number of practical and
important areas. Please save the date in Belgrade for this new exciting, new compact programme!

A completely reformatted Spring Symposium awaits you

To respond to the needs and requirements of board-certified dermatologists and venereologists, the new EADV spring symposia will now cover only selected and relevant practical areas of dermatology and venereology each year that should allow for:

• the review and presentation of updates and reviews in a compact, efficient and more structured way
• the inclusion of the best experts and leaders in the field
• sufficient time for in-depth discussions about management and therapy.

The 2014 Spring Symposium in Belgrade will address the following areas:

1. **Dermatology and internal medicine:**
   Cutaneous signs of internal diseases (eg diagnostic algorithm and management of vasculitis, connective tissue disorders, granulomatous disease, skin signs of haematologic, gastrointestinal and metabolic disorders)

2. **Paediatric dermatology** (common diseases of the newborn and in early childhood, red flags, febrile rashes, management of eczema and viral diseases)

3. **Nail and hair diseases** (diagnosis, workshop, biopsy techniques, dermoscopy, surgery)

4. **Sexually-transmitted diseases** (review of novel diagnostic tests and advances in management)

5. **Dermatological surgery** (common pitfalls, complications, anaesthesia, intermediate and advanced surgery, reconstruction techniques, flaps, Mohs surgery).

Essentially, the topics have been selected by compiling our evaluation forms. These topics, which have always raised a lot of interest during our previous meetings, will be concluded with the popular Test yourself and What’s new? sessions.

The programme will also include the most successful EADV courses, including dermoscopy, lasers, corrective aesthetic and cosmetic dermatology, and acne/rosacea.

We believe that the meeting will provide an excellent opportunity to merge ideas, views and minds. I do hope that the beauty of the Belgrade and high-level scientific sessions will create a unique and inimitable atmosphere for acquiring new knowledge, sharing ideas, changing our thinking and developing new ways.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you to Serbia. Enjoy the unforgettable spirit of Belgrade!

Ljiljana M Medenica MD PhD
Chair
11th EADV Spring Symposium
The EADV Fostering trainee course “Systemic treatments in Dermatology: evidence-base evaluation and practical use” took place in Toulouse, France, from 28-30 August 2013. Forty residents from 15 European countries, along with young colleagues from Australia and Japan, met for two-and-a-half days at the training facilities in Larrey Hospital Toulouse.

An international panel of renowned experts put the programme together with the aim of providing state-of-the-art information about systemic treatment in dermatology. One of the objectives of the course was to help residents to critically appraise the scientific literature and to raise their awareness about evidence-based dermatology.

Evaluation and appraisal

The course was divided in two parts: in the first part of the course, international EADV experts gave interactive lectures on a wide variety of topics, including the evaluation of drugs in dermatology and how to interpret clinical trials and meta analysis (Phyllis Spuls, Amsterdam); the drug development process (Carle Paul, Toulouse); the evaluation of drug safety in clinical trials and epidemiological studies (Luigi Naldi, Bergamo); retinoids and azathioprine (Phyllis Spuls); methotrexate and cyclosporine (Lluis Puig, Barcelona); biological agents (Luigi Naldi); antibiotics, antifungals, rituximab, and intravenous immunoglobulines (Carle Paul); orphan drugs relevant to dermatology (Cristina Livideanu, Toulouse); and cancer targeted therapy (Nicolas Meyer, Toulouse).

In the second part of the course, residents worked in pairs on selected literature articles with the objective of critically discussing the key messages from the paper, the potential limitations as well as the clinical implications of the paper. Each group was supervised by a dedicated expert and had to prepare a presentation to be delivered to the entire group at the subsequent plenary session.

Own case reviews

In the concluding Saturday morning session the residents had the opportunity to present a difficult-to-treat patient case from their department and receive feedback from the group and from the experts.

In a very friendly atmosphere and team spirit, the participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas and to confront different practices across Europe. All sessions were enriched by the many interactions between trainees and experts. All experts were extremely impressed by the strong motivation and excellent knowledge of all the participants, showing that EADV Fostering training courses attract highly promising young colleagues who will ensure that EADV has a bright future.

On Friday night the trainees and the experts had the opportunity to get together and enjoy the warm summer of south-west France at the restaurant “L’Envol”, the ultimate place to be seen in Toulouse, next to Labordes Airfield. Labordes is the airfield where the writer and pilot Antoine de St Exupéry used to take off in the 1930s bringing mail to South America.

The course was a real success, thanks to the great support of Dr Spyridon Gkalpakiotis and Marc Somja. The Fostering Trainee Education in Dermatology & Venereology Committee should be congratulated for making such a course possible, with special thanks to Josette André and Bertrand Richert.

Carle Paul MD PhD
Course Chair
The burden of skin diseases

When I meet colleagues who are active in national or international dermatology associations our discussions, sooner or later, arrive at the topic which is seen as a high priority by most: the necessity to include skin disease prevention and treatment into the agenda of national and European health policy decision-makers.

In order to convince political decision-makers of this, numbers and hard facts are essential – but numbers and facts on patients with skin diseases are frequently lacking. During the EADV Congress in Istanbul I met Prof Rod Hay, Chairman of The International Foundation of Dermatology, who alerted me to a study about the global burden of skin disease which he co-authored and which is to appear in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology*. This study confirmed what we dermatologists suspected: skin diseases are amongst the most common human illnesses. They are a very significant burden, not only for the patient but for the healthcare system as well. Rod and his collaborators found that eight of the 50 most prevalent diseases worldwide were skin conditions. In addition, they were the 4th leading cause of non-fatal burden and the 2nd most prevalent diseases worldwide were skin conditions. In addition, they were the 4th leading cause of non-fatal burden expressed as “years lost due to disability”. These findings are in accordance with the well-established fact that up to 20% of the patients seen by general practitioners in Europe present with skin ailments.

This study also highlights a problem that is frequently encountered in discussions with national health authorities and healthcare managers. Most epidemiological studies (including the one cited above) use WHO’s International Classification of Diseases (ICD), the last version of which is the ICD10. A shortcoming of this classification is that some skin diseases, eg leishmaniasis, may be classified in categories such as “certain infectious or parasitic diseases” rather than “diseases of the skin” and skin neoplasms may be lumped together in the separate category “neoplasms”. One lesson drawn from this is that the tedious chore of screening spreadsheets with diagnosis codes and numbers is critical to establish the true contribution of dermatology to public health.

More studies

To define the numbers of patients with skin diseases in Europe it is evident that we need many more epidemiological studies. We have to learn about regional differences and the challenges of healthcare provision in different areas of Europe. Such studies need the participation of dermatologists and preferably should be initiated by dermatologists. National dermatological societies could be a driving force to define the skin disease burden in each country. EADV is perfectly suited to co-ordinate and provide grants to facilitate such efforts. A first step in this direction has been taken in the context of the EADV Fostering Dermatology and Venereology Programme. In 2012 (together with ESDR) we organised a summer course on epidemiology in dermatology for residents. These educational sessions and additional efforts at national and European levels will be necessary to demonstrate the importance of incorporating the prevention and treatment of skin diseases in national and European health policies.

With my best wishes for a healthy, fruitful and successful 2014!

Erwin Tschachler
EADV President-Elect (2012-2014)

* http://www.nature.com/jid/journal/vaop/naa/jid2013446a.html
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

EADV congresses are surely the main scientific event in the field of dermatovenereology in Europe since the first one was held in Florence in 1990. Istanbul, as a city at the meeting point of two continents, had the honour to be the nineteenth city organising the EADV annual congress. It is also the first city to host both the EADV Spring Symposium and Congress. The congress venue ICC (Istanbul Convention Center), being close to world-famous Taksim Square and Istiklal Street, in the heart of the metropolis, was an ideal location.

The preparations for the congress took nearly four years. The intensive congress programme was a joint effort by the EADV Scientific Programming Committee (SPC) and the Local Organising Committee. The SPC guidelines and criteria are very well defined, thus simplifying the hard work. More than 500 chairs, co-chairs and speakers from all over the world shared their knowledge and experiences related to all fields of dermatology and venereology during the event. In total, 989 presentations were given during the meeting over four-and-a-half days and 1,565 electronic posters were presented. In summary, it was a real opportunity in our continent to catch up with the recent developments in our field.

- The congress started on Wednesday 2 October with sub-specialty meetings and then the official opening, namely the networking symposium which included an interesting plenary lecture about “Orphan diseases in Europe” by Ségolène Aymé and the welcoming speeches of EADV President Jana Hercogová and ourselves. Music and dances from Anatolia (performed by the group Fire of Anatolia) enriched the ceremony which was followed by the welcome reception in the congress venue.

- Plenary lectures focused especially on recent research and were among the most attended sessions of the event. A plenary lecture devoted to the pathogenesis of Behçet’s disease in its homeland was presented by Ahmet Gül.

- All of the 10 educational courses were brilliant opportunities to update our knowledge. A course on dermatopathology with a new and interactive format (Virtual Dermatopathology) took place for the first time. In addition, dermoscopy courses were among the sessions that attracted the most attention.

- Focus sessions were the best means of gathering clear take-home messages from leading experts in the field. Rein Willemze generously shared his deep experience of cutaneous lymphomas with participants in a focus session giving practical tips.

- Comprehensive overviews of all dermatological subjects including new therapeutic advances in psoriasis, malignant melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, cutaneous lymphomas and many other diseases, new trends in cosmetic procedures and the inventions in genetics of classic dermatological diseases were performed in the well-organised symposia and workshops.

- A joint EADV/AAD symposium took place with experts attending from Europe and the United States. This was indeed an important event for the harmonisation of dermato-venereology for both continents.

- Many practical advances in our discipline were summarised in the Spotlights session. It was without doubt an easy way to collect many valuable messages.

- Test-yourself sessions organised by senior dermatologists were a fun style of learning.

- In the controversies session, the most difficult topics in dermato-venereology were addressed with sensitivity.

- The industry-supported satellite symposia designated at the end of three congress days were among the other highlights of the programme.

- Congress participants also had another opportunity to meet world-renowned dermato-venereologists in the Masters of Dermatology session. It was a great
pleasure to be able to benefit from their expertise.

- The final session of the congress was the What's New? session on 6 October. All talks were extremely high in educational value.

- The 22nd Congress closed with farewell remarks from the organisations in the concluding session followed by a promotional film about Amsterdam, the host of the next EADV congress where this scientific success story will hopefully continue.

Nearly 9,000 participants attended the congress; the meeting rooms as well as exhibition areas were almost always full. We met our friends from all over the world in the ICC and the host country, Turkey, registered the highest number of participants to an EADV congress, with approximately 8,500 signing up. France and Germany led the other European countries with more than 600 participants each. More than 250 attended from both the United States and Brazil, representing North and South America. There were more than 100 participants from South Korea and Saudi Arabia. In addition, more than 50 participants travelled from Australia, the farthest point. Thus the EADV Congress in Istanbul was truly a global festival.

The only bad surprise was the nearly continuous, unexpected rain in Istanbul in October, which may have been an obstacle to discovering the magical atmosphere of the city. However, we hope that our distinguished guests enjoyed the congress, its academic content as well as the city’s enthusiastic atmosphere.

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee we would like to thank once more the EADV Executive Committee, Scientific Programming Committee, Turkish Society of Dermatology and everyone who took part.

“Hoşçakalın!” (goodbye)  
Can Baykal  Mehmet Ali Gürer  
Congress President  Honorary President

Junior Session at Istanbul

Another special Junior Session was held at the EADV Congress in Istanbul, a tradition which was started by Prof Erwin Tschachler and Prof Dedee Murrell at the EADV Congress in Vienna in 2007.

The principle is that among the (over 200) abstracts submitted by junior members, 10 of the best are selected and the authors invited to give an oral presentation. For some years Prof Johannes Ring has arranged for these junior members to also receive a prize, namely a dermatoscope, donated by the German company Heine Optotechnics near Munich.

This year’s prizewinners came from all parts of the world: South Korea, Iran, Turkey, India, Germany, Turkey, Australia, Italy and Russia. They presented excellent data from various fields of our discipline, namely:

- Use of Indole-3-acetic acid photodynamic therapy in seborrheic dermatitis (Kwon, South Korea)
- Vitamin D receptor gene polymorphism and pemphigus vulgaris (Zeinab, Iran)
- Treatment of vitiligo with non-cultured epidermal suspensions (Holla, India)
- Patients’ evaluation of treatment efficacy in atopic dermatitis (Steinke, Germany)
- Tuberculin skin test versus quantiferon-tb test in psoriasis (Karataş, Turkey)
- Reliability of a new Epidermolysis Bullosa Disease Activity and Scarring Index (EBDASI) (Clement, Australia)
- Another score in bullous disease correlated to serum auto-antibodies (Bonciani, Italy).

At the end of the session the dermatoscopes (or vouchers for them) were given to the junior members, all of them very promising candidates for a successful dermatological career.
Born and raised in Bucharest, I graduated from Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Faculty of General Medicine in 2009, and I trained as a General Practitioner for one year.

Dermatology always attracted me due to its complexity and being so closely related to immunology, pathology, paediatrics, internal medicine and aesthetic surgery. In Romania, one can obtain the resident statute after passing a very difficult national exam, the residents choosing their specialty according to their ranking position. Dermatology is one of the most highly-ranked disciplines and the training programme takes four years with mandatory rotations.

I started my dermatology training in 2011 at the Colentina Clinic Hospital, 2nd Department of Dermatology. I am part of a well-trained team of 35 residents who are being guided on our scientific path by 12 enthusiastic specialists. Here, I have the great chance to work under the watchful eye of Assoc Prof Carmen Maria Salavastru and Prof George Sorin Tîplică. Over time, my interest increased especially in paediatric dermatology, clinical applications of lasers in dermatology and photodynamic therapy. The laser treatments are done in the laser unit where I have the chance to work on lasers such as: excimer, pulsed dye, alexandrite, Nd:YAG and carbon dioxide. In the clinic, I also had the occasion to perform photodynamic therapy and improve my knowledge of precancerous lesions and basal cell carcinomas. Currently, I am a third year resident and I continue my training in the same clinic. After all these years I am fully convinced that I made the right choice.

I joined EADV in my first year of training in dermatology and this facilitated various educational and training opportunities. I enjoy reading the Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology monthly with its great diversity of articles from all over the world and also to use its archives.

**Rewarding experience**

As a Junior Member I can attend various Fostering courses and register to attend EADV congresses and symposia at significantly reduced fees. These meetings offer excellent occasions for exchanging scientific information between colleagues from different countries and continents and can lead to future collaboration and personal growth.

It is a great pleasure and a great honour for me to be a member of the Membership Committee together with Dr Susan Cooper, Dr Arun Inamadar, Prof Ljiljana Medenica, Prof Jorgen Serup and Prof Sarah Rogers as Chairperson, who offered me a warm welcome and the feeling that I am a part of the EADV family. Being a member of the Membership Committee is also a challenge.

**Encouraging others**

My mission is to promote the goals and activities of EADV and to contribute to its progress by attracting new young members and showing them that EADV is a positive and stimulating resource, a light on our travel in the world of dermato-venerology. Due to the rapid expansion of our specialty I consider that it is very important to reach every young dermatologist, and encourage collaboration and exchange of scientific information in order to provide the best care for our patients.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the EADV Board members who voted for me to become part of the Membership Committee as a co-opted Junior Member. I’m convinced that by adding my input to the Academy’s activities the interests of the Junior Members will be highly represented.

Fabiola Copaci
Co-opted Junior Member Membership Committee

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**Submit your Project to EADV!**

Project Submission is now open

The EADV Project Proposal Review Committee will evaluate tenders for funding for the years 2014/2015 based on the following criteria:

1. The project benefits EADV
2. The project benefits patients with skin diseases
3. The project promotes European and international collaboration
4. The project does not compete with other internal projects
5. The project is original
6. The project management plan is adequate
7. The project budget is adequate
8. The project is co-ordinated by investigators with sufficient background experience and/or training

The application form and information is available on [http://www.eadv.org/project-proposal/](http://www.eadv.org/project-proposal/) (Online applications only)

Submission deadline: 30 June 2014
December 2013

Notice is hereby given to fill vacancies on Board Committees.

Nominations will be received by the Secretary General not later than **FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY 2014**

- Only **Specialist Members** in good standing and with voting rights are eligible to stand for election.
- Candidates for election to Committees must be proposed and seconded by two EADV voting members in good standing.

Committee members will be elected by the Board of Directors and the single transferable vote system will be used if necessary.

All nominees must send in:

1. The **nomination form** signed by the applicant and the endorsers
2. A **short CV** of up to 2 A4 pages (with a recent photograph if available)
3. A completed **Conflict of Interest Form**

**Submission of required material will only be possible electronically** (files should be either in Word or pdf format or scanned)

The relevant Nomination Form and Conflict of Interest Form can be downloaded from [www.eadv.org](http://www.eadv.org) and should be sent to the Secretary General: secgen@eadv.org

Meetings are normally held twice a year during the Spring Symposium and the Annual Congress.

Further information can be obtained from [www.eadv.org](http://www.eadv.org)

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**CURRENT VACANCIES:**

**Committee Members:**

- **Media & PR Committee** (1 vacancy)
- **Website Committee** (3 vacancies)

Candidates must indicate clearly on the Nomination Form for which position they are applying.

**Carle Paul MD PhD**
EADV Secretary General
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
CO-OPTED JUNIOR MEMBER – 2014
WEBSITE COMMITTEE

December 2013

Notice is hereby given to co-opt a Junior Member on the Website Committee.

- Any EADV Junior Member in good standing and with voting rights is eligible to stand for election.
- Candidates must be proposed and seconded by two EADV voting members.

Co-opted Junior Members are elected by the Board of Directors at a Board meeting or electronically and the single transferable vote system will be used if necessary.

All nominees must send in:

1. The Nomination Form signed by the applicant and the endorsers
2. A short CV of up to 2 A4 pages (with a recent photograph if available)
3. A completed Conflict of Interest Form.

Nominations will be received by the Secretary General not later than FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY 2014.

Submission of required material will only be possible electronically (files should be in Word or pdf format or scanned).

The relevant Nomination Form and Conflict of Interest Form can be downloaded from www.eadv.org and should be sent to the Secretary General: secgen@eadv.org

Junior Members are co-opted for one year and renewable for up to four years in total. Meetings are normally held twice a year during the Spring Symposium and the Annual Congress.

Further information can be obtained from www.eadv.org

Carle Paul MD PhD
EADV Secretary General
Over the years the Academy has been in a major growth phase: we have increased the number of Board Directors and our activities have grown in number and quality. The educational events have received high-quality scores and our finances have followed this trend of growth due to successful events and ever-increasing tight controls and resource allocations.

The move of the Academy to Switzerland enabled it to have electronic voting with better transparency and democracy and a tax-free status as a charitable entity.

Firm foundations

My predecessor, Jon Olafsson, paved the road for these accomplishments. He had to deal with accounting and auditing companies and professional congress organisations (PCOs) in every country for the congresses and symposia. Along with the Finance Committee and by Board resolutions he initiated, in collaboration with our Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Nancy Induni, major changes in the structure such as:

• building the Academy headquarters in Lugano in Switzerland
• setting up internal accounting at the headquarters
• establishing an internal congress organisation (ICO)
• abandoning the profit-sharing of congresses with the local national societies.

In the meantime the Scientific Programme Committee created educational congresses and symposia that were increasingly attractive to doctors, the pharmaceutical and supplier industry.

Along with increasing transparency to enable the Board Directors to take informed decisions on the finances comes also the critical questions. The Balance sheet and the Profit and Loss sheets meant for financial purposes towards the Internal Revenue Services in Switzerland may not always have been easily understandable because the figures are presented in a compressed, aggregated manner.

Clearer accounting

So, the financial statements for the year 2012 have been reformulated to show more clearly the administrative and educational costs. This was presented to the Board of Directors at the Symposium in Cracow this year. First we need to agree on educational activities. These are: congresses, symposia, scholar and fellowships, new projects and donations, Fostering courses and training visits. All together this amounts to €7,231.

The administrative costs include the leadership (Board meetings: €373,000), accounting, lawyers, insurance, and tax consultants (€593,000). This means that the Academy spends 5% of the costs on leadership, and 8% on administration. The budget for «medical educational activities» outside the congresses and symposia was €1,200 but only 62% of the budget was spent due to delays in activities and less demand for fellowships than anticipated.

Longer-term benefits

The establishment of our own ICO has had a cost both as an investment and a continuous resource allocation. A PCO will have to make a profit for it owners whereas our ICO only needs to cover the costs. The comparison between the PCO and our ICO showed savings of €500,000 in the first year of fully functioning which is a pay-back of the investment in just one year - a highly profitable project.

However, just as important is that we are now able to finalise the congress and symposia accounts within a much shorter time so we can comply with the annual deadlines set by the Internal Revenue Service. The control procedures for the finances are established in the financial regulations with standard operating procedures and the Finance Committee serves as an internal controller for the Board of Directors. The Treasurer, elected by the Board, reports to the Board of Directors.

The Academy is a charity - an organisation of public utility - not with the aim of making profits but to spend the resources on educational activities. We have just undergone a review process and received tax exemption until 2019.

Reserve fund

In the future there is uncertainty in our relationship with our sponsors and exhibitors due to new international laws and regulations. We may see a decreasing number of sponsors with restricted budgets. In good times you need to prepare for bad times – so the Academy has established a Reserve Fund under close monitoring of an external consultancy company, ultimately controlled by the Board. There is a saying: ‘at the end of the day it is all about money’. However, the finances of the Academy are there to make good things happen in compliance with our mission.

Jørgen Rønnevig
Treasurer
Christa De Cuyper  
(Belgium)

“I was born and raised in Blankenberge, a Belgian seaside town, and I’ve now returned to my roots and live on the Belgian coast again. My big treasure is my family, my children and grandchildren. I got my medical degree and my dermatology training at Ghent University with Prof André Kint who was an excellent clinician and dermatopathologist. Prof Jean Debersaques triggered my interest in international contacts and historical aspects of dermatology. As a certified dermatologist I started in 1980 at the AZ Sint Jan in Brugge and became Head of the Dermatology Department there in 1994, a big challenge as the first full-time female doctor in this big hospital. For many years I have been involved in the training of young colleagues. As a member from the start of EADV I witnessed the development and the growth of our Academy from a hesitating baby to an experienced adult. I was lucky to participate in nearly every EADV congress and to contribute actively to several meetings, each meeting also being an opportunity to meet old friends, make new acquaintances and discover new interesting places. EADV also offered an opportunity to organise sister society meetings. With the European Women’s Dermatologic Society (EuWDS) we have a tradition of meeting on the pre-congress day with the American Women’s Dermatologic Society (WDS) with a well attended “Rose Parade of Cases”. The pregnancy leaflets now available on the EADV website were created with several of our members.

I’m proud to be a dermatologist and to have observed that we can improve the quality of life of a substantial part of our patients, even those with severe diseases. My major point of interest remains clinical dermatology although I also gained a lot of experience with different laser treatments. In this context I developed a special interest in complications with body art and published a book on this topic. I would like to contribute to the impact on public health with better regulation concerning tattooing and piercing. As a first step I’m a founding member of the European Society of Tattoo and Pigment Research.

I’m convinced that EADV can have an important impact on different health problems and can use its influence on a European level to improve regulations and legislation. I consider it as an honour to represent the Royal Belgian Society of Dermatology and Venereology on the EADV Board.”

Colm O’Mahony  
(GB)

“I have been a staunch supporter of the ‘V’ bit of the EADV for many years. I have attended many great conferences and made long-lasting friendships throughout Europe through EADV.

I studied microbiology before completing medicine in 1981 and worked in immunology until discovering STDs in 1984. Here was just the job for your average repressed Irish Catholic with a medical and microbiology background! There was sex, shame, forgiveness, anxiety, penance and resolution. I had found my niche. I became Chairman of the Association of GUM Doctors (AGUM) and helped steer sexual health into a much higher profile through education, media, PR work and political manoeuvring.

I have been Chairman of the EADV Media & PR Committee and continue to emphasise the importance of media and PR. I would hope to see more venereology in the programme, particularly presented by junior members, so that we can standardise good practice throughout Europe and eliminate some traditional but outdated practices.”
Communication from the EADV Website Committee

In an effort to improve the navigation on our website,

EADV members are kindly invited to give their feedback and ideas to the Website Committee.

If you wish to share your suggestions with us, please send an email to media.pr@eadv.org

Call for Applications – EADV Scholarship

EADV wishes to facilitate attendance at the 23rd EADV Congress in Amsterdam, The Netherlands (8-12 October 2014) by providing scholarships for young dermato-venereologists from around the world.

Each EADV scholarship consists of 1000€ including a one-year EADV membership.

Free registration to the congress is also provided for each winner.

For further details and application form, please visit www.eadv.org/scholarships

The EADV Task Force on Acne and Rosacea is organising an "Update on Rosacea" in March 2014.

This will be held in the Charles Institute of Dermatology, University College Dublin.

The Symposium will begin on Friday, 14 March and continue on Saturday morning, 15 March.

International experts will present clinical and research updates on Rosacea.

A poster and short presentation session will be open to residents and other participants who submit abstracts.

For programme details, abstract forms, accommodation and registration, please contact ruth.foley@ucd.ie
11TH EADV SPRING SYMPOSIUM

22-25 May 2014

Sava Centar
Belgrade, Serbia