

EUROPEAN POLIO UNION
Report Board meeting Madrid, 12-13 March 2010

The board decided it is a good idea to have board meetings in different countries. The member group of that country can be present at the board meeting and at the dinner and give a presentation about their association. This way we hope to get the members more involved with the work EPU is doing. This time the meeting was in Madrid and Lola Corrales and here association organised a hotel and the dinner and arranged a free(!) meeting place in a rehabilitation clinic and the transport. We are very grateful for their help.

Conference Copenhagen 2010

A hotel near the airport, brand new, very accessible for disabled has been selected and a conference bureau to help with the hotel bookings, registration, insurance, legal matters etc, is contracted.

A medical conference committee has been formed, consisting of: Merete Bertelsen and 4 doctors MD's: Lise Kay (DK), Frans Nollet (NL), Christian Borg (SW), and Lexel (SW). They want another MD from the south of Europe (Italy).

A Conference Website is in the process of being created, and should be ready in 2 month. The EPU website and all the EPU members' websites must contain links to this new dedicated conference web site. A discussion about the conference budget plan followed. Major items are Merete's salary, the interpreters, and the congress facilities. The estimated total is about €300.000 euro. MD's should pay about €400 and survivors about €300. Most EPU Board members think the €300 is too much. How can we solve this problem? If it is too expensive people won't come. We have to bring it down to under 200 euro.

We must try to reduce the costs and try to get money from private persons, pharmacy, industry, commercial sponsorship etc. We must be able to reduce the high estimated costs of the interpreters. Suggestion: people in the countries that want translations during the conference, go to their school of translators and find 2 students that are willing to do this (no salary but expenses paid). The school of interpreters in Ireland may provide students.

Website

From Sept 2009 till end of Feb. 2010 we had 20.712 visitors, 121.000 hits, 61% were new, they came from 140 countries, 60% came via search engines like Google, a lot came from China, and there was 1 hacker. It was decided that the info on the website must be scientific, peer reviewed.

We will ask the medical conference committee to act as the website review board. If the status/content of an article is not clear, we can ask them for advice.

We need a back up for John, English speaking, technical with computers.

Translations need to be done, some board members will do this.

We will look into the possibility to have a closed part of the website, with a moderator, for medical PPS people.

AGM 2010, Italy

The dates are: Sept 23-24 AGM, 25-26 intern. Conference, 25 only for medical experts, 26 for Italian polios (and EPU) with talks from the medical experts (especially about immunoglobulin research).

The meeting will be 2000 metres up the mountain above Lake Garda; the meeting room and the lunch are free (sponsored)!

The logistics, transport etc is being arranged by the Italians without costs! The welcome dinner is offered by the local municipality without charge in the town hall.

Italy will make the invitation for the members. This will also be posted on the website.

Next board meeting

Our next board meeting will be on Sept 23 in Italy. Before that we will have a tele-conference meeting in the beginning of June.

European Union/Commission

We have to give a follow-up from what we did with the EU (Parliament). We had a big discussion about the different possibilities.

Johan is going to have a meeting with Yanis (the chair of the European Disability Forum), to talk about possibilities.

The EC prefers to deal with bigger organizations (umbrellas), and they want to see that you also get money from elsewhere (matching funding, 40%). The conference can get us on the map, to help us with getting funding. MEP's only do things that will give them recognition in their own country, and we need more PR material.

Philip is going to contact the Danish EU organization (European office), about money for the conference and to find out under which EU directorate this falls.

EURORDIS: we are a member. They started a Council of European Federation leaders. Johan is going to be a member of this and will go to their meetings.

October is an international polio month. We should do something with this.

Members

Mailing list: non-members can stay on the mailing list for 3 years. After that we ask them if they want to become a member, if not: we skip them from the list.

We really must get more members in East European countries.

Post Polio Syndrome Questionnaire / Register

Lise Kay, a former urologist that now works for the Danish polio organisation PTU (and PPS'er herself) will start working on it in order to get it published. The work done so far is very important for polio survivors and their future and the results should also provide further evidence to enhance the EPU case with EU member country's Governments as well as the EC and EU Parliament.

Finances

This year (2010) the group will have an income of €4050. At the moment we have €7000; €5000 will go into saving and €2000 for cash in the bank. We must show the budget plan at the AGM. Margret will stay treasurer the next 6 month. We have to look for somebody in Belgium to take it over. Margret's accountant will keep doing his supervision for at least another year.

In order to get funding, we need a real business/budget plan. The plan must mention our goals and a financial plan to reach those goals. We need to split our 5 objectives into more specific action points; then they will form a business plan. Sponsors want to see what we have already accomplished, what are our exact plans, in order for them to see the importance of it and wanting to give money for it. So split our objectives in achievable goals.

Presentation Lola

Lola gave a presentation about her organization.

She is going to write it out so it can be published in the German bulletin and on our EPU website.