



January 2009

Newsletter number 17

Dear ENTOG friends

It is a long run from our last ENTOG meeting in Lisbon until the upcoming meeting in Budapest. All the more reason to keep you well informed about all the current ENTOG topics, to keep you 'connected'.

ENTOG XIX event Hungary 8-13 June 09

Things are moving rapidly for our Hungary program. Places for the exchange 08.06-11.06.09 are being opened up rapidly and forty places have been secured so far. The LOC is actively looking for further placements still. The registration page has been set up and therefore we invite all ENTOG members to select maximum two trainees to participate in the 4-day exchange program. If you are interested in participating, please contact your national trainee network to see how they carry out this selection.

The scientific meeting will take place June 12th, 8h30-18h and be focussed on

New Trends and technologies and their effect on training

The possible speakers are being contacted at present and when they confirm their presence the program will be finalised. The preliminary program has been attached to this newsletter and is also uploaded on our website! If you want to come for the meeting only you are not dependent on your national society and can register immediately via our website.

Also the social program promises to be very interesting and is flavoured by local traditions, Hungarian food and music; all in the beautiful setting of Budapest.

Suggestions for hotels will be uploaded shortly on the website too, so please do keep an eye for any news or changes.

This all leaves the council meeting for Saturday June 13th, where many important items, including our strategy plan, will be discussed. We therefore hope to see all our members represented at this meeting

www.entog.org-->events-->upcoming events→Hungary

XX ENTOG event/Antwerp congress

A local organising committee (LOC) of predominantly Flemish Belgian trainees has been formed as you all know. The committee is in active discussion with the ENTOG executive, hospitals and the Flemish senior society VVOG. Hospitals are being approached by the LOC.

ENTOG executive has attended the first congress meetings with EBCOG and the congress organisers to try and optimise trainee representation and conditions. Synchronising our program with the congress and forming part of the congress forms interesting challenges and a program you will want to attend! A start has already been made with the design of the ENTOG session program and promises to become very interesting for both trainees and other congress attenders.

ENTOG 2009 survey European Working Time Directive (EWTD).

In the last few months of the year we sent out our 2009 survey EWTD. This is a very important survey as it monitors the preparations for and compliance with this directive especially since there is an impression that there are wide differences across Europe. ENTOG feels it is important to monitor this process and its effects on training quality. It will be vital to know these data on a European level and to communicate this! We hope to get three answers from every country, from various types of hospitals to optimise the validity of the results.

Thank you very much Portugal, Finland, Netherlands and Sweden for returning (some) questionnaires so far.

We aim for a 100% response rate, please help us to reach this! The questionnaire can be filled out online after following a special link which is provided to all members. As a reminder we will invite all our members again shortly to fill it out at their convenience. If you feel your trainee network has not received an invitation for the survey, then let us know at executive@entog.org and we can check the details.

We will feed back the results of the survey during the Hungary meeting and also present them on the website afterwards.

For info regarding the content of the EWTD, see: *the European Parliament and European Council. Directive 2003/88/EC. Official Journal of the European Union 2003: L299/9-L299/19*

ENTOG elections

In June 2009 there are statutory elections for the following posts

- President (not standing for re election)
- Secretary general (eligible for re-election)
- Treasurer (eligible for re-election)
- Member (eligible for re-election)

All ENTOG executive members excluding the president have indicated to stand for a post in the executive again. This is regarded very important in view of the continuity of the work. However, we would very much like to encourage trainees from our member countries to consider a role for themselves in the executive. It may be important to stress that current members may stand for a different post than their current one. All posts assume a two year term.

I already envy the person who will take over from me for the challenges that are ahead and the dynamic times we are in. It is great to be involved in the European future of our specialty and to offer advice, help and information to trainees from all over the continent!

Please visit our website at www.entog.org-->home→statutes.

Academic survey

We have sent out the academic survey, designed by the Academic trainees in the UK and supported by ENTOG, in November 2008. This survey is particularly interesting as it aims to map the opportunities for academic training in the various European countries, the existence of networks, existence of financial support and supervision/coaching etc.

Thank you Portugal and Finland for the replies already!

We hope to see a high response rate and will approach our members again shortly to fill it out and return it.

We will learn about the results in Hungary where the UK Academic trainees will come to present the data. The results will, like all surveys and presentations, be available on our website too.

Long exchange program

Regarding our aspirations to assist in longer term exchanges, things are moving in the right direction. Over the last few months we have sent letters to heads of department which have in the past been visited by EBCOG and have been accredited by EBCOG for European training. Various hospitals have shown enthusiastic interest in the project. The list and additional information with important reminders prior to going abroad will go online before the next council meeting. Departments; thank you very much for your interest and we hope to hear positive results in future. If your own department might be interested, please forward the details of the head of department to us and we can get in touch!

This database will be accessed by you to look for a match with your interests! Other than setting up the database there will be no further ENTOG involvement at present. You will individually set up your rotation with the department of your choice.

If you have any experience training abroad already, we would be very interested in hearing your story, including preparations, pitfalls and comments. The stories will be uploaded on the same page of the site and therefore offer others some help and guidance before they go.

So please, send your story to executive@entog.org or webmaster@entog.org

ESGE/the Academy

The European Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (ESGE) is currently setting up a Junior Platform for trainees with special interest in endoscopic surgery. It aims to support endoscopic training with discounts for trainees to attend courses and meetings and to serve as a (discussion)platform. As their aims overlap ours where it concerns improvement of basic training we are happy to attach a letter from Stefano Angioni (junior platform, ESGE) to this newsletter. It will be uploaded on our website too with a link to the ESGE junior platform. In return they will provide a link to ENTOG on their website.

Gender and recruitment

This committee is slowly starting up and consists of Pille Pärismäe (Estonia), Kerstin Rhiem (Germany) and Prof A. Templeton (UK). They will look specifically into gender problems in our specialty and the question why less young doctors are choosing Obstetrics and Gynaecology as their specialty. We look forward to see this committee start their work and hope to hear from their plans shortly

Non attending ENTOG members

With a growing society there is an increasing risk of non attending members at council meetings. This is further emphasised by the short duration of training and next generations of trainees then consequently feeling less connected to

ENTOG. We have noticed a lot of interest from individual trainees including from 'non attending countries' through our website and newsletters.

At present we are actively trying to get in touch again with these countries that have not attended, without notice, on one or more occasions, to encourage them to attend the meetings and use their vote. It is important for us to find out why these countries have not attended and what can be changed to improve this.

Please let us know at executive@entog.org

Website

Our new website is up and running at the moment and we hope you have had the chance to have a look at it already. We currently have nearly 300 hits per day, from all corners of Europe which means ENTOG is growing!

We feel the website is reflecting this growth and the different demands we face.

We will in the next months further introduce the forum to you with stimulating and discussion raising topics, we hope to see opinions from all across Europe.

New pages, reflecting current topics of interest will be added in the near future, like the long exchange program.

Please let us know what we can do to serve you even better. Our webmaster is very interested in learning your experiences, so please send your comments or suggestions to him at webmaster@entog.org

Other developments: ENTOG (ongoing) projects

Just to summarise our current projects and involvements

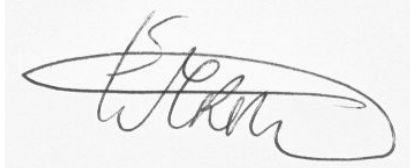
(Also see www.entog.org-->projects)

- EBCOG executive : Erica Werner
- Hospital visitation liaison person: Panagiotis Christopoulos
 - Visitations: all ENTOG executive members
- SCTA : David Rodriguez and Erica Werner
- Antwerp 2010 congress
 - Management committee: Erica Werner
 - Scientific committee: Nuno Nogueira Martins
- SCTA/the Academy: David Rodriguez/ Pietro Gambadauro/ Erica Werner
- Website: the Webmaster
- US liaison person: Pille Pärgrmäe
- Longer exchange programs: ENTOG executive (in liaison with SCTA)
- EWTD survey: Pille Pärgrmäe/ Erica Werner ENTOG executive

Dear ENTOG friends, I hope this letter helped you to update yourself about all we try and do. We look forward to see you all in Budapest, Hungary in Springtime. Please do not forget to visit us online for more and constantly updated information.

And as mentioned before, with any questions; write to executive@entog.org

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'E' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.