

Minutes annual meeting EUPHA section on Infectious disease Control

Friday, November 21, 2014

Minutes: Jeannette de Boer

Welcome: Aura Timen, president of the section, welcomes the participants on behalf of the vice president Günter Pfaff. A special guest today is dr. Vivianne van Casteren, the first EUPHA-IDC president (2003-2008).

There is a well-filled track of workshops and presentations regarding Infectious disease Control during the EPH in Glasgow. The two preconference meetings were well organized; the content was highly appreciated by the audience.

Annual report 2014:

The leaflet is very clear and impressive. There are no comments about the content. With the compliments to the IDC secretariat who took care of the lay out!

Member survey:

Michael Edelstein drafted a member survey. Aura will send the results to the participants and to all the members. Günter expresses once more his acknowledgments for the tremendous amount of work put in by Michael to carry on the survey. Aura presents the slides prepared by Michael and engages the audience in a discussion.

Main findings:

Majority of IDC section members are:

- highly qualified (MD, PhD)
- mid-career/senior public health professionals
- from Europe
- From Public Sector/Academia
- Increasing trends in joining section
- or recently joined members more engaged?
- Little contact/collaboration between members
- But high demand for it
- keen to be involved and contributing

Low member attendance at EUPHA conference

Even lower at workshops

Email newsletter is preferred communication channel

No high demand for other channels

Added value of being a section is not clear to high proportion of members

Important points to follow up upon are how to involve the new generations and how to increase the impact of being a member of the section.

- Engage with young public health professionals

- Identify and recruit via informal networks (referral scheme? “buddy scheme” with one junior/one senior colleague?)
- Facilitate networking/collaboration between members
- During conference: coffee breaks, lunch, workshops
- Off conference: member database with members’ skills/interests?
- Identify members willing to contribute to different pillars and engage them
- Those who have given permission in survey
- Increase conference attendance among members
- Travel grants for best-accepted poster/presentation?
- Focus on high quality newsletter
- No demand for LinkedIn/other
- Include key guidelines/papers published since the previous newsletter
- Include call to action for collaborative research/involvement in the section when required
- Be “loud and proud” about our achievements
- Advertise IDC workshops
- Focus on facilitating 1-2 high profile collaborative projects between members: this will demonstrate section value to members

EUPHANxt: engaging the young generation:

Maria Ganczak introduces this initiative. We discuss about some suggestions: Award for the best abstract, poster or presentation. We decide to give an award for the best abstract in order to make it attractive to send in an abstract. This needs more follow up during the core group meetings in 2015.

Early ideas for EPH 2015, Milan

Anja suggests arranging a panel discussion on the next EUPHA on how politicians and IDC professionals can work together in the battle of AMR. Ideas are to invite members of the European parliament, ECDC, WHO/Euro, EUPHA and Ilaria Capua (member of Italian Parliament and veterinarian virologist).

Günter proposes to invite the ProMed editor (Madoff) to give a key note during the EPH in 2015. Aura will ask the Eupha director about how to arrange this.

Closure

Aura thanks everybody for participating and wishes them a nice continuation of the conference.