



## Developing the EFC's Educational Program

**The EFC aims to develop its activities and involvement in colposcopic education. Specific objectives are to provide the best training in colposcopy across Europe through the standardization of training programs, organization of basic and advanced colposcopy courses and of Training the Trainers educational programmes. This will involve close collaboration with the different national colposcopy societies.**

The recent [Symposium on Training and Performance Quality Standards](#) held in Paris in January 2017 has provided an excellent platform for the future. The consensus statement will be published in the European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology in the near future. The introduction by Professor Petry of annual symposia has been a tremendous success, providing a powerhouse for our activities.

### **National and regional courses**

We have now decided to supplement these meetings with Regional Meetings which will offer Training the Trainers as well as colposcopy courses. These meetings aim to promote the wider aims of the EFC in a more localised context.

The provisional Educational programme is already exceptional: there are Regional meetings being planned in Ioannina (Greece) in November 2017, Helsinki (Finland) in February 2018, Riga (Latvia) in April 2018 and Lisbon (Portugal) in November 2018. The EFC hosted a session on Challenges in European Colposcopy and Cervical Screening at the IFCPC World Congress in April 2017 and, in addition, there will be a Basic Colposcopy course in Riga (Latvia) in April, an EFC Masterclass at the joint EBCOG Congress and Turkish Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society Meeting in Antalya (Turkey) in May and an EFC Educational meeting in Skopje (Macedonia) in June 2017. These courses will be the culmination of the efforts by many including Drs Irina Jermakova (Latvia), Vangelis Paraskeivaidis (Greece), Pekka Nieminen (Finland), Tamar Alibegashvili (Georgia), Virginia Monteiro (Portugal), Goran Dimitrov (Macedonia) and Maria Castro Sanchez (Spain).

### **Training the Trainers sessions**

One of the main developments will be the introduction of "Training the Trainers" sessions (TTT). These sessions will be dedicated to trainers in order to help them to improve their training activities. This kind of training is quite new and might seem awkward to some of the experienced colposcopists. However, the benefits of such TTT sessions are well evidenced. The training aims to identify difficulties which trainees are facing, to help to provide feedback for trainees and to produce action plans. Finally, the recent introduction of training models and simulators are concepts that trainers need to consider and develop.

The development of the European School for Colposcopy is another venture. To date, the EFC in conjunction with support from the British Society for Colposcopy & Cervical Pathology has provided colposcopy training for a number of European doctors from Georgia, Slovakia, Norway, Latvia and Moldova. The key concept is the provision of training for trainees, from countries who do not have formal training programmes, in countries where there is training capacity. To date this training has taken place in two sites in the UK but the plans are to extend the scheme to sites in Germany and Latvia.



# EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR COLPOSCOPY

In summary the future looks bright. We look forward to working with you in improving colposcopic standards using these meetings, courses and training opportunities. We do remain at your full disposal if you have any queries and wish further information.

***Professor Xavier Carcopino – Chair Education Committee, Obstetrician Gynaecologist, Head of Department of Colposcopy and Cervico-vaginal Pathologies North University Hospital of Marseille, France***



## **Building a European School for Colposcopy**

The EFC exists to promote and enable high quality colposcopy throughout Europe. Although steps are being taken to promote training programmes with an agreed core curriculum and training standards throughout Europe, currently there are only 5 of the 34 member countries with EFC-recognised training programmes.

Some countries with recognised training programmes have excess training capacity and so this provides an opportunity to share training expertise. In the UK, for example, there is an established and stable colposcopy service, which can train significantly more trainees than it needs.

In recent years a number of European colposcopists have received colposcopy training in the UK with the help of funding from the BSCCP and co-ordinated by the EFC. Following the successful completion of the training, these colposcopists have been awarded the BSCCP/RCOG Diploma in Colposcopy. Some of these doctors have become influential colposcopists in their own countries. For example, Drs Jana Zodzika and Irina Jermakova from Latvia, after successfully completing their training, went on to found the Latvian Colposcopy Society and set up their national training programme. In addition, Dr Ameli Tropé, from Norway, is now the Director of the Norwegian Cervical Screening Programme. These examples illustrate the huge potential that can be derived from providing training for selected individuals.

The training itself has been provided free of charge but on the basis of current charges would amount to the equivalent of about €30,000. The only expenses are those of travel and accommodation and, to date, the BSCCP has generously provided educational grants to assist in meeting those costs. The training can be delivered intensively in about 6 weeks so this package is extremely cost-effective.

The goal is now to extend this scheme to other centres in the UK and Europe. To this end, the EFC intends to develop a European School of Colposcopy. The aim will be to providing training opportunities in countries with EFC recognised training programmes for trainees from European countries that do not yet have such programmes. The EFC intends to seek support from other member societies and, if applicable, from industry.

***Charles Redman - President of the European Federation for Colposcopy, Consultant Gynaecologist, University Hospital of North Midlands, UK***





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## An interview with Dr Ameli Tropé from Oslo, Norway

**Dr Ameli Tropé is the Head of the Norwegian Cervical Cancer Screening Programme based in Oslo. A specialist in gynaecology and obstetrics with a Phd in HPV testing and cervical cancer. She was trained by Dr Charles Redman in the UK.**



“A few years ago after obtaining a Phd in HPV testing, I started preparing to hold colposcopy courses in Norway. About the same time I met Charles Redman at the IFCPC meeting in London and asked him how I could get help with quality assurance of colposcopy training in Norway. Charles agreed to help me, but suggested that I should take my OSCE exam in UK first.”

Ameli commenced her training with Charles Redman in Stoke in UK and completed the OSCE (UK colposcopy training program and examination) in England in 2016. ‘I had earlier undertaken colposcopy training with Professor Albert Singer from UK and I have been carrying out colposcopy for many years. Professor Solstad of Norway trained many colposcopists up until the 80’s but since then there has been no official training in Norway.’

To date Dr Ameli Tropé has held 3 colposcopy 3 day courses with Professor Pekka Nieminen from Finland (former Head of Education Committee and current President-elect of the EFC), Dr Simon Leeson (Secretary of the EFC) and Professor Singer. She is working hard to put focus on colposcopy and develop training activities in her country.

The Cervical Cancer Screening Program is managed by the Cancer Registry of Norway. ‘We record all the data at the Cancer Registry. We follow up women who do not get a biopsy when they should etc.’

Ameli does not personally work in the clinics at present, but she has a colleague who will start work at the biggest hospital in Norway - 20% of her time will be to work training junior doctors. ‘I will try and encourage these types of programmes are introduced in all University Hospitals, but it may take some time.’ She believes that Norway, and maybe other European countries, need help with organising training programs in hospitals.



## Advanced Colposcopy Courses in the EFC's Educational Programme

**EFC's Basic Colposcopy Courses are presently almost a tradition, approximately 15 of them have been organized in various European countries over the last few years. All these courses have been very successful and the delegates have often enquired about advanced colposcopy courses. Many of the more experienced colposcopists in EFC member countries have also expressed an interest in running an EFC approved Advanced Colposcopy Course.**

In response to this need, last year EFC set the criteria for an advanced colposcopy course. The aim was to ensure that the content would be relevant for senior and expert colposcopists. The objective is to reinforce basic concepts, provide information, discuss different case scenarios, and also to include areas such as QA, recent development and training.

The criteria can be consulted on our website. The main criteria are that an advanced course should be a two day course with a 12-14 hours programme (excluding breaks). The course should aim to be as interactive as possible and should create an atmosphere which encourages lively discussions throughout the programme. This interactive approach with plenty of discussion is, not only, interesting but has been one of the key points which has led to the success of EFC's basic courses.

The advanced course programme begins with a basic science session dealing with screening, HPV, molecular new developments, scientific update and open questions. The course continues with a wide variety of cases using images and videos in an interactive setting, following management in various forms. Quality assurance and training also play an important role in the programme. Finally a course assessment will be completed by the participants in order to ensure that these courses continue to develop.

In the future EFC will be available to help the local colposcopy societies to organize an advanced course and in some cases, if necessary, EFC will arrange the whole course. Local and regional courses are encouraged by EFC, but naturally colposcopists from all over Europe are most welcome to attend any EFC approved basic or advanced course wherever it is organized! International discussions and exchange of opinions are always very educative and interesting!

Because the EFC Advanced Course is a very new training format, it has not yet been organized anywhere, but as Professor Xavier Carcopino – Chair of the Education Committee, wrote in this newsletter earlier, we will hold the first ones over the next twelve months.

Welcome to EFC colposcopy courses!

**Pekka Nieminen, President-elect of the European Federation for Colposcopy,  
Chief Physician, Associate Professor, Dept. Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Helsinki  
University Hospital, Finland**







## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

| City        | Country        | Dates           | Type                      | Hosting Society              | Contact Person         |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>2017</b> |                |                 |                           |                              |                        |
| Seinäjoki   | FINLAND        | 26 April        | Basic Colposcopy Course   | Finnish Colposcopy Society   | Pekka Nieminen         |
| Riga        | LATVIA         | 27 April        | Basic Colposcopy Course   | Latvian Colposcopy Society   | Kristine Pcolkina      |
| Antalya     | TURKEY         | 18 May          | Basic Colposcopy Course   | EBCOG                        | Charlotte Mercer       |
| Skopje      | R.OF MACEDONIA | 16 June         | Basic Colposcopy Course   | Macedonian Colposcopy Soc.   | Goran Dimitrov         |
| Vienna      | AUSTRIA        | 4-7 November    | Advanced Colp. Course     | ESGO/ENYGO/EFC               | Olaf Reich             |
| Ioannina    | GREECE         | November (TBC)  | Advanced Colp. Course     | Hellenic Colposcopy Society  | Vangelis Paraskevaidis |
| <b>2018</b> |                |                 |                           |                              |                        |
| Brussels    | BELGIUM        | January (TBC)   | Satellite Meeting/TTT     | EFC                          | EFC Secretariat        |
| Helsinki    | FINLAND        | 15-16 February  | Advanced Colp. Course     | Nordic-Baltic Congress       | Pekka Nieminen         |
| TBC         | PORTUGAL/SPAIN | March (TBC)     | Advanced Colp. Course/TTT | French-Iberian Congress      | Virginia Monteiro      |
| Riga        | LATVIA         | 19-21 April     | Advanced Colp. Course/TTT | Latvian Colposcopy Society   | Irina Jermakova        |
| Budapest    | ROMANIA        | November (TBC)  | Advanced Colp. Course/TTT | Hungarian Colposcopy Society | Robert Koiss           |
| <b>2019</b> |                |                 |                           |                              |                        |
| Rome        | ITALY          | September (TBC) | Advanced Colp.Course/TTT  | 8th EFC Congress             | EFC Secretariat        |

## FUTURE MEETING



**EFC Nordic-Baltic Advanced  
Colposcopy Course  
15-16 February, 2018, Helsinki,  
Finland**

**Registration and more  
info: [marja.simojoki@oulu.fi](mailto:marja.simojoki@oulu.fi)**