

EFC Education Committee Newsletter

Dear friends

I think the Education Committee and the educational aspirations of the EFC have reached but not yet crossed the Rubicon: A point of no return. Our focus is to provide training for those states needing training support and to that end training courses are focussed in Eastern Europe. Despite this intention, in 2010 there were colposcopy training courses in Antwerp as part of the EBCOG Congress, in Kosovo and in Berlin immediately prior to the EFC Congress. All courses were well attended with a total of over 200 delegates. I wish to personally thank Chiara Benedetto, Chair of the Scientific Committee of EBCOG, Patrick Walker President of the IFCPC a co-sponsor of the Berlin training course, Panos Sarhanis, Narendra Pisal, Albert Singer, Mary Packer, Joe Jordan, Charles Redman, Jeff Tan, Theo Helmerhorst and Willy Poppe. Unfortunately Christine Bergeron was delayed due to an airport strike in France and Walter Prendiville became another victim of the Icelandic ash cloud.

Provisionally courses for 2011 are being considered for Italy, Georgia, Lithuania, Romania, Russia and Slovakia. These are to be confirmed.

The Rubicon is around the standardisation of training. The EFC is keen to look at using the agreed colposcopic competencies with some states supporting others with inadequate capacity for training. This may require the development of fellowships for fast-track training with the award of a national diploma of that training state. The qualified colposcopist would then return to the source state to train local colposcopists and provide colposcopic service. The host nation providing the training would agree to provide training for free but the salary and paperwork for the trainee would be sorted out by the trainee's state of origin. The IFCPC is also looking at this possibility and I thank Christine Bergeron and Jeffrey Tan for their support in this matter. If a common basic level of competency in colposcopy can be defined with a valid assessment, training from some states could then be recognised by others. The EFC wishes to facilitate this process. This issue was debated at the EFC Congress in Berlin but the floor was evenly divided whether the time was right at present to consider this laudable goal. Nonetheless further update and discussion is anticipated in Prague at the next Congress in 2013. The on-line training database developed by the EFC is live in the UK and would be a valuable tool across Europe. Once reciprocal recognition of colposcopic competency is agreed and active the proposed fellowship scheme would become obsolete.

We are also looking at adding training material to the EFC and IFCPC websites and if you have 1 or 2 lectures or cases then please forward to me, to Charles Redman or to Jens Quaas.

I have had 9 returns from the 2010 training survey and this was presented at the EFC Congress. I thank those of you kind enough to supply your training updates. If you are still to reply I would be grateful if you forward your data to Liz Dollery at the EFC office.

As always I would be grateful for your views about a single training programme. Further communications can be via Jens Quaas at the EFC website as well as directly to me by email. So following another successful EFC Congress I wish you all good health and an enjoyable summer after England has re-claimed her World Cup.

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June 2010

