

President's report 2009-10

This is my first report to Council as President having succeeded Professor Jennifer Bolton from January 1st. I am fortunate to be taking over the reins of the ECCE at a time when the organisation is in a period of growth and development. 2010 has been an eventful and historic year for the ECCE. Executive has met on 2 occasions, in March in Bournemouth, UK, and again in June at the ECU meeting in London. In addition, many Council members were present for the ENQA onsite evaluation in April on which I will elaborate later. Let me take this opportunity to thank all members of the Executive Committee, the CoA and QAC who have given their time and efforts to the ECCE during this past year.

The ECCE has performed 2 onsite evaluations of institutions in 2010. The Executive sent a team consisting of 4 members to WIOC, Glamorgan in April. WIOC was re-accredited for 5 years at the CoA meeting in London in May. I would like to thank the Team for doing an excellent job. This was the first time that WIOC had been evaluated against the current Standards. Also at the May meeting, the CoA granted Candidate (for Accredited) Status to McTimoney College of Chiropractic for its four-year integrated Masters in Chiropractic plus Foundation Year programme. It is anticipated that McTimoney College will apply for Accredited Status for this programme before May 2015.

Executive has recently sent a Team to The University of Johannesburg for an onsite evaluation of the Department of Chiropractic. The CoA will deliberate on the Team's report at their meeting in Brussels in November.

In September I was invited by the Swedish Chiropractors' Association to attend a one-day seminar discussing the future of chiropractic education in Sweden. The day was hosted by the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education, a full ENQA member. The report from the Agency is due to be published in November 2010.

During 2010 there has been a great deal of time and energy devoted to ECCE's membership application with ENQA. The Executive utilised the facilities of AECC for its March meeting in order to perform a "dry run" for the onsite evaluation 6 weeks later. Our thanks go to AECC for the use of their facilities. The onsite evaluation was managed by Mrs Mary Lou Thiel who did an excellent job coordinating Council members, stakeholders and others and kept them to a very tight schedule. At the conclusion of the evaluation visit the Evaluation Team commended both Mary Lou and ECCE's Executive Secretary David Burtenshaw on the exemplary work they had done in presenting ECCE to ENQA. I would like to thank them both for their hard work. The evaluation panel also commented on the quality of the ECCE Self-Study report saying it was the best that they had seen. Professor Bolton was instrumental in the preparation of the report and deserves the acknowledgement and thanks for her superb work.

The onsite evaluation took place from 26 to 28 April. It consisted of a series of meetings and interviews with Executive, representatives of institutions, students, past Evaluation Team members, CoA, QAC, members of the profession and the ECU. It was heartening for the ECCE to see how willing all participants were to contribute to the process. Thank you to all concerned.

The Evaluation Team report was discussed at the ENQA Board meeting 2 September. The final decision was taken at a subsequent Board meeting 22 September where the ECCE was granted full membership of ENQA and had full voting rights at the ENQA AGM held in Helsinki 23 and 24 September.

At the time of writing we have not yet had the opportunity to digest the decision of the ENQA Board and the further implications for the procedures and processes of ECCE. ECCE aims to be an active member of ENQA and this has been demonstrated by our regular attendance at ENQA events the past few years. In January Professor Jennifer Bolton attended a training day for ENQA Evaluation Team members. Arvid Thorkeldsen represented ECCE at the ENQA AGM in Helsinki and made use of ECCE's brand new voting rights. The ECCE feels that it can make a worthwhile contribution to the field of higher education accreditation through its involvement in ENQA.

There are no evaluation visits planned for 2011. This temporary lull in accrediting work will provide Executive, and particularly QAC, with the opportunity to reflect on the recommendations made by ENQA. This fits well with the cycle of review of our documentation due now. 2012 will most likely see ECCE perform 4 evaluations of institutions in Europe and South Africa. As there are several new chiropractic educational institutions operating in Europe, ECCE must be prepared for a steady increase to its workload. Such an increase in workload in turn places demands on both financial and human resources. Marcus Fechner continues to perform an excellent job as is demonstrated by the accounts he will present to Council at this meeting.

2010 saw the passing of Lothar Nafziger, one of the founding members of the ECCE in 1990. It was Lothar who registered the original ECCE Constitution in the German court at Aachen where the organisation is still registered. It is clear that without the hard work of the pioneers in the accreditation of chiropractic education in Europe the ECCE and chiropractic education would not be where it is today. We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Dr Graham Heale in a motorcycle accident in June. Graham was a trained Evaluation Team member and participated the evaluation visit to WIOC in May 2010. Graham also participated in the ENQA evaluation process. The ECCE sent its condolences to Graham's family.

In conclusion I would like to thank my Executive, Executive Secretary David Burtenshaw, and Council for an enjoyable and exciting start to my tenure as ECCE President and look forward to the time ahead.

TL Raven
President
September 2010