

President's Report 2013

2013 has again been an active period for ECCE. Chiropractic education in Europe is a growing and evolving entity. Established institutions are continuously incorporating advances in educational theory to fine-tune programmes, while new and developing programmes are building from the ground up. ECCE is also growing and evolving in a constantly changing quality assurance landscape.

At its meeting in Berlin on 2/3 May 2013, the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) admitted ECCE to the Register. Inclusion on the Register is valid until 30 June 2015 at which time ECCE will be required to submit an application for renewal. The renewal will be subject to a new external evaluation of ECCE by ENQA. EQAR publishes and manages a register of quality assurance agencies that substantially comply with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) to provide the public with clear and reliable information on quality assurance agencies operating in Europe. Inclusion on the register confirms that ECCE continues to strive for the highest standards in quality assurance in chiropractic education in Europe.

The Commission on Accreditation has made decisions on 3 applications for accreditation and reaccreditation during 2013. IFEC-Toulouse underwent an evaluation in December 2012 and earlier this year was granted accreditation for a period of 3-years, the maximum for an initial accreditation. SDU Odense hosted an evaluation team in February and was reaccredited for a period of 5 years at the May CoA meeting in Barcelona. Finally, the University of Johannesburg hosted a team in September. CoA will evaluate the report and make a decision on the question of reaccreditation at its November meeting in Paris.

ECCE's representative to the CCEI, Ken Vall, has been elected Vice President of CCEI and is taking an active role in the continual improvement of chiropractic education internationally. CCEI is in the process of producing an evaluation on the similarities and differences in the Standards of evaluation utilised by the member CCE's. The report on this mapping process will be available to the CCE's in the near future.

ECCE is an active participant in the International Chiropractic Regulatory Collaboration (ICRC). The most recent series of meetings took place in Durban, South Africa in connection with the WFC Congress. ICRC is a gathering of regulatory and accreditation organisations that aims to streamline mobility of chiropractors and portability of qualifications throughout the world while protecting the rights of chiropractors.

Executive has for the first time held a full meeting online. The motivation for this was to determine if this was a viable alternative to face-to-face meetings. Such a solution would provide considerable savings to ECCE. Several alternative online meeting alternatives were examined and ultimately Executive settled on Skype as the best solution. I am pleased to report that the online meeting was a success. The issue of fatigue during such a long online meeting is a significant issue and is something that needs to be managed appropriately. Online meetings will be utilised by Executive in the future

when appropriate. The total saving was considerable with the previous 2 year's meetings each costing over €2200.

Markus Fechner has decided to leave ECCE and devote time to his practice and family. Markus has been the core of ECCE for 14 years and devoted an untold number of hours to ECCE business. He has provided stability and continuity for both Executive and Council. As President I am truly grateful for the assistance, insight and considered input that Markus has provided.

Having completed my 4-year term as President of ECCE, I will be not seeking re-election at the annual Council meeting. I am pleased with the current standing of ECCE in the higher education quality assurance society and have been fortunate to have overseen ECCE becoming an active member of ENQA and recently being accepted onto the EQAR register. I am grateful for the assistance and collaboration from an excellent Executive committee and ECCE Executive Secretary Mandy Stagg.

TL Raven
President ECCE
October 2013