

President's Report 2010-11

2011 has seen ECCE achieve a new milestone in its relatively short life. It is now 20 years since the ECCE first registered its Constitution in the German courts as a non-profit higher education quality assurance organisation. In this time ECCE has evolved and developed and is now the premier quality assurance organisation in Europe for first qualification chiropractic education. There are currently 6 institutions from Europe and South Africa with full Accredited Status and in addition 3 institutions with Candidate (for Accredited) Status.

In light of such a milestone it is therefore appropriate that much of ECCE's work this year has gone to updating and refining the Constitution, Standards and other documentation that have defined ECCE's activities throughout the years. As a consequence of a cyclical review process together with feedback from ENQA following ECCE's successful application for full membership, the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) under the leadership of Cindy Petersen has undertaken and completed this daunting task. I would like to thank Dr Petersen, the QAC and all who have contributed to the production of the revised documents.

In addition to ECCE's 20th birthday, 2011 brings the end of an era. David Burtenshaw, who has been Executive Secretary since 2001 and was active on Council as an educational expert prior to that, has resigned his post as Exec Sec. In many ways David has been the backbone of ECCE having an unparalleled knowledge of the workings of the organisation from his experience as Council member, CoA member, Evaluation Team Secretary and Executive Secretary. Fortunately David will continue to serve ECCE in the capacity of Evaluation Secretary sharing his extensive experience and insight.

Following David Burtenshaw's departure Executive has been fortunate to engage the services of Mandy Stagg as Executive Secretary. We welcome Mandy knowing she brings extensive organisational skills to the job from her long background in administration and sales at an international level. Combining Mandy's administrative skills and David's educational experience in the support structure will enhance ECCE's ability to meet future challenges.

2011 has also brought a first for ECCE. Previous training events have been held in the format of a face-to-face seminar but in 2011 ECCE decided to move to an internet-based webinar. The internet presentations were held at AECC's facilities in Bournemouth and streamed live to webinar participants. This format allowed ECCE to train potential Evaluation Team members throughout Europe and South Africa at a fraction of the cost of traditional training events. I would like to extend my thanks to Ken Vall at AECC for allowing ECCE to utilise their technical and physical resources.

At the CoA meeting in November 2010, The University of Johannesburg was awarded Accredited Status for a 3 year period. I would like to welcome UJ to Council and look forward to the involvement of our second South African member institution. Although there have been no evaluation visits in 2010 the increasing number of chiropractic education programs in Europe guarantees a steady workload for Evaluation Teams in 2012 and beyond.

As always, each year brings the end of significant contributions to Council. The current Vice President, Thierry Kuster has completed his term of office after 8 years of service to ECCE. At various times throughout that period Thierry has sat on CoA and QAC as well as being a long-term member of Executive, and has always given considerable insight to the matters before him. I would like to thank Thierry for his contribution and enthusiasm for ECCE. Lotte O'Niell has resigned her seat on Council due to a new appointment at the University of Aarhus impacting on the time she can devote to ECCE. Lotte has been involved with both CoA and QAC and been an active member of Council.

As always I must express my gratitude to Executive and Council for their continued hard work in providing quality assurance services for chiropractic education in Europe and South Africa.

TL Raven
President ECCE
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