



Association NER21, Impasse Aurore 3, 3960 Sierre/Suisse
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2016-2017, a new year for our association, full of projects and achievements allowing us to make the concept of Neuro-Environmental Rehabilitation 21 Century/NER21 better known.

An important achievement ("Highlight 2016") was the workshop which the association offered to several teams from the Western Cape Rehabilitation Centre/WCRC in Cape Town, South Africa. As you could read in Newsletter no. 11, edited by our Vice-President Dr Ursula K Imhof, this seminar following the 2016 AGM of 14 April stimulated keen interest and was a big success. It allowed about thirty members of the WCRC staff (physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, as well as some members of medical and administrative staff) to realize the importance of using the NER21 concept in conjunction with other approaches. The participants reported that using the motivational NER21 scales, developed by three of our members: Marie Julien (speech therapist), Dr. Ursula K Imhof (medical doctor in rehabilitation) and myself (physiotherapist) had proved to be valuable in clinical practice.

Remember that this centre is located in a disadvantaged township and demonstrated that the NER21 concept is flexible and can be effective as a rehabilitation approach in diverse cultural, economic and medical environments.

Holding the AGM in Cape Town allowed the South African members to take part in person for the first time. Because it is not always possible for members to attend meetings in person, nor by Skype, your executive committee proposes to alternate meetings between different continents and country-members of the association in Europe, North America, Africa and why not even in South America!

Interaction between the committee, members and interested persons

Once again there have been numerous meetings and exchanges between members and other interested persons, mainly via e-mails and skype. It is, however, noticeable that the forum provided by the members' website is completely under-utilised!

Activities of the Committee

The Committee meet several times, via skype or physically, on 26thJune, 31stJuly, 24thNovember, 20thJanuary, 13thApril. Most of the meetings were dedicated, besides the usual business, to the updating of the NER21 Brochure which will be presented today.

As well as their usual duties, the committee also launched the project of organizing the next congress or seminar of NER21 in Paris, France in 2018!

NER21 congress in Paris in 2018 - Project

This project could be started thanks to our member Nicole Sève-Ferrieu, who is one of our Expert Clinicians and also belongs to our College of Experts. Without her agreement to join the ad hoc committee (“Congress 2018, Paris”) this idea would not have got off the ground.

Although the contacts established through Nicole Sève-Ferrieu are well advanced, there are still several problems to be solved. We will keep you informed whether it will be possible to hold a congress in a different country from that in which the association is registered. Many problems were experienced with the Canadian administration after the 2014 congress, and your committee is being careful about this issue.

Brochure version 2016

The 2016 brochure can be downloaded on the public website (www.ner21.org/brochure)

Recognized courses and workshops of the NER21 concept for health professionals

As mentioned before, certificates issued for recognized courses must include the number of effective hours of the course and the official NER21 stamp. An example of the certificate and the list of recipients must be sent to the president. For each recognized course, the committee will propose to this AGM that a financial contribution for the association should be expected from the course’s participants. The amount has to be decided related to the numbers of hours but also to the financial situation of the course’s location and country. This is to be discussed between the involved educators and the committee.

To date, health professionals (physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, nurses (all degrees), medical practitioners and neuropsychologists) who have trained in France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Canada, Grand-Duché du Luxembourg, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Poland, the USA, Brazil, Argentina and South Africa have received their certificates.

Membership

The situation in 2016 is the same as previously. Many members pay the first year’s membership fees, but not in the following years, but they still appreciate receiving the newsletters and being able to network!

Expert-clinicians NER21

As a reminder, the expert clinicians NER21 at this time are: Lynn Fearnhead, Anna Greenblatt, Michèle H Gerber, Sheena Irwin-Carruthers, Marie Julien, Carole Lavallée, Mary Riley, Lynda Rondeau, Susan Ryerson and Nicole Sève-Ferrieu.

Website www.ner21.org and Official address of the association

Since 2015, the official address of the association is:
Association NER21, Impasse Aurore 3, CH-3960 Sierre / Valais Suisse,
www.ner21.org E-mail : ner21@bluemail.ch

Concerning the website, you are reminded that since 2010 each category of members has a designated contact person: Lucie Moisan (patients and relatives), Marie Julien (speech and language therapists), Lynda Rondeau (physiotherapists), Anna Greenblatt (occupational therapists), Dre Ursula K. Imhof (medical doctors, hospitals and rehabilitation centers) and myself for community associations and public relations.

Many new documents appear on the internet site (www.ner21.org) including the brochure which can be downloaded, the list of expert clinicians, the list of contact persons and diverse photographs of the AGMs and congresses. The “flash” allows quick update news.

An interactive forum has been created on the members ‘site and access made possible thanks to a password sent to each member. Do not hesitate to contact the president or the secretary if you have problems or have forgotten your password. At the moment the forum is rather under-utilized. Think how you could profit by this contact tool and resource, because it was created in response to a demand from many members!

The Newsletter

The newsletters under the editorship of Dr. Ursula K. Imhof, our vice-president, provide an appreciated connection between the members and the committee. They give information about recent news of the association and the accompanying pictures increase the attraction. It is the most read document other than the brochure. Do not hesitate to distribute them to our colleagues or potential interested persons.

In one of the recent newsletters you will have read of our new member, Dr.Med. Hubert Vuagnat, a specialist in neurorehabilitation and chief medical officer at the University Hospital of Geneva, who received the Edward Lowman award from the American Association of Neurological Rehabilitation for his exceptional contribution to inter-disciplinary work. This is the first time that the award has been given to a person outside of North America. His commitment to our association is a proof of confidence and we look forward to his involvement in the future.

Thanks

Firstly we have two new members responsible for the verification of the accounts, Dr. Julia Vecsey and Lucie Moisan, and we thank them for undertaking this responsibility.

A dynamic and successful association needs hardworking and enthusiastic committee members and I am lucky to have two in the persons of Nicole Piaget, who occupies the post of Treasurer and Secretary, and Dr. Ursula K Imhof as Vice-President and Editor.

Finally, thank you to Dr. Julia Vecsey for hosting the meeting in her home.

Thank you all for your commitment! Michele H. Gerber, president NER21