



Association NER21 (Neuro-Environmental Rehabilitation 21st century)
Plateforme d'échange professionnel, social, de formation et de recherche
Impasse Aurore 3 - 3960 Sierre / Suisse www.ner21.org ner21@bluemail.ch

Ordinary General Assembly, 28 April 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017-2018

The past year allowed us to present the concept of NER21 on multiple occasions and in many countries, thanks to those members who take every opportunity to promote the association and our concept. Thank you for that! Interest in our approach is increasing, especially since several studies, including scientific as well as more pragmatically-based or clinical studies, support the characteristics of the concept of neuro-environmental rehabilitation.

Below are some new announcements as well as a little reminder of some of the activities of the association:

An ad hoc committee, Formation NER21, was created with the aim of setting up an instructor-training process as well as restructuring the courses and seminars recognised by the NER 21 Association. Members of the committee comprise the three current senior NER21 instructors as well as Dr. Ursula K Imhof. The College of Experts was also consulted.

Instructor training in the NER21 concept: The aim of establishing an instructor-training process is to perpetuate teaching of the concept by instructors who have undergone specific training and are recognised by the association. A structure has been set up initially for the training of physiotherapists and occupational therapists. Later, training processes will be set up for other health professionals (speech and language therapists, as well as care therapists).

A new structure for courses in the NE21 concept: The aim is to make the training more accessible following the decreasing financial support available for health workers. Each course will be offered over five days. There will be three levels of courses. Completion of the level 1 course will allow access to successive levels. It will be possible to progress through the levels in the same year or over several years.

WCPT: The World Confederation for Physical Therapy congress was held in Cape Town, South Africa in July 2017, during which Michele H. Gerber officially presented the NER21 concept at an Indaba session. The Indaba allowed discussion with colleagues from many countries, including the director of the School of Physiotherapy in Togo, to whom the book NER21 was offered. Numerous brochures of the association were distributed during neurology platform and poster sessions.

Activities of the Committee

Being engaged in all the activities presented in this report, committee members have consulted very regularly via electronic channels (Skype or WhatsApp) or physically. An ad hoc committee "Congress NER21" was formed by Nicole Sève-Ferrieu and the committee continues to work towards holding a congress in France for 2019 or 2020. The difficulties we have encountered us so far in organising such a congress have not made us abandon this project, but any suggestions for organising a congress to be held in France or elsewhere will be welcome! Please send your ideas to the committee.



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NER21 Scales

The NER21 Scales of effort, satisfaction/well-being, pain and performance were developed by Marie Julien, a Canadian speech therapist, Dr Ursula K Imhof, a medical doctor, and Michèle H. Gerber, a physiotherapist. They are published in the book “Approche thérapeutique neuro-environnementale après une lésion cérébrale / Concept NER21” in 2014 (ISBN 978-2-35327-186-3). We have received and granted several requests to use the scales in rehabilitation hospitals, a stroke unit and in private practice. They have been used by physiotherapists, occupational therapists and care workers and the feedback received on their use is very positive, especially for people with aphasia.

Collaboration with the SEHP association

We continue to have good collaboration, especially as the new president of the association for “Sexualité et Handicaps Pluriels /SEHP”, Dr Hubert Vuagnat, is active in the NER21 training in Switzerland. The aim of the association is to enable persons with a disability to choose and exercise their own sexuality.

Courses and seminars recognised by NER21

As more Expert Clinicians establish their competency in this approach, we need to ensure that all courses and seminars indicate clearly in their course advertisement that the course or seminar is recognised by the NER21 association. It is permissible to use the official logo on the course announcement and on the certificate, but a small contribution must be paid to the association. The committee will decide on the amount of the contribution.

To date, health professionals from France, Canada, the USA, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, the Ukraine, Brazil, Argentina and South Africa have received a certificate of competence.

Brochure

In the third version of 2016, a few changes were made to the text, in particular the inclusion of two new members of the College of Experts. It is recommended that you distribute copies of the brochure when giving courses or seminars. The brochure can be downloaded from the website: www.ner21.org

Individual members and member rehabilitation hospitals across the world

Switzerland, France, Canada, the USA, South Africa, Brazil, Argentina, Togo, Ghana, Luxembourg, Belgium.



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Expert Clinicians and senior instructors NER21

To date, the expert clinicians of NER21 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.

The senior instructors NER21 are: Sheena Irwin-Carruthers (South Africa), Susan Ryerson (USA) and Michèle H. Gerber (Switzerland).

Contact persons for each category of membership

Lucie Moisan (patients and their entourage), Marie Julien (speech and hearing therapists), Lynda Rondeau (physiotherapists), Anna Greenblatt (occupational therapists), Dr Ursula K. Imhof (medical doctors, hospitals and rehabilitation centres), Michèle H. Gerber (community associations and public relations).

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

Newsletters

The newsletters edited by Dr Ursula K. Imhof provide a much appreciated connection between the members and the committee. They provide information about new developments and also about members involved in research or areas of special interest.

Thanks

Finally, it is always a pleasure for a President to be able to count on the ideas and active collaboration of two other members of the committee – Nicole Piaget, the Treasurer and again the current Secretary, and Ursula K. Imhof, the Vice-President.

Thank you for the interaction of so many members and for the confidence which you have in me.

Michèle H. Gerber,
President NER21.

Note: This year the President's report is published in both French and English, and is available on the website: www.ner21.org