



Association NER21 (Neuro-Environmental Rehabilitation 21st century)

Plateforme d'échange professionnel, social, de formation et de recherche

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Annual Report of the President of NER21 for the year 2023-2024

Celebrating 15 years of development for our association

Dear members of NER21.

I am honoured to present to you the annual report of our association for the year 2023-2024. The past year was marked by a number of challenges, but equally by many advances through our efforts to promote the concept of NER21.

Achievements during 2023-2024

- Expansion of the team :** We welcomed two new Basic Course Instructors NER21, Virginie Duplay and Jérôme Sciquot, who have enlarged our team and reinforced our impact in the field of neuroenvironmental re-education and rehabilitation. Virginie Deploy is a physiotherapist in Lyon, France, and Jérôme Sciquot is an occupational therapist in Fribourg, Switzerland. Having been successful in the exams for level 2, they have reached the level of Basic Course Instructors NER21 and may teach 5-day courses at levels 1 and 2. Level 3, the advanced course, may only be taught by Senior Instructors NER21.
- Revision of the Statutes :** The certification of new Basic Course Instructors necessitated a revision of the statutes of our association, which date back to our creation in 2009. This revision was the spearhead of the work of the committee in the past year. We have pleasure in presenting them for your acceptance later today.
- Launch of the new internet site :** The creation and imminent launch of the new internet site of NER21 represents an important step in our communication. This tool reinforces our visibility and accessibility to our members, to professionals, and to members of the public. Its development demanded an enormous commitment and hours of time on the part of our information scientist as well as our President. Comments and suggestions will be welcomed !
- Promotion of the NER21 concept :** Dr Ursula K. Imhof, Vice-President, and I presented the concept of NER21 to the multidisciplinary team at the large rehabilitation centre at Berck-du-Mer in the Hauts de France. I also revisited the Western Cape Rehabilitation Centre, in Cape Town, South Africa, to give coaching sessions. Jérôme Sciquot presented a poster at the congress of Swiss occupational therapists , and Virginie Duplay presented at a conference of physiotherapy students in France. This diffusion and exchange of knowledge regarding the NER21 concept encourages not only further study, but also the integration of new ideas in what is taught to students, which is crucial for professional education.

Difficulties and Opportunities

Despite these achievements, the committee is very aware of the difficulties which persist. Promotion of the concept of neuroenvironmental re-education/readaptation/rehabilitation requires continuous engagement and concerted effort. We remain determined to overcome all difficulties and seize all opportunities presented.

Perspectives

For the future, we intend to carry on working to further our expansion and to continue presenting our courses throughout the world, reinforcing our partnerships and intensifying our efforts to promote awareness of the NER concept. Our objective is still to achieve better recognition by presenting a concept which is pragmatic, ecologically sound, neuroenvironmentally based and favours an approach which completely integrates all appropriate interventions within the field of health. Since our inception, the over-riding wish has been to contribute positively to the quality of life for persons with disabilities, their families and their near-ones.

Thanks

I wish to express my profound gratitude to each and every one of you for your close engagement and invaluable contribution to our association NER21. Your devotion and your intense work, evident in the work of the NER21 committee, the ad hoc working groups, the Course Instructors and the Members of the College of Experts, form the essential pillars for our success and our growth.

The ad hoc working group on the Training of NER21 Instructors comprises the three Senior NER21 Instructors, namely Sheena Irwin-Carruthers, MSc (South Africa); Dr. Susan Ryerson (USA); and Michèle H. Gerber (Switzerland). They have defined the requirements for achieving the qualification of a «Basic Course Instructor NER21» ; That is to say, the right to teach levels 1 and 2. Having agreed on the form of the evaluation, the three Senior Instructors implemented the final evaluation of Virginie Duplay and Jérôme Sciquot. Thank you to the working group for once again validating the competence of the Instructors NER21 in teaching our concept.

To Dr. Ursula Imhof, Vice-President and Editor of the Newsletter : Your expertise and involvement in communication with the members is invaluable. The Newsletter which you edit is the source of valuable information and is an important means of maintaining our community and of informing the public of our activities.

To Nicole Piaget, our very competent Treasurer, we also give our very sincere thanks. Your judicious management of the finances of our association assures our financial stability and allows us to achieve our objectives efficiently and responsibly.

To Marie Claire Morel, our loyal secretary, a big thank-you for your diligence, competence and attention to detail. Your work behind the scenes guarantees the success of our operations and contributes greatly to the fluidity of our activities. Completing the documents of our association demanded intense work on your part, and we thank you for that in particular.

The work and devotion on the part of the committee is the corner-stone of our success and I am deeply aware of the power of such an engaged and formidable group.

Finally, let me thank the membership as a whole for their continued support. We form a dynamic and passionate community

I would be delighted to continue this adventure with you in the years to come.

With my gratitude,

Michèle H. Gerber,
President.