

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ECCE GENERAL COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2020

INTRODUCTION

This has clearly been a difficult year both for the ECCE and the institutions we accredit. We have tried to adjust to the new conditions that the pandemic is causing and have had continuous discussions with our institutions to resolve any issues as regards accreditation and reaccreditation.

Most if not all of our activities are now conducted online chiefly using Zoom for committee meetings and virtual accreditation events.

ENQA

The preparation of our Self-study report(SSR) for ENQA accreditation is progressing well and I would like to thank all Council members who have helped in a variety of ways to produce the document which you will be able to view in draft form at this meeting.

In May we had a meeting with two ENQA reviewers to assess progress and propose changes and improvements to the SSR. There were a considerable amount of work outstanding but overall the reviewers were pleased with the progress, nevertheless it was felt that it would be prudent to defer the ENQA accreditation to April 2022 as ENQA itself also has planning issues due to the pandemic.

I have attended a Zoom meeting with the European Alliance for Subject Specific and Professional Accreditation and Quality Assurance (EASPA), of particular interest here was the discussion of the change of rules regarding ENQA accreditation, the final arbiter of the accreditation has now moved from ENQA to The European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) this will mean that there will be opportunities to use other agencies than ENQA to become registered by EQAR. In future it might be more important for us to be registered by EQAR rather than also be a member of ENQA as it is likely such membership will be less important.

EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The executive has met twice (virtually) since the last Council meeting and the focus of discussions have been on our development of the SSR for the ENQA accreditation. We are also looking at ways to improve and develop what we do as an organisation particularly as it relates to AMoRS and student engagement. There is no doubt that the ECCE could play a more active and helpful role in developing collaboration and innovation for chiropractic institutions throughout Europe and South Africa. We hope to have a useful discussion with Council at the upcoming meeting.

There has been some possible unhelpful development in the European Chiropractic Union(ECU) this year, the British Chiropractic Association (BCA) has decided to leave the ECU. This could have some financial effect on the ECU and we will have to await the outcome and how this will affect the ECCE in due course.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION

As you will see from the report of the chair of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Committee (QAAC) the activity of accreditation has now moved online. We have had discussions with institutions involved and we feel confident that the process will be fair and thorough. Indeed we have just had a joint reaccreditation event with the Swiss Accrediting Authority at the University of Zurich and the feedback is very good.

We were able before the pandemic struck to reaccredit two institutions, the McTimoney College in the UK and IFEC France. These events were successful and I congratulate the institutions' performance in both gaining an 8 year accreditation.

CONCLUSION

Although the pandemic has caused disruption to our activities we feel confident that we can continue our work as an accrediting agency for chiropractic across Europe and South Africa.

We are monitoring our online work and much of this will probably continue even after the pandemic.

The ENQA/EQAR situation will require further consideration as will the situation of the chiropractic profession in Europe.

We will make every effort to improve and develop as an agency and we are looking forward to working with you all to achieve our goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Vall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Vall, DC, MA(Ed)
President