

## President's Annual Report 2017

### INTRODUCTION

At its annual Council meeting in November 2016, the ECCE elected new members to its Executive and the new Executive is now as follows :

President - Kenneth Vall

Vice President - Cynthia Peterson

Chairman of Commission on Accreditation(CoA) - Benito Oliva

Chairman of Quality Assurance Committee(QAC) - Christophe Sem

Treasurer - Inga Gossow

The ECCE extends its thanks to Olivier Lanlo, Alexander Ruhe and Graham Mills for their hard work and dedication over the previous years.

The November meeting also took some important decisions in particular the aim of remaining a member of ENQA and also to improve the financial position of the ECCE.

### GENERAL ACTIVITIES

In 2016, the ECCE appointed a taskforce to review and prepare a new strategic plan. This taskforce included Cindy Peterson and Ian Beesley(ECU) and was led by Ken Vall.

The plan was presented and agreed upon at the November ECCE Council meeting and the ambitious goals for the ECCE are now worked upon and enacted by the Executive. The plan however, is a living document and will be kept under constant review. (Enclosure A)

Our main goal is to prepare for the next evaluation visit by ENQA in 2018 and to that end we have appointed a Quality Assurance Coordinator with the specific role of ensuring a successful accreditation. Such a paid position is necessary if the ECCE is to remain a member of ENQA.

We have also explored the possibilities of joint accreditation with national accrediting agencies and have already had positive meetings with agencies from Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

In order to improve what we do, we have introduced self evaluation through questionnaires of all our meetings which will be evaluated and acted upon by the Executive.

### FINANCE

The decision by ECCE Council to pursue ENQA accreditation will be financially challenging. Clearly the accredited institutions will have to bear the greatest financial burden. The Executive have therefore

proposed a new fee banding structure that will considerably increase the annual membership fees to institutions. (Enclosure B). However, at the same time we are reducing costs by using Skype meetings if at all possible and I will also propose a change to our Constitution reforming and reducing Council membership and thus reducing cost further. Additionally, the ECCE plans to implement the risk-based re-accreditation proposal which would offer flexible re-evaluation time frames up to 7 or 8 years in order to coincide with national or other required accreditations, facilitate joint evaluations and thus reduce the financial and time costs of accreditation to the institutions.

Despite these changes the ECCE is still dependent on support from the ECU. The contribution from the ECU has not changed over many years, in fact, as Denmark rejoined the ECU, the ECCE lost part of its revenue. Denmark used to individually support the ECCE and it no longer does as a member of the ECU. Similarly should France rejoin the ECU, the ECCE might lose a further 5K Euro annually.

I would therefore very much like to discuss with the ECU an appropriate and sustainable financial model of support going forward.

### COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION( CoA )

The CoA now accredits 10 institutions :

The Anglo European College of Chiropractic (UK)  
Department of Chiropractic and Somatology, Durban University of Technology (SA)  
Institute Franco-European de Chiropractique, Ivry-sur-Seine and Toulouse (F)  
Institute of Sports Science and Clinical Biomechanics, University of Southern Denmark (DK)  
Welsh Institute of Chiropractic, University of South Wales (UK)  
Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Chiropractic, University of Johannesburg (SA)  
Madrid College of Chiropractic, Real Centro University, Escorial Maria-Christina (E)  
University of Zurich, Zurich (CH)  
McTimoney College of Chiropractic, Abingdon (UK)  
Barcelona College of Chiropractic, Barcelona (E)

Following on from the issues raised by the initial accreditation visit to McTimoney College, the CoA reviewed its processes as regards team selection and training. The post of permanent Evaluation Secretary has been removed and a separate Evaluation Secretary selected for his or her expertise is now appointed for each evaluation visit. The feedback from recent evaluation and re-evaluation visits has been very positive from both ECCE teams and the institutions concerned. In conjunction with discussions between other accrediting agencies, the CoA is also considering other ways of improving the accreditation process including length of visits and time of accreditation.

### QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE (QAC) AND QUALITY ASSURANCE CONSULTANT

The new Quality Assurance Consultant at present is mapping our standards against the new standards set by ENQA and as required by ENQA in their review and will also map the ECCE Standards against the soon to be released new GCC Standards in order to facilitate joint evaluations. The Quality Assurance Consultant in conjunction with the Quality Assurance Committee is also busy formulating "critical standards". These are selected standards that are deemed necessary to achieve Fully or Partially compliant levels in order for institutions to become accredited. The proposal will go to the November meeting of the Council before being implemented.

The QAC's evaluation of evaluation visits have been very helpful in advising CoA of implementing improvements to their processes and as stated we have now asked the QAC to evaluate all our

meetings and activities including the Executive committee meetings in order to enhance and quality assure what we do.

## CONCLUSION

The number of accredited institutions has grown over the years albeit slowly, and sometimes haphazardly; at the same time, there has been little change to how the ECCE is governed.

With increased peer review and accrediting activity, the ECCE needs to become a much more professional body rather than being run more or less as a charitable organisation.

Nevertheless the establishment of quality chiropractic education within a university setting should be a priority for all European Chiropractic Organisations.

Clearly research and legislation are important issues but in my opinion the focus for the next say five years should be on establishing chiropractic education in most if not all European countries.

We need to work together with ambition, energy, focus and finance to achieve such goals.

The ECCE with its resource in educational expertise will be ready to support such future endeavour.

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

Kenneth Vall  
President