

**NEWSLETTER - May 2015**

**From Jonathan Silverman, the President**

Summer is upon us in the Northern hemisphere, but we have so many members from the Southern hemisphere now that I need to wish you a happy winter! As of today, we have 353 members from throughout the world. Thank you so much for supporting the association.

EACH is undergoing tremendous development at the moment and this picture of the aurora borealis in Iceland in March captures my feelings of what it is like to be in the executive of EACH. Loads of exciting things happening all around with so much to report. It's great.



In this newsletter, I particularly wish to focus on the 6-monthly steering committee meeting of EACH in Ghent and the decisions that we made which will influence you the membership. And in the next newsletter, I would like to give an initial report of pEACH, the new name for the recently formed advocacy and implementation committee, so that you can understand a little bit about the direction in which we are attempting to travel.

**Sara Rubinelli**



But first I would like to welcome Sara Rubinelli to the executive committee of EACH. Sara is the national representative for Switzerland and is now the newly appointed chair of the pEACH committee.

The executive is made up of the 3 presidents, the chairs of the standing committees (pEACH, rEACH, and tEACH) and the treasurer. Sara is Assistant Professor in Health Communication at the University of Luzern (CH), Coordinator of the Human Functioning Unit and Leader of the Person-Centered Healthcare Group at Swiss Paraplegic Research (CH).

Please read more about her background and research interests on the [executive page](#) of the website. She has a very keen interest and experience in attempting to implement the findings of research into practice and is therefore ideally placed to lead the new pEACH committee.

**News of the Summer Event**

And I can't get going without reminding you about the Summer Event which we are so excited about. We really hope that you will all be able to join us in London.

**EACH Summer Event  
24-26 August 2015  
Regent's University, Regent's Park, London**

We have now reviewed the abstracts for posters and have accepted 52 posters which is fantastic. We also now have the details of the 12 workshops, which you can read [here](#), and we will be posting further descriptions of each workshop in the near future. You can register for the summer event now [here](#).



**Summer School 2015**

We are also delighted that, in connection with the EACH Summer Event, rEACH is offering a 3 day Summer School for 12 junior investigators from **27-29 August 2015** at the same venue. The aim is to stimulate talented communication investigators in the early stages of their career to exchange ideas and discuss their current work and create an ongoing supportive network.

The three day intensive Summer School, following the Summer Event, provides the opportunity for successful delegates to present their work from a theoretical, methodological and practical perspective. It is obligatory for the participants of the Summer School to also attend the Summer Event: the research workshops provided within the Summer Event form an essential component of the Summer School. For more information and details of how to apply, please see [here](#).

**Steering committee meeting in Ghent March 2015**

The steering committee meetings are where the real decisions are made within our organisation and we were pleased to have 21 members attend either in person or by web conference in Ghent in March. We were able to review the progress made in the last 6 months including:

- our new charitable status
- the greatly improved website
- our new management company
- the establishment of the pEACH committee
- the changes being made to the rEACH committee to extend its membership and involve more people to share and organise in achieving its aims
- the successful renegotiations of our contract with Elsevier
- establishment of the Summer Event and the Summer School
- the new newsletters and regular pages in PEC
- the recent membership drive
- the establishment of a donation fund,
- the signing of the contract for EACH conference in Heidelberg in 2016

Phew - we have been busy! Important areas that we make decisions about at this meeting which we would particularly like to share with the membership are:

- we discussed in depth the new design and funding for the research Summer School and agreed to provide a subsidy to attend the event of €300 per person



- we reviewed the bids for hosting the EACH international conference in 2018. We are very grateful to have received bids from Belfast, Cyprus, Porto and Vienna and are currently now choosing between the 2 front runners, Cyprus and Porto
- until now, if a country has more than 5 members, it can elect a national representative to sit on the steering committee. We have national representatives now from several countries outside of Europe as far away as USA, Australia China and Japan. Our current rule says the president can only come from within Europe. I'm pleased to report that the committee has decided that in future the president can come from any country as long as they are able to fulfil the criteria
- we reviewed the issue of membership fees which remarkably have remained unchanged since 2001 when the association was founded. Currently fees are €90 (€105 if wish print version of PEC). For the organisation to develop, provide more services for its members, have effective management and cover inflation since 2001, it was decided that we do regrettably need to gradually increase our fees over the next few years. For the year 2016, the fees will be increased to €105 (€120 for print version)
- we agreed a policy for advertisement of external courses which will give specific additional benefits to EACH members
- we were pleased that the donation fund to support grants for participants from low income countries had already reached over €600 and decided to advertise this further
- we reviewed the plans for the 2016 EACH conference in Heidelberg which are pressing very smoothly under the stewardship of Wolfgang Eich and Christiane Bieber and in particular the steering committee was keen to encourage a student strand and more student attendance

### Now a brief report from a steering committee national representative

Please remember there is space reserved in the newsletter for news from members about their teaching and research activities and innovations so please send me news about things you'd like to share with your colleagues at [jonathan.silverman@each.eu](mailto:jonathan.silverman@each.eu)

In this newsletter, we are pleased to send you news from Denmark from Jette Ammentorp, national representative on the steering committee and Gitte Thybo Pihl, deputy:

## happiest people in the world



*In Denmark we have had a network for people interested in research, teaching and development of communication since 2011. When we started there were only four Danish members of EACH, so with the dual purpose of establishing a Danish network for communication in healthcare and attracting new members to EACH we decided that the network should be open for a broader group than just the EACH members.*

*Since then we have arranged meetings twice a year where the program is a combination of presentations, discussions and some information from the members of EACH. About 25-30 people usually participate in the meetings representing many different professions such as doctors, nurses, teachers, psychologists, linguists and*

*pharmacologists. This enriches the discussions and reveals new perspectives on challenges for and opportunities of communication in health care.*

*Now four years later, 77 professionals has subscribed to our network mail-list. They are invited to our meetings and receive information about activities in EACH and as we had hoped the number of Danish*

*members of EACH has increased during the years and is now 19.*

*To our next meeting in May, we have invited some of our Norwegian colleagues where the overall topic will be existential communication. Please contact Jette Ammentorp [Jette.Ammentorp@rsyd.dk](mailto:Jette.Ammentorp@rsyd.dk) for further information about the network.*

### **Best wishes**

Thank you once again for your support of our association and look forward to communicating with you again in the near future.

Very best wishes  
Jonathan

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