

Annual report 2007

2007 was a busy year for the ESCIF. We had a successful congress in Heidelberg. We participated at ISCoS congress in Iceland and presented our federation, but we were unsuccessful in fundraising, except for the congress in Heidelberg where Manfred Sauer supported us. We could not find a sponsor willing support the ESCIF organisation itself for a couple of years.

Our principal activities where as follows:

In Lobbach near Heidelberg, at the Manfred Sauer Stiftung (MFS) we held an executive meeting on 16-17 April 2007 doing the last preparing works for the congress and planning year 2007 to the congress 2008 in Umag. Then we held the congress in Lobbach on 18-20 April 2007 with two principal themes: nutrition and wellbeing, what is also the focus of the MFS, with presentation of Kevin Schultess on nutrition related to health and easy bowl management, followed by a visit of the facilities in MFS. The second theme began with the presentation of the results of the "Information gathering project about acute care and primary rehabilitation in the member countries" by Jane Horsewell followed by a workshop to point out the main topics to be put in a policy statement to be worked out in the coming year. Finally we had a first information about an integration project (it takes two to tango revisited) that starts in Switzerland in 2007-08 and which should be extended to other European countries in a second time.

From 25 June to 2 July three Executive members (Jane, Adrian and Daniel) went to Iceland to participate to the ISCoS congress. On 30 June we held a workshop during 2.5 hours where we presented the general objectives of ESCIF, the results of the Heidelberg congress and where Jane spoke about the results and perspectives of the project "Acute care and primary rehabilitation". We took also the opportunity to make contacts with key people from ISCoS who gave us the testimonials you find on our website. We talked to potential sponsors like Coloplast and other firms who work on the SCI field.

In October we sent out Winifred and Adrian to visit Umag and to test and make a report on the site of 2008 congress. We could then go further in the planning of the congress during our executive meeting on 26-28 October in Helsinki.

In order to save time and expenses the executive decided not to meet physically to often in 2008 and to work together by telephone conference meetings. We held such meetings on 23 July 2007, 21 November 2007, 7 December 2007, 27 February 2008, 11 April 2008.

It was found to be a good way to function together and we plan to continue to make telephone conferences during the coming year.

Jane did an excellent job in preparing the ESCIF Policy Statement with the information collected during the congress in Heidelberg. She sent it out to the members to get feedback to make it better and reflect the meaning of ESCIF in general. It is to be presented for acceptance at the general assembly and to define the participants for the working groups in the 4 main topics of the policy. Jane did also participated in the project "It takes two to tango revisited" and informed us about its progress.

The website there had some remodelling work to make it better to use and improve the layout. We put on documents to be downloaded and prepared an "executive area" where we will be able to store all the documents needed by the executive. We opened a members area to put on information coming from the members but this was not really used.

Financially we live on the first donation we received at the foundation of the ESCIF, on the income from the congress and the members fees. If we do not find one or more sponsors our functioning will be very difficult. It is an important objective of the executive for the coming year to make an action plan to solve this problem.

The detail of the finances will be presented by our treasurer Adrian.

I would like to thank warmly the executive team for the work they have done in the past year, for the open discussions and active participation in our meetings. I would like to say a special thank you and good luck to Adrian who will retire from the executive committee after the congress in Umag. He has done a very good job in managing the website and hunting potential sponsors, these contacts will perhaps bring us success later on.

Daniel Joggi
President of ESCIF
April 2008