

# Malta College of Family Doctors: Secretary's Report of College Activities 2005-6

**Dr Noel CARUANA (Honorary Secretary MCFD)**

## **1. Council and its meetings**

1.1 There were 9 meetings since the last AGM of 24th October 2005.

Council members: Dr.P. Mallia, Dr A.P. Zammit, Dr N. Caruana, Dr M.R. Sammut, Dr J.K. Soler, Dr M. Cordina, Dr M. Borg, Dr S. Cilia, Dr A. Xuereb, Dr P. Sciortino, Dr M. Grixti, Dr J. Abela (co-opted), Dr R Degabriele (co-opted), Dr A Micallef (co-opted)

### **Council member's attendance was as follows:**

M. Borg	6	N. Caruana	8
S. Cilia	8	M. Cordina	8
M. Grixti	9	P. Mallia	9
M. Sammut	5	P. Sciortino	8
J.K. Soler	9	A. Xuereb	3
A. Zammit	6	J. Abela	3
A. Micallef	1	R. Degabriele	7

## **2. MCFD-RCGP Teachers' Course**

The fourth module on Mentoring and Appraisal was co-organised by the RCGP and the MCFD through the hard work of Dr Mario Sammut. The course was organised at the Preluna Hotel Sliema from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006. All members of the Family Medicine Teachers Group attended this course at the end of which successful participants were presented with a certificate of Excellence in the Teaching of Family Medicine. The course also allowed and actually encouraged active participation of the new Trainees.

The College had submitted a proposal for funding of these advanced courses to the European Social Fund Project and managed to secure these funds thus minimising the costs of organisation for the college.

## **3. MMCFD – MRCGP (INT.)**

3.1 The College President led a delegation to attend the **Membership development days** organised by the RCGP in London in April 2006. At the end of these workshops the MCFD President Dr Pierre Mallia and RCGP President Dr Roger Neighbour signed a memorandum of understanding which sets the pace for more liaison between our college and the RCGP to develop our membership by examination and to explore in more detail the availability of the MRCGP(INT) to Maltese Family Doctors if they so wish. Dr Mallia was also conferred the honorary title of Fellow of the RCGP during this ceremony.

3.2 **Membership Board:** Following approval at the EGM and at AGM of 2004, the College started to work on the development of the MMCFD and to explore the development of the MRCGP(Int) in Malta. In **April 2005** the Council proposed the setup of a Membership Board and the Curriculum Committee. The Council had asked its members to participate in the formation of these two bodies. Members who volunteered and were later approved by council were as follows:

Dr. Mario Grixti as chairman of Membership Board, Dr Jurgen Abela, Dr Michael Borg, Dr Frank P Calleja, Dr Jean Karl Soler, Dr Mario Sammut, Dr Michael Cordina and Dr Noel Caruana as members.

Since then the MB met several times and finalised a Membership Document which was approved during an EGM in April 2006. Following approval in April the MB has continued the preparations necessary to launch the call for applications for attaining the MMCFD.

## **3.3 Curriculum Development Secretariat:**

In order to develop a curriculum for the eventual assessment to be introduced for conferment of the MMCFD title, a Curriculum committee was set up, after a call for interest and participation was made through the Colleges media. The following members volunteered to contribute;

Dr Philip Sciortino as Chairman of curriculum Committee, Dr Ron Borg, Dr Sandra Falzon Camilleri, Dr Noel Caruana, Dr Doreen Cassar, Dr Adrian Micallef and Dr Mario Sammut as members. The Secretariat has prepared and submitted a Proposal for funding of a "Curriculum Development Project For Membership Assessment", to the European social Fund Project. Part of these funds have been utilised to organise a one day Membership Development day which saw the meeting together of a number of GPs. The proceedings of this MDD have been compiled in a report which has been published in the Maltese Family Doctor. The Curriculum Development secretariat will continue to meet in the coming months.

## **4. FAMILY MEDICINE AS A SPECIALTY IN THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS ACT**

A Specialist Accreditation Subcommittee was set up in October 2003 and was asked to draw up a document about

the Specialty of Family Medicine in Malta, which was subsequently presented and approved, at the EGM in April 2004. Despite the fact that more than two years have elapsed we are still waiting for the certificates to be issued to our members by the SAC.

## 5. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2005-2006

(2005 since October 2005)

The Autumn CPD on October 29<sup>th</sup> consisted of a *Respiratory update*. The college organised another two activities as part of its ongoing CME:

1. MCFD-DSU: A series of CPD meetings on Public Health issues relevant to Family Doctors which started in March and continued through September to December 2005.
2. In collaboration with the St James administration, the college is accrediting a series of "Lunch and Learn" seminars open to all Family Doctors.

The College launched its first Diploma in November 2005: a Diploma in Family Practice (a call for applications was issued and closing date was end of August 2005). There was a very encouraging interest shown with about forty participants in the diploma which is to span over 18 months.

(2006)

- **Winter CPD** meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2006: *Child Health Update*. This update was also open to paediatricians and pharmacists.
- **Spring CPD** *Practicing Family medicine in Malta* was organised on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2006 at the Coastline Hotel with participation of Prof Henk Lamberts and Dr Inge Okkes
- **Summer CPD** *Orthopaedic update: was organised conjointly with the Association of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgeons Malta*. The update consisted of a number of interesting presentations co organised by a Family Medicine Specialist and an Orthopaedic Specialist, spread over three evenings in the month of June 2006.

## 6. Local News

The college was also involved through the initiative of Dr Philip Sciortino in the organisation of GP workshops during two conferences one in November, "Of birds and Man-Preparing for the Influenza pandemic" and "Skin and Wound care conference" in December 2005.

Dr Noel Caruana and Dr Mario Grixti represented the College at a consultation meeting with the European Commission through its Malta Representation. At this meeting both speakers stressed the need for more financial aid to medical associations to facilitate

more European college representation.

The Membership board is working on preparations for a social event which will mark the conferment of the MMCFD to college members. This is expected to be organised in the latter half of July.

This year will see new elections for the new council which renews itself every 3 years.

## 7. International News

- **April 2006:** In April 2006 six members from the Council attended to a three day international membership workshop organized by the RCGP in London. This meeting hosted by the RCGP was organised to familiarise prospective countries with the concept of an international Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners(MRCGP(Int)). It was attended by representatives from Lebanon, Dubai, Malaysia and Rumania.
- **May 2006:** A group of six Teachers from the Family Medicine Teachers group attended a four day intensive Course in Algarve, Portugal, for Trainers in family medicine organised by EURACT - The European Academy of Teachers in General Practise.

## 8. MEMBERSHIP

College membership at presently stands at 238.

## 9. COLLEGE JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

The College Journal It-Tabib tal- Familja / Maltese Family Doctor is being issued twice yearly in June and December. The College's Journal is also available online through a link on the college's website.

The MCFD Newsletter compiled by Dr S Cilia, continues to be sent monthly exclusively to college members, and includes local and international news for the benefit of the Family Doctor. Important and urgent notices to members are available on the college's website which is updated regularly by our webmaster, Dr R Degabriele.

Contributions to both the Journal and Newsletter are welcome and are to be addressed to the Editor and College Secretary respectively.

### Answers to Self-Assessment quiz (page 66)

Q1 A; Q2 C; Q3 A; Q4 C; Q5 B; Q6 B;  
Q7 B C; Q8 A D; Q9 A D; Q10 A B C D

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