

Overview of the activities of the Scientific Committee for the next term

Dr. Jacob Patijn, SC Chairman

The main questions for the SC in its next time period are:

- a. What base does the FIMM community need as a starting point for future scientific research in the field of M/MSM (Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine),
- b. What is the best condition for the foundation of the future FIMM Academy,
- c. How are we going to disseminate this information to the FIMM community to stimulate scientific work?

The same format of subdivisions in «Tools», «Content» and «Form,» will be the guideline, as illustrated in previous Chairman Reports that I have presented to past General Assemblies.

In respect to the «Contents» the SC will:

- ✓ Elaborate further and develop a SC protocol on Efficacy in Pragmatic Trials.
- ✓ Elaborate a third revised and extended SC-protocol on Reliability Studies.
- ✓ Elaborate a consensus paper about the state of the art of efficacy in M/M Medicine. It is essential for the FIMM community to be informed about the evidence of efficacy of daily treatment. In literature, the level of evidence differs frequently, often dependent on which method the authors used for the meta-analysis. The SC has to develop a consensus paper on efficacy in the different regions of the locomotion system based on its own research. This paper will also

provide the scientists in our field with information about the white areas in which efficacy studies are still needed.

- ✓ Publish the presentations of the previous SC-meetings with a general SC statement incorporated.
- ✓ Elaborate a scientific protocol to perform meta-analyses on published kappa studies. This project will last for the next three years. The methodological quality of kappa studies in the different region of the locomotion system has to be studied to elaborate an overall SC-statement about the values of the found kappa results. The results will be presented in a format of a list of diagnostic procedures, provided by the EC. In this way the FIMM community in general and the Educational Boards in particular, are informed about the presence and lack of evidence of reproducibility of their diagnostic procedures.
- ✓ Elaborate a general paradigm that covers the field of M/MSM. Defining a general definition for M/MS is a difficult and frequently fruitless one, because many schools in M/MSM have at least an eclectic system with many diagnostics and therapeutic procedures that have been borrowed from each other. The SC states that an overall lack of a theoretical base is obvious and believe it is a task for the SC to discuss the theoretical base, or more preferable, the core of our profession. The SC will look to a definition of M/MSM from the

point of view of fundamental research.

- ✓ Elaborate a consensus paper about general guidelines with respect to complications in M/MSM.
- ✓ Discuss the place of the elderly in M/MSM. In the next decade, this age group will be a major part of our daily practice population. We have to assess whether this age group has particular problems in specific diagnostic and therapeutic approaches in M/MSM.
- ✓ Discuss the place of Paediatrics in M/MSM. At this moment Paediatrics in M/MSM forms a backwater in our profession. To integrate Paediatric M/MSM into FIMM, we have to look upon it in the same manner as we did with general M/MSM.

With respect to the «Form» the SC will:

- ✓ Evaluate the first SC-Conference held in Odense with respect to the logistic aspects. The next SC-Conference has yet to be planned.
- ✓ Develop an International Instructional Course on Reproducibility Studies for the Educational Boards of national societies.
- ✓ Develop an International Instructional Course on Efficacy Studies for scientist in M/MSM.
- ✓ Further elaborate the plans for an International Academy for M/MSM. This Academy has primary to be discussed within the SC from a scientific and medical point of view. Reasons

for founding such an Academy have to be defined more in detail. The definite form of the Academy has to be ready by the third SC-meeting. The foundation is not a goal in itself, but a logical consequence of the ideas and goals elaborated in the SC with the

difference that it can involve more people from the FIMM community in scientific work to provide further professionalism in M/MSM in an evidence-based way. The SC, in discussion with the General Assembly, has to decide at the end of this period, whether the conditions for founding an Academy are healthy enough. At the moment the plans for an Academy are in preliminary status.

With respect to the «Tools» the SC will:

- ✓ Ask FIMM to provide the SC with the proper channels to disseminate its information. The Secretary General of FIMM and SC-member Dr. Ron Palmer is vital in this respect.
- ✓ Will continuously update a list of scientists in our field, who can be used for direct dissemination of information and who can act as list of potential members of a future Academy. Outside this, we also need the e-mail addresses of the society Educational Boards for the same purpose.

Time table SC-meetings 2004 - 2006

The timetable for the next SC-meetings will be completely filled with topics derived from the above-mentioned subjects in the headings, *Form, Content and Tools*. Most of the work will be done via e-mail discussion between the SC-members.