The current executive council was elected in Prague at the 2006 conference and has a four year term.

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**EDITORIAL**

António PALHA  
EFS President

A transitional period has passed after the Prague election of a new E.C. and we are now resuming our communication by means of this Newsletter, initiated by our former President, Robert Porto. As you know, in their first meeting the new E.C. decided to maintain Robert responsible for sending the EFS communications with its associates as well as with those who are interested in Sexology in Europe and the rest of the world.

The new E.C. is formed by three officers: António Palha, President; Chiara Simonelli, vice-President; Kevan Wylie, Secretary-Treasurer; and members: Mireille Bonierbale (France), Salvatore Caruso (Italy), Moshe Mock (Israel), Ursula Pasini (Switzerland), Birgitta Hulter (Sweden), Alfons Vansteenkoven (Belgium); Osmo Kontula (Finland).

In the first EC meeting, held in Prague after the election, Robert Porto was appointed as an affiliated member until a better understanding of the role of the past president, in accordance with the EFS statutes.

After some months of excessive discussion on the choice of a PCO for the next two EFS congresses, according to the resolution taken in the General Assembly of June 2006 in Prague, you can be sure that the elected officers had a very hard work, producing documents both of analysis and proposal.

Fortunately we have come to a happy end and since December we have a PCO for the Congresses of 2008 and 2010 — the AIM group, of Italian origin, with good experience in organizing congresses as well as professional associations management, which is the case of the well known ESSM.

As president elected I sent a message in the newsletter n°3, in May 2006, expressing hope in the future of our Federation and asking all members of affiliated societies of sexology all over Europe a strong commitment to their work in the federation, in order to increase our European network, a more frequent collaboration among us, through multilateral projects, and a leader role in education and training in Sexology.

We need to support the official journal of EFS — Sexologies — published in English and French, now in collaboration with the prestigious publisher “Elsevier”.

During this period we had the opportunity to have an EC meeting in Vienna which had the active participation of some members of EFS. There the contract with the AIM (PCO) was signed.

There are some tasks given to the members of EC in the Prague meeting that have been presented and evaluated during the EC meeting in Sidney. I would like to stress that all suggestions and projects presented by the member societies of our Federation are welcome and may signify an important contribution for our institutional development in the future.

Last but not least, I appeal to your active collaboration with the organizing committee of the EFS Rome Congress — 13 to 17 April 2008, under the general theme “THERAPY, PREVENTION AND PROMOTION OF SEXUAL WELL BEING” — having in view a great success of EFS.
The EFS has been involved since Prague in the complex procedure of choosing a PCO for the European Congress of 2008 Rome and 2010 (Athens?). After a long period of analyse of five main proposals, with meeting each of them, it was decided to choose AIM GROUP, an Italian PCO for the next two Congresses.

The Conference theme, Therapy, Prevention and Promotion of sexual wellbeing, is a special opportunity to exchange and improve our scientific knowledge on female and male sexuality in a wide frame where the quality of life has to be prominent.

The modern concept of Sexology, as a systematic branch of the science, was first proposed in Europe by Iwan Bloch just 100 years ago and in 1908, Magnus Hirschfeld and later Max Marcuse, edited the first journal in this area with the original contributions of outstanding personalities such as Freud, Adler, Lombroso and Mantegazza.

In the past century a considerable amount of reliable data allowed us to understand the physiology of sexual response and, in the last decade, we have seen a momentous effort to improve our diagnosis and treatment tools. Nevertheless new ideas and models for assessing and treating old and new sexual problems are emerging as well as a collective wisdom on the important role of prevention and promotion of sexual health.

The 9th EFS meeting will be an extraordinary occasion for all of us to exchange our opinions from different points of view as the scientific agenda contains a broad range of clinical and experimental topics with a great number of European and international experts in sexology. A qualified programme is combined with the warm and charming city of Rome in Spring: I am sure that your contribution to this event will increase the growth of our scientific community.

It will be a great pleasure to welcome you at the 9th Congress of the European Federation of Sexology organized on April 13-17 2008 in Rome.

Associations and laboratories which invite 30 participants have an additional free registration, then one more free registration, by section of 10 additional participants. The same advantage is granted to individuals who gather, starting from 20 participants.

Oxford “summer school” on sexual medicine

Sunday, 15th July - Friday, 27th July 2007 / St Catherine’s College, Oxford, UK

This two-week residential course will deliver 75 hours of structured teaching, covering a wide range of Sexual Medicine topics, that may be credited towards the requirements for the award of the Fellowship of the European Academy of Sexual Medicine. The Academy is a collaborative venture between the European Society for Sexual Medicine (ESSM) and the European Federation of Sexology (EFS). All interested clinicians are welcome to apply, although the course is primarily intended for physicians seeking the Fellowship qualification. There will be an international teaching faculty and the course will be conducted in the English language. The cost of the course, including meals and accommodation at St Catherine’s College, will be €2,600.00. Up to 25 scholarship grants are available for 50% and 100% of course fees; the award process is competitive and will be supervised by an independent panel.

Applications should be made by e-mail to summerschool2007@sexualmedicine.org. Please provide details of your full name, title, professional appointments and affiliations, nationality, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, and a brief CV (to help the course organisers plan group allocations, etc.) Upon receipt of your application, you will be contacted by the Summer School administration, who will liaise with you over accommodation and travel arrangements. You will be responsible ...........
Sildenafil decreases ability to smell

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) Jan 17 - Higher doses of sildenafil impair olfactory function, which is possibly linked to an impairment in nasal airflow that sildenafil can induce, German researchers report in the January issue of The Journal of Urology.

A team led by Dr. V. Gudziol at the University of Dresden Medical School studied 20 healthy, young male volunteers who received 50 mg, 100 mg and placebo in random order in a double-blind, crossover trial. Subjects smelled odor-dispersing devices (Sniffin’ Sticks). The investigators tested odor detection threshold, odor discrimination and odor identification ability. They found that the 100 mg dose resulted in a decrease in olfactory function, specifically odor discrimination and odor threshold, compared with placebo. The 50 mg dose had no effect on olfactory function.

Genotyping of the intraoral epithelium was done, but genotype had no effect on olfactory function with sildenafil administration. “In our subjects, the most likely reason for impaired peripheral olfactory function was nasal congestion,” the authors write. They note that, while it was not evaluated in this study, sildenafil is associated with a significant decrease in nasal inspiratory peak flow, and that some genotypes appear to affect nasal airflow response more than others among elderly subjects but not younger individuals.

J Urology 2007;177:258-261.

Gene transfer may relieve erectile dysfunction

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) Dec 11 - In a small pilot study in which gene transfer was used to treat men with moderate-to-severe erectile dysfunction, a sustained patient response was obtained with the two highest doses without dose-related or other adverse effects.

Specifically, transfer of hMaxi-K, a naked plasmid carrying human cDNA encoding for the human slowpoke (hSlo) gene led to increased production of proteins, which relaxes smooth muscle and allows blood flow into the penis, researchers report in the December issue of Human Gene Therapy. “The results of the phase I trial”, lead investigator Dr. Arnold Melman told Reuters Health, “suggest that the technology worked. We have shown that we could give a safe vector, naked DNA, and the hSlo gene and obtain an expected physiological response without transfer-related side effects.”

Dr. Melman of Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the Bronx, New York and colleagues studied 11 patients with erectile dysfunction associated with diabetes or cardiovascular disease in about half of the study. The subjects were given a single injection ranging from 500 to 7500 mcg of hMaxi-K into the corpus cavernosum and monitored for 24 weeks. No serious adverse events were seen and patients given the two highest doses (5000 and 7500 mcg) had sustained improvements in erectile function. One patient at each of these dosing levels reported improvements that were highly clinically significant and were maintained over the whole study period.

The researchers note that the study goal was to establish drug safety and efficacy conclusions can be drawn, although the results are highly encouraging. The “final proof will be obtained in the larger placebo-controlled trials to follow”, Dr. Melman said.


Gene therapy and erectile dysfunction: the current status

Current available treatment options for erectile dysfunction (ED) are effective but not without failure and/or side effects. Although the development of phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) inhibitors (i.e. sildenafil, tadalafil and vardenafil) has revolutionized the treatment of ED, these oral medications require on-demand access and are not as effective in treating ED related to diabetic, post-prostatectomy and severe veno-occlusive disease states. Improvement in the treatment of ED is dependent on understanding the regulation of human corporal smooth muscle tone and on the identification of relevant molecular targets. Future ED therapies might consider the application of molecular technologies such as gene therapy. As a potential therapeutic tool, gene therapy might provide an effective and specific means for altering intracavernous pressure “on demand” without affecting resting penile function. However, the safety of gene therapy remains a major hurdle to overcome before being accepted as a mainstream treatment for ED. Gene therapy aims to cure the underlying conditions in ED, including fibrosis. Furthermore, gene therapy might help prolong the efficacy of the PDE5 inhibitors by improving penile nitric oxide bioactivity. It is feasible to apply gene therapy to the penis because of its location and accessibility, low penile circulatory flow in the flaccid state and the presence of endothelial lined (lacunar) spaces. This review provides a brief insight of the current role of gene therapy in the management of ED.


Edited by Prof. Jae-Seung Paick

10th Congress of the European Society for Sexual Medicine

25 - 28 November 2007 • Lisbon, Portugal
... it continues from page 2 ... for organizing your travel to and from Oxford but we are happy to provide advice on within-UK transfers from major airports. Letters of invitation can be provided upon request, to facilitate visa applications. A 25% deposit will be required to reserve your place, with the balance payable no later than 1st July 2007.

The Syllabus forms a core component of the curriculum for the Fellowship programme of the European Academy for Sexual Medicine. The Summer School programme will include most of these topics and the entire syllabus will be covered during the forthcoming year. ☀

For further information, please contact summerschool2007@sexualmedicine.org

European Journal of Sexual Health

REVUE EUROPEENNE DE SANTE SEXUELLE

Created in 1992, Sexologies publishes quarterly original, synthetic articles on human sexuality, its dysfunctions and its management.

Sexologies is the official organ of the European Federation of Sexology (EFS), published with the scientific cooperation of the Inter University Hospital Association of Sexology (AIHUS) which gathers French academic teachings of Sexologies since 1992. Sexologies offers a large panel of information to all health professionals working in the field of sexuality: anatomophysiological and basic research; psychodynamic, cognitive, behavioural and relational evaluations of sexual difficulties; epidemiological, sociological, forensic data; information on new psychoactive molecules; research on sexual physiology, reports on specialized congresses; press and books reviews; ethical aspects; calendar of major events of sexology around the world.

Major international experts in their field joined the editorial committee as Field Editors, confirming and enhancing the will for scientific excellence of the journal.

www.elsevier.com e-mail : sexologies@wanadoo.fr

The EFS honored in Sydney

During the 1st World congress for sexual health in Sydney (April 10-15 2007), our Past-President Robert Porto has received the Gold medal award 2007 from the World association for sexual health, for his life time achievement and contributions to the field of sexology and sexual health.

"I am very happy of this distinction, because nothing is more important for a professional than to be recognized by its peers, especially on an international level, he declared. But I hope that this honor flashes back in fact on the EFS within which I work for a long time. - The master lecture he has delivered at the meeting, "The role of science in the current decline of subjectivity", has attracted considerable attention and applause.