

Board of Trustees Meeting
28 March, 2014

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 3.1c: Europe Report

IAPB EUROPE UPDATE REPORT

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN EUROPE FROM SEPTEMBER 2013 TO MARCH 2014

European Coalition for Vision

The European Coalition for Vision (ECV, <http://www.ecvision.eu>) is an alliance made up of professional bodies, patient groups, European NGOs, disabled people's organisations and trade associations representing suppliers. IAPB Europe is one of the founding members of ECV. In January 2014, ECV prepared a European Parliament Elections Manifesto in order to call on the European Union institutions to use their power and influence to support the work in addressing the challenges described in details in the text of the manifesto (http://www.iapb.org/sites/iapb.org/files/Communications/Manifesto-ECV-final-cream_small.pdf).

The launch of the ECV manifesto and the official launch of ECV were celebrated in the European Parliament buildings in Strasbourg on the morning of 4th February 2014. Our most important task is now to urge Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to sign up to the ECV European Parliament elections manifesto and support our work in the future.

ROP programme

As part of the Eastern European ROP programme, UK parent guidelines will be available after being translated into native languages in 14 countries in Eastern Europe, where the prevalence of ROP is growing and the awareness of the society and the parents is still low. The translation of the guidelines, as most of the ROP-related activities of IAPB Europe, will be supported by Shreveport Sees Russia. As it is mentioned in details at the Courses below, an active work is going on the region in order to develop national and regional programmes to reduce the prevalence of blindness due to ROP.

Courses organized by IAPB

An international course on diabetic retinopathy was held in December 2013 in the Lions Ophthalmology Educational Centre, Prague organized and financed partly by IAPB Europe. Eighteen resident doctors participated in the two-day course from 8 Central and Eastern European countries and learned about the epidemiology, diagnosis and therapeutic possibilities of diabetic retinopathy. The other main target disease we focus on is ROP. A regional workshop on ROP is planned this year in Odessa, Ukraine with the participation of both neonatologists and paediatric ophthalmologists from 5 Eastern European countries in order to bring together all those who are responsible for the care

of premature infants. Furthermore, a national ROP workshop will also be held in Bucharest, Romania organized by IAPB Europe in order to identify training needs and opportunities in this region. The long term goal of the Eastern European ROP programme is to develop regional hubs to support and roll out ROP programmes in the region. The regional and national workshops are required to assess the national needs and ROP situations and also to identify ROP professionals we could cooperate with.

KEY ONGOING ISSUES

IAPB Europe session in 2014

An own session will be organized by IAPB Europe at the annual congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) in 2015 in Vienna, Austria. This year we plan to achieve a better attendance by inviting key opinion leaders and presidents of the national ophthalmology societies as speakers. We ask them to talk about one of the most significant causes of blindness in their country and to suggest possible solutions on improving eye health care in their region.

Articles on the WHO Global Action Plan

IAPB Europe is working on bringing the new WHO Global Action Plan closer to the ophthalmologists and making it more widely known among practicing ophthalmologists and key opinion leaders in Europe. As the first step, an Editorial about the goals and brief content of the eye health plan is being written by the chair of IAPB Europe in cooperation with Ivo Kocur from WHO. The paper is focused on the goals and required actions by the Member States in order to encourage them to implement those on a national level. Another article on the achievements of the Vision 2020 program in Hungary is also going to be published in the European Edition of Ocular Surgery News in March 2014. The article also addresses the work of IAPB Europe and the WHO Global Action Plan 2014-2019 and contains a call for the readers to develop national blindness prevention programs and to implement the goals actions included in the action plan at national levels.