EDITORIAL

Dear friends, colleagues and Members of the European Childhood Obesity Group,

I am delighted to present you the first issue of the ECOG Newsletter, a new official channel of information about our activities. Why a newsletter? Because we need to communicate and share more and better. I am confident that an improved communication between us will be beneficial for the quality and the impact of current and future ECOG activities as well as stimulate greater involvement of members.

(Read more on p.2)

EVENTS

23rd ECOG Congress in Liverpool

An excellent opportunity to meet, discuss and share information and experiences.

(Read more on p.3)

ECOG at the European Parliament

“Empowering citizens to prevent childhood overweight and obesity in Europe”

(Read more on p.3)

CLOSED CALL

The call for abstract ECOG Congress 2013 closed on June 30, 2013. We received about 80 abstracts from across Europe and beyond and the Scientific Committee started the assessment process.

Applicants will be informed about the evaluation of their abstract at the beginning of August 2013.

For any question please contact info@bs-europa.eu

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

ECOG members research and work in progress

As part of ECOG’s commitment to research, the Board is working on 2 papers.

(Read more on p.4)

EU Platform on diet physical activity and health

ECOG is preparing the application to become a new member of this European platform.

(Read more on p.4)

CALLS & NEWS


• WHO meeting in Vienna discussing non-communicable diseases and associated risks

• ECOG call for abstract for the European Parliament is now OPEN

(Read more on p.5)
Initiative and participation from members made it possible for our Group to come together more than 20 years ago and participation will keep us going on and hopefully grow to increase our capacity to address what is certainly among the biggest concerns for the future of modern society – childhood obesity.

The newsletter will be released 4 times per year. Among other things, Issue 1 will cover two major activities which are currently under preparation:

• By the end of 2013, ECOG will organize a high level debate at the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels. Members of the EP, European Commission officers, representatives from industry, advertisers, NGOs, consumers, researchers and public health practitioners will attend in order to discuss how dramatically improve the empowerment of citizens in order to reduce childhood obesity and overweight in Europe. The idea to organize something in the EP is part of a wider strategy aimed at increasing our visibility as scientific advisors of European decision makers.

• The second activity is the 23th ECOG Congress in Liverpool which will take place from the 13th to the 15th of November. We have put together a high level programme and will host an outstanding group of speakers. In addition, the opening day of the congress foresees a joint session ECOG – UK Association for the Study of the Obesity (ASO). This year’s congress is also very important because it coincides with the end of my Presidency therefore in Liverpool we are called to renew the board.

The first issue of the newsletter will also present an overview of calls, relevant news and current activities including ECOG’s recent commitment to research.

This is only the first issue and therefore we look forward to receiving your feedback to improve and make it as relevant as possible for our members.

Enjoy it!

President
Andrea Vania
23rd ECOG Congress in Liverpool

Liverpool will host the 23rd ECOG Congress from the 13th to the 15th of November 2013. This year’s congress aims to discuss 4 main topics:

i) public health and public health policies: designing a healthy environment;

ii) psychology in the spotlight and its role in prevention and treatment;

iii) learning to eat: critical periods in development; and

iv) novel ideas and new developments.

In addition, on November 13th the congress will host a joint session with the UK Association for the Study of Obesity (ASO): “Childhood Obesity in 2013 - Developments in Science, Policy and Practice.” ECOG 2013 is an excellent opportunity to meet, discuss and share experiences with like-minded colleagues from across Europe.

For registration: www.ecog-obesity.eu

ECOG at the European Parliament

At the end of 2013 (date to be confirmed) ECOG organizes the event “Empowering citizens to prevent childhood overweight and obesity in Europe” at the European Parliament in Brussels. The event will be hosted by Swedish Member of the European Parliament, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt. The event is organized in the framework of the European Year of Citizens and its aim is to discuss how to raise awareness, increase knowledge and improve childhood obesity prevention in order to help children fully enjoy the right to live a healthy life. At the event we will discuss how to dramatically stimulate improved cooperation among European stakeholders and decision-makers and discuss a multi-level and cross-sectoral education strategy.

In order to stimulate ECOG members’ participation, we have opened a call for abstracts, with the possibility, for the best abstracts, to be shortly presented during the event. Check out page 5 for more information contact: raffaella@bs-europa.eu

Other events

EU High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical activity

The next meeting of the EU High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical activity is scheduled to take place on the 25 November 2013.

EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health

The next meeting of the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health will take place on 26 September. Topic of discussion: consumer information and labelling.

Here you find links and useful documents related to the two above mentioned events.

TELL US YOUR STORY

Are you an ECOG member and have participated in an event recently?

If you have participated in an event related to childhood obesity, let us know and tell us your story. We will talk about the event and your participation.

Contact us at: info@ecog-obesity.eu
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

ECOG’s commitment to research

As part of ECOG’s commitment to research, the Board is working on two papers.

The first is a position statement regarding the psychological assessment of children who are clinically obese. Prof Caroline Braet (BE) is leading this work in collaboration with ECOG Board members Prof Daniel Weghuber (AT), Dr Grace O’Malley (IE), ECOG member Prof Elisabeth Ardelt-Gattinger (AT) and with inputs from the full ECOG Board. The paper has been completed and is currently under review.

The second is a review paper and position statement of the evidence-based assessment of the physical fitness of children who are obese (musculoskeletal and cardiorespiratory health). This work is being led by Dr Grace O’Malley (IE) in collaboration with ECOG Board members Prof Daniel Weghuber (ATa) and Dr Marie-Laure Frelut (FR) and ECOG members Dr David Thivel (FR) and Prof Denes Molnar (HU) and with inputs from the full ECOG Board. This paper is underway and if there are other ECOG members interested in participating in this work, please contact Dr Grace O’Malley directly (omalleyg@tcd.ie).

Application for EU platform

ECOG is preparing the application to become a new member of the European platform for action on diet, physical activity and health. This platform, created and chaired by DG Health and Consumers, is a forum for European-level organisations, ranging from the food industry to consumer protection NGOs, willing to commit to tackling current trends in diet and physical activity. For more information about the Platform’s activities and documents please click here.

ECOG and EDMC reports

ECOG is delighted to announce collaboration with Bioscientifica publishing company on their new open access publication, Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism Case Reports. Individual members of ECOG are eligible for the special discounted publishing fee of £100 in 2013. To publish your case report, submit it online via www.edmcasereports.com using the easy-to-use article template. Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism Case Reports is an open access resource that publishes and links together case reports, enabling practitioners to communicate findings, share knowledge and convey medical experiences efficiently and effectively; furthering both medical education and clinical practice. The search and browse functionality enables fluid navigation between case reports, facilitating discovery, connections and comparisons; making it the go-to resource across all the many disciplines intersecting with endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism.

TELL US YOUR STORY

Please contact us and let us know about initiatives, projects and researches where you are involved and where ECOG can be useful.

Contact us at: info@ecog-obesity.eu
**Report WHO 16.06.2013**

“Marketing of foods high in fat, salt and sugar to children: update 2012–2013” is a new WHO Europe publication which provides information on the marketing of foods and beverages to children and the changes that have occurred in the last decade.

It examines the evolution of marketing methods in parallel with changes in media platforms, such as digital television, online marketing, mobiles and smartphones, and social networking. It reviews some of the recent policy approaches by WHO European Member States to control such marketing to children, and provides a summary of recent scientific evidence linking advertising and marketing to children’s dietary behaviour. One of the report contributors is ECOG Member and President Elect for ECOG Congress 2013 Dr Jason Halford.

**Download the report**

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**WHO meeting in Vienna 16.06.2013**

The Ministers of Health and representatives of the Member States of the World Health Organization in the European Region, together with the WHO Regional Director for Europe and health experts and representatives of civil society and intergovernmental organizations, have gathered in Vienna, Austria, on 4 and 5 July 2013 to face the challenges posed by the burden and threat of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and reaffirm their commitment to existing European and global frameworks to address important NCD risk factors, notably unhealthy diet and physical inactivity.

**Here you can find signed Vienna Declaration on Nutrition and Noncommunicable Diseases in the Context of Health 2020**

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**ECOG call for abstract for the European Parliament event is now OPEN**

Have you been recently involved in a project to empower citizens and help them to prevent and treat childhood obesity? Are you aware of a project in your country about this topic? Are you an ECOG Member? If you wish to participate and have a short speaking slot in order to present your experience at the European Parliament at the end of 2013, please submit your abstract of maximum 250 words to info@bs-europa.eu Call for abstracts closes on October 4th. For more information please contact Raffaella (raffaella@bs-europa.eu)
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