

EUPHA Chronic Diseases section (EUPHA-CHR)

Minutes of the Join the network meeting 15 November 2020

Welcome

Julian Mamo, the Section President opened the meeting welcoming all members to the JTN which was different in that it was held virtually due to the on-going pandemic and that it was this heard part of a World Congress on Public Health rather than a European conference.

Activities of the section

The newsletter had just been released to members a few weeks before this meeting so that members were abreast of current activities. They were also forwarded a promotional newsletter citing major EUPHA-CHR meetings being held as part of this Congress.

Agenda

- 1. Introduction of all present**
- 2. Chronic Diseases care across represented countries given the current situation**
- 3. Future collaboration**

Minutes

- 1. Introduction of all present**

All members introduced themselves and their broad area of work.

- 2. Chronic Diseases care across represented countries given the current situation**

The current situation was discussed especially with regards to current issues of care service delivery for sufferers of Chronic Diseases. It was widely accepted that with all the emphasis and diversion of priorities towards the fight against COVID19, persons with Chronic Diseases were missing out on care at primary, secondary and tertiary care settings.

This applied to prevention, care, medication and everyday life with chronic diseases.

Treatment for such sufferers was oftentimes less accessible and too often late such that chronic disease conditions would be deteriorating due to excessive delays in care.

It was okay to put such care on hold for a few weeks but after over 7 months persons suffering from chronic diseases were really starting to suffer – sometimes irreparable damage to their health.

In certain settings such as institutions and nursing homes, there were problems with the delivery of drugs and the normal visits of health professionals. Too often these arrived late or not at all.

Out patient appointments got delayed and were never re-scheduled.

This was especially felt and seen at primary care level (including community care) but in effect was true of all care settings.

This exacerbated public health problems at national scale.

It was an on-going phenomenon that needed to be studied and researched. Though some studies already point to this)

It was necessary to seek out problems to this crisis and to promote best practice in dealing with chronic diseases alongside COVID19.

It was felt that it was necessary to promote a more patient-centred type of care that took into account multi-morbidities often present in later life.

One of the few advantages resulting from COVID19 centred care were the advances in innovative digital health – which needed to be promoted.

This pattern of care also caused a worsening in inequalities as older and more disadvantaged persons with multiple morbidity took second tier to acute COVID care priority.

The example of the reactive changes in the health sector to COVID19 set an example and demonstrated the need for closer collaboration between public health care and primary care practitioners, as well as a bettering of collaboration between hospitals and primary care settings.

3. Future Collaboration

It was suggested that a small working group be set up to make a statement from the Section highlighting the issues of sufferers with chronic diseases given the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Elections

These were due in 2021.

Any other business

The meeting ran out of time with the discussion on point 2 and the meeting had to be adjourned without further discussion.

Members present:

Iveta Nagyova (Eupha president)
Saverio Stranges (EUPHA CHR vice president)
Saila Kyronlahti (Finland)
Sueny Paloma Li Ma
Joseph Romagosa (Brazil)
Abdel Krim Zem
Yadisa Morejon
Silvan Urru
Dilek Aslan
Josepe Bjorkquise
Cris Jania
Anne Elliott
Viviana Elian (Romania)
Milena Manrique (Colombia)
Simon Bacon
Jovana Stojanovic
Elena Raevschi
Edit Paulik (Hungary)
Akbope Myrkassyovva (Kazakistan)
Audenio Viktor
Dimitrios Skempes (Switzerland University, Lucerne)
Julian Mamo (Section president)