



September 2008

EUFAMI Physical Health Survey



For the past number of months, EUFAMI has been conducting a survey amongst families, carers and persons with self experience on the subject of physical health amongst those who are affected by mental illness. The results will help all of us to understand what services or information might help our members' relative/ friends to keep healthy and how all of us can help in the quest for better physical health for those who are affected by mental illness. The

survey will close at the end of October. The actual survey can be accessed by clicking on the following link <http://manager.e-questionnaire.com/questionnaire.asp?a=JvmKNYWrTJ>. Please take some time to complete the questionnaire. It is also available from the EUFAMI website.

EUFAMI participates as the World Congress of Psychiatry - Prague

EUFAMI was well represented at the WPA's recent World Congress of Psychiatry which closed today (Thursday, 25th September 2008) in Prague, the Czech Republic. The federation hosted two major symposia as well as a special lecture which was delivered by the newly elected President of EUFAMI, Sigrid Steffen.



In her special lecture, titled "Psychiatric Training - patient focused training (Evolution or Revolution)" the President of EUFAMI, Sigrid Steffen called for a seed change in training and training methods for psychiatrists and a shift from the current medical focus to a more patient focused training. This would result in a better and easier life for all concerned – the patient would feel more involved and take ownership; the medical professionals would feel more relaxed and life will be easier as there will be more dialogue and the family member would feel valued and a reduction in isolation.

The first symposium was titled "Development of care in Europe - current hot topics from the perspectives of policy makers, users, and carers" and during the symposium delegates heard talks from Matt Muijen, Regional Adviser for Mental Health at the WHO, as well as Stanislas Filliol, Vice President of EUFAMI, Dr Janet Walcraft from ENUSP and Pedro Montellano, a board member from Gamian Europe.

In the second symposium, titled "From Treating an Illness to Caring for the Person - implications for clinicians, users, carers and public policy", speakers included Professor Juan Mezzich, outgoing President of the WPA, Sigrid Steffen, the newly elected President of EUFAMI, as well as Peter Lehmann, ENUSP and Professor Helen Herman from the University of Melbourne in Australia and a Board member of the WPA.

EUFAMI also had an exhibition stand at the event and many visitors came to our stand over the 5 days. It also afforded us the opportunity to progress our current psychiatrists' survey on the subject of Remission.



Presentations from the EUFAMI hosted lecture and symposia can be downloaded at www.eufami.org/index.php?option=com_campaignsnewsdesc&Itemid=135&titleid=19

Users and Carers Organisations' Involvement Workshop - Lille, France

EUFAMI was represented at the recent workshop on Users and Carers Organisations involvement in mental health service reform in Europe by Inger Nilsson, outgoing President and Kevin Jones, Secretary General. The workshop, which took place on the 11th September, was called to discuss the role of empowerment and advocacy amongst user and carer organisations. A number of our member national associations were also represented at the workshop



Partners wanted for possible European Theatre project

Arena del Sole Theatre and Arte e Salute Association (Italy) would like to require support of European Community (before the 1st October 2008) for the project "Acting like crazy" concerning the production of a theatric performance using Pier Paolo Pasolini's screenplay. The leaders of the project are looking for a partner (the Spanish Confederation of Groupings of Families and People with Mental Illness have already expressed interest).

They are seeking assistance in the organisation and in the contacts with theatre groups formed by people with mental illness. For more information: Arte e Salute Association, (Bologna - Italy), info@arteesalute.org, Tel +39 051 224420



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For more information, please look at the web site www.eufami.org or contact EUFAMI at info@eufami.org

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