

The Child and Adolescent Working Party of the European Association of Consultation and Liaison Psychiatry and Psychosomatics (EACLPP)

The child and adolescent working party of the EACLPP was established in Bologna in 2007. Our aim is to promote clinical practice and research in paediatric consultation-liaison psychiatry across Europe and to enhance links between clinicians and researchers in Europe.

We have concentrated our efforts in two directions. Firstly, by promoting the profile of paediatric consultation-liaison psychiatry at the annual Scientific meeting. In Zaragoza, in 2008, we held two themed workshop sessions on child and adolescent CL psychiatry and had our inaugural working party meeting, with 12 attendees.

In 2009 at Noordwijkerhout, with the support of Albert Leentjens, we held our first themed day on child and adolescent CL psychiatry. The day was organised jointly by Peter Hindley and Arjan Theil. Our three workshops, on medically unexplained symptoms (MUS) in children, psychiatric and psychological aspects of Paediatric Intensive Care and self-harm in children and adolescents attracted 35-40 participants and generated high quality discussion. They were chaired by Arjan Theil, Peter Hindley and Jeanne van Weel.

The quality of material presented by child and adolescent psychiatry at Noordwijkerhout, was reflected by the prize winners for best presentations. Karin Janssens won the best poster presentation for her work on anxiety and depression and MUS. And Dennis Ougrin won the best oral presentation with his work on Therapeutic Assessment and self harm in children and adolescents.

The working party meeting had 40 participants. There was a discussion of draft guidelines for the management of MUS in children and adolescents (see below). We discussed plans for the Annual Scientific Meeting in Innsbruck in 2010 and for a stand alone meeting in Warwick, England in April 2010, the latter to be organised jointly with the UK and Eire Paediatric Liaison Interest Group. We began an initial discussion of the development of European guidelines for the management of self-harm in hospital and discussed problems in commissioning paediatric CL services. Finally we agreed to begin work on a developing an agreed set of research instruments which could be used in European projects.

The working party's other area of activity has been in drafting guidelines for the management of MUS in children and adolescents. Emma Weissblat has led on this, with the support of Peter Hindley and Charlotte Rask. We have had positive feedback on the initial draft and plan to work with members of the working party to refine the guidelines. They will form part of the official guidelines of the EACLPP which are due to be published by Cambridge University Press in late 2009.

The next annual meeting of the working party will be in Innsbruck in late June/early July 2010. We look forward to meeting all professionals who are interested in the area.

Dr Peter Hindley
Chair of EACLPP Child and Adolescent Working Party.