

Report of the Chairman of the FIMM Scientific Committee

Preceding the General Assembly 2004 of FIMM and the 14th Triennial FIMM Congress 2004 the 7th and last SC-meeting was organised from September 11-13, 2004 in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Outside general policy items of the SC and general scientific items, this meeting was scientifically dedicated to «Basic Research in M/M Medicine».

Dr. Jacob Patijn, PhD



In the past seven years of my chairmanship the Scientific Committee of FIMM has been occupied with the main problem in M/M Medicine and its consequences illustrated in the algorithm below. Outside defining the problem and its solutions, which form the central issue of the work of the SC, efficacy and diagnosis in M/M Medicine in the different regions of the locomotion system have been extensively discussed in the SC-meetings. In the past seven years 60 presentations were made during SC-meetings of which a number have been published. Based on these discussed presentations, protocols have been developed to provide the National Societies of FIMM with proper tools to perform scientific work. In this period 6 protocols been published, some of them in different editions. The development of these protocols finally ended in the publication of booklets of three scientific protocols. The defined problem is current in M/M Medicine and will remain the starting point of a future FIMM International Academy for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine. The work of the SC in the past seven years has contributed to a slow change in attitude in Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine towards a more critical and evidence based approach to our profession. This is a slow

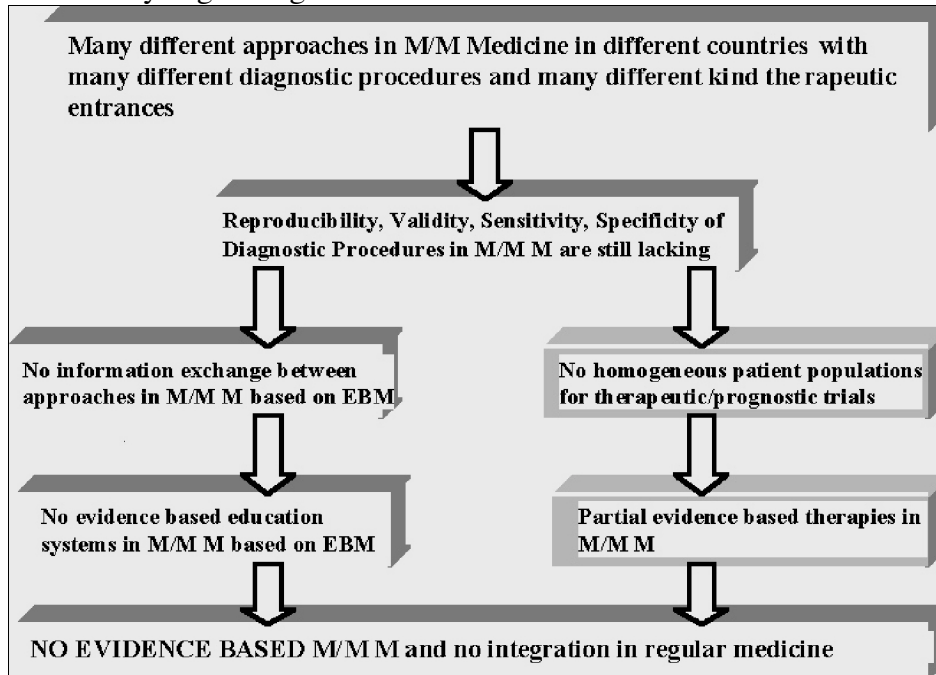
process with its own natural speed and a period of seven years of a SC is too small to create a complete change in attitude. Therefore, for daily practitioners in Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine represented in the General Assemblies it was not always clear what benefits they had and will have from the work of the Scientific Committee. It must be clear that the work of the Scientific Committee always was aimed to provide the daily practitioner in M/M Medicine with a solid background with respect to the efficacy and theoretical base of their profession to find the best therapeutic solution for his patient.

Future work of the International Academy for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine will have the same aims, whereby the development of a profession we all believe in, will be the core business.

The seventh SC-meeting in Bratislava 2004 had as its scientific topic «Basic Research in M/M Medicine». The SC thought this topic essential for the international community of FIMM because a state of the art of the theoretical background of M/M Medicine is mandatory for our profession. In this SC-meeting a first step was made to

discuss this item. In the same meeting general issues of the SC were discussed. In 2004 the first SC-Conference was held in cooperation with the Danish Society for Manual Medicine. By organising this con-

ference, the SC wanted to create a scientific platform on which a discussion could take place between the different ap-



proaches in M/M Medicine based on solid scientific methods. The first SC-conference was a tremendous success scientifically and from an organisational point of view, the Danish Society has contributed substantively to this success. An evaluation questionnaire resulted in a judgement of the overall quality of the conference of 8.6. This result is encouraging for the future conferences. The SC-Conference will be transformed to an Academy-conference with the same format and organisation in cooperation with a national society of FIMM.

Change in composition: New SC-members

It was agreed that with regard to the continuity of the SC, Dr. Lars Remvig will be Vice-Chairman of the SC. Because of health reasons, Prof. Robert Ward will leave the SC. He will remain a corresponding member and probably a member of the future academy. The Chairman has thanked Bob Ward by e-mail for his tremendous contributions and efforts he has made in the SC.



1st FIMM Scientific Committee Conference on "Reliability and Efficacy studies in Low-Back Pain and other Musculoskeletal Disorders", January 30, 2003.
Overall quality 8.6.

Because of other official functions in osteopathic organisations in the USA, Dr. Boyd Buser has resigned from the SC. During the SC-meeting Dr. Richard Ellis informed the meeting about his resignation of the SC on the grounds of age. Richard was thanked for his indispensable work for the SC and his major contribution to the development of the SC in the past seven years. Richard Ellis wished to remain a corresponding member of the SC and in the future perhaps a member of the academy.

In the months before the meeting several SC-members proposed potential new members for the SC. The CV's were discussed of Dr. Michael Patterson, (biologist, a basic researcher and fully involved in osteopathic medicine; Dr. Berit Schjøttz-Christensen (rheumatologist, active member of Danish Society for Manual Medicine) and Dr. Michael Yelland (musculoskeletal physician, university-based, researcher). The three proposed members were elected through democratic voting. The General Assembly ratified the membership of the proposed new members.

FIMM Congress, Bratislava

The participation of the FIMM congress in Bratislava was discussed. Prof. Lothar Beyer, SC-member has been the President of the Scientific Congress Committee and presented the programme of the Congress. Both Prof. Lothar Beyer and the SC-Chairman have played major roles in deciding the theme of the congress, the format of the congress and the scientific program and organisation of the congress. As agreed in previous GA's the SC-chairman and committee will have to be involved in the scientific organisation of the next FIMM Congress (Switzerland).

1st International Introduction Course for Reproducibility Studies in M/MM in Montreux 2004

The SC-Chairman has organised the first (pilot) International Introduction Course for Reproducibility Studies in M/MM in Montreux. This course was also evaluated by a questionnaire afterwards. The overall quality was judged very good (8.6) by the participants. The participants agreed that educational boards must be involved in reproducibility studies by providing this type of courses. Far advanced plans have been elaborated to organise another International instructional course in Denmark 2005. The format of the course will be slightly adapted based on the discussion in the SC.

An international instructional course on pragmatic trials in M/M Medicine will be developed by the SC.

FIMM Academy

The development of an International Academy for M/M Medicine has been elaborated in a subcommittee (Patijn, Remvig) of the SC with participation of Dr. Michael Hutson as Vice-President of FIMM. All SC-members participated in an e-mail discussion and the final results were ratified by the SC-meeting. The results were presented at the GA in Bratislava.

The reason for founding an International Academy for M/M Medicine is very clear because:

- (1) After seven years of work the SC has created a firm foundation for future scientific activities. However, the present SC is too small to cover the whole field of scientific work in M/M Medicine.
- (2) Therefore, more scientists and educationalists of National Societies must be involved in this work.
- (3) In an academy, members of small national societies can be also involved.
- (4) M/M Medicine is by definition a multi-dimensional diagnostic and multidisciplinary therapeutic profession and therefore in an Academy more scientists of related disciplines can be involved.
- (5) An Academy is a better form instead of a SC to bring together researchers in M/M M and related disciplines.
- (7) An academy is a better form to stimulate scientific work in M/M M on an international base.
- (8) An Academy provides better format to stimulate discussions between schools in an evidenced based medicine way.

For a successful future of an International Academy for M/M Medicine essential conditions are necessary for the formation of the Academy:

- (1) The FIMM, the GA and its National Societies have subscribed completely to the definition of the problem in M/M M and its solution as elaborated by the SC in the previous years, as the base for the future activities of the Academy.
- (2) The FIMM, the GA and its National Societies subscribe completely to the independency from national society interests

with respect to the scientific content of the activities of the Academy.

- (3) The FIMM in general and its National Societies in particular, will subscribe to the necessity of the Academy for the future of our profession and substantially will contribute by promoting the Academy among its members.

Future tasks of SC-members in relation to the Academy

In the future Academy the tasks of the SC-members will be adapted to the new situation of an Academy.

The logistic responsibility of the Academy falls under the Executive Board with its Chairman, Administrative Officer and Finance Officer. The scientific responsibility falls under the Scientific Director who is also Chairman of the Science Board (SB). Dr. Lars Remvig will become the Vice-Scientific Director and Vice-Chairman of the SB.

In the present SC, the chairman took full responsibility for the scientific policy of the SC and based on his developed ideas delegated different tasks to the SC-members. Of course decisions were made in a democratic way and in negotiation with the SC-members.

In contrast to this format of the SC, the members of the Science Board will have a more independent position and task, whereby they have to develop their own initiatives. Couples of two SB-members will responsible for a particular scientific theme. For the elaboration of each scientific theme (for instance efficacy or reliability) SC-members have to form a scientific theme working group by inviting new academy members. Outside inviting new Academy members, the National Societies of FIMM will be asked to propose new Academy members, who meet the entrance criteria for the Academy and have a particular expertise for a certain scientific theme within the Academy. The aims and working methods of the scientific theme groups will be agreed in dialogue with the Scientific Board members. The preparation for a particular scientific theme will be made by presentations held in the SB-meeting as performed in previous SC-

meetings. Results of these scientific theme groups will be presented at the SB-meeting by the two responsible SB-members as well as at the Academy Conference.

By involving more scientists from different National Societies and/or related universities/institutes, an Academy is a better and more efficient forum compared to the former SC with its 12 members, who were unable to meet the needs for participation of more members.

The necessity of education, as an essential part of the Academy, is illustrated by the membership of the Chairman of the FIMM Education Board on the Science Board of the Academy. Educationalists of diverse National Societies have to participate in an educational theme group of the Academy. Herewith too, National Societies will be asked to propose potential new academy members. Education is an indispensable component of the Academy activities such implementation of science and licensed international teaching, new educational formats and international education standards. The EC-Chairman, Dr. Glen Gorm Rasmussen has a key position here. A more detailed elaborated scientific policy will soon be elaborated and presented on the next GA.

General Scientific activities of the SC

The SC will finalise the protocol for pragmatic trials in M/M Medicine which will be published on the website, journals and in a booklet. The last edition of the protocol for reliability studies will be prepared and published. The SC will develop a state of the art consensus report about the efficacy in M/M Medicine. In this way the National Societies will be provided with evidence based material which can be integrated into their education systems. This report can also be used for negotiations with insurance companies and/or national health authorities.

A large project has been started to evaluate the published reproducibility studies of diagnostic procedures of M/M Medicine in the different regions of the locomotion system. The lumbar region will be the first. The results of this study will be published per region and the data will be available

for all National Societies to integrate them in their education systems. At the same time it will provide National Societies with information regarding which diagnostic procedures have yet to be evaluated. The study makes it possible that diagnostic procedures will become interchangeable between education systems of the National Societies of FIMM.

Basic Research in M/M Medicine

The SC has made a start to discuss basic research in M/M Medicine. The aim of this exercise is to provide the education systems of the National Societies of FIMM with a common theoretical background of the profession. A lot of basic research has been done in past decades but has no mutual connection, because of the lack of a proper definition of M/M Medicine and/or thinking model which covers the different existing approaches in M/M Medicine. Therefore a consensus model was developed and discussed which can be used as a framework in which different areas of basic research of M/M Medicine can be discussed. The best model at this moment is the dynamic postural control system as part of the function of the human motor system. Well known features in M/M Medicine such as segmental mobility, manipulation, muscle dysfunction, muscle chains, trigger points, posture, pain etc. can be incorporated in this model. By introducing the factor time in the model, dysfunctions based on structural abnormalities of tissues and altered CNS-systems can also be incorporated in the consensus model. The same model will be presented at the FIMM congress in Bratislava. During the SC-meeting basic research of: muscular chains, segmental dysfunction, electromyographic relations with manipulation, SI-joint motion, trigger points, pain and rationale of invasive therapies in M/M Medicine were discussed on the base of extensive presentations of the SC-members.

This discussion of basic research in M/M Medicine is the first of a series SC-meetings – in the future SB-meetings – dedicated to this topic. At the end we will have a complete overview of the evidence and hypothetical character of theoretical backgrounds existing in M/M Medicine. It will

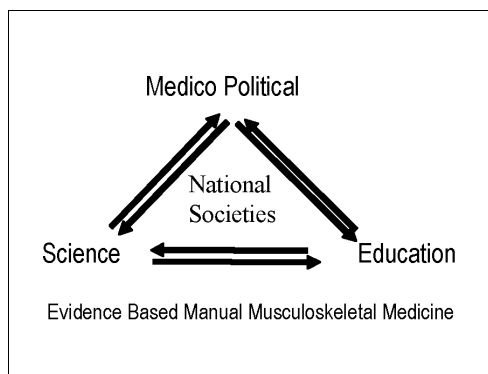
illustrate to a considerable degree what the different approaches in M/M Medicine have in common. This information can be implemented in educational systems of the National Societies of FIMM.

Future Plans

The next year will be dedicated to the transition for the Scientific Committee to the

FIMM International Academy for M/M Medicine. Much energy has to be spent on the structure of this very young Academy. Scientifically, the Academy work will be a logical consequence of the work of the SC. However, more than during the SC-period the implementation of knowledge in the form of international instructional courses and involvement of National Societies in the activities of the Academy will be emphasised. This is a logical consequence if my report and the proposals for an Academy will be ratified by a majority of the General Assembly in Bratislava. This result lays a great responsibility on the shoulders of both FIMM and the Academy.

FIMM as an international organisation, with its tasks in the areas of science, education and medico-political issues, can only survive if these three components are interrelated. This functional triangle is essential for the future of FIMM. Science will provide the evidence for M/M Medicine with respect to efficacy, reliability and theoretical background. But science in M/M Medicine has no sense if it is not implemented in education systems of the National Societies. Conversely, education as such has no sense if its contents are not based on evidence. The same mutual relationship between science and the medico-political tasks of FIMM exists. Medico-political issues must be supported by evidence arising from scientific work. Science needs the support and recognition of FIMM as organisation. The same is true for education.



The International Academy for M/M Medicine will represent science within the FIMM. In this Academy more scientists and educationalists from National Societies of FIMM can be involved with the ultimate goal to professionalize M/M Medicine based on evidence. The Academy is the right discussion platform for the different approaches in M/M Medicine whereby we finally can form an unambiguous image of M/M Medicine for the outer medical

world. Ultimately, the individual patient treated by the physician for M/M Medicine has to benefit from the results of the Academy as an indispensable component for the functional triangle between science, education and medico-political function of the FIMM. FIMM and its National Societies have to invest in their future, and therefore in the further development of the FIMM International Academy for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine.