

ECCE President's Report for Backspace January 2013

Following the successful re-evaluation of AECC last February as reported in the last issue of *BackSpace*, ECCE sent Evaluation Teams to a further three institutions during 2012.

South Africa

In September, a Team was sent to Durban, South Africa for the first re-accreditation evaluation for the programme at the Durban University of Technology (DUT). ECCE is pleased to announce that the Department of Chiropractic at DUT has been re-accredited for a period of four years.

Spain

Real Centro Universitario Escorial-Maria Cristina (RCU) welcomed its first Evaluation Team in the second half of October. Despite the very tight timeframe, the report was completed in time to be reviewed at the final meeting of the Commission on Accreditation (CoA) in Brussels where RCU was granted accredited status for the maximum three years and becomes the first institution in Spain to be accredited by ECCE.

France

The final evaluation for 2012 occurred in December and took place at the IFEC Toulouse campus. This was the first evaluation for full-accreditation of the second French chiropractic programme. The result of the Evaluation will be decided at the next meeting of CoA. For the first time, students were full members of all evaluation teams in 2012. This is a milestone for chiropractic education accreditation throughout the world. Not surprisingly, the students brought a valuable perspective to each of the teams.

Denmark

In February 2013, the programme at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense will host a Team for a re-accreditation evaluation visit. Such a hectic programme of evaluation requires organisation and hard work. I would like to recognise the efforts of Evaluation Team members, Chairs and in particular, the untiring work of the Evaluation Secretary, David Burtenshaw.

Annual General Meeting

The ECCE AGM took place in Brussels on 29 November to 1 December 2012 where representatives from ten countries attended. The Council comprises educators, chiropractors and non-chiropractors and decides and approves ECCE's work. The agenda this year included an informative presentation from Nathalie Lugano, Project Manager with the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), on the role and activities of this organisation. The ECCE currently accredits seven institutions in five countries.

ECCE at the WFC Education Conference

In September, Murdoch University hosted the World Federation of Chiropractic/Association of Chiropractic Colleges' Education Conference in Perth, Australia.

ECCE President Tim Raven was a member of the organising committee for the event, which featured many European chiropractors and educationalists. The subject of the conference - "*Translating Evidence into Practice*" – looked at the role of evidence-based learning and practice. Dr Raven was honoured to deliver a presentation entitled "*Accreditation Criteria in Europe and the Evidence Supporting Them*". The conference was hailed as a great success and was felt by delegates to have had real value to practitioners and educationalists alike.

ENQA

ECCE continues to be an active member of ENQA by participating at workshops, seminars and conferences. ECCE has a unique role in the field of European higher education, accrediting a single discipline and professional education in five countries and as such has a particular insight into the challenges of international accreditation.

In a recent letter from the ENQA Board, the ECCE was commended on the steps it has taken to develop and improve its procedures and processes since the successful membership application in 2010.

I would like to thank all who have contributed to ECCE in 2012 and look forward to continued cooperation in meeting the challenges and opportunities facing chiropractic education in Europe in the coming years.

Tim Raven
ECCE President