

## **President's Report to the Council**

November 2008

ECCE held its portfolio of meetings on 7 and 8 November in Frankfurt. It was unfortunate that the meetings clashed with the WFC Meeting in Beijing.

The following is based on the President's Report for 2008, which was presented to the Council meeting:

The ECCE has re-accredited Syddansk Universitet, Odense, Denmark for a period of 5 years. Next year is IFEC, and this will be a new experience in that for the first time, the ECCE will be asked to extend the accreditation to a second site in Toulouse. The evaluation visit is planned for March 2009. Although the number of accredited institutions remains at 4 (AECC, IFEC, Syddansk and WIOC), there are a number of institutions working towards accreditation or Candidate status. The new institution in Spain is in the process of applying for Candidate status, and as I reported last year, Durban University of Technology (DUT) has met the eligibility and we have now received their Self-Study Report. If this is approved by COA, then an Evaluation Visit will take place in 2009. An application has also been received from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, for Accredited status, and from the McTimoney College, UK for Candidate for Accredited Status.

In July this year, I was invited by the Italian Association to give a presentation on the work of the ECCE to the Department of Education in Rome. This reflects the interest across Europe in establishing national chiropractic education. In September 2008, the first cohort of chiropractic students was admitted to the University of Zurich, and with that the establishment of chiropractic education in Switzerland.

Perhaps the most exciting news of this past year was the successful bid by ECCE for membership of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). I believe this was a landmark step for the ECCE in its role as a quality assurance agency, and the credibility of the organisation in higher education. I attended a conference in Paris in June that was organised by ENQA and covered the process in applying for full membership. Institutions applying for ENQA membership are first given Candidate status if they fulfil certain criteria, and then must undergo an external review by ENQA for full membership. The evaluation fee is relatively high, but ECCE has the backing of ECU and the member institutions, and I have been advised by ECU to go ahead with the application for full membership. As I see it, we should be ready for an evaluation towards the end of 2009. Dr Tim Raven also attended an ENQA conference on quality assurance in March of this year.

At the Council meeting we said farewell to Dr Peter Bon as a member of ECCE. Peter has done an excellent job in his role as Chair COA, and as a Council member and now as CCEI representative. Peter will now go on to assume the Presidency of the CCEI in 2009 and we wish him well.

The finances of the ECCE remain in a healthy position. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ECU, not only for its financial support of the ECCE, but also its support of the work of the ECCE and ECCE's application to ENQA.

JE Bolton, ECCE President  
13 November 2008.