



Medical Hydrology in Europe

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The Main Questions

1. What to do?
2. How to do?
3. Cooperation!
4. Scientific evidences



The Situation in Europe

WORLD FEDERATIONS OF THERMALISM

Society	Founded	Name	President
ISMH	1921	International Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology	Tamás Bender, MD Budapest, Hungary
SITH	1964	International Society of Spa Technics	Andrés Campos, Cuntis-Pontevedra/Spain
FEMTEC	1947	World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy	Prof. N. A. Storojenko, Moscow/Russia
OMTh	1970	World Hydrothermal Organisation	Ennio Gori, Levico Terme/Italy



Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in Europe

Médecine Physique et de Réadaptation en Europe

Welcome to the
**Physical and Rehabilitation
Medicine
Section**
of the European Union of Medical
Specialists



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de Médecine Physique
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de l'Union Européenne des Médecins
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The Szeged Meeting-Statement

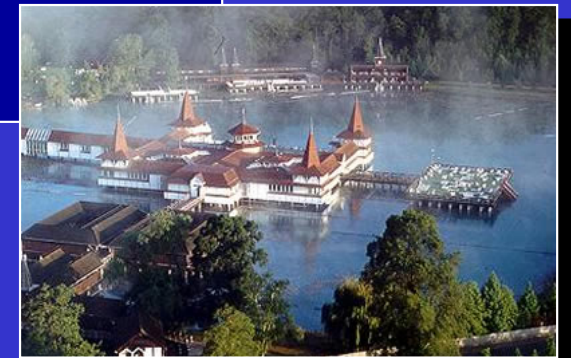
STATEMENT

- The UEMS PRM Section recognizes the importance of Hydrotherapy, Balneology and Climatology in PRM practice
- Evidence based data is now growing in Balneology
- More research is needed
- The UEMS PRM Section promotes good clinical practice in PRM activities.
- **Create a Working Group on Balneology within the Professional Affairs Committee**
 - Work with ISMH
 - Define taxonomy
 - Advise on science and education initiatives



CONFERENCE CONSENSUS

- Balneology and health resort medicine is part of a scientific medicine and has to be based on scientific evidence
- Definition of terms in balneology and health resort medicine have to be developed as basis for the scientific work and the development of quality standards practice of balneology and health resort medicine
- A consensus process should be started on the basis of the exchange of information and collection of the work that has been already done in international societies as well as on a national level using systematic methods of decision making process (Delphi tasks and consensus conferences)
- We need to compile the International Glossary of health-resort and Spa-medicine terminology in close cooperation of the attending societies and other partner organisations
- A task force has to be founded to deal with this issue in a common activity of the attending organisations



Glossary

- English is currently the most common scientific language but there is a lack of balneologic terms.
- Proposition of Pedro Cantista: again latin and greek words as it happens before for instance within basic medical sciences such as anatomy



Task of ISHM and UEMS

- WORKING TOGETHER TRYING TO CREATE CONSENSUS BETWEEN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES
- TEXTBOOK of Balneology Medical Hydology and spa therapy



KRYNICA STATEMENT 2005

Evidence of efficacy of balneological treatment is growing. However there are attempts to exclude balneology from the scientific medical field.

This is, among the others caused by:

- insufficient information to the public about the scientific basis of balneology.
- confusion between scientifically proven methods and methods without scientific medical background.

Therefore the ISMH should establish scientific standards and classification of balneological agents and methods.

Two priorities were figured out.

- a. the scientific activities should be focused on medical use of balneology in favor of patients in prevention, therapy and rehabilitation
- b. classification of balneological terms on international scientific bases is needed
- c. classification of methods should be established, according to the criteria of evidence based medicine

The workshop in Krynica at 2-nd September 2005 proposes:

1. To organize more frequent expert meetings in order to establish continuous working process of experts
2. It is proposed to the board and general assembly of ISMH to establish a Scientific Committee in the frame of ISMH.
3. A task force has been formed:
 prof. Gutenbrunner (Chairman), prof. Karagulle,
 prof. Ponikowska, dr Geymsa, prof Cantista,
 dr Adamek.

Other scientist who would like to contribute to this work are cordially invited.

2 Sept. 2005, Krynica, Poland

How could we cooperate ?

Task of ISMH:

- Clarifying the medical standards
- Organising multicentric studies
- Organising the basic sciences
- Holding Regularly medical courses
- Editing a common journal?
- Editing a Balneological Textbook



Informing the medical staff working in different countries about our activities, events

Aquiring sponsors (spa industry) who help to support the scientific research

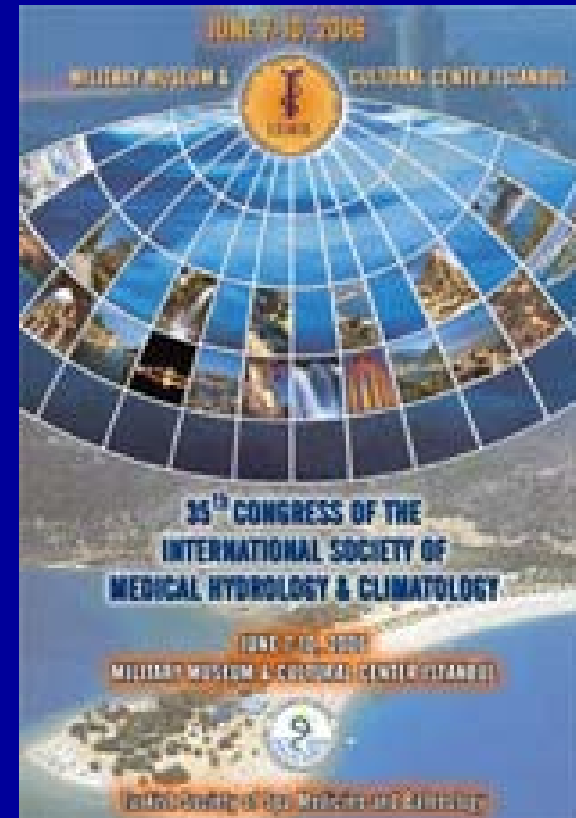
Common Lobbying for our profession in the countries to accept our activities

Participating in the thermal congresses



ISMH WORLD CONGRESS , 2006

- The 35th World Congress of International Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology will be held on 7-10 June 2006 in Istanbul, Turkey. Please visit the web-site:



[/ http://www.ismh2006.com](http://www.ismh2006.com)

