Report from the EAHIL Special Interest Group (SIG) for the Training, Education and Development of Medical Information Specialists and Librarians (TrEDMIL)



Co-Chair **Gerhard Bissels**(gerhard.bissels@posteo.ch)



Secretary
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Co-opted interim Assistant Secretary Carol Lefebvre (carol@lefebvreassociates.org)

Background

TrEDMIL is the EAHIL Special Interest Group (SIG) for those interested in or involved in the initial education of medical librarians and information specialists and / or their continued education, training and professional development (CPD). The SIG was founded in Dublin, Ireland at the EAHIL meeting in 2017.

TrEDMIL SIG meeting July 2021

In July 2021, the TrEDMIL SIG met via Zoom in the afternoon of the second day of the EAHIL meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. Co-Chair, Gerhard Bissels and Secretary, Sabine Buroh welcomed twelve participants from ten countries. Most attendees were first-time participants at a TrEDMIL meeting.

TrEDMIL SIG meeting June 2022

In 2022, the TrEDMIL SIG decided to hold their annual meeting via Webex, separate from and prior to the EAHIL in-person meeting in Rotterdam, in order not to clash with the live sessions at the conference and also in order to encourage participation from those not attending the conference in person. The meeting was advertized to all EAHIL members and was open to anyone with the meeting link, to include non-TrEDMIL members and also any non-EAHIL members who might be interested but not (yet) a member of TrEDMIL or EAHIL.

Membership update

The number of TrEDMIL members making active use of the mailing list and / or attending TrEDMIL SIG meetings is considerably lower than the total number of members of the SIG. The remit of the SIG, however, still seems to be relevant for and of general interest to EAHIL members and requests to join the SIG mailing list continue to increase year on year. In June 2021, the TrEDMIL mailing list included 266 members from 43 countries. In March 2022, the list included 290 members from 40 countries.

Members present at TrEDMIL meetings since the founding of the SIG: Rotterdam, the Netherlands 2022 (virtual pre-conference meeting): 21

Istanbul, Turkey 2021 (virtual meeting): 12 Łódź, Poland 2020 (virtual meeting): 14

Basel, Switzerland 2019: 16

Cardiff, UK 2018: 8 Dublin, Ireland 2017: 28

Communications and website update

Communications about the SIG via blogposts on the EAHIL website and through the official EAHIL Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts could generate more awareness and involvement. The SIG will actively explore this in 2022-2023. Suggestions for content for the website (http://eahil.eu/sig-2/training-education-development-group/) are always welcome. Please contact the TrEDMIL Secretary (details below). The help of volunteers with proficiency in WordPress regarding future developments and maintenance of the website would be very much appreciated.

Events diary update

A TrEDMIL Working Group set out, in early 2021, with the aim of compiling an online diary of Europe-wide training events for medical librarians and information specialists. The lack of a calendar plug-in for the EAHIL WordPress website at that time, however, would have resulted in a cumbersome workaround outside the website. This has now changed. A calendar plug-in has been implemented on the EAHIL site, so the SIG will take a fresh look at setting up a Europe-wide diary of relevant training events. Please do contact Igor Brbre (igor.brbre@nhs.scot) if you wish to get involved in compiling and maintaining this events diary.

Discussions around the continuation of the SIG and succession planning

Co-Chair, Gerhard Bissels and Secretary, Sabine Buroh met via Webex several times in 2021 and 2022 to discuss the future of the SIG, although they had both, for different reasons, decided that they would shortly step down from their respective official positions. Carol Lefebvre was invited to these meetings, as a supportive member of the SIG, in an advisory capacity. As a result of these discussions, it was agreed that Gerhard Bissels

NEWS FROM EAHIL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

will continue as Co-Chair of TrEDMIL SIG and Sabine will stand down as Secretary after the current call for nominations (see below). Carol Lefebvre was appointed in the interim role of Co-opted Assistant Secretary, to support Gerhard and Sabine.

Call for Nominations of Co-Chair and Secretary and volunteers for the TrEDMIL Working Groups

In May 2020, Kate Kelly stood down as Co-Chair of TrEDMIL. We thank her for her valuable contributions to the SIG. As noted above, Sabine Buroh has given notice of her intention to stand down as Secretary, as soon as a replacement can be appointed. The SIG's vacant post of Co-Chair and the upcoming vacancy of Secretary, therefore, are in the process of being filled. During the online SIG meeting held prior to EAHIL 2022 Rotterdam, two volunteers stepped forward: Igor Brbre for Co-Chair and Carol Lefebvre for Secretary. These were duly noted and a formal Call for Nominations for these two posts, together with a call for volunteers for our Working Groups on Communications and Events Diary, Competencies Frameworks, Continuing Professional Development, and Graduate and Postgraduate Education, was circulated via the TrEDMIL mailing list shortly after the meeting. Should there be more than one nominated candidate for either the Co-Chair or Secretary position, an election will be held. The Call for Nominations closes on 3 July 2022.

Working Group updates

Communications and Events Diary Working Group: Co-Leads - Igor Brbre and Justyna Zawada The long-planned events diary will finally come into being, thanks to the new co-leads of the group, Igor Brbre and Justyna Zawada.

Competencies Frameworks Working Group: Co-Leads - Chantal den Haan and Anne Madden In several countries, colleagues are looking at health librarian competencies and each has a working group to develop their own proposals. By mutual agreement, each of these national groups will work independently on their own proposals within their own remit. Finally, they will discuss a comprehensive plan with respect to EAHIL more broadly. Chantal den Haan and Anne Madden, as the new co-leads of the group, will advise on progress.

Continuing Professional Development Working Group: Lead - María García-Puente María García-Puente is willing to oversee efforts made by SIG members in continuing professional development. Aoife Lawton from the EAHIL Board volunteered to take part in work on developing a mentoring programme.

Graduate and Postgraduate Education Working Group: Lead - Gerhard Bissels

The existing group on Postgraduate Education will widen its remit to cover both Graduate and Postgraduate Education. Colleagues involved in the new Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) Systematic Review Information Specialist at the University of Applied Sciences of North-West Switzerland have also expressed an interest in getting more involved in TrEDMIL (https://www.fhnw.ch/de/weiterbildung/lifesciences/cas-systematic-review-information-specialist). This course, to be conducted in German, is not limited to or focused on health care but will be very relevant to our work. Gerhard Bissels will continue to support both the Competencies Frameworks Working Group and the Graduate and Postgraduate Education Working Group with his expertise in these areas.

NEWS FROM EAHIL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Future meetings

The SIG is planning a further open meeting of officers and Working Group leads and members in Autumn 2022 via Webex, with updates from each Working Group. Colleagues involved in the new CAS Systematic Review Information Specialist course in Switzerland have been invited to present at this meeting.

Call for participation

If you are interested in the initial education of medical librarians and information specialists, and / or their continued education, training and professional development (CPD), please do consider joining TrEDMIL. Please feel free to join as an 'observing' member in the first instance, if you are more comfortable with that but we also encourage people to join who have an interest in joining one or more of the Working Groups outlined above. Please contact the TrEDMIL Secretary, Sabine Buroh.



EAHIL TrEDMIL meeting, Basel, 2019 - the last time that TrEDMIL was able to meet in person.