



Letter from the President

Maurella Della Seta

Scientific Knowledge and Communication Service / Documentation

Istituto Superiore di Sanità

Rome, Italy

Contact: maurella.dellaseta@iss.it

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing this letter just coming back from a very sunny and dry Cardiff, where we had our 16th EAHIL Conference. In this issue of the Journal, you will find lots of information about the event, but I wish to give you my personal first-hand impressions.

The first unusual condition was that Cardiff had a sunny summer weather, maybe hotter than Rome, from where I arrived, but very pleasant. The drought in Wales has risen to the headlines. In fact, National Geographic Italy published an article about how the unusual lack of rain led to the discovery of ancient Roman and Medieval ruins. Thanks to some aerial photos, the contrast between dry grass and greener grass has returned the forms of what is below ground, like in a negative. Archaeology apart, we enjoyed a beautiful week with no rain, and could fully appreciate Cardiff wonderful parks and natural areas.

The leitmotif of the Conference was “Improving the Health and Wellbeing of the Citizens of Europe”. Towards this direction, a lot of emphasis was placed on the social role of medical libraries. Many keynote speeches reflected about the themes of community-built services, university contribution to international development, libraries and bibliotherapy for mental health. I am curious to know, from delegate feedback, and from your comments, if participants appreciated this tendency, or if they preferred to discuss about professional advocacy or profession-related technical issues, obviously debated at the Conference as well. This was also the first time, from what I remember, that posters were in digital format at an EAHIL event. I personally believe that the old paper format allows perhaps more opportunity for easily examining and reading the often very interesting information presented in a poster session. However, I thoroughly appreciate any effort towards innovation. We are going towards a paperless society. Looking for environmental sustainability, the Cardiff event organisers decided to distribute the presentation and interactive workshop abstracts only electronically, although I am afraid that for some of us the old paper is still useful.

I wish to highlight three interesting novelties enjoyed during the Conference:

- 1) the possibility of posting comments and suggestions on an “EAHIL wall”. The delegates appreciated this feature, leaving dozens of pink and yellow post-it on the wall;
- 2) the iconographic summary of the Conference sessions, developed by a professional visual designer. She prepared a conceptual map of the keynote speeches and presentations. The participants were able to understand in a fully exploitable and enjoyable way what was going on at the Conference;
- 3) the Innovation Station, a space technologically equipped, with 3d printers and other features. It allowed the participants to take a dip in the near future.

During the Gala Dinner, at the magnificent Cardiff City Hall, I had the honour and the pleasure of awarding three prizes for 2017, 2018 and 2019, to esteemed colleagues: Peter Morgan, our President in the years 2011-2012, Oliver Obst, and Guus van den Brekel, for their contribution to our profession and to our association. The EAHIL Executive Board had a fruitful meeting on Monday July 9, at Cardiff University. Our Past President Marshall Dozier reported on the nomination and election process. The results of the elections gave me the honour of serving EAHIL as President for the next two years (2019-2020). I wish to thank all the colleagues who participated in the elections and expressed their will. I also give my welcome to Tiina Heino, from Finland, who will be in the Board next year. I am glad to inform you that during the Board meeting, our

NEWS FROM EAHIL

colleague Witold Kozakiewicz presented a very detailed proposal to host the 2020 EAHIL Conference in Lodz, Poland. The Board approved unanimously this proposal, so our next appointment, after Basel, will be in Lodz.

The following day, our Vice President Lotta Haglund chaired the Council meeting, organising an interactive discussion on how to select and appoint sister organisations, and on the pros and cons of international collaboration with similar medical library associations.

Enjoy reading this issue of the JEAHIL, which contains lot of memories, impressions, and photographs, and is now available on the OJS system, thanks to the efforts of Federica Napolitani and Marshall Dozier with her University of Edinburgh team.

I wish you a wonderful summer and a period of rest with family and friends.

Maurella

¹ http://www.nationalgeographic.it/ambiente/clima/2018/07/18/news/in_galles_non_piove_e_l_erba_rivela_ville_romane_e_cimiteri_medievali_nascosti-4050106/



EAHIL Board Meeting in Cardiff, July 9, 2018