

# Taiwan Medical Library Association (TMLA) becomes sister organization of EAHIL



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In June 18, 2019, EAHIL President Maurella Della Seta and TMLA President Tzu-heng Chiu signed the agreement between the European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL) and the Taiwan Medical Library Association (TMLA) during the EAHIL Workshop in Basel, Switzerland. These two associations became sister organizations formally. According to the agreement, both organizations will participate in the following foundation reciprocal activities:

- the sharing of the organization's strategic plan to the other organization's board;
- appointment of a Liaison Officer;
- one complimentary conference registration to the other organization's annual conference offered to the President of the board;
- communicate information about activities of the respective organization in the journal or website of the other organization;
- communication of this agreement to members.

The Taiwan Medical Library Association (TMLA) was founded in September 3, 2015. Most of the members came from the Medical Library Committee, Library Association of the ROC (Taiwan). The MLC LAROC was found in 1978 and a two-day Annual Conference of Medical Librarians was held in Taiwan. The mission of the TMLA is to facilitate the exchange and development of the medical libraries in Taiwan, promote the professional certificate and continuing education of the librarians of the medical libraries. The goal of the TMLA is to encourage librarians of medical libraries to participate in the promotion of the medical humanistic education, enhance the relationship, communication and cooperation between the national and international medical libraries, related research institutions and industries, organize and host keynote speeches, seminars and academic activities associated with the medical library.

In 2018, the total number of the TMLA membership is 214, among them, 156 are individual members, 51 are group members and 7 are sponsor members. There are 15 members in the Council, and 5 of them served as executive members. The President is elected among the 5 executive members. There is a board of supervisors with 3 members. In addition to the Secretariat, there are five committees as follows:

- the education committee;
- the promotion and outreach committee;

- the international cooperation committee;
- the network and Information committee;
- the evaluation and Evidence-base committee.

The TMLA issues the “Professional Certificate of Medical Librarianship in Taiwan”. This certificate could be gained via passing the accreditation exam or applying by academic publications. After one-year planning, the TMLA launched its first accreditation exam of medical librarians in August 2017. The exam lasted for 90 minutes with multiple choice and essay questions. Candidates who get the score higher than 70 pass the exam and will receive the certificate. The 1st year exam was held in August 26, 2017, 47 medical librarians registered for the exam and 37 of them pass (78.7%). The 2nd year exam was in August 11, 2018, 21 medical librarians registered for the exam and 15 of them pass (71.4%).

As to the International cooperation, every year, the TMLA organizes delegation to attend CALIS medical center annual conference in China, MLA annual meeting, and ICML. The first contact of TMLA and EAHIL can be traced back to March 2016, when the TMLA held an International conference and invited EAHIL President Maurella Della Seta as one of the keynote speakers. In 2017, the EAHIL Board invited TMLA to attend a round table discussion for mutual areas of interest with other medical library professional organizations from United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa during the ICML+EAHIL Conference in Dublin. Since then, TMLA delegates attend EAHIL conference annually.

Every year, the two-day TMLA annual conference is held in the late August or early September in different cities by different medical libraries of the country. Our 2019 annual conference will be held in the International Conference Hall of Changhua Christian Hospital, Changhua, Taiwan in September 5-6. We welcome members of EAHIL to attend our annual meeting.