

The EWMA UCM:



A financing model and feedback from Geneva



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Since piloting the EWMA University Conference Model (UCM) in Glasgow in 2007, this education activity has consistently been evaluated as very successful by the participating students and their coordinators. Some opinions by this year's 65 students are presented in the text Evaluation of the EWMA UCM in Geneva below.

While satisfaction with the EWMA UCM programme remains solid, the main challenge for most institutions and students participating continues to be the financing of the conference participation. The Belgian institutions together with the Flemish wound management association seem to have found a viable model which is presented below.

THE FINANCING MODEL USED IN BELGIUM

Since the early beginning of the postgraduate education in "Wound Management, Ostomy Care and Tissue Repair", participation in the EWMA conference has been an essential part of the course. Participation in the EWMA UCM is awarded 4 ECTS points and integrated in the "capita selecta" part of the curriculum, which may be designed according to the individual interest of each student.

Maintaining the annual presence of Belgian students in the EWMA UCM is not an easy task as post-graduate courses are not subsidised in Flanders; thus everything must be paid for by the student or his/her employer. The full post-graduate course (60 ECTS points, 2 years part time study) costs EUR 2,200 + travel and hotel expenses for participation in EWMA and other conferences.



The Flemish Wound Management Association "CNC" is convinced of the importance of having wound management education for doctors and nurses all over Flanders. For that reason it has made an agreement with an association of universities and university colleges to support the wound management program. The association has an industry committee, at this moment consisting of 21 local companies, which pay an annual membership fee. Part of the proceedings of this fee is used to cover the student fees for participation in the EWMA UCM, currently set at EUR 225. The students themselves pay for transport and accommodation during the conference. This way the university succeeds in offering the full postgraduate programme for less than EUR 3,000 everything included.

EVALUATION OF THE EWMA UCM IN GENEVA

The following observations are extracts of the full list of comments at the feedback session on Friday 28 May 2010, attended by approximately 55 students and coordinators.

- In general students as well as coordinators expressed great satisfaction with the EWMA UCM programme in Geneva;
- Larger meetings rooms and repetition of the most popular workshops prevented problems in getting access, which had been experienced in earlier years;



- The UCM gives access to a wealth of knowledge, which is not available in classroom, and it allows time for studying which ordinarily would be difficult for a nurse to find;
- It was good to meet the people I usually reference a lot, good to be able to share with other clinicians and learn about different treatments in their countries.
- As a podiatrist I'm used to a hierarchic structure, but here I have experienced a very open and relaxed ambience;
- The highlight for me is the evidence focus. We always need to think of evidence in our daily practice.
- Access to presentations, if possible from all sessions, but at least from the plenaries, after the conference would be highly relevant;
- The exhibition should be open for more hours every day as it is sometimes difficult as a student to find the time to go there;
- It is recommended to have a workshop on how to make a presentation, poster, case story etc.
- EWMA is requested to help identify financial support as it represents a huge financial effort for many students to be present. (See "The financing model used in Belgium" above).

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EWMA wishes to thank KCI for providing selected study materials to the UCM participants.

The following teaching institutions participated in the 2010 Geneva conference:



Haute École de Santé, Geneva, Switzerland



HUB Brussels, Belgium



KATHO University College, Roeselare, Belgium



University of Hertfordshire, UK



Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal



Escola Superior de Enfermagem de Lisboa, Portugal

FINANCING/PARTICIPATING IN THE EWMA UCM:

An example

Participation in the EWMA UCM requires payment of accommodation, transport and the student conference fee. In total this may amount to approx EUR 600 if tickets and budget accommodation are booked well in advance of the EWMA conference.

Paid by university and company committee:
Conference fee: EUR 225.

Paid by each student or his/her employer:
Cost of accommodation and travel: EUR 375 or cheaper, depending on the standard preferred and the time of booking.