

European Federation of Internal Medicine Winter School – January 2013

The European School of Internal Medicine was born in 1998. The goal of the School is to promote good quality continuous medical education for young internists from our member societies and make the School a meeting point for European residents, a place for friendship exchange.

The first Winter School took place in Switzerland in January 2011, under the directorship of Prof. Verena Briner. The academic format has remained the same as the Summer School, with interactive seminars, case presentations and workshops, with a social program mid-week and in the evenings.

Young Internists who are towards the end of their training in Internal Medicine are selected and sponsored by their national societies to attend the School.

This year the ESIM Winter School in Saas Fee – 20 to 26 January 2013, count with 37 residents from 18 countries (Malta, Greece, Switzerland, Spain, Finland, Estonia, Israel, UK, Morocco, Serbia, Turkey, Portugal, Germany, Norway, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Italy and The Netherlands); 13 speakers had given talks, were moderating workshops or clinical pathological conferences. The scientific program was extraordinary. The case presentation of the residents was of high quality and everybody learn a lot during the week.

Some of the topics of the scientific program were:

- Immunodeficiency syndromes; hypoglycemic disorders;
- Secondary osteoporosis;
- Fabry's disease;
- Emergencies in rheumatology; systemic diseases with kidney involvement; management of advanced stage liver disease among others topics and lectures.

The residents and the speakers really enjoyed the week in Saas-Fee!

The weather was nice (cold but sunny) and everybody enjoy sports and the social program. The atmosphere between the residents was very friendly.

The Young Internist group was represented by Carla Araujo as delegate from the YI subcommittee, together with Soubhik Pal from the UK. They prepared a workshop about "Medical Error".

The aim of the workshop was to explore the variation in:

- Attitudes to disclosing medical error ('what we think we **should** do").
- Behaviours of disclosing medical error ('what we **actually** do").

Medical error is inevitable and all doctors will have some experience of it either personally or with a colleague. This workshop explore why there is often a reluctance to disclose such errors and why reporting of errors may be better for patients. ESIM is an unique

opportunity to explore the variation in reporting practices around Europe. During the workshop we concluded that various healthcare systems encourage an environment of openness towards patients and no-blame for professionals. In some countries computerised systems exist in hospitals to allow errors to be reported. In other European countries, however, there is often a reluctance to disclose errors to the patient or the institution, which reflects different work cultures and patient expectations. At the end the residents enjoy the discussion and agree that is very importante to reflect about this issue.

Residents during the “Medical Error” Workshop discussion.

Thank you very much to Prof. Vreny and the School Organization for the dedication and professionalism.

The Young Internist group thanks the opportunity to share this amazing experience with the Internal Medicine Colleagues across Europe!!!

Carla Araujo on behalf of EFIM Young Internist Group