**EUGMS column**

**Málaga (Spain) will host the 2011 EUGMS Congress**

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you to start planning your participation in the 7th Congress of the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society (EUGMS), to be held in Málaga, Spain, 28 to 30 September 2011, together with the congress of the Sociedad Española de Geriatría y Gerontología (SEGG) and the Sociedad Andaluza de Geriatría y Gerontología (SAGG).

As you surely know, the SEGG is one of Europe’s oldest geriatric scientific societies (founded in 1948, it was one of the only 14 national societies that were present in the founding of the International Association of Gerontology, now IAGG) and is one of the largest, with 2400 members, as well as one of the most active in Europe. Geriatric medicine is a growing medical specialty in Spain, with increasing activity in care, teaching and research. The Society also has a strong international vocation, focusing above all on Europe and Latin America.

The EUGMS brings together all the national geriatric societies of the European Union countries, representing around 15,000 geriatricians. During its short but intense life, the EUGMS has earned considerable prestige by promoting geriatric medicine and advocating high quality, universal health care for all older citizens in Europe. It is with no doubt the voice of geriatric medicine in the European Union. Yearly EUGMS congresses are increasingly successful, the number of participants growing exponentially in recent years, and are now by right the best forum for European geriatricians to learn and share.

The theme chosen for the 2011 EUGMS Congress is New therapies for an ageing Europe. It is often the case that older people do not receive the benefits of research and treatment with new drugs and other therapeutic advances that are developed in younger populations. At this Congress, it will be emphasized that it is ethically unacceptable to deny older people such advances.

The Congress will attract large numbers of attendees, as SEGG congresses always have very high attendance that will sum up with European colleagues and with a growing number of geriatricians from other continents who are attracted by this event. Around 2500 participants from around the world are expected. We shall therefore be delighted to welcome you to Málaga in 2011.

**1. Scientific content**

The theme of the forthcoming Congress, New therapies for an ageing Europe, follows a line of work in which the EUGMS is very active, namely, promoting the right of older people to benefit from therapeutic advances. Work is under way, together with the European Medicines Agency, to improve access of older citizens to clinical research on new therapeutic substances, and a Pharmacology Working Group exists in the Society to promote the most appropriate use of drugs in this population, including the use of drugs with proven benefit to very old people. This Congress will undoubtedly provide an excellent opportunity to present specific studies conducted in older persons to broaden their public impact. More details on the scientific program will come in future editions of the EUGMS column.

Moreover, the Congress will have a track where leading experts will review basic topics in geriatric medicine (core curriculum track), as well as many other scientific activities (courses, workshops and satellite symposia) of high scientific interest. A broad social programme, many poster presentations, and a friendly environment will facilitate learning, interaction and contacts amongst all those interested in this field of medicine. Leaders in Geriatric Medicine in Europe and representatives from most of the main teaching and research centres in geriatrics, as well as other health care and gerontology professionals will be present in Málaga. The 2011 EUGMS Congress will be the largest and most prestigious congress of Geriatric Medicine in 2011.

**2. Málaga, a most welcoming city**

The Spanish Costa del Sol is, by right, an emblematic place for older people, as it is chosen as place for retirement by people from many European countries. A mild Mediterranean climate, healthy food, beautiful surroundings and a wealth of ongoing activities may explain this choice.

Málaga, the capital of the Costa del Sol, is a city that affords great historic interest alongside a broad range of leisure activities at the heart of one of Europe’s main tourism and retirement areas. It has a modern congress centre, a busy airport with reasonably priced links to most places of Europe, and surroundings offering both mountains and sea. The Mediterranean climate is an inviting one and there are many 4 and 5-star hotels, as well as many high-quality restaurants.

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee, the Scientific Committee and the three Societies involved, I sincerely hope you will join us on this outstanding scientific and cultural adventure. We look forward to seeing you here in Málaga!

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