



European Pathway Association

www.E-P-A.org

**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN 2004 - 2006
OF THE EUROPEAN PATHWAY ASSOCIATION**

Joint Chairman European Pathway Association:

Mr. Kris Vanhaecht, Research Fellow & PhD Student Belgian Dutch Clinical Pathway Network, Leuven, Belgium

Prof. Dr. Massimiliano Panella, Professor in Public Health, University of Piedmont, Novarra, Italy

Board members:

Anne Marie Yazbeck, Slovenia

Claire Whittle, England

Clare Gallagher, England

Jen Guezo, Guernsey

Karen Jenkins, Scotland

Kris Vanhaecht, Belgium

Marcus Bollmann, Germany

Marie Kehoe, Ireland

Massimiliano Panella, Italy

Ruben Van Zelm, The Netherlands

Uwe Jansen, Denmark

Walter Sermeus, Belgium

International Advisors:

Andrea Gardini, Italy

Karen Zander, USA

Kathy Bower, USA

Rashad Massoud, USA



1) EPA meetings & Conferences:

Since the idea of the EPA was first conceived there have been four EPA conferences and 5 meetings. These are listed below:

- a. ICP-EPA inaugural meeting & conference Ancona, 16 & 17 September 2004
- b. EPA meeting during ISQUA, 20 October, 2004
- c. ICP-EPA conference and board meeting, London, 28 & 29 June, 2005
- d. EPA conference and board meeting, Ljubljana, 4 & 5 December, 2005
- e. ICP-EPA conference and board meeting, London, 27-28-29 June, 2006

2) EPA Research, Publications & Presentations

- a. EPA international survey on the prevalence & use of pathways

Members of the EPA board and advisors undertook an international survey on the prevalence and use of pathways. The contributors and the journal the article was published in are listed below:

- i. Publication: Kris Vanhaecht, Marcus Bollmann, Kathy Bower, Clare Gallagher, Andrea Gardini, Jen Guezo, Uwe Jansen, Rashad Massoud, Karen Moody, Walter Sermeus, Ruben Van Zelm, Claire Whittle, Anne-Marie Yazbeck, Karen Zander, Massimiliano Panella (2006). Prevalence and use of clinical pathways in 23 countries — an international survey by the European Pathway Association (www.E-P-A.org). Journal of Integrated Care Pathways, 10, 28-34.

- b. Presentation of the survey & EPA:

The results from the survey have been presented at the following conferences:

- i. ICP Conference London, UK, June 2005: Kris Vanhaecht & Massimiliano Panella
- ii. XV National Conference of the Italian Society for Quality in Healthcare October 2005: Massimiliano Panella
- iii. Austrian CPW Net CCHC: University Steyr, Steyr, Austria, May 2005: Marcus Bollmann
- iv. NKP conference Bussum, The Netherlands, June 2005: Kris Vanhaecht
- v. Ministry Conference on Pathways, Brussels, Belgium, December 2005: Kris Vanhaecht



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- vi. Ministry conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia, December 2005: Kris Vanhaecht
- vii. Klinische Pfade, Conference, Kelheim, Germany, January 2006: Marcus Bollmann
- viii. Klinische Pfade Conference, Eschborn Germany, May 2006: Marcus Bollmann
- ix. Pfade Conference, University Steyr, Steyr, Austria, April 2006: Ruben Van Zelm & Marcus Bollmann
- x. Irish Society for Quality and Safety in Healthcare Conference, Dublin, Ireland, May 2006: Kris Vanhaecht & Marie Kehoe

c. EPA Definition on Care Pathway

The European Pathway Association defines a clinical/care pathway as:

‘Care pathways are a methodology for the mutual decision making and organization of care for a well-defined group of patients during a well-defined period.

Defining characteristics of care pathways includes:

- An explicit statement of the goals and key elements of care based on evidence, best practice, and patient expectations;
- The facilitation of the communication, coordination of roles, and sequencing the activities of the multidisciplinary care team, patients and their relatives;
- The documentation, monitoring, and evaluation of variances and outcomes; and
- The identification of the appropriate resources.

The aim of a care pathway is to enhance the quality of care by improving patient outcomes, promoting patient safety, increasing patient satisfaction, and optimizing the use of resources.’

- i. Reference: European Pathway Association, 2006, www.E-P-A.org

d. EPA Position Paper

A draft of the EPA position paper on goals & challenges of pathways is now available (?is this correct?)

e. EPA Newsletter

The first EPA newsletter will be ready by September 2006. Clare Gallagher is leading on this with support from Ruben Van Zelm.

f. EPA research on relation between Clinical Pathway & Patient Safety

- i. Draft / outline available on design and methodology for International Trial



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g. The official EPA discussion forum: Smartgroup on Clinical Pathways
This group now have 791 members worldwide. The work of this Smartgroup has been published: Kris Vanhaecht & Jen Guezo (2005). The SmartGroup on Clinical Pathways. Journal of Integrated Care Pathways, 9, 114-115.

h. EPA letter to Royal Society of Medicine
The EPA has corresponded to the Royal Society of Medicine requesting that the Journal of Integrated Care Pathways is linked to Medline

i. EPA invitational letter to Ministry of Mongolia
Seven members of Ministry join the EPA at the ICP Conference in June 2006

3) EPA Networking

a. EPA members:

As of June 2006 there were more than 131 members from 19 different countries

b. EPA Website:

The website is available at www.E-P-A.org. The EPA has contact people within the following European countries:

- i. BELGIUM
- ii. DENMARK
- iii. ENGLAND
- iv. ESTONIA
- v. GERMANY
- vi. GUERNSEY
- vii. IRELAND
- viii. ITALY
- ix. PORTUGAL:
- x. SCOTLAND
- xi. SLOVENIA
- xii. THE NETHERLANDS

Outside of Europe there are contact people from the following countries:

- c. AUSTRALIA
- d. CANADA
- e. CHINA
- f. JAPAN
- g. SINGAPORE
- h. INDIA
- i. USA