

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the board of MAMH I like to welcome you on this conference about cerebral palsy.

MAMH is an organisation of doctors who are involved in the care for people with intellectual disabilities. MAMH stands for Medical Aspects of Mental Handicap, later renamed as European Association of Intellectual Disability Medicine.

The objectives of MAMH are:

- To collect available knowledge and to exchange information regarding the causes, prevention and medical management of different types of intellectual disability.
- To stimulate and support applied scientific research, often in collaboration with other scientific disciplines.
- To initiate, support and promote education in the medical care of persons with intellectual disability.
- To give advice, where necessary, on medical care to national and international organisations in the care of persons with an intellectual disability.

These objectives are rather ambitious for a small organisation like MAMH, with members who are always very busy with their own work. Nevertheless, we made progress.

MAMH organised congresses in Rome, Manchester, Debrecen and Lahti. MAMH was guest in Kassel when German colleagues established the Kasseler Erklärung. Sylvia Carpenter, the former president of MAMH, gave twice an overview of post-graduate training programmes for doctors in intellectual disability medicine in European countries.

And in November 2003 MAMH was one of the organizations of an invitational conference which established the: European Manifesto on Basic Health Care for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

MAMH has close relations with other organizations, like IASSID.

Membership of MAMH is open for individuals and for organisations of physicians, working in this field. German physicians, who are member of the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Ärzte Dienste für Menschen mit geistiger oder mehrfacher Behinderung (BAG), are because of this membership also members of MAMH.

I wish you a good and inspiring congress.

Thank you.