



## Newsletter June 2010

Dear members,

**The 5<sup>th</sup> MAMH congress Bridge 2010**, Bristol, May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> was a great success with 119 participants, representing 23 countries, among them Canada and Australia. Most of the participants were physicians, but there were also nurses, psychologists, speech therapists, managers and policymakers.



Participants liked the mixture of medical topics and international perspectives on the organisation of medical care for people with intellectual disabilities and on the education of physicians and other health professionals. They were informed about promising initiatives within the European Union and the World Health Organisation to reduce inequalities in the health of people with intellectual disabilities. There was much time for personal contacts, especially during the drinks reception on Wednesday evening with a welcome speech by the High Sheriff of Bristol, Mrs. Peaches Golding, and the dinner on Thursday evening in the atmospheric Mansion House, with special guests Mrs Golding and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. Davies.

All credit for this wonderful congress goes to 'the Bristol three': Sylvia Carpenter, Sue Silvey and Alan Kellas

### Annual General Meeting of MAMH

Unfortunately our general meeting was a little bit chaotic. There was a lack of time, some members came late because the presentations of the congress were running out of time and some had to leave before the end of the meeting. Nonetheless it was good to welcome two new members, Dr. Jean Lane from Ireland and Dr. Vladimir Trajkovski from Macedonia. Dr. Roger Banks and Dr. Peter Martin were re-elected as members of the board. The most important activities in the past year were the preparation of the congress and the participation in the WHO-Europe initiative Better Health for Better Lives. In the year to come we want to take new initiatives to strengthen the ties between our members. We also will continue the contacts with eastern European countries, with WHO Europe and with the European Union.



*The Lord Mayor, Mr. Davies*

## **Better Health for Better Lives**

In the Newsletter of January 2010 we informed you about the progress of the declaration and action plan for the care for children with intellectual disabilities and their families in Europe. This is an initiative of WHO-Europe, and our board member Dr. Roger Banks is a member of the steering group and has had responsibility, with a smaller number of participants for the drafting of the declaration and action plan.

At a meeting in Belgrade on the 24th and 25th March, representatives of Ministries from Member States of WHO Europe were consulted on the draft Declaration and amendments were discussed and agreed.

The WHO Europe High-level meeting, to be hosted by the Prime Minister's Office, the General Secretariat of the Romanian Government, will be held on 26-27 November 2010 in Bucharest, Romania. The declaration will be open for signatures at this meeting. Afterwards MAMH will offer support to implement the declaration in the different European countries and we will develop an action plan to achieve this.



Frans Scholte, president,  
[Frans.Scholte@mamh.net](mailto:Frans.Scholte@mamh.net)

Peter Martin, secretary  
[Peter.Martin@mamh.net](mailto:Peter.Martin@mamh.net)

Administration  
Frieda de Meij  
[administration@mamh.net](mailto:administration@mamh.net)  
website: [www.mamh.net](http://www.mamh.net)