

EAHIL 5TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH LIBRARIES IN COIMBRA.

We couldn't let this issue of the Newsletter go to press without mention of the 5th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries held in Coimbra, Portugal on September 18-21, 1996. Full conference reports will appear in the next issue, but as delegates have only just returned from Coimbra, it seemed timely to say a few words about the value of the Conference.

For me, and I am sure this applies to many colleagues, the EAHIL European Conferences are the most valuable ones I attend - it is reasonably easy to keep up to date with developments in one's own country, but many of the problems we face in providing health care are common to us all. And it is very instructive and inspirational to see how they are being tackled in other countries. Innovative approaches to common problems - every country has something to offer.

The city of Coimbra was a delight (even though there was an unseasonal amount of rain during the week!) and our conference hosts were charming in their enthusiasm to show us the best of Portuguese culture and cuisine. Ad for the Conference itself - each time it seems to get bigger and have more and more to offer us. This time, there were 450 delegates from over 26 countries present, with an excellent scientific paper and workshop programme in operation.

As I say, fuller details will be given in the next Newsletter. But for now, all I will say to those who could not attend Coimbra (and those who did!) - don't miss the 6th European Conference of Medical and Health Libraries in Utrecht in June 1998!

Linda Lisgarten
EAHIL Council Member
The School of Pharmacy

"Prix d'Honneur" The librarian of the year 1995

As EAHIL President, I am pleased to congratulate the 1995 and 1996 EAHIL "Prix d'Honneur". Lois Ann Colaiaanni, *Associate Director, Library Operations, National Library of Medicine* in Maryland USA, has a very long experience in medical librarianship. She is a global librarian. She has been the President of Medical Library Association (MLA), a member of many committees and a faithful member of EAHIL since the beginning. She has participated in most of the EAHIL Conferences and workshops with great interest. Lois Ann has this special gift of getting in touch with people, encouraging and giving inspiration. We are happy to award her with the EAHIL "Prix d'Honneur" for 1995 and warmly congratulate her.

"It is with great professional and personal gratitude that I accept this award from EAHIL. It is truly an honor to have one's professional work acknowledged by this dynamic, growing organization representing the wonderful cultures and countries in Europe. In accepting this award, however, I must acknowledge the professionals who have served as role models; my family for their encouragement and support; my employer who believes that health is of world-wide importance and is committed to providing high quality, up-to-date health information resources; my colleagues with whom I have worked to improve information resources and develop the infrastructure to provide access to these resources throughout the world and have made working fun; and, all of you who will make the vision of a world-wide network of health libraries a reality in the next decade."

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"Prix d'Honneur" The librarian of the year 1996

Otakar Pinkas, *from the National Medical Library in Prague*, has been with EAHIL for many years, always present at our conferences, active as a speaker or as a member of one of the conference committees, as he was in Oslo, a member of the Programme Committee. You always know that he is doing what is expected from him, and a man you can rely on in every way. Otakar was responsible for organizing the EAHIL Symposium of Cooperation of Medical Libraries in Prague in September 1995. This was not only a good professional symposium, but a great social event, held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The symposium was an important meeting of colleagues from Eastern, Central and Western Europe. As you know, he has been elected as a member of the EAHIL Executive Board as from January 1997. This will broaden the horizons of the Association. Our warmest congratulations!

"May I express my deepest thanks for the honour granted to me. It is with great pleasure that I accept the EAHIL award for the current year; the award I will share with all my colleagues in the Czech Republic. This honour constitutes also a big challenge for me, for my further professional activity. Many thanks for all of you for your assistance, for your confidence and friendship."

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