

# Secretary's Report of College Activities 2004-5

**Dr Noel CARUANA**

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## **Council and its meetings**

There were 14 meetings since the last AGM of 10<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

Council posts during 2004/2005 were assigned as follows:

- Dr. Pierre. Mallia – President and Secretary for Ethics
- Dr. Andrew P Zammit – Vice President
- Dr. Noel Caruana – Honorary Secretary
- Dr. Michael Cordina – Honorary Treasurer
- Dr Michael Borg – College Registrar
- Dr. J.K. Soler – Secretary for Research and Publications
- Dr. Mario R. Sammut – Secretary for Education
- Dr. Savior Cilia – Secretary for Information and Communications
- Dr Adrian Micallef – Secretary for Quality control and audit
- Dr. Anthony Xuereb – Member
- Dr. Jurgen Abela – Member
- Dr Renzo Degabriele – Webmaster
- Dr Philip Sciortino – Member
- Dr Mario Grixti – Chairman of SAC subcommittee

It was also decided that the following subcommittees would be set up to facilitate the working of the Council. It was stressed that the aim of the council would be to involve the college members as much as possible. The subcommittees set up were:

1. Statute subcommittee
2. Research subcommittee
3. Ethics subcommittee
4. SAC subcommittee
5. Education Subcommittee

During the council meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> August 2005 the president suggested some alterations in the responsibilities for certain posts on council, as follows:

Dr Anthony Xuereb was asked to perform duties of International Secretary a post previously held by Dr J K Soler. Dr Jean Karl Soler was asked to act as College Registrar, while Dr Mario Grixti was asked to act as Secretary on SAC subcommittee. These changes were approved by the majority of councillors present at the meeting.

## **MCFD-RCGP Teachers' Course**

The second Teachers Course. There were 19 applicants of which 14 eventually accepted to participate in the two-modules, each of five days, Teachers' Course. The first module was held in May 2004 with the second module being held in October 2004.

Following approval by members at the EGM in April 2004, the College paid part of the expenses, with the rest of the cost being paid by the participants.

The Education subcommittee has been having contacts with the RCGP discussing the possibility of organizing the fourth and fifth modules during 2005/2006.

The College had submitted a proposal for funding of these advanced courses to the European Social Fund Project.

## **MMCFD – MRCGP (INT.)**

- The College has been studying the issue of developing a locally based Membership, for a number of years. During the last EGM, members approved the process of applying for the introduction of the MRCGP(Int) in Malta. Since then the College President has been discussing the issue with Dr. John Howard - Chairman of the International Committee.

In January 2005 five members from the Council attended to a three day international membership workshop organized by the RCGP in London. Fees incurred for this attendance were borne entirely by the attendants with the help of sponsors.

- Membership Board

Following approval at the EGM and at AGM of 2004, the College started to work on the development of the MMCFD and to explore the development of the MRCGP(Int) in Malta. In April 2005 the Council proposed the setup of a Membership Board and the Curriculum Committee. The Council had asked its members to participate in the formation of these two bodies. Members who volunteered and were later approved by council were as follows:

Dr. Mario Grixti as chairman of Membership Board, Dr Jurgen Abela, Dr Michael Borg, Dr Frank P Calleja, Dr Jean Karl Soler, Dr Mario R. Sammut, Dr Michael Cordina and Dr Noel Caruana as members.

- Curriculum Development Secretariat

In order to develop a curriculum for the eventual assessment to be introduced for conferment of the MMCFD title, a Curriculum committee was set up, after a call for interest and participation was made through the Colleges media. The following members volunteered to contribute;

Dr Philip Sciortino as Chairman of curriculum Committee, Dr Ron Borg, Dr Anton Bugeja, Dr Noel Caruana, Dr Doreen Cassar, Dr Sandra Falzon Camilleri, Dr Adrian Micallef and Dr Mario Sammut as members. The Secretariat has prepared and submitted a Proposal for funding of a "Curriculum Development Project For Membership Assessment", to the European social Fund Project.

### **FAMILY MEDICINE AS A SPECIALTY IN THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS ACT**

A Specialist Accreditation Subcommittee was set up in October 2003 and was asked to draw up a document about the Specialty of Family Medicine in Malta, which was subsequently presented and approved, at the EGM in April 2004. These criteria were further discussed during last year's AGM, as can be seen in the minutes. The Specialist Accreditation Subcommittee continued its work during the past year and was always present during a number of SAC meetings. Despite the fact that more than a year has elapsed we are still waiting for the certificates to be issued to our members by the SAC.

### **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2004-2005**

2004 (news of events for 2004 after AGM of same year)

- The Autumn CPD meeting was co-organized with the Association of Dermatologists and Venerologists, entitled DERMAFEST ON 30<sup>th</sup> October
- The European General Practice Research Network hosted by the MCFD organized its meeting on 8-10<sup>th</sup> October 2004

2005

- The Winter CPD meeting, Community Care of the Elderly and Managing Domestic Violence –(February 12).
- The Spring CPD meeting, Coeliac Disease in Family Practice, was a CPD evening organized in association with the Malta College of Pathologists and the Coeliac Association Malta. (March 4)
- The Summer CPD meeting Tackling Acute Musculoskeletal Problems in Family Practice. (July 18)
- Then Autumn CPD in set to include a one day venue on October 29<sup>th</sup> - Respiratory update

The college organised another two activities as part of its ongoing CME

- MCFD-DSU A series of CPD meetings on Public Health

issues relevant to Family Doctors.

(March to June and September to December)

2. MCFD and Emergency Response Team organised a one day Seminar on Pre-hospital Emergency Care on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. There were 30 participants who could take part at this hands-on style seminar. As this event was overbooked, the symposium was re-organised in June 2005 for a second group of participants who received hands-on training.
3. In collaboration with the St James administration, the college is accrediting a series of "Lunch and Learn" seminars open to all Family Doctors.

The College is in the process of setting up a number of CPD initiatives, which include:

1. A Diploma in Family Practice (a call for applications was issued and closing date was end of August 2005)
2. Membership of the Malta College of Family Doctors.
3. International Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners.
4. Specialist/Vocational Training Programme in Family Medicine.

### **LOCAL NEWS**

#### **23-26<sup>th</sup> September 2004**

The College was participant at a three day conference being organised in Malta by Pfizer. The seminar was aimed principally for French doctors and was entitled: "The Universities of Depression" Maltese Family Doctors were invited to attend for a Saturday meeting to discuss with French Gps on areas of common interest.

The College requested a meeting with the APFD to clarify any issues that were arising after the setup of this new Association. The meeting, in September 2005, was a cordial one, and the APFD president explained that the main aim of the association was to promote the interests of Private Family doctors. It did not seek to interfere in the academic work of the college.

### **International News**

#### **26<sup>th</sup> November 2004**

Dr Mario R Sammut as Europrev representative of of the College attended a meeting in Barcelona, Spain. The Europrev is the European Network for Prevention and Health Promotion in Family Medicine.

January 2005. In January 2005 five members from the Council attended to a three day international membership workshop organized by the RCGP in London. This meeting hosted by the RCGP, was organised to familiarise prospective countries with the concept of an international Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners(MRCGP(Int)). It was attended by representatives from Lebanon, Dubai, Malaysia, and Rumania.



# Henley Management College (Malta) Associate Hits the 200 mark

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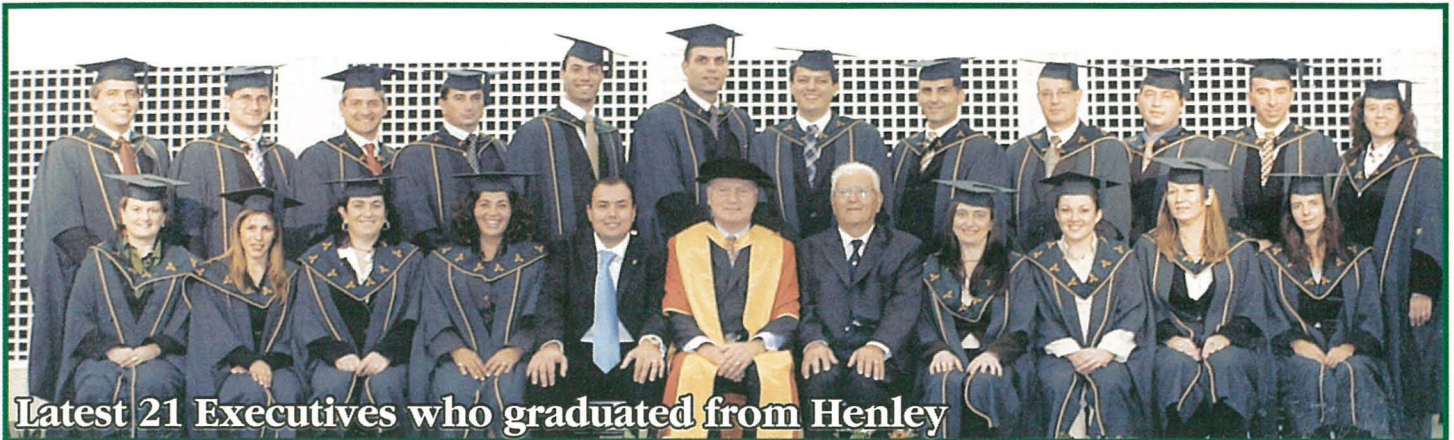
### THE MOST WIDELY RECOGNIZED MBA

Accreditation Henley Management College is one of the schools worldwide to achieve the coveted triple accreditation from the principal quality assurance bodies in UK (AMBA), Europe (EFMD) and the USA (AACSB).



[www.henleymalta.com.mt](http://www.henleymalta.com.mt)

PERHAPS OUR GREATEST ACCREDITATION IS THE QUALITY OF OUR GRADUATES



Latest 21 Executives who graduated from Henley

**Standing:** Stefan Cassar Managing Director - Dynamic Co Ltd • Kevin Borg Business Development Manager - Methode Electronics Malta Ltd. • Lionel A Lapira Chief Executive Officer - Plaza Centres plc • Edward Calleja Head - Advances Division - APS Bank Ltd. • Ruben Galea Chief Executive Officer - IT&T Ltd. • Philip Farrugia Manufacturing Eng Manager - Methode Electronics Malta Ltd. • Sandro Gauci Sales Manager - Go Mobile • Angelo Vella Managing Director - Gaming Consulting Ltd. • Edward J Borg Chief Executive Officer - Mt Carmel Hospital FMS • Boris N Xerri Managing Director - Corman Services Ltd. • Mark Muscat Sales & Marketing Manager - Consolidated Biscuit Co Ltd. • Dr Taygeta Firman Senior Medical Officer - Department of Health.

**Sitting:** Maria Vella Galea Customer Segment Manager - Vodafone Malta • Joslyn Magro Manager Labour Market - National Statistics Office • Mariella Stivala Manager - Care Malta Ltd. • Claudette Pace Assistant Manager Employee Development - BOV plc • Anthony V Sammut Administrator - Henley Malta Associate • Prof Ian Turner Director of Studies - Henley Management College • Prof Reno Sammut Director - Henley Malta Associate • Antonette Borg Manager - Mimcol • Moira Camilleri Assistant Manager Employee Development - BOV plc • Lorianne Williams General Manager - Telepage Ltd • Maha Arebi Director Operations & Compliance - Cougar Asset Management. **In Absentia:** Michel Ganado Business Advisor - Price Waterhouse Coopers Malta

Henley Management College is the oldest independent management college in Europe, established in 1945.

For sixty years Henley Management College has been at the forefront of management education and development. It offers a portfolio of open executive programmes and a range of tailored programmes to suit the needs of organisations worldwide. It is one of the world's largest international Graduate Business Schools, working with approximately 6,000 managers from 80 countries. It does this through a network of Local Offices and Associate Organisations. The College will continue its development both at Greenlands and worldwide. Through new technologies the College is reaching new audiences and providing new services in support of management education and development.

Since 1972, the College has offered a range of Master's and Doctoral programmes in partnership with Brunel University. Until seven years ago,

students were registered for MBA degrees of the University on programmes delivered by staff of the College. In March 1997 the College was granted powers, by the Privy Council, to award its own degrees for taught programmes.

Since early 1997 all new Master's students have registered for the College's own awards, and degrees of Henley Management College were conferred for the first time in 1998. Today the College rather than the University will award the majority of degrees conferred at the ceremonies. The two institutions continue to collaborate in both teaching and research and the University remains the awarding body for research degrees.

Both the college and the University are committed to continuous improvement in the quality of education and services they provide. Our staff and students are the key to our success and we hope that all will feel justifiably proud of their achievements.

During these years, the College has worked closely with individuals and organisations to establish a worldwide network of relationships with people who have grown as a result of 'The Henley Experience'.

From its launch in 1974, The Henley MBA programme has been continuously developed and improved in response to

the changing needs of managers worldwide. The College has led the development of alternative modes of study that fit into the changing lifestyles, as well as designing specialist MBA's to meet the subject needs of different business sectors.

The programme is the first Distance Learning MBA programme to be available in Europe and in the past twenty years it has been continually re-designed and updated to meet the changing needs of management development and training. All coursework, assignments, projects, examinations and dissertations are set and assessed at Henley. E-learning facilities are available to all students.

### HENLEY (MALTA) ASSOCIATE

The Henley MBA programme was launched in Malta in 1991, this was run through the Malta University Services Ltd and directed by Prof Reno J Sammut who was at that time Head of the Department of management at the University of Malta. By the mid-nineties the University of Malta has established its own MBA programmes and from 1998 the Henley Programmes were organized through Management Development Services Co Ltd (MDS) in collaboration with the Malta Chamber

of Commerce and Enterprise.

In Malta this Distance learning programme has been changed to a part-time evening course. Lectures, tutorials are provided by local professionals who are also MBA Graduates. Local feedback is given on assignments and individual supervision is provided for projects and dissertations.

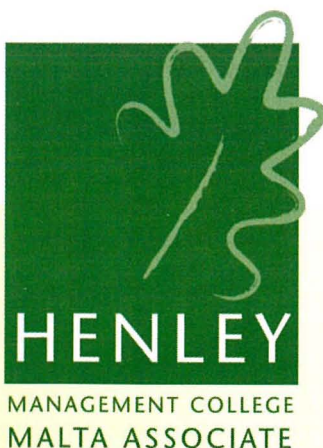
During the past fifteen years over 450 Maltese executives have registered on the Henley Programmes. Of these 210 have graduated with the Henley Executive MBA and another 50 have obtained the Post Graduate Diploma in Management. At present there are 140 who are on various stages of the programme. As can be seen from these figures, the completion rate is extremely high. Over the years six Maltese participants have been awarded the prestigious Henley Prize. The Dissertation is the culmination of the participants work on the Henley MBA programme it requires the participant to demonstrate a critical approach to management problems and a capacity to relate specific issues to broader Management literature.

## NEXT PROGRAMME STARTS FEBRUARY 2006

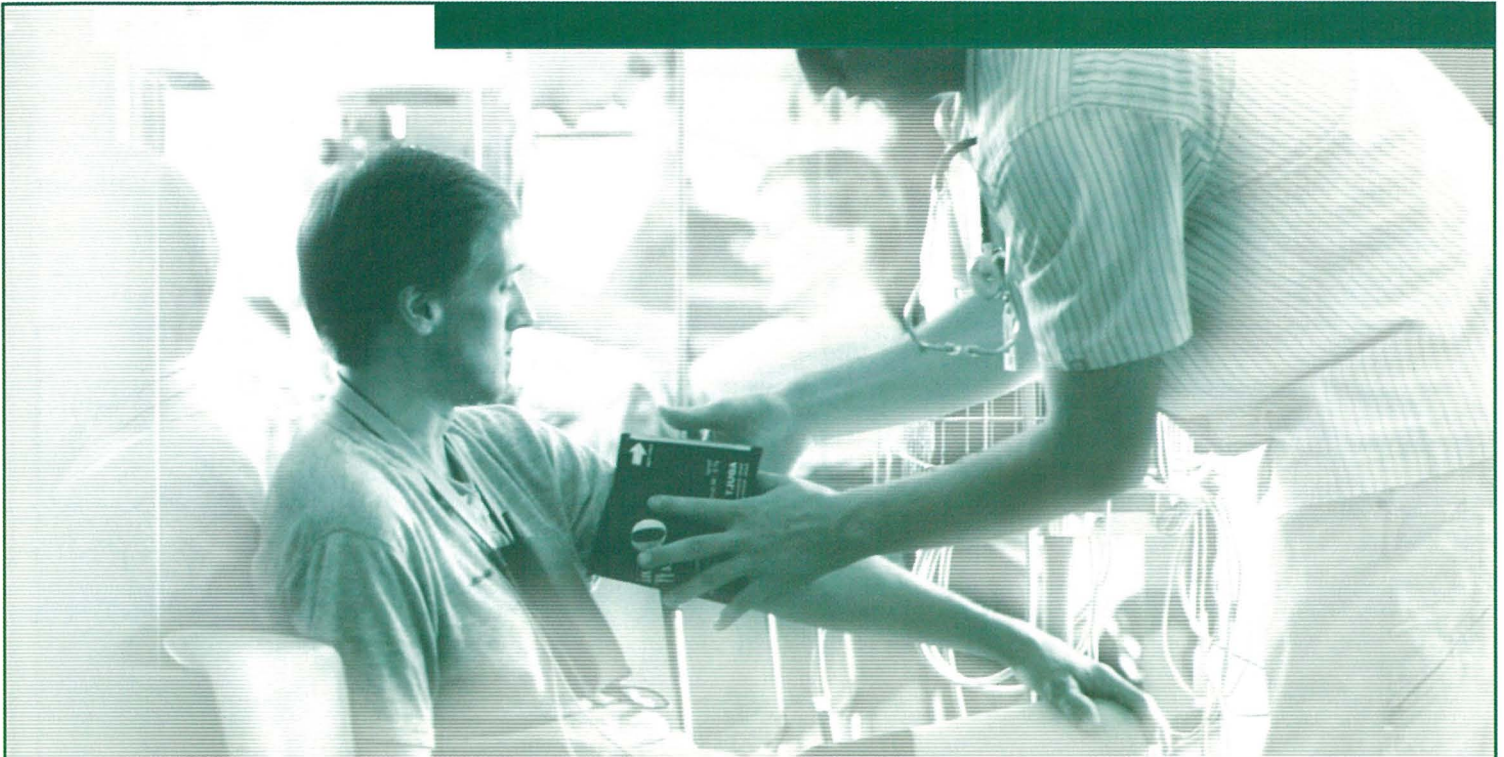
Contact us today for further information about the Henley MBA Executive fulltime MBA programme:

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20-24th April 2005: Dr M Sammut attended a meeting of the European Academy of Teachers in General Practice (EURACT) in Budapest as Malta's representative.

September 2005: Dr JK Soler and Dr M Sammut attended the European WONCA meeting in KOS, Greece. They represented the college at this meeting. Expenses for the attendance were borne by the two attendees personally or through sponsorships.

## MEMBERSHIP

College membership at presently stands at 220. I urge those members who have not paid their membership for 2005 to do so at their earliest.

## COLLEGE JOURNAL AND NEWSLETTER and WEBSITE

The previous editor of the college journal expressed his wish to resign from his post in September 2004. Following a call for application for this post, Dr Noel Caruana was approved by Council in December 2004, to be the next Journal Editor.

Following the change in editor, the journal's name was adjusted to "Maltese Family doctor"/It Tabib tal- Familja. The first issue was published in June 2005, being Volume 14: Issue 01 June 2005. The College Journal It-Tabib tal- Familja is being issued twice yearly in June and December. For the first time the College's Journal is available online.

The MCFD Newsletter compiled by Dr S Cilia, continues to be sent monthly exclusively to college members, and includes local and international news for the benefit of the Family Doctor. Important and urgent notices to members are available on the college's website which is updated regularly by our webmaster, Dr R Degabriele.

Contributions to both the Journal and Newsletter are welcome and are to be addressed to the Editor and College secretary respectively.

Dr Noel CARUANA MD MSc

Honorary Secretary MCFD

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### **Thiazide diuretics may still be the preferred first-line drugs for essential hypertension:**

What should be the first-line antihypertensive for most patients with essential hypertension? The answer to this simple yet intriguing question has remained elusive. A three-year study published in JAMA 2002 shows that thiazide diuretics may still be the preferred first-line drugs for hypertension. The study looked at 33,357 patients with hypertension and at least one coronary heart disease (CHD) risk factor. The study examined whether an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor or a calcium-channel blocker would lower the incidence of CHD compared with a diuretic. The mean follow-up was three years, during which time 2956 had fatal CHD or non-fatal MI. The relative risks (RR) for the patients from each treatment group were similar. Basing their argument partly on cost-effectiveness, the researchers concluded that thiazide-type diuretics should be preferred for first-line anti-hypertensive treatment.

Reference: Antihypertensive and lipid lowering Treatment to prevent Heart Attack (ALLHAT) authors and coordinators. Major outcomes in high-risk hypertensive patients

randomized to angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor or calcium channel blockers vs diuretic. JAMA 2002; 288:2981-2997.

### **Colorectal Cancer: Family history is under-reported**

Family history is often used to estimate risk of colorectal cancer and to decide which patients warrant colonoscopy, however there is a considerable degree of recall bias and inaccuracies.

A study by Mitchell RJ et al reported their study of 199 colorectal cancer patients and 133 controls selected from the community. Using face to face interviews the researchers assessed the accuracy of family history as given during consultation with actual cancer morbidity data from cancer registers.

The study showed that there is much underreporting of colorectal cancer in both first degree and second degree relatives. Thus the researchers conclude that family history though a useful indicator should be interpreted with considerable caution. Mitchell RJ, Brewster D, Campbell H et al. Gut 2004; 53:291- 295.