



### Letter from the President

**Maurella Della Seta**

Scientific Knowledge and Communication Service / Documentation  
Istituto Superiore di Sanità  
Rome, Italy  
Contact: [maurella.dellaseta@iss.it](mailto:maurella.dellaseta@iss.it)

Dear Colleagues,

At the time of writing this letter, I have just returned from a very productive meeting of the International Programme Committee in Basel. During two and half intense days, the IPC reviewed the proposals for the workshop and poster session, sent in the previous months. In the weeks preceding the in-person meeting, we had several teleconferences, and we evaluated online the about 130 posters, workshops, and continuing education courses submitted. It was a long but rewarding task, since most of the proposals were very interesting, up-to-date and relevant with the six themes proposed for the next workshop: Roadmap of our Profession, Technology Uptake, Ecology of Scholarly Communications, Impact and Assessment, Benchmarking and Advocacy, Evidence-Based Practice. Unfortunately (or fortunately with regard to EAHIL members active engagement), there were more worthy submissions than expected to fit the programme, and the IPC faced difficult decisions in making its selection. Special emphasis was placed on the interactivity of methods, considering that a workshop should take into account a strong participation by the audience. I am sure that the result of the IPC work will bring an interesting and innovative program, perfectly in line with the expectations of the delegates.

Our Swiss colleagues of the Local Organizing Committee are organising a lively event for next June: during the meeting, we had the opportunity of visiting the Basel University Library, and the workshop venue, both very modern, warm, and hospitable. Furthermore, there was time for a collective visit to the Basel Museum of Arts, which houses an amazing collection of paintings, spacing from the masterpieces of the Middle Age and Renaissance period to Impressionism, and contemporary art. There was also space for a “Raclette Party” in the Library: the raclette is a typical, delicious Swiss dish made of melted cheese. You will have the opportunity of tasting it and discovering other attractions of Basel if you are lucky enough to participate in the next June workshop! During the month of December, it is possible to apply for a scholarship: I strongly encourage all of you, and especially younger members, to send the application before January 5, 2019 (all information available on the EAHIL website, at this link: <http://eahil.eu/get-involved/scholarships/>).

The Basel Workshop will also be an excellent opportunity to involve our German-speaking colleagues more closely. In this regard, the last month of September, I was invited to give a presentation at the German speaking medical librarians meeting in Oldenburg, Germany. It was a great opportunity to present EAHIL activities to our colleagues, and to have an exchange of opinions about ways in which the two associations (EAHIL-AGMB) can cooperate. The EAHIL Councillor Sabine Buroh (which I warmly thank, together with Gaétan Kerdelhue, who prepared the French text) translated into German a poster about EAHIL activities, presented at the conference. The AGMB will present a poster about its activities in Basel.

Concerning now our Association life, the EAHIL Executive Board had an online meeting in October. During this meeting, we discussed, among others, about the proposal of establishing a new Special Interest Group, named Evidence-based Information. The Board approved the new SIG, considering the interest raised by the systematic reviews process issues. The main aim of the newly established group will be to bring together and connect all EAHIL members who are interested and want to improve the quality of systematic reviews and

other evidence-based products. Another purpose of the group is to discuss problems, share information, experiences and best practices (e.g. discussing tactics on how to stimulate researchers to include a reference librarian in their team, also for writing the literature search methods section of the paper or abstract). In this regard, I would like to report that the Italian National Center for Clinical Excellence, Quality and Safety of Healthcare (based at my Institute), has recently issued a Methodological Handbook for Clinical Practice Guideline Production<sup>1</sup>. This publication now clearly states that a medical information specialist must be part of the team. The information specialists collaborate with the Evidence Review Team (ERT) on the definition of the protocol for the systematic review process; search databases and provide the documents to be submitted to the ERT; participate in the formulation of PICO questions.

2018, as you know, is an election year for EAHIL. I encourage all of you living in countries where there are vacancies, to vote for our new Council members (2019-2022). Councillors are elected for a term of four years by the voting EAHIL members resident in their country. Councillors may be re-elected once, after which they are not eligible for re-election until they have been absent from the Council for two years. Each member state of the Council of Europe is eligible to elect councillors, if there are at least five voting members based in the country. On the EAHIL website, you will find all the information about candidates in each country. I am glad to see that this year we have candidates from countries, such as Croatia and Greece, which previously had no representatives.

Eirik Reiherth (Norway) is going to leave the EAHIL Board at the end of 2018. I wish to thank him for the great work in favour of our association, and hope to have the opportunity of still working together in the near future.

Finally, I would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season and the very best beginning of the year 2019.

*Maurella*

<sup>1</sup> Istituto Superiore di Sanità. CNEC. (2018). Manuale metodologico per la produzione di linee guida di pratica clinica [Methodological handbook for clinical practice guideline production], p. 17. Retrieved from: [https://snlg.iss.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/MM\\_v1.2\\_lug-2018.pdf](https://snlg.iss.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/MM_v1.2_lug-2018.pdf)



*IPC Meeting in Basel University Library. 7-9 November, 2018.*