

Final Report of The Third European Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders



The Third European Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders was held from 20 to 22 October 2014 in Rome. The main conference was attended by about 190 professionals and parents from 23 countries around the world. The conference was held in the centrally located Casa dell'Aviatore, the air force officers club.



Overview of the conference program

The main conference consisted of an intensive program of 2 1/2 days, featuring key researchers from abroad as well as presenting the latest research from European groups. Speakers included Ken Warren, Christina Chambers, Phil May, Ed Riley, Peter Hammond, Claire Coles, Magnus Landgren, Joanne Rovet, Osman Ipsiroglu, and so many more, covering the whole range from prevention to diagnosis and care. A Monday afternoon session highlighted the use of video for FASD education and awareness, presenting three film projects. Highly esteemed talks were given by Samantha Marchant, a birthmother, and by Michaela Thomas, an adult with FASD. The closing session on Wednesday morning dealt with ethical issues related to aspects of diagnosis and children's rights. Margaret Murray closed with a talk on how we can work together to address FASD in Europe and North America. The full program book with abstracts is available at http://eufasd.org/pdf/EUFASD3_program_book.pdf. The conference chairman was Prof. Mauro Ceccanti.

Poster prizes



The poster prizes were awarded to Véronique Faudou Sourisse for “FASD and the Education System in France : Maija's Journey” (see left); Sylvia Roozen for “Improving health promotion related to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD): A systematic literature review,” and Oscar García Algar for “Maternal ethanol consumption during pregnancy: prenatal exposure diagnosis, neonatal screening and postnatal follow up.”

Business meeting and elections

In a brief business meeting, minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Elections were held, unanimously re-electing the sitting board members, with the addition of new board members Susanne Gutke, who will assist the treasurer, and Martha Krijgsheld, who brings her experience as foster mother and as chairperson of the FAS Foundation of the Netherlands. The Board thus now consists of the following: Chair: Diane Black (Netherlands); Treasurer: Katarina Wittgard (Sweden); Secretary: Giorgie Petkovic (Croatia); Susan Fleisher (United Kingdom); Oscar Garcia-Algar (Spain); Susanne Gutke (Sweden); Martha Krijgsheld (Netherlands); Simona Pichini (Italy); Thierry Maillard (France); Philippa Williams (United Kingdom).

Too Young to Drink

Special attention was given to the Too Young to Drink campaign, which was launched internationally on 9 September 2014. A parallel session gave partners of this campaign a chance to share experiences.

Plans for next conference

The Fourth European Conference on FASD will be held in London from 12 to 14 September, 2016. The conference was announced by Raja Mukherjee, who will chair EUFASD4.



Front row left to right: Tatiana Balachova, Diane Black, Raja Mukherjee, Jessica Wagner, Mauro Ceccanti.

Second row left to right: Magdalena Borkowska, Ilona Autti-Rämö, Simona Pichini, Marco Fiore.

Top row left to right: Romolo Di Iorio, Luigi Tarani, Oscar García-Algar.