Acute Internal Medicine in Europe
Internal Medicine in Europe

Frank Bosch
President-elect of EFIM
EFIM composition

- 35 National Societies
- Executive Committee
- Administrative Council
- FDIME
- Working groups
- Secretariat (Brussels)
EFIM

» 35 member countries
» 35 countries = 35 health care systems
» 35 health care systems = 35 Laws
» 35 laws = 35 lists of competencies
» 35 lists of competencies = 35 training programs
» 35 training programs = 35 ways to become board certified
Different ways of practicing Internal Medicine in Europe

• in the hospital
• in the hospital and in outpatient medicine
• as a consultant
• as a primary care physician
• in acute medicine
• as a general internist
• as an internist with subspecialty
• as an internist with a special field of interest
• as a specialist with an interest in internal medicine (?!)

...
The concept

“Medical fields covered by Hippocrates included anatomy, internal medicine, hygiene, ethics and health food”
Internal Medicine is hard to delineate

I wish there were another term to designate the wide field of medical practice which remains after the separation of surgery, midwifery and gynaecology. Not itself a specialty, (though it embraces at least a dozen), its cultivators cannot be called specialists, but bear without reproach the good old name physician, in contradistinction to general practitioners, surgeons, obstetricians and gynaecologists.

W. Osler, Internal Medicine as a vocation, in Aequanimitas, 133
The essentials of Internal Medicine
(EFIM strategy document)

- Patient care
- Medical knowledge
- Communication skills
- Professionalism
- Academic activities
- Organization and leadership
Definition and mission statement of Internal Medicine

• Internal medicine is the core medical discipline that is responsible for the care of adults with one or more complex, acute, or chronic illnesses, both in the hospital and in the community.

• It is patient-centred, scientifically based and committed to ethical, scientific and holistic principles of care.

*EFIM working group on professional issues in internal medicine in Europe*
Definition and mission statement of Internal Medicine (2)

• Internal medicine, a clinical and scientific discipline, creates and promotes medical knowledge, methods and clinical abilities.
• It analyzes the findings of other medical specialties and integrates them into strategies for diagnosis, treatment and care for the individual patient.

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Definition and mission statement of Internal Medicine (3)

- Specific fields of interests include:
  - problems caused by polymorbidity
  - patients with difficult and complex diagnoses
  - preventive, acute, chronic and palliative care
- Internists are able to translate their knowledge into patient care
- Internists cope with the challenge of developing standards, decision-making, quality improvement and patient safety tools, and integrated health care delivery systems

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Internal medicine is:

- a cornerstone of any modern health care system
• Internists are generalists; they are not just specialists of a specific human body system (blood, stomach, kidneys) or of a specific procedure (endoscopy, radiology, angioplasty); internists have an integrated approach.

• Internists are competent in the fields of decision making, of coordinated and integrated health care, of dealing with complex problems and of disease prevention.
What are European internists like?

Courtesy of Runolfur Palsson
Trends

» Visits to first-aid departments

» Percentage of elderly patients

» Elderly patients with multimorbidity
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Code: tps00010

Source of Data: Eurostat
Acute Internal Medicine

» First Aid Department
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Minimale controles: 1x per dienst • Indien MEWS bij herhaling 0-1: 1x per 12-24 uur

MEWS 3, 4, 5 of ongerust: 1x per 4 uur • Overleg met collega verpleegkundige/zaalarts

MEWS 6 of meer: 1x per 1 uur, overweeg continue monitoring • Overleg met zaalarts < 10 min. en informeer het MET

A = alert    V = reactie op aanspreken    P = reactie op pijn    U = geen reactie
Denk aan sepsis (z.o.z)

MET (Medical Emergency Team) - sein 2424
Competenties