

### Continuing Medical Education :

The Federation is committed to providing continuing education for internists through the Journal, congresses, and symposia, and development of the website (see 'EFIM Website' below).

### Clinical Research Course :

Co-ordinator : Daniel Sereni  
This is organized every year.

E-mail : [daniel.sereni@sls.ap-hop-paris.fr](mailto:daniel.sereni@sls.ap-hop-paris.fr)

### European Exchange Scheme :

Co-ordinator : Jurg Schifferli. The programme has been running for approximately 15 years, and last year it was officially incorporated into EFIM.

This gives the opportunity for young residents to make exchanges between different member countries.

E-mail : [j.schifferli@unibas.ch](mailto:j.schifferli@unibas.ch)

### Professional Links

- The European Union of Medical Specialties (UEMS); close links are to be developed in the areas of training and continuing medical education.

- National and International societies for subspecialties related to internal medicine.

- International Society of Internal Medicine (ISIM) and other Non-European Societies of Internal Medicine with regard to scientific information.

### European Board of Internal Medicine (EBIM)

Members : UEMS : Jean-Frederic Blicklé (F), Colin Semple (UK), John Kellett (Eire), Nina Weis (D). EFIM : Daniel Sereni (F), Jaime Merino (Sp), Alberto Malliani (I), Stefan Lindgren (Swe)

In 2003 there was formal agreement to set up a European Board of Internal medicine by EFIM and UEMS as laid down in the EU regulations. This has the primary objective of developing a European Diploma in Internal Medicine, as has been successfully achieved by other sub-specialties such as cardiology and urology. In addition the Board have responsibilities for:

- Diploma of quality in internal medicine

- CPD/CME

- Requirements / evaluation of optimal training and training programmes in institutions.

### Working Groups

Working groups are set up on the initiative of the Administrative Council and report regularly to the Executive Committee. There are currently:

**Clinical Research** : Loic Guillevin (Fr). Objectives: to promote clinical research in Internal Medicine on a European basis.  
E-mail : [loic.guillevin@cch.ap-hop-paris.fr](mailto:loic.guillevin@cch.ap-hop-paris.fr) or [loic.guillevin@wanadoo.fr](mailto:loic.guillevin@wanadoo.fr)

**Political Issues in Internal Medicine** : Werner Bauer (CH). Set up to investigate the problems arising out of health service reforms in different member countries and their influence on the practice and training of internal medicine.  
E-mail : [werner.bauer@hin.ch](mailto:werner.bauer@hin.ch)

**Professional Ethical Issues, Professionalism Project Phase II, Human Health Rights** : Alberto Malliani (I). A joint venture between ABIM/ACP - ASIM and EFIM. Phase II of the project is being developed : alliance between society and medicine : the public's interest in medical professionalism.  
E-mail : [alberto.malliani@unimi.it](mailto:alberto.malliani@unimi.it)

**Quality of Care in Internal Medicine** : Harry van Hulsteijn (NL) . Evidence-based guidelines developed by national societies are being assessed, aiming to produce a consensus document in the future.  
E-mail : [L.vanhulsteijn@bernhoven.nl](mailto:L.vanhulsteijn@bernhoven.nl)

**White Book : The Present and Future of of Internal Medicine** : Jaime Merino (E). The 2002 survey was designed to document the organisation and practice of internal medicine in Europe assessing the work of internists, research, teaching, hospital practice, training, regulation and manpower.  
E-mail : [Jmerino@umh.es](mailto:Jmerino@umh.es)

### EFIM Website [www.efim.org](http://www.efim.org)

**Editor** : Stefan Lindgren (Swe)

E-mail : [Stefan.Lindgren@medforsk.mas.lu.se](mailto:Stefan.Lindgren@medforsk.mas.lu.se)

The site has recently been taken over by Santor (Paris) to develop it as a new and progressive way to link both to our National Societies and to individual members. It offers an important opportunity to develop the various Educational initiatives of the Federation, particularly the School and Continuous Medical Education. It also provides details of past and current activities of the Federation including :

- **Member Societies** : details of the national societies with list of representatives and links where available
- **Council Members** : list of current members of the Executive and Administrative Councils with e-mail links
- **Congress Programmes** : with links for registration and abstract submission
- **ESIM Activities** : past and current programmes; links to interactive educational site planned
- Statutes of the Federation as registered under Belgian Law
- Bye-Laws for operation of the Federation approved by the Administrative Council
- Foundation for the Development of Internal Medicine in Europe
- Links to other organisations related to internal medicine.



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF INTERNAL MEDICINE  
**EFIM**  
[www.efim.org](http://www.efim.org)

### OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

#### What is EFIM?

The European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM) is a scientific organisation founded in 1996 from the European Association of Internal Medicine. The Federation brings together the National Societies of Internal Medicine from different countries across Europe, representing over 30,000 internists. EFIM currently comprises 31 member Societies.

The purpose of EFIM is to re-emphasise the importance of Internal Medicine in patient care in a world of increasing specialisation. EFIM holds a scientific congress every 2 years and publishes the European Journal of Internal Medicine (EJIM). There are close links with the European Union through the Monospecialty Committee of UEMS (Union of European Medical Specialists) and ISIM (International Society of Internal Medicine).

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## What is Internal Medicine?

The specialty of internal medicine covers a wide range of conditions affecting the internal organs of the body – the heart, the lungs, the liver and gastro-intestinal tract, the kidneys and urinary tract, the brain, spinal column, nerves and muscles and finally the joints. Although some diseases specifically affect individual organs, the majority of common diseases – arteriosclerosis, diabetes, high blood pressure and cancers may affect many internal organs of the body. The internist must then be trained to recognise and manage a very broad range of diseases and this approach follows a long European tradition, developed further by Osler and others in the United States.

The specialist in internal medicine – the internist – most commonly practices in hospitals where he may care for the patients during an acute illness or supervise their care in out patient clinics. In some European countries, however, a significant proportion of internists have an office based practice with links to local hospitals. Such an internist is not, however, a “family physician” who will be expected to cover a much broader range of problems including paediatrics, obstetrics and surgery, and include children as well as adults.

University departments responsible for teaching medical students are usually supervised by a professor of internal medicine who maintains the right balance between the different medical subspecialties which makes up the students’ training. Such departments also provide training for postgraduate qualification in internal medicine as a specialty, a process which takes five years in most European countries and which requires a qualifying exam in many.

## Internal Medicine in the European Union

The specialty of internal medicine is one of the specialties recognised by the permanent committee of medicine of the EU in Brussels. By definition it is an all-embracing discipline, concerning itself with all aspects of pathology and all the organ-based specialties. It is recognised in every country in the European Union but the daily work of the internists and their training is strongly linked to the organisation of national health services and the universities in different European countries.

Because of concerns to harmonise the training of hospital doctors in Europe, the European Union of Medical Specialties (UEMS) was formed in 1959. Internal medicine forms one of the monospecialty sections of UEMS and is responsible for defining the curriculum of internal medicine, both in terms of the period required for training, and now, with increasing emphasis, the curriculum for continuing medical education (CME) of practicing doctors.

The European Association of Internal Medicine (AEMI) was formed in 1969 by members of the UEMS monospecialty section on internal medicine to provide a scientific organisation of internal medicine on a European basis. The European Federation of Internal Medicine was formed by bringing together the national societies of internal medicine in each of the European countries, both inside and outside the European Union.

## Objectives of the European Federation of Internal Medicine:

*“The purpose of the Federation is scientific. Its objective is to promote internal medicine not only on a scientific plane, but also at an ethical and professional level. To this end the Federation will:*

*Publish the outcome of its researches and resolutions.  
Seek to bring together European specialists in internal medicine.  
Establish communication between these specialists.  
Organize meetings or European congresses.  
Provide information to private or public organisations about internal medicine.”*

Article 3 of Statutes, European Federation of Internal Medicine

## Organisation of the Federation :

### The Federation is administered by:

**Executive Committee** : President, President-Elect, Vice President, Past President, Secretary General, and Treasurer. These must all be from different European countries and hold office for a period of two years (which in the case of the Secretary General and Treasurer may be renewed up to a maximum of eight years).

**Administrative Council** : made up of two representatives from each member society.

**Subcommittees/Working Groups** : set up by approval of the Administrative Council but reporting to the Executive Committee.

Administrative Council meetings must be held at least once a year, usually in conjunction with a General Assembly (required under Belgian law). (Full Statutes and Bye-Laws available at the website : [www.efim.org](http://www.efim.org))

## European Congresses :

Scientific congresses are held every two years, usually under sponsorship of one of the national societies. Past and future venues are as follows :

1997 EFIM-1 : Maastricht  
1999 EFIM-2 : Florence  
2001 EFIM-3 : Edinburgh  
2003 EFIM-4 : Berlin  
2005 EFIM-5 : Paris (31 August – 3 September 2005)  
2007 EFIM-6 : Lisbon (23 – 26 May 2007)

The Congress Organisers for EFIM-5 are BCA  
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EFIM-5 Website : [www.efim2005.com](http://www.efim2005.com)

## European School of Internal Medicine:

The School was set up in 1998 to provide the opportunity for young internists from across Europe to meet and exchange views on education and training. National societies sponsor two to four candidates each, as well as providing lecturers for the faculty.

The structure of the School is a week of lectures, seminars and discussion groups covering a wide range of topics that focus on a single theme such as decision making in internal medicine. The programme allows room for general discussions on ethical and other issues, and the trainees themselves are involved in case presentations.

The School is held annually in Alicante, Spain under its Director, Jaime Merino.  
Further information is available from :

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## European Journal of Internal Medicine (EJIM) :

**Editor in Chief** : Peter W. de Leeuw (NL)  
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The European Journal of Internal Medicine is the official journal of the European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM), and is the leading journal for the European internist, covering all aspects of internal medicine. The journal is devoted to promoting the science and practice of internal medicine in Europe. To this end, the journal publishes original scientific articles, review articles, editorials, case reports, short communications, and other information relevant to internal medicine and related fields. Of particular interest to the internist are manuscripts on "Internal medicine in Europe" and "Education in internal medicine". The journal also publishes news and articles concerning the activities and policies of the Federation, as well as those of national internal medicine societies.

The journal is published 8 times a year. All papers submitted to the EJIM are reviewed by an international Editorial Board and Board of National Representatives. Authors are encouraged to submit their original work by e-mail to the Editorial Office or, alternatively, mail 3 complete hard copies plus a diskette (with manuscript in Microsoft WORD format) to:

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