



From the past to today

Marc H.M. Hermans (°11.05.1953), is married (1977) with Claudine, has with her a son and two daughters, 8 grandchildren, all living in Mechelen (Belgium).

Having graduated from the KULeuven university (1979), he took one year training in *Family and Sexological Sciences* together with one year *Environmental Medicine*. He worked as a *general practitioner* for 10 years in Mechelen. In 1990 he became a trainee in psychiatry at the KULeuven, did his neurology internship in the Imelda General Hospital (Bonheiden, B), and trained in adolescent psychotherapy in Halsteren (NL).

He completed several formal psychotherapy trainings: *Family and Systemic Therapy* (KULeuven), *Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy* (KULeuven), *Technical Theoretical Training in Group Psychotherapy* (Halsteren NL), *Technical Theoretical Training in Transactional Analysis* (Halsteren NL) and *Hypnotherapy* (VHYP B). In 2006 he took a university course in *Management for Medical Specialists* at the Brussels branch of KULeuven. As an accredited *Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist* he works in Mechelen and Sint-Niklaas.

Languages spoken and written: Dutch, French, English, German

What colleagues can tell you about my engagement in psychiatric associations

He is founding member and was officer of several medical not for profit associations: the *Medical Doctor's Circle Dodoens* in Mechelen, the *Flemish Association for Psychiatry*, the *Regional Institute for Continuous Education and Training Flanders*, *Medics without Vacation* and the *Belgian Union for Medical Specialists in Psychiatry*, which he is now past president of since a few months.

He also was a board member and president of the *Flemish Association for Psychiatrists-Psychotherapists*, board member of the *Belgian Union of Medical Specialists in Neurology and Psychiatry*, and the *Flemish Association for Psychoanalytic Therapy*.

He was a member of the *Committee on Education of the European Psychiatric Association* (EPA) and still is a member of the *EPA Advisory Scientific Committee*. He recently became a working member of the World Psychiatric Association's *Section on Education*. He's also a member of the *Dutch* (NVvP), the *German* (DGPPN) and the *American Association for Psychiatry* (APA).

What colleagues can tell you about my engagement towards UEMS

He became the *UEMS Section of Psychiatry's delegate* for the Belgian Union for Psychiatrists in 2008. He quickly became very active by setting up a SWOT analysis for the Section,, leading to his election as *president of the Section in 2011*, an office which elections take place for in Berlin during the Warsaw meeting. Together with the other officers, he developed a new structure for the Section's Bureau, set up a network with working contacts of the Section with *patient's organisations*, *patient's families associations* and a closer *collaboration with the EPA*. At the same time, being present at UEMS meetings in this episode, he became *chair of Grouping III*.

What I want to share with you about my view on to the future of UEMS

Following a suggestion of some colleagues within Grouping III, I proposed my view to the Belgian General Medical Association VBS-GBS and asked the Executive to introduce my candidature as vice-president.

As a vice-president I would like to strengthen the team of officers. Vice-presidents should pick up a more active role by taking care for particular tasks. In the last few months it became clear that the actual legal UEMS structure, written down in statutes and rules of procedures, doesn't reflect anymore the operational aspects of the actual UEMS functioning. Sections and Boards have developed an amount of activities strengthening the image of UEMS and at the same time their own profile. It also became clear that many officers aren't sufficiently aware of consequences of UEMS' legal structure.

Being Belgian and familiar with Belgian not for profit association's legislation and looking back to my past offices as I tried to illustrate above, I think that I might contribute creatively to the functioning of the Executive, that I might offer a constructive contribution to the further development of UEMS. So, I'm looking forward to collaborate with all operational bodies within UEMS.

Unfortunately the Section's reelection procedure takes place on the very same weekend as the Council and Sections' meeting. Therefore, I'm not sure to be able to attend the meeting in Warsaw. Nonetheless, this single fact won't influence my future engagement towards UEMS.