

## **European dissemination of a Netbased Teaching Tool for Work-related Medicine - NeTWoRM Europe**

Katja Radon, Stefanie Kolb, Jörg Reichert, Mamen Bellido and the NetWoRM Team

*Background:* In order to prevent and recognize occupational diseases, medical students and physicians should learn the potentially causal relationships between job and disease in an interesting, motivating and patient oriented way. However, the opportunity of bedside teaching in occupational medicine (OM) is limited. At the same time, interest in OM of medical students is often low. Therefore, the aim of the NetWoRM is to improve teaching in OM on a European base using case-based e-learning.

*Methods:* In the past, fifteen virtual patient cases have been created in Munich using the web-authoring system "CASUS" (by INSTRUCT AG). After expert and user evaluation, they were implemented into the medical curriculum at several German universities. The students enjoyed dealing with the cases and rated the case content as very important for their medical career. Within the framework of an international project, these cases are currently adapted to other languages and medico-legal systems. In addition, new cases are being created by each partner, translated and adapted to the local medico-legal system.

*Results:* Up to now, 5 cases were translated into English and 5 cases into Spanish. In February and April 2005, 13 case-authors from 12 centres were trained in the basics of case creation during a three week programme in Munich. The overall evaluation of the participants indicated that this way of teaching case creation is very efficient. In addition to the technical and didactical knowledge obtained the exchange of ideas from different countries contributed to the success of the training unit. So far, ten cases could be completed, six of them are under expert review. The first four cases have already been implemented into teaching in Spain. The user evaluation indicated a good acceptance of the cases.

*Conclusion:* Exchange of case-based e-learning in occupational medicine is possible on an international base.

*Funded by :* European Union, Klaus-Tschira-Stiftung gGmbH, virtual university of Bavaria, German Academic Exchange Service. This publication reflects the views only of the authors, and the commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.