GERIATRIC TEACHING AND TRAINING IN EUROPE: Where are we? (part I)

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Geriatrics Division and Memory Clinic
Angers University Hospital and School of Medicine

No relevant financial interests in this talk
Population ageing with an acceleration (next three decades):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European union (27 countries)</th>
<th>Today (2012)</th>
<th>Tomorrow (2050)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of inhabitants</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 80y: Million</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total inhabitants</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Combination of multimorbidity and disability requiring specific care and education for students / physicians

A solution: combine skill of geriatric medicine and primary care... Since 2002 in Europe Union, Recommendation of a routine incorporation of adequate gerontological training into primary care
Discrepancy between specific needs of oldest and health system (of each country) poorly prepared to “meet them”

Different levels and types of political and economic organization in Europe:

- The Council of Europe (the continent’s oldest political organization) with 47 countries (all European countries except Belarus)
- The European Union (political and economic organization) with 27 countries

Autonomy regarding regulation of teaching and training of medical specialties in all European member states

Demographic combination: increase number of oldest and decrease number of physicians (geriatricians+++).
Aim of survey: give an overview of number and density of geriatricians in relation of demographic data.

Outcome: Number of geriatricians / 1000 inhabitants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of geriatricians</th>
<th>Number of geriatricians / 1000 inhabitants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United kingdom</td>
<td>4266</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>3140</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>2987</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>2628</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1727</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No data from France!

1991 with an update in 2006:
- Objectives: To **describe** the situation of geriatric education in Europe
- Perspectives:
  - To **establish a consensus** on undergraduate training in geriatrics
  - To **promote the creation** of a chair of geriatrics
  - To **train junior** faculty in geriatrics

- Where? **47 countries** of the Council of Europe
- Contact: 33 of 47 countries (70%)
- Response rate: **94%** (n=31)

EUROPEAN GERIATRIC EDUCATION SURVEYS:
Geriatrics as a specialty or sub-specialty

- **Specialty in 14 countries (45%)**
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Belgium</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Malta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Rep.</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Sub-Specialty in 9 countries (29%)**
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iceland</th>
<th>Poland</th>
<th>Switzerland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Serbia-Montenegro</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Not recognized as a specialty in 6 countries (19%)**
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Austria</th>
<th>Estonia</th>
<th>Luxembourg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Moldavia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EUROPEAN GERIATRIC EDUCATION SURVEYS:
Number of established chairs of geriatrics

Number of chair of geriatrics per school of medicine by country (%)

6 countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Iceland, Norway, Sweden)

- Italy: 100
- Switzerland: 71
- Netherlands: 60
- United Kingdom: 50
- Spain: 39
- Germany: 36
- Bulgaria: 33
- Denmark: 16

EUROPEAN GERIATRIC EDUCATION SURVEYS: Undergraduate and post graduate teaching

- Undergraduate:
  - Undergraduate teaching of **6 years**
  - **3-year preclinical curriculum** (basic sciences) followed by **3-years clinical curriculum** (clinical discipline)
  - The teaching methodology = “problem-based learning”
  - Clinical rotations in geriatric clerkships

- Post graduate:
  Continuing Medical Education (CME) **organized** in **18 countries (58%)**, **mandatory** in **10 countries (32%)**… but **not harmonized** (Specific [52%], cooperation with internal medicine [19%] or unexciting [29%])

**EUROPEAN GERIATRIC EDUCATION SURVEYS: Evolution between 1991 and 2006?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>Variation (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of medical schools with chair of geriatrics</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>+81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geriatrics (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialty</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>+63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subspecialty</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>+146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non recognition</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geriatric teaching (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>+55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>+21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Improvement of geriatric teaching and training for students and physicians
- Problematic
- Obstacles
- Situation
GERIATRIC TEACHING AND TRAINING IN FRANCE: Where are we now? (part II)

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FRANCE
Medical training in France

Kindergarten
Elementary school
Middle school
High school

Bachelor level
Medical studies
Medical or surgical specialty

Entrance examination
National ranking examination
Medical thesis

First year
- All health professions
1 year
- Pre-graduate level
4 years
- Undergraduate level
3-5 years
- Postgraduate level

Equivalent to license (undergraduate)
Equivalent to master (graduate)
Equivalent to doctorate (postgraduate)
FRANCE
Geriatrics: a “young” medical discipline in France

- Geriatric medicine
  - Organization in the second half of the 20th century
  - Medical specialty since 2004
  - n=xxx geriatricians in France

- Geriatric training
  - Post-graduate training
  - Open to all other medical specialties
  - n=xxx in the course in France
FRANCE
Geriatric training in France

Medical training

Bachelor level
First year - All health professions
1 year - Pre-graduate level
4 years - Undergraduate level
3-5 years - Postgraduate level
Equivalent to license (undergraduate)
Equivalent to master (graduate)
Equivalent to doctorate (postgraduate)

Medical studies

Medical or surgical specialty

National ranking examination

Medical thesis

Geriatric subspecialty or qualification

2 years - Postgraduate level
Graduate studies

- Transversal module 5: “Aging”
  - “The student should know the characteristics of normal and pathological human aging and disease-specific aspects of the elderly. Should analyze polypathology and prioritize actions. Should know how to discuss the risk / benefit ratio of medical decisions taking into account the older person as a whole, the environment and the expectations.”
  - 11 items
  - Mandatory as part of the NRE

- Hospital training
  - 5 half days per week for 3 months
  - Not mandatory
FRANCE
Geriatric training in France

- Postgraduate studies = qualification
  - General practitioners +++
    - after medical thesis; already active
    - n=xxx
    - may apply for specialty after 2 years of full-time geriatric practice
  - Training
    - 2 years
    - theoretical teaching + examination
    - x hours of clerkship
    - 1 dissertation
  - Audience
    - Family medicine oriented towards older outpatients
    - Future physicians in nursing homes
FRANCE

Geriatric training in France

- Postgraduate studies = subspecialty
  - Open to all medical specialties
    - during and after specialization; still resident
    - n=xxx
  - Training = “diploma of higher specialized studies”
    - 2 years
    - 6 semesters of clerkship
      (2 as resident, 4 as postgraduate attending)
    - theoretical teaching
      (qualification + 5 seminars on research)
    - 1 research thesis
    - 1 original article in Medline
  - Audience
    - Future hospital doctors and academic doctors
− Scientific society
  ▪ subsidiary of the SFGG
  ▪ “Junior”: from training to 8 years after thesis

− Aims:
  ▪ to federate young geriatricians across France
  ▪ to ensure consistency between faculty courses
  ▪ to publicize the specialty to younger students
  ▪ to support scientific publications
FRANCE
Academic course in Geriatrics

- Conditions to be satisfied:
  - Medical course
    • MD in geriatrics with substantial clinical activity
    • Organization and participation to teaching
    • European Academy for Medicine of Ageing
  - Scientific course
    • PhD & Accreditation to Supervise Research (HDR)
    • 1-year post-doctoral fellowship in Anglo-Saxon countries
    • Significant amount of articles in a specific research field
  - One vacant position
  - Approval of the National Council of Universities

- Practitioner / Teacher / Researcher / Manager:
  - Instructor/Attending physician (CCA): 2-4 years
  - Assistant professor (PHU): 4-6 years
  - Associate professor (MCU-PH) n=xxx : no time limit
  - Full professor (PU-PH) n=xxx : no time limit
PERSPECTIVES
Geriatric training: In what direction are we going now?

MEDICAL TRAINING
Separation of medical specialties into distinct branches, including Geriatrics

➢ Consequences for Geriatrics:
  +: specialty just like others
  -: ↓ variety of practitioners’ backgrounds
    insufficient amount of geriatricians?
  ➢Preservation of the subspecialization for other specialties?

PARAMEDIC TRAINING
- University degree, for caregivers, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, neuropsychologists…
- License of gerontology, for social workers, nurses, directors of nursing homes…
Thank you for your attention