

# Association of Systematic Kinesiology in Ireland

---

## FICTA Delegates Report 2013

By *Clive Lucas*



### **FICTA – Federation of Irish Complementary Therapy Associations**

Allows members to exchange views/ideas/discuss and resolve issues/problems

Assists members where possible (e.g. draft documentation)

Puts members' views to Government /statutory bodies, Europe etc.

ASK is a member – Clive Lucas represents ASK at bi-monthly meetings

He ensures that ASK's views are heard and taken on board when decisions being made

All decisions taken at bi-monthly meetings held in Ranelagh, Dublin

Representative body for 20 members, generally 10/12 at meetings

Executive Committee meets between meetings to progress matters agreed.

Clive Lucas on Executive Committee

Seeking to have more education providers become members

### **Main issues for FICTA during year:**

- Commenting on QQI Green/White papers
- Continuing correspondence with the General Regulatory Council for Complimentary Therapies (GRCCT)
- Preparing document on CAM/CAM requirements for Irish politicians
- Completing CAM Usage Survey
- Revised membership procedure/updated Constitution
- National Cancer Survivorship Conference
- Elections to EU Parliament/EFCAM [European Federation for Complementary and Alternative Medicine]

**QQI (Quality & Qualifications Ireland)** The new Irish statutory body for qualifications issued thirteen green papers on how they were going to operate in the future in relation to the accrediting of programmes and how they would deal with providers of existing and new education programmes in relation to the accreditation of their programmes. Interested parties were asked to comment on these. FICTA, while not being a provider, encouraged its members' education providers to comment and did so itself in order to ensure the FICTA name and CAM were known by QQI personnel. The green papers were then superseded by white papers on which QQI sought further comments and FICTA members' education providers were encouraged again to comment. FICTA did so itself in order to try and ensure that CAM would be included in future QQI policy.

In a subsequent face to face briefing with QQI on 11th March 2014, FICTA was advised that, as the Department of Health [DOH] had not issued regulations for CAM, QQI was not in a position to accredit CAM education programmes. The DOH seems to indicate that QQI should be able to accredit CAM programmes. This apparent difference of opinion will have to be clarified most likely through a FICTA meeting with the DOH.

However, QQI did indicate that they would be prepared to consider a generic award for CAM which would include modules such as A&P; First Aid; Clinic Practice and Ethics. The particular therapy training would be separate from the generic award. This is a matter which will have to be considered by FICTA in discussion with its members. The main advantage of the generic award would be that all CAM therapists would have the same basic training, which would be internationally recognised.

**General Regulatory Council for Complimentary Therapies [GRCCT]:** I mentioned this Council in my talk last year. It was being established in Ireland by a body of a similar name in the UK.

FICTA has had ongoing correspondence with GRCCT during the past year to establish how this body would operate. Its intention was to be the regulator for therapists of any CAM therapy who wished to join and pay the appropriate fee. Little information is available on what has happened during the year but FICTA has heard that most professional associations are recommending that their members do not register with the GRCCT as the professional association for their therapy would always be their regulator. FICTA has had no contact with the GRCCT for several months.

**Documentation for Irish Politicians** - During the past year, meetings were held with Senator Marie Louise O'Donnell and Stephen Donnelly TD to seek advice as to how FICTA, along with its members, could raise the profile of CAM in Ireland. To that end, a draft document was prepared by FICTA outlining the background to CAM, how CAM could become formally recognised in Ireland and to explain how it could be a money saving participant in the National Health Service as well as what requirements would be needed to enable this to happen. This report is currently being refined in conjunction with the above politicians. It is hoped to publish the document along with the public launch of the CAM Usage survey later this year.

The results of the **CAM Usage survey** (undertaken late 2012) are taking longer than expected to complete. FICTA has engaged a professional on a fee paying basis to do this. An initial draft has been prepared and it is hoped to show the results to FICTA members at its AGM in May 2014.

FICTA membership approved an **updated Constitution and membership procedure** at its AGM in May 2013. The changes to the Constitution were not significant but the membership procedure seeks to tighten up on the time taken by the membership to indicate they are going to continue their membership and pay their membership fee. As a professional organisation, FICTA is seeking to ensure that all memberships are renewed at the beginning of the calendar year with the appropriate fees being paid. Where this is not possible due to a members internal arrangements, the procedure asks that the member confirm renewal and agree a payment date for the fee with FICTA's membership secretary. The procedure is working reasonably well.

FICTA was invited to participate in the **National Cancer Survivorship Conference** held in September 2013. Several FICTA members, having experience in treating cancer patients manned the stand, handing out appropriate leaflets and discussing how CAM therapies can help such patients. This is an important conference for FICTA to attend as it is attended by a large number of medical delegates who seek information on CAM.

As you are aware, the local and **European Parliament elections** are being held in Ireland on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014. You all received an e-mail from ASK some time ago asking if any of you or a friend of yours knows any of the candidates and would be in a position to introduce FICTA to a candidate. FICTA, in conjunction with EFCAM, is trying to meet candidates, explain to them about CAM and ask them if they would be prepared to support and speak about CAM in the European Parliament if they are elected [with the appropriate support of EFCAM]. So far, two candidates have indicated support at meetings and one, having indicated support, will meet FICTA and EFCAM after the election.

Support for CAM in the European Parliament is vital if CAM, as practised by non medical doctors, is to continue. In Belgium, a new law has recently been enacted whereby homeopathy can only be practiced by doctors. It will become illegal for non medical doctors to do so. This law sets a precedent for what could happen across Europe, particularly as a number of other European countries only allow medical doctors to practice certain therapies.

As the practice of CAM is not legally recognised in most European countries, a resolution needs to be passed by the European Parliament to recognise the practice of CAM therapies by appropriately trained therapists. In addition, therapists should be allowed to practice anywhere in the EU. Also, CAM needs to be made available to EU citizens as part of their countries National Health Services.

By having enough MEP's throughout the EU countries support CAM, it is hoped that the appropriate resolution(s) may be passed in the EU Parliament which would apply to all EU members. To do this we need to ensure that candidates who support CAM are elected. This is where you come in. Please ensure that you vote for a candidate who supports CAM. FICTA has already written to all candidates providing them with information on CAM and asking them to support CAM in the European Parliament if they are elected. Each candidate will be followed up seeking a meeting with them either before the election or afterwards (if they are elected). As discussions are held with candidates, it will become clearer as to who supports CAM. So watch your inbox nearer the date of the election for some information as to who supports CAM. Please vote for them. It is important.

---

I present this FICTA Report to the AGM.

*Clive Lucas*

FICTA Delegate for ASK Ireland 2013-2014