

European Coordinating Coommittee Candidates – Elections May 2015



Leonie Schulz

Hi, I'm **Leonie Schulz** and I am a fourth year medical student and part of the Berlin Chapter. The work we do at UAEM is so important and I am glad I get to be a part of it. During my time as a member I've helped organize the last A2M week in Berlin and am the current co-ordinator of the AIM project in Berlin. We're planning on organizing a symposium soon and I am very excited about that! I've also done some smaller chapter work, like hosting a panel discussion on neglected diseases that we organized together with another NGO. Seeing as I am already involved with the AIM project, I would love to participate in the Alternative R&D Campaign. I am also really looking forward to helping with the organization of another A2M week in Berlin – we have a couple wonderful ideas already and I am sure it's going to be as amazing as it was last year. I would love to become an EC because I want to be more involved in European projects and expand my knowledge. UAEM does great work in an important field that I feel like a lot of people (even medical or pharma students) don't know enough about and I think it's important to share that message. I know it can sometimes be really frustrating and feel impossible to change things, but we do the best we can and we do reach a lot of our goals and I'd like to be more involved with that. UAEM is an issue that's very dear to me and I don't mind putting in the time and effort, which is why I think I would be good at this job.



Diz Gotham

I would like to apply for a third term as European Coordinator. I have loved the last two years of being an EC, and have taken to heart the intention of the new Action Plan to shift EC work to be more campaign-focused (previously, we spent a lot of time on finances and recruitment).

I would focus on the SABRE and European Report Cards (ERC) projects, both of which you can read about in [the Action Plan 2015-16](#). In terms of successful campaigning experience: I led the [UK report card project](#) from beginning to completion, and have led the SABRE project (which used to be called the [ASTP-Proton project](#)) for more than a year. As a more general goal, I would like to work on UAEM Europe's media presence – mainly in the form of quick responses to current events. I was heavily involved with [this](#), [this](#), and [this](#) media work, and would like to develop some UAEM-power in that area.

European Coordinating Committee Candidates – Elections May 2015



Nina le Dous (*Note: this candidate has already successfully passed through national elections in Denmark*)

I'm **Nina le Dous**, I will be on my 8th semester of medical school this fall at University of Copenhagen, and I would like to engage myself in the ECC for the next term or hopefully longer. In a national election, I have been recommended for the position by the Danish members of UAEM.

I'm interested to work with UAEM on an international level, because the ambitious objectives which UAEM aim for are international affairs in their very essence. Therefore I'm dedicated to this part of working with UAEM. We are what we are, because we manage that multinational span. Coordinated and consistent communication between all parts of the organisation, first and foremost the individual chapters, are determining for how far we can reach as an organisation, and as EC I would focus my efforts on making it as easily accessible as possible for members to get involved with the European campaigns, keep Danish chapters updated frequently, and facilitate the information and communication needed for anyone who would like to get involved. As for myself, I would definitely like to get involved in the Knowledge Stewardship Campaign somewhere, since within the academic circles is where our battle really stands, in my opinion, and also why I joined UAEM in the first place. Also it's very relevant for my own chapter, as there is a lot of work to be done at University of Copenhagen!

I've previously dealt with press, communication and negotiation between an organisation and a third party as a board member of Forsvar Christiania, an organisation dealing with the conservation of the Copenhagen Freetown. I have been active in UAEM for a year, and otherwise I don't have any prerequisite which prepare me for the job, but I'm extremely excited to learn a whole lot. That's my own, selfish incentive for running.

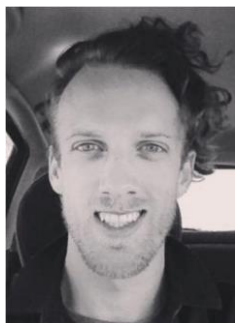


Andia Mirbagheri

Hereby I would like to re-apply as European Coordinator for the term 2015-16. I joined UAEM during my first week of medical school in 2012 and I have been involved ever since on local and international levels, such as co-founding the UAEM Europe newsletter, working on SRL, doing financial auditing, working within the SSWG (and thus, being partly responsible for the first PanEuropean EC elections). During the past year in the ECC, we strongly focused on drafting the action plan, so I would be very keen on continuing with this job and get our two campaigns going!

I would love to continue being a European Coordinator since it gives you the huge opportunity to dive very deeply into UAEM Europe structures and get first-hand experience in creating and leading campaigns. Particularly, I would be very interested to work on the alternative R&D campaign and so, being part of AIM (Access & Innovation Movement). Apart from UAEM Europe's approach introducing SRL at universities, I feel it is about time to inform and encourage researchers to think about the wide range of opportunities within the field of R&D and hence, making de-linkage more approachable to them. Moreover, I hope to bring experiences back from the World Health Assembly as part of this year's delegation into the working group and widen AIM's scope to a more political level.

European Coordinating Committee Candidates – Elections May 2015



Michael Johnson

WHY TAKE UP THIS ROLE? I want to take a position as a European Coordinator because UAEM is not like other organisations. Being predominately student-led the people setting the agenda are peers and it is inspiring to know that we do make a difference. I want to take this role for the opportunity it will provide to inspire UAEM'ers in our new chapters in Ireland. Also for the opportunity to learn from other committed individuals Europe-wide and raise awareness of UAEM and its mission amongst the general public.

WHICH PARTS OF THE ACTION PLAN DO YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN? The knowledge stewardship campaign. More specifically "The Drug Bio Project", as I feel there is a lot of undeveloped potential here, more work needs to be done, that will give us greater leverage in advocacy.

WHY ME? I have a background in Clinical Experimental Medicine: Drug Discovery, which prepared me to think critically about drug production. My work as a Key Correspondent for the Irish Forum for Global Health, has somewhat focused my attention on global health inequality. On a more personal level I believe that real change can occur if we are passionate about what we are doing, and nothing gets me more hot under the collar than social injustice.



Kathi Hawlik

My name is **Kathi (Katharina Hawlik)** and with this email I like to apply for a second term in the European Coordinating Committee.

To give a brief background about me and my work for UAEM: I am 25 year old medical doctor from Austria, currently based in Amsterdam and studying Global Health. Within my studies I am doing an internship at Health Action International (HAI), conducting research into access to high priced medicines in Europe. I have been engaged with UAEM for the past three years, founding UAEM Austria, later as National Coordinator and as ECC in 2014/15.

During the past year as EC I devoted most of my time to empowerment issues and to the Action Plan for 2015/16. In addition I have also been part of creating the European Alliance for Responsible R&D and Affordable Medicines, which focuses on establishing a common European network and a joint strategy to tackle the A2M crisis in Europe, representing UAEM. Within the last year as ECC I have learnt a lot and gained experiences in European policy making and campaigning. For the next year, I wish to extend this knowledge, spread it to others, and use it to increase UAEMs impact on a European level. Since I took part in writing the action plan for 2015/16 I would appreciate the chance to actually make it happen and work on our two campaigns. I am currently focusing on alternative research methods within my work for HAI, and could thus provide useful insights, especially for the Alternative R&D System campaign and the AIM project. Furthermore, I would like to continue UAEMs contribution to the European Alliance, and enlarge UAEMs network on a European and Global level.

The upcoming year will be an exciting year for UAEM, with UAEM constantly growing, the new action plan and with the decision for a structural transition. In this sense it will also be a challenging year and I would like to contribute addressing these upcoming challenges with the experience I gained in the past years in UAEM.

I would love to have the chance to continue my work for the European Committee and make access to medicines happen- within the next year ;)

European Coordinating Committee Candidates – Elections May 2015



Sabrina Wimmer

With this letter I would like to apply for a position in the European Coordinating Committee (ECC) of UAEM Europe. My name is **Sabrina Wimmer** and I am a second-year medical student at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

I joined UAEM last autumn because of my strong interest in Global Health and politics. Since then, I have been involved at the local and national levels with projects such as Socially Responsible Licensing/ Global Access Licensing (SRL /GAL) and DrugBio. Furthermore, I am currently coordinating the SRL/GAL working group in Groningen.

During my first year in the association, I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to develop myself within UAEM. I really enjoy learning more about the topics UAEM advocates for, in particular global access licensing and the access to medicines. I have also had the privilege of working efficiently within a group to perform tasks, which made it possible to give projects a vision and structure.

Now, I would like to take a step further within UAEM by committing to a role of internal coordination at the European level. I am keen on becoming part of a team that leads and develops the European projects. The work UAEM has done during the past years is incredible and I am very motivated to contribute to the campaigns and to further put the visions of UAEM into action.

Of particular interest to me is the Knowledge Stewardship Campaign, as I have been concerned with Licensing for a few months in the Netherlands. I would like to become involved in this campaign at the European level to create new approaches for the achievement of global access licensing. I believe that this campaign has a lot of potential that has yet to be discovered and developed. Besides advocating at universities, there is more that can be done and making the general public and decision-makers aware of the need for policy changes is decisive for the success of this campaign. Developing and elaborating strategies is one of my strengths and something I really enjoy doing. Moreover, I am putting a lot of effort into projects and I am very dedicated to the campaigns of UAEM Europe.



Thi-Yen

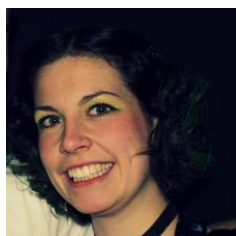
My name is **Thi-Yen**. I am a medical student in the Netherlands and I would like to apply for a general position in the ECC.

Why do I want to be part of the ECC? I have been actively involved with UAEM since the beginning of 2014. The goals and everything that UAEM stands for has appealed to me from the start. The conference in London made me even more excited about UAEM and I would really like to contribute to UAEM's goals on an European/International level.

I have read the 2015-6 Action Plan. Both of the major campaigns appeal to me. The Knowledge Stewardship Campaign because of the European Report Card. There are plans to create one in the Netherlands and I would really like to help make this Report Card happening. The Alternative R&D Campaign however is my main focus. I have followed the AIM campaign closely and helped with a spinoff of this idea in the Netherlands (Delinkage Breakfast Meeting in cooperation with HAI and SpD). I also coordinated the A2M Week in Groningen/the Netherlands which was great fun. I would like to help make the A2M Week in Europe this year an even bigger success. This coming year will be an interesting year for me. I will finish my bachelor this summer and start my clinical rounds in July 2016. This means that I have little obligations this coming year and I would like to invest a great deal of my time on UAEM and all its campaign, preferably as part of the ECC. Planning, evaluating, and recruiting are not unknown terms to me. I have finished a board year with IFMSA. Those keyterms were the main thing I learned during this year, together with working with and as a team. The main things I achieved during my board year: recruit sponsors (new and old), recruit new members and partners, and organized events (the national trauma day with more than 10.000 visitors being the headline).

To conclude I would like to join the ECC to learn how the organization works on an European/International level. In return, I hope to contribute with my knowledge, experience and time and I would like to represent the more than 100 UAEM Dutchies on an European level.

European Coordinating Committee Candidates – Elections May 2015



Elina Christes (Note: this candidate has already successfully passed through national elections in Switzerland)

Last year, 2014, I participated in the UAEM European Conference in Basel. It was my first contact with UAEM, and it was incredibly amazing. Two weeks after the conference, I did a presentation at my university and in September 2014, I started a new chapter in Fribourg, CH. Our chapter in Fribourg participated in the A2M week with a screening of fire in the blood and for the next semester we are planning to contact the patent-responsible at our university. At the SMSC, the Swiss Medicine Students Convention, I represented UAEM with a 3-min-presentation and a stand at the project fair. I also represent the project in our "Fachschaft" (medicine-students association) and finally, I was elected to an "International coordinator" at our last national GA. Next year, I am going to do a sabbatical, so I won't be able to continue my work here in Switzerland, because I am going abroad. I would like to take this opportunity and try to give my best in the ECC, because I am motivated to continue my work for UAEM and the ECC is something I can manage from abroad.

I will be honest and tell you, that I first made the decision not to apply, because of the big amount of work and hours one has to invest (quote Andrea). I can not predict, where and when I will be during my sabbatical, but I will give everything I can to the ECC and I am positive about it, as I got to know UAEM as a very open and flexible organisation.

What concerns the campaigns, I am interested in both of them (Knowledge Stewardship Campaign & Alternative R&D System Campaign), as well as in A2M week. But I tend to the Alternative R&D System Campaign, as my chapter will probably try to contact researchers at our university next semester, so that would be a link-to-home for me.



Júlia Montaña

In the relatively short time that I have been involved in UAEM, I have been amused at the capacity that this organisation has in making social change happen and in inspiring numerous brilliant and extremely motivated people across continents to take action and build the world they want to live in. The strong evidence base onto which UAEM relies and the impetuous drive that UAEMers have to push for the campaigns that aim to challenge the status quo for a better and feasible future are a true inspiration to me. I would love to contribute to this movement by ensuring that the fast growth of the organisation is accompanied by a sustainable structure that enables the support of all chapters and individuals when advancing in our campaigns, without hindering the invaluable creativity that each chapter has. With a background in biomedical sciences research, my greatest interest is based on the creation of a movement amongst academia to push for an R&D system which fulfils the public health needs and enables greater access to medicines than what we currently observe. The faults of the current system are every time more evident and I believe that researchers in public institutions should take ownership of their social responsibility, and not only pursue alternative R&D models but also demand political changes to make the systematic changes needed, which could be linked to other UAEM campaigns such as the ASTP Proton project. I believe that chapters should be able to facilitate this process by providing the awareness about the problem, the support of the network of concerned students, experts and academics, and the liaison with funding bodies and other relevant agencies. After having been involved in AIM during this last year, it would be a pleasure for me to support chapters in this campaign and other UAEM campaigns. I will be unavailable until the 2nd of June and I will be in Kenya (but with access to internet) from the 13th of July until the 11th of August. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

European Coordinating Committee Candidates – Elections May 2015



Mariann Kirkebø (*Note: this candidate has already successfully passed through national elections in Norway*)

My name is **Mariann Kirkebø**, I am 24 years old, and a second year medical student at the university of Bergen in Norway. I joined my local UAEM chapter last fall. I have really enjoyed learning more about UAEM, and I am continuously becoming more convinced that a change in the current system of inventing, producing and distributing medicine is imperative. I would like to join the ECC because I would love to be a part of the group in charge of forging a more coherent UAEM profile throughout Europe.

My vision for UAEM is that it needs to have a clear profile both in terms of identifying the problems that need to be addressed, and in providing an alternative to the current system that is comprehensible and backed by expertise. For this reason I would like to participate in the alternative R&D campaign. One of the goals for this campaign should be to reach out to experts in the field of law, economics, social science and biomedicine to a larger extent and make them our allies. This will ensure that UAEM carries more leverage in negotiating with university leaders and NGO's, and help UAEM become more pragmatic and solution-oriented.

I think that I will do a good job as EC because I feel very dedicated to UAEM, and I am very excited to take on a bigger role in the organization especially after participating at the European conference last weekend and meeting so many wonderful UAEMers! I have already been appointed Norwegian EC, which shows that I am already backed by the national UAEM here. I am hard-working and willing to learn, and I am confident that I will be able to take on the workload that is expected of me. I have a background in social science studies, and various contacts at different faculties at my local university that will come in handy in alliance-building. I hope you will consider me for the job!



Vaitehi "V" Nageshwaran

My name is V, from the UK and I have almost finished medical school. I would like to apply for a second term on the ECC. I have loved working on the ECC this year, helping to develop the action plan and campaigns that will be the focus of the next year. I would like to be an EC to see these campaigns take shape and ensure their impact on local, national, European and global levels. I am really excited about the possibilities of this year, and conscious of the struggles ahead due to structural changes within the organisation. I think that this year year will see UAEM working more cohesively across Europe and being stronger as we work together. I would be keen to take on the position as ECC chair to facilitate this.

I have been a member of UAEM for over 3 years now and have worked on a local and national level. Over the past year I worked on the UK Global Health League Table (Report Card) project, a project we are eager to see adapted and applied over many European chapters as part of the Knowledge Stewardship Campaign. I have learnt so much from this organisation and the inspirational people it brings together. Although I will be graduating in June, I feel my years of student activism are not over.

European Coordinating Committee Candidates – Elections May 2015



Daniel Johann

I am hereby applying to become a member of the ECC for the upcoming term. After participating in UAEM for almost two years and fulfilling my role as National Coordinator of UAEM Austria, I feel that it is time for me to put the things I have learned to even better use. Thrilled to see UAEM growing so fast, I am increasingly optimistic that we can have a significant impact on global access to medicines and foster development of new treatments for neglected diseases.

What matters to me a lot are reliable ways to measure outcomes of our campaigns and activities. I am therefore happy to see these implemented in the 2015 Action Plan and encouraged to continue this work in 2016. If I had to choose the primary focus of my work as ECC now, I would put my emphasis on the Knowledge Stewardship Campaign. To be more precisely, I am interested in the assessment of universities on their impact on Global Health issues, known in UAEM as "Report Cards". I am planning to encourage chapters and national branches to follow or adapt existing report cards models, as well as revising them after implementation. We should not stop with universities, but also think of ways to extend these evaluation mechanisms to other institutions (pharmaceutical industry, decision-making bodies etc.).

I would be happy to contribute to UAEM Europe's success through my good analytical thinking, communication skills and my never-ending enthusiasm for the important stuff we do.



Manuel Martin

I am a 3rd year medical student at Imperial College London and I would like to apply for the position as one of the European coordinators for UAEM. I have been very lucky to be involved with several projects throughout the last academic year and would love to take this a step further.

I am particularly interested in the Access and Innovation Movement (previously AIBS) that I am already a part of, and will continue to contribute to as much as I can.

I enjoyed planning last year's successful A2M week and plan to be involved in the coming one. I think that we can use what we have learnt to make this year's bigger, better and have a larger impact, also outside of our respective universities.

Also, being a part of the report card committee in the UK I hope to assist European branches in creating their own so that soon the report card will be used as a powerful, European advocacy tool.

In conclusion, the development of UAEM as the leading student organization for access to medicines is very exciting and I would love to be part of that as a European coordinator this year.