

Courriel de Niels Bentsen aux membres du WICC en date du 5 août 1999.

Dear Friends

The summer is now at its hottest here in Denmark, and I would like to bring you up to date on what has been happening since our meeting in Durham.

I hope you have all received the very nice photo of the group, which George arranged to have taken in front of the lovely hotel in Durham. That will remind us of the good times we had together and all the work we got done.

Since then a few of us have met in order to further develop the ICPC-2/ICD-10 conversion and get the corrections done, so that we can have an electronic version of ICPC-2, which is going to be our master copy in the future. On 28 - 29 June Inge, Henk, Marc, Martti, Erik and I had a meeting here in Odense. Primarily to go through the ICPC-2/ICD-10 conversion, but also to clear up questions and possible mistakes in the printed version of ICPC-2, which have surfaced as we have worked on the different translations.

As you will remember from the Durham meeting, we already found quite a number of mistakes and omissions and got them corrected. But Marc and Inge had been able to find even more and we went through them all and managed to agree on each rubric in chapter 10. It was decided then that Inge should take the material back to the Netherlands and get it all incorporated in the electronic version in a format, which she had got from Bob. Inge was nearly finished with the work at the end of July, when she realized that the electronic version, she had been working on, was quite different from the printed version of ICPC-2. She has therefore had to go through every sentence and every rubric in order to ensure that the electronic version she eventually has produced is a true copy of the book with all the corrections that we have agreed upon. That work has been a tremendous task and has taken a lot of Inge's time, which she should otherwise have spent on academic work within the department. We are deeply indebted to Inge for this work, which is of utmost importance for the electronic version ICPC-2E, which everybody now is on our back to get hold of.

With the corrections we have now done to the book, we have to negotiate with Oxford University Press about how to proceed, since we now have an electronic version ICPC-2E, which should be correct, and which is going to be regarded as the master copy of ICPC-2, on which any future books and/or translations should be based. We will try to get a meeting with Oxford University Press in Amsterdam, so that they can be introduced to the problem and we can discuss possible solutions. One of our concerns is of course that the people who have bought the first prints of ICPC-2 have got a product with a lot of mistakes and omissions, which they may not be aware of in daily clinical use or when they read the book, but which are important for us to get corrected. I therefore urge any of you, who are involved in the translation of ICPC-2 into another language not to get that translation printed, before you have seen the electronic version with the corrections. That should hopefully ensure that the translations of ICPC-2 are as close as possible to the electronic version ICPC-2E and therefore considered to be correct at this moment and time.

Because the book has already been bought by approximately 1,000 people, we feel that these people ought to be made aware of the corrections we have made, and we therefore intend to put the electronic version on the World Wide Web, from where it can be accessed freely. The condition for free access is that it is for personal use only. If it is to be used for commercial purposes and to be included in software used in daily work in general/family practices, an agreement has to be made with WONCA regarding the copyright issue and licence fees. At the same time we intend to publish a paper in Family Practice and will ask Roger Jones to get an editorial written in the same issue. That issue should also contain the conversion table from ICPC-2 to ICD-10 and possibly a list of the corrections we have made.

As soon as I have the electronic version, I shall make sure that you get a copy for your personal use and also for use for any translators you may be working with.

Regarding the dictionary, it has been reviewed by 10 reviewers, mostly from English speaking countries. They are basically very positive towards the idea and think that there is no similar book available, and they believe that there is a market for it. They all have some critical remarks about the content, but they vary so much from one referee to another that we will only consider the most warranted of them. A number of their comments we have decided upon, and they should be commented on in the preface. We plan to have a meeting in the middle of October here in Odense with Philip Sive, Bent Bjerre and myself to go through the draft in the light of the reviewers' comments, and hopefully thereafter to present it to Oxford University Press in order to see whether it now has a quality and a format, which they are willing to print. It was obvious to me that there in the panel of reviewers was nobody from the large group of new colleagues, who are entering general/family practice from the Eastern European countries and other newcomers to the WONCA family, who do not have English as their first language.

So although you have not heard much from me, a lot of things are happening and will happen. Please do your homework with regard to the dictionary, if you want to be a contributor to the first edition. Especially those of you who are not from Scandinavia and Australia, since one of the comments is that they seem to be very active in the development of the dictionary. Some of the reviewers are asking for more input from North America and the UK.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Kind regards

Niels

PS. The next WICC meeting is planned to take place in Slovenia, and the preliminary dates are 24 - 28 September 2000. Please check if these dates are okay with you and let me know, if any of you already now are able to say that this time is not convenient. Thank you.