

International Groups, Six-Monthly Reports DEBRA Switzerland

New President for DEBRA Switzerland

After almost six years as President, Edith Zimmermann, co-founder of DEBRA Switzerland, has decided to retire from office for time reasons. The annual general meeting (13th march 2004) has elected Tanja Pauli-Reusser as new President. Tanja is 30, and lives with her husband Pascal and their 5-year-old daughter Jennifer (EB dystrophica) in Belp, outside Berne.

Fundraising and events

Benefit concert in St. Maurice (Canton Valais) on 17 May 03, organised by Ana Valades, mother of Imanol, who suffers from EB. A total of CHF 5,000.00 has been raised and is to go towards Michelle Zimmermann's project *Erfülle dir einen Wunsch* ["Fulfil a wish"].

Special projects

Another child with EB was born at the Zurich Cantonal Hospital on 1 July 2003. The Cantonal Hospital now has our DEBRA Switzerland address, to offer help and assistance. On 23 January 04 another child with EB was born at the hospital in Lucerne. We provided intensive counselling to parents and nursing staff.

We are also preparing our further training seminar, which is to be held in Berne on 4-5 June 2004. We are expecting around 60 participants, and have been able to attract a number of renowned guests to speak at the event.

The project *Erfülle dir einen Wunsch* ["Fulfil a wish"] has been launched by Michelle Zimmermann. So far we have received three requests for financial assistance which we were able to provide to EB sufferers.

Conferences and meetings

12-14 September 2003 - International Congress in Neuchâtel

13 March 2004 - Annual Meeting of debra Switzerland

4-5 June 2004 - EB Further Training Seminar in Berne (in German)