



Treasurer Report for 2022

Dr Dorothy Zammit



The year 2022 saw the appointment of a new Council. This brought with it new challenges particularly as regards the due diligence process of its members. The effort for accountability and transparency, however, was maintained throughout the past year.

The MCFD took the opportunity to transition from cheque and cash payments to an online payment system. The majority of payments received are through online payments or bank transfers facilitating follow-up. The Revolut payment gateway was changed over to PayPal in view of issues with Revolut and the volume and number of transactions through the gateway. PayPal has been found to be as equally effective.

The year 2022 saw a ramp up of the CME sessions to pre-COVID levels, shifting from exclusively online to face-to-face and eventually to a hybrid presentation. This has led to increased access to the educational content for those who are not able to attend physically while at the same time curbing costs which have escalated especially when it comes to refreshments. These CME sessions however are well organized and successful and free for the paid-up College members.

Aside from the yearly organisation of the Vocational Training exit exam, this year saw the return of the graduation for those who had completed their training successfully. The graduation was held for the four cohorts of trainees who had missed their celebration because of Covid. This event marked by the attendance of His Excellency the President



of Malta Dr George Vella, was successful and very well attended. During the preparation phase, Council members unfortunately had to address misinformation that was sent to various individuals through chats and email concerning the organisation of the graduation. These communications discussed decisions taken during Council meetings and communications and were distributed amongst people where not everyone was a College member. A letter sent to all the College members and prospective trainees sought to clarify the misinformation, in particular that the graduation was all paid by the College, attendance to the following reception was not obligatory and hence the associated fee was not obligatory, and that the College membership fee was always applied as stipulated in the statute. As regards exam fees, the College has always strived to keep costs down and project fees so as to be able to break even. Both the exam fees and the first-time membership fee were eligible to the Get Qualified Scheme.

Through this whole incident it was noted that the administrator of the Google group used to send emails to the College members, had also included individuals who were not members and thus had access to the information distributed. This needed addressing. The utilisation of the group was stopped and now communication is issued through the website's newsletter, which is more controlled and is thus allowing increased utilisation of the facilities offered by the College's website and for which the organisation is paying.



Council had to also address the authorisation process of the requests for reimbursement through Get Qualified as through reports from Get Qualified personnel it became known that authorisation had been given for non-eligible fees and there were incidents of conflict of interest. The Get Qualified personnel were asked to communicate exclusively through the Registrar to eliminate a repeat of such an incident which could put the organisation in bad light.

Another issue that the new Council had to deal with was the due diligence process, which is a requirement for the presentation of audited accounts. The Malta Business Registry is also requesting the details of Council members for its due diligence. Unfortunately, the new Council had two individuals who refused to carry out one of either due diligence processes. Despite multiple solicitations, Dr Gianluca Bezzina resigned from Council without ever submitting the due diligence forms to the Accountant, making the Council up to his resignation uncompliant thus having to repeat the process again so as to be able to have the accounts released for auditing and presentation to the Commissioner of Voluntary Organisations. This has led to the College losing out on a considerable sum of funds. Dr Jacob Vella refused to carry out due diligence with the Malta Business Registry as he refused to be recognised as an administrator as stipulated by the Registry. Both cases have led to considerable delays in submitting the requested forms, the accounts and have led to considerable financial loss that unfortunately has to be borne by the College. The standing these individuals have with the College is equivocal at best.



The rest of the Council members have done their best to compensate for these misgivings and are currently undergoing a new due diligence process so that the accounts for the year 2022 can be processed by the College's Accountant.

Appendix A illustrates the Income and Expenditure for the year 2021.



Appendix A



Malta College of Family Doctors Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2021

	Members fees	Bank Interest	Exams & Grad.	Other	Journal	Totals
Income	24,190	10	42,275	1,474		67,949
Sponsors	24,190	10	42,275	1,474	0	67,949
Operating Expenses			45,855		726	46,581
Gross surplus/(deficit) on activity	24,190	10	(3,580)	1,474	(726)	21,368
Administration Expenses						
AGM, entertaining						2,054
Stationery and other expenses						900
Audit fees						413
Professional fees						3,279
Secretarial charges						443
Memberships						470
Rental						1,179
Travel						79
Bank charges						0
Depreciation						8,817
Net Surplus						12,551