



European Society of Physical and
Rehabilitation Medicine

To the attention of

Dpto. Med. Física y Rehabilitación

Facultad de Medicina UCM

Avda. Complutense s/n

28040 – MADRID.

Dear Professor,

This letter is written by me as President of ESPRM, on behalf of all PRM Doctors Europe, to express our unanimous support for the contents of the Agreement of the Association of University Professors of Radiology and Physical Medicine [*Asociación de Profesores Universitarios de Radiología y Medicina Física*] (the APURF Agreement) of June 29 and 30 at the Royal Academy of Medicine and Surgery of Galicia [*Real Academia de Medicina y Cirugía de Galicia*].

In fact every European indication, statements and consensus, both in scientific and in professional field, in any Country of the Union, are very explicit and concrete to ensure that :

1.- Like in all other Countries in Europe (and in the World) is necessary to establish a specific field of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine at the Spanish University that ensures the correct interdisciplinary development both at the university and in the larger arena of public health, and fosters the development of the medical principles of the model of functionality and that promotes individual autonomy, improves the quality of life and adapts (and adapts to) the environment of patients with chronic disabilities as defined in the English-language version of the European White Book on Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (attachment 2), the only White Book that to date has met with the approval of the this Medical Society (**ESPRM**) , of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Section and Board of the European Union of Medical Specialists (**UEMS-PRM section**).

2.- In relation to this is urgent and necessary to separate in Spain the fields of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine and Radiology in the new Graduate degree in Medicine adapted to the European Higher Education Area, on the legal basis of Royal Decree 1417/1990, 26 October, which established the university title of *Licenciado* in Medicine, recognised Physical Medicine as separate from Radiology and acknowledged the existence of a basis for Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine; and Act 44/2003 on the regulation of medical professions, which states: *"Doctors: it falls to Licenciados in Medicine to indicate and carry out activities that are designed to promote and maintain good health, to prevent disease and for the diagnosis, treatment, therapy and rehabilitation of patients..."* also quoted in the European White Book on Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine.

3.- It is also urgent and necessary to reach a precise clarification of the medical proper competencies included in the Physiotherapy Degree White Book by the National Agency for the Evaluation of Quality and Accreditation [Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación (ANECA)] (or, in lieu thereof, the removal of such competencies) to avoid any misinterpretations of future Royal Decrees on the new Curricula for the Degree in Physiotherapy, which will be implemented in 2008. We declare our respect and our wishes for the proper and worthy development of the new Degrees in Physiotherapy on the basis of inter-professional respect and consensus and in the timeframes established by the relevant institutions; nevertheless, we believe that these should not be determined irrespective of the reality of public health and of patients with chronic disabilities, in the application of the principles of European convergence. We propose a constructive approach by all of the members of the interdisciplinary team, without exceptions. The competencies of Physical Medicine are specific, whether at University or within the reality of social health, to university professors and Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine. Physiotherapy, which we regard with the utmost respect, is a health profession whose university and professional roles are perfectly well established. However, it is neither a medical speciality nor a medical profession, but must really be related and directed by a competent Medical Specialist for the patients security and efficacy/effectiveness of treatments .