



# UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

*Association internationale sans but lucratif*

*International non-profit organisation*

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## UEMS SECTION OF MEDICAL GENETICS

[www.uems-genetics.org](http://www.uems-genetics.org)



March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear National Delegates, dear colleagues,

The year has started with dreadful events. The war in Ukraine, instigated by the Russian Federation, is continuing with no end in sight, and Turkey and Syria have suffered from a most devastating earthquake. On behalf of the Section, I want to express my deep sadness, but also my unlimited respect for the staying power of the colleagues concerned to pursue their profession.

The following newsletter summarizes the latest and ongoing activities of UEMS Section of Medical Genetics.

The exam for the **ECMGG (European Certificate in Medical Genetics and Genomics) 2023** first, as it continuously constitutes our most demanding activity. Registration for the exam has closed, and 42 paying candidates are expected to sit the exam to be delivered on April 28 (written part) and June 19 (oral part), 2023 (for comparison: 57 candidates in 2022, 38 candidates in 2021). Both parts will again be delivered with the help of our commercial partner CYIM. The paper with the 110 multiple choice questions (MCQs) is ready and available in the CYIM database after having been scrutinized by 15 external standardsetters from 8 countries and submitted for final selection and review.

The standardsetters could fulfil their task for the 1st time online this year, after having gained access to the respective part of the **CYIM database**. From now on, all parts of the preparation of the MCQs, from a first draft of an individual author to the final review of the MCQ paper, will be done online and all questions, together with information about their history and use, are stored in the database. The oral part of the exam, consisting of six stations for a short oral assessment (SOA) with two examiners at each station, will again be delivered on Zoom for the time being, and the performance will be supported by CYIM.

These achievements have been much-needed, facilitate our work and the cooperation with the managers of CYIM is highly appreciated. However, the database and management of the exam by a commercial partner are associated with substantial costs. We have now been able to set up the **financial budget** related to the ECMGG exam in the medium term. This was necessary not only because the Section is under obligation to always create an annual

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budget plan for the coming year, and to share it with the UEMS Treasurer, but also because it has been discussed repeatedly that we aim at a paid administration support. The exam fees have been the same in 2023 as last year (600 €) and the costs for the exam differ depending on the number of candidates. It can be roughly stated that the cost of the exam per year, including CYIM costs, one in-person workshop, and statistical analysis, approaches €24,000 on the basis of ~40 candidates, and thus just equals the income from exam fees! This makes the affordability of administration support problematic without either raising the exam fee, attracting considerably more candidates, or raising more income from another source – a point we have to address seriously at the next Section meeting.

We will also have to reconsider the reserve funds as we have yet to define our minimum reserve accounting for different circumstances, e.g. the varying number of exam candidates or the theoretical possibility of cancelling the exam.

Preparations for the ECMGG 2024 have started already, and about 10 members of the **exam group** of the Section will meet soon, on March 22-24, for an on-site **workshop in Paris, France**, which will be hosted by Alain Verloes. We hope to achieve as many MCQs for the ECMGG 2024 as possible, to finish the preparations for the oral part of this year's exam and to discuss general matters.

The ECMGG has been partially appraised after its first sitting in 2019 by **CESMA**, the Council for European Specialists Medical Assessment, which is an advisory body of the UEMS aiming to provide recommendation and advice on the organisation of European examinations for medical specialists at the European level. Feliciano Ramos, Spain, has been the Section's representative to CESMA for many years. The appraisal of the exam's organisation and procedure, in particular as performed at present, is still missing and we aim at a full CESMA appraisal in 2024. Preparation of the necessary documentation has started.

The current **revision of the European Training Requirements (ETR)** in Medical Genetics is ongoing and can hopefully be submitted for the UEMS Council meeting in October which means that a draft has to be ready three months prior to the meeting. The ETR Working group (Chair: Johannes Zschocke, Austria) has agreed to meet just before the ESHG conference in Scotland.

Asbjørg Stray-Pedersen, Norway, who is one of our reviewers for EACCME (the European Accreditation Council for CME), and myself attended the **UEMS Advisory Council on Continuous Medical Education (CME)** in Brussels on January 14, 2023. Major points of discussion were the revised EACCME criteria, the concept of Competency Based Medical Education (CBME), and the ETR Conference on April 1st (see below).

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A meeting of the Branch of Medical Geneticists of the **EBMG** took place on January 10, 2023, and was attended by all 10 Branch Board members. By nature, the items discussed have a large overlap with those discussed at the last Section meeting. As Chair of the Branch, I also participate regularly in the EBMG Council meetings which are chaired by Birgitte Diness, Denmark, the current President of EBMG. Birgitte introduced short presentations how the branches of this interprofessional body can help each other to succeed in the promotion of our shared goal: to serve the needs of patients using the genetic/genomic services in Europe by developing, supporting and spreading high standards of practice. There is definitely not only continuous medical education, but also continuous interprofessional learning!

On April 21-22, 2023, Peter Turnpenny and I will represent the Section at the 6-monthly **UEMS Council meeting** to be held on-site in Brussels. It will be preceded on April 20, 2023, by the **1<sup>st</sup> UEMS Conference on Medical Specialists' Training in Europe** which focusses on different aspects of European Training Requirements (ETRs), e.g. the outcome of a survey on the implementation of the ETRs in the UEMS member countries, CBME and CanMEDS competencies. You have already received several mails informing about the conference during the last weeks. It is a public conference open to everybody who is interested, and we hope that it will be well attended despite the relatively short notice. Registration fees are 175 €, registration is now open: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/conference-on-uems-european-training-requirements-tickets-560571573667>

Please save the date for the **next Section meeting** in your agenda which will take place **at the ESHG conference in Glasgow on Sunday June 11, 2023, at 12:30 – 15:00 CET**. The agenda will be circulated by April 11, if you have items for the agenda please let Peter Turnpenny and me know.

We are pleased to let you know that there will be a session in the format of a **Get2gether informing about EBMG and UEMS-SMG activities** at the conference which has been scheduled for **Saturday June 10, 2023, at 12:15 – 13:45**. You are most welcome, of course, and please promote it amongst your colleagues, in particular the young medical geneticists and those in training.

With kind regards

*Ute Moog*

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*President, UEMS Section of Medical Genetics*