



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

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August 25th, 2021

Dear National Delegates, dear colleagues,

We hope that you savour the summer, most of you with currently less Corona-related restrictions!

This 2nd newsletter wants to update you with the activities of UEMS Section of Medical Genetics (UEMS-SMG) since our Section meeting on May 27, 2021. These have been focussing on the exam for the ECMGG (European Certificate in Medical Genetics and Genomics) 2021, and on the restructuring of the Branch of Medical Genetics and Genomics (BMGG) within the EBMG (European Board of Medical Genetics, www.ebmg.eu/).

The **written part of the ECMGG 2021** was performed on June 18. The French company CYIM provided the administration platform for the delivery of the 110 MCQs conceived by the question writing groups of the Examination Committee and included live proctoring of the candidates. The 39 candidates who had registered and paid for the exam had the opportunity to practice the internet connection with the platform and carry out technical tests before June 18. For the exam, candidates had specific login appointment times spread over one hour, and no candidate was permitted to communicate with another candidate who had finished the exam. 38 candidates started the exam and completed successfully. Unfortunately, one candidate made an error with the time zone and was too late to sit the exam. No relevant technical failure was reported. In summary, CYIM proved to be an excellent partner for good online delivery.

Standard setting of the MCQ paper was performed by the Anghoff method, and we are very grateful to the 12 colleagues across Europe who gave their time to this. After the detailed statistical analysis, only 3 questions were judged to perform poorly and these were removed; the pass mark was 66.85%.

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The psychometric analysis of the written exam was carried out by Dr. Bonnie Lynch from Dundee University (UK), who once again proved to be an excellent partner. Statistics demonstrated that the exam performed extremely well.

21 candidates from the 38 (55%) passed and can proceed to the Oral Exam. The **oral part of the ECMGG** will be performed **on September 17** by Zoom. Every candidate has to pass 6 stations for a short oral assessment with two examiners at each station. Thanks to all of you who offered to help by serving as examiner!

The last Section meeting in May included an extensive discussion on the **new structure of EBMG-BMGG**. A discussion with ESHG and EBMG representatives followed. On June 21, 2021, the postponed BMGG Annual Meeting of 2020, followed by the BMGG Annual Meeting of 2021 took place, both chaired by Milena Paneque, current President of EBMG. Taking into account many of the discussed arguments, a new model for the BMGG structure (“5+3+2 option”) was proposed, voted, and finally approved. The key points are as follows:

- The 10 full members of BMGG, all medical geneticists, are:
 1. According to the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the **five** Bureau members of UEMS-SMG, i.e. President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, and Chair of the Examination Committee;
 2. **Three** persons delegated by the ESHG: an ESHG Board member, a member of the ESHG Education Committee, and a member of the ESHG Young Geneticists Committee. Their appointment has to be approved by UEMS-SMG;
 3. **Two** persons nominated by UEMS-SMG, ESHG, or EBMG. EBMG-BMGG calls for nominations; then the ESHG, UEMS-SMG, and EBMG seek a consensus on these nominations. In the event of not reaching a consensus, or too many nominations, the Assembly of National Delegates of UEMS-SMG has the right to elect the two members among the candidates.
- The President of UEMS-SMG is the Chair of BMGG.
- The mandate period of the UEMS-SMG Bureau members is according to their mandate as UEMS-SMG Bureau members. The mandate period of the other five delegates is four years, beginning with the EBMG General Assembly (GA) meeting, and is renewable for one further 4-year period.
- BMGG may create working groups with additional co-opted persons.

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- Once the 10 full members have been appointed by the EBMG GA, they must nominate in 2021 (as soon as possible) the incoming President of the EBMG. The nominated person does not necessarily have to be the BMGG Chair.

Meanwhile, ESHG has nominated Angela Peron (Italy, ESHG Board), James O'Byrne (Ireland, ESHG Education Committee), and Delia Sabau (Romania, ESHG-Young Geneticists Committee).

Birgitte Diness (Denmark), and Thomas Meitingner (Germany), both members of the former BMGG, have been nominated for the two remaining seats following the procedure mentioned above. The new structure of the EBMG-BMGG will now be presented at the next EBMG GA, which has been scheduled for September 6th, and where, hopefully, all BMGG members will be confirmed.

The new BMGG has picked up its work, which will be on the agenda of the next Section meeting.

Following the call for interested colleagues at the last Section meeting, the **working group for the revision of the ETR** (European Training Requirements) has been set up. Its members are: Johannes Zschocke -Coordinator- (Austria), Alain Verloes (France), Tina Duelund Hjortshøj (Denmark), Helena Fryssira (Greece), and Feliciano Ramos (Spain). The group would be happy to welcome one additional member, preferably (not necessarily) from one of the European eastern countries. If you are interested, please send a mail to Johannes (johannes.zschocke@i-med.ac.at).

Yvonne Arens let us know that, for personal reasons, she has to give up her work as Treasurer of UEMS-SMG and, sadly, also as a national delegate. We regret this very much, Yvonne, because we enjoyed and appreciated so much working with you! You have helped enormously to establish the exam for the ECMGG by your continuous communication with the candidates, and you had a substantial contribution to UEMS-SMG tasks as a Bureau member. We are most grateful for your contributions and wish you all the best for the future.

UEMS-SMG thus needs a **new Treasurer**. Prof. Cristina Rusu (Romania), has expressed her interest in this role. You will find her CV attached to this message. If there are further nominations for the candidacy as Treasurer, meaning if you are interested yourself or if you want to propose somebody, please let Peter Turnpenny and me know **by September 20, 2021. Nominations** have to be accompanied by a short CV of max. 300 words and a photo.

The vote of the Treasurer and the confirmation of the EBMG-BMGG members will take place at the next **Section meeting** which has been scheduled as a **virtual meeting** for **Thursday**

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25th November 2021, 16:00-18.30 CET – please save the date in your calendar. If you have **items for the agenda** please send them also **by September 20, 2021**, because the agenda should be finalised and circulated two months before the meeting.

With kind regards

Ute Moog

President UEMS Section of Medical Genetics

Attachment: CV Prof. Cristina Rusu