



# 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)



August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear National Delegates, dear colleagues,

We hope that you enjoy the summer and profit(ed) from a relaxing break!

This newsletter wants to give you a short update on the activities of UEMS Section of Medical Genetics (UEMS-SMG) since our Section meeting on June 12, 2022, at the ESHG conference in Vienna. It was a great pleasure to meet so many of you – with 30 delegates joining, of whom 9 virtually, and 21 nations represented, the meeting was extremely well attended. I hope you all enjoyed the ESHG conference as much as I did!

The **written part of the ECMGG 2022** was performed shortly after the ESHG conference, on June 24, 2022. All multiple choice questions (MCQs) were written according to agreed ECMGG guidelines, then discussed within Question Writing Groups. Standard setting was achieved by the Anghoff method with 17 standard setters, all experienced medical geneticists and widely distributed across Europe. They reviewed 117 MCQs with 110 MCQs selected after final review. As in 2021, the MCQs were provided via the platform of CYIM (based in Rennes, France) as commercial partner with proctoring being subcontracted to ProctorU. All candidates had the opportunity to carry out technical tests in advance, and had specific login appointment times spread over one hour for the exam. 58 candidates registered and paid for the exam, one candidate retracted in advance due to health issues. 57 candidates started the MCQ exam and completed it successfully. In addition, three UK trainees sat the exam under the same conditions but without payment (or certification) in order to help the UK Clinical Genetics community decide whether the ECMGG is suitable as their exit exam. One candidate had difficulties to connect because, against clear recommendations, an institutional service network was used and had to switch to another location. Otherwise, only minor technical difficulties were reported, and CYIM again proved to be an excellent and reliable partner. As in previous years, statistics were performed by Dr. Bonnie Lynch, University of Dundee, UK, and demonstrate that the MCQ exam performed extremely well. The standard is high, and results are consistent compared with previous exams.

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32 candidates passed the MCQ part and progress to the **oral exam on September 19<sup>th</sup> 2022** which is also delivered online. Every candidate has to pass six stations for a short oral assessment (SOA) with two examiners at each station – meaning that more than 30 examiners are needed that day (including spare examiners and observers) who are all provided with information material and have a training session in the previous week. With the growing number of oral candidates, and hence increasing complexity of management, we have asked CYIM to help us with the technical part and run the candidates' circuits.

Preparations for the **ECMGG 2023** are well advanced. It will again be fully online delivered, but earlier compared to previous years, namely on April 28, 2023 (MCQ part) and on June 19, 2023 (SOA part). Registration will open on November 01, 2022, and close on January 31, 2023. We will send you a separate email with a reminder regarding these dates when the exam general document for the ECMGG 2023 is ready and the website updated. Please promote the ECMGG 2023 in your country already now!

The preparation, realisation and evaluation of the exam for the ECMGG requires an incredible amount of work which is only possible thanks to the dedication of about 45 colleagues in total. Our rewards are a well-performing, high quality exam, satisfied candidates and, not least, a highly inspiring atmosphere at every meeting. It is hard work, but also great fun, and I thank all of you most cordially!

The current **revision of the European Training Requirements (ETR)** in Medical Genetics profited in June and July from the assistance of a student at the University of Dundee who mapped the content of available national training requirements to a grid covering roughly the items of the syllabus which had been conceived and discussed by members of the ETR working group. The result will be sent out in full to individual countries for verification and comment, and a more detailed update will be given by the Chair of the ETR working group, Johannes Zschocke, Austria, at the next Section meeting.

Our Treasurer Cristina Rusu attended, together with another Bureau member each time, two unscheduled **UEMS Treasurer meetings** in July to further discuss a DME 6-Year Bond proposed by the UEMS Treasurer and Executive. Moving funds out of UEMS accounts by fully paying off two loans linked to the purchase of the DME will benefit UEMS bodies by reducing negative interest and allowing UEMS to pay internal interest rather than interest to a bank. The DME6YB will return 30€ for each 970€ (1000 € in July 2028) invested by a UEMS body for the full 6-year term of the bond. By avoiding 0.5% bank charge on these invested funds for 6 years, it effectively doubles this return (so-called 'zero coupon bond'). Although generally agreeing with the proposal, the SMG Bureau had raised concerns about committing to a full contribution to the proposed DME 6-Year Bond, based on the size of our account and some

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uncertainty about our outgoings in the foreseeable future. UEMS offered a reduced contribution, amounting to 6% (instead of 12%) of assets, which we confirmed.

The **Hellenic Society of Medical Genetics** celebrates the recent recognition of the specialty of Medical Genetics with the 1st Congress in Medical Genetics, hybrid with international participation, entitled “From Genomic Findings to Bedside Medicine”, on October 14-16, 2022, in Athens, Greece. For more information, please visit [www.apr.com.gr/medicalgenetics2022](http://www.apr.com.gr/medicalgenetics2022). By invitation, Peter Turnpenny, Ulf Kristoffersson and myself will attend the meeting in-person or virtually.

On October 07-08, 2022, I will again represent the Section at the 6-monthly **UEMS Council meeting** which will also take place in Athens, fully on-site this year’s fall, without hybrid component.

Please save the date for the **next Section meeting** in your agenda which has been scheduled as a **virtual meeting** for **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022**, at **16:00 – 18:30 CET**. The agenda will be circulated soon, if you have items for the agenda please let Peter Turnpenny and me know.

With kind regards

*Ute Moog*

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*President, UEMS Section of Medical Genetics*