



# UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

*Association internationale sans but lucratif*

*International non-profit organisation*

AVENUE DE LA COURONNE, 20

BE- 1050 BRUSSELS

[www.uems.net](http://www.uems.net)

T +32 2 649 51 64

F +32 2 640 37 30

[info@uems.net](mailto:info@uems.net)

---

## UEMS SECTION OF MEDICAL GENETICS

---

January 29th, 2021

Dear National Delegates, dear colleagues,

We hope that this first newsletter of UEMS Section of Medical Genetics reaches all of you in good health and well-being!

The current activities of the Section have been focussing on further developing the exam for the European Certificate in Medical Genetics and Genomics (ECMGG) and on preparing a new website.

You probably all remember that the first ECMGG exam was successfully delivered in parallel with the ESHG conference in 2019 in Gothenburg. The exam in 2020 was cancelled, as it was designed as an in-person exam, but with the COVID-19 situation it was felt to be impossible to run, and the exam was deferred until 2021.

As the Corona-virus is still prevailing, considerable efforts have been taken to deliver the exam online. The exam structure for 2021 remains the same, i.e. it consists of a written part of 110 multiple choice questions (MCQs) and a second part of six short structured oral assessments (SOAs). The MCQs will be delivered with a commercial partner. The French company CYIM seemed to be the most encouraging partner when comparing several offers. They will provide live proctoring during the exam and had proven to be successful with the exam of another UEMS Section of similar size. A contract with CYIM is now being prepared and will be passed on to UEMS for approval. The oral component will be delivered using an online teleconferencing platform (most likely Zoom). We now require candidates to pass the MCQs before being invited to the oral part. This is because of an anticipated increase in number of candidates, including those from outside the EU, given the convenience of an online format.

Question writing and preparing the SOAs has continued in many sessions, largely using online platforms. Thanks to the commitment of about 15 colleagues, the exam paper is just being finalised prior to standard setting. As before, review of the exam and psychometric analysis will be undertaken by Dr Bonnie Lynch from the University of Dundee, UK.

More information about the exam can be found on [www.uems-ecmgg.org](http://www.uems-ecmgg.org). Currently we have 22 expressions of interest for taking the exam in addition to 4 candidates who chose to carry-over their 2020 application fee to 2021 – so a potential total of 26 so far. The registration website is going live very soon and applications will close at the end of April 2021. The MCQ-part is scheduled for June 18th 2021 and the SOA-part for September 17th 2021.

# UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

*Association internationale sans but lucratif – International non-profit organisation*

## UEMS SECTION OF MEDICAL GENETICS

---

Regarding the Section website which is currently still accessible under <https://clinicalgenetics-uems.pt.ehu/>, there was a need for a comprehensive update. Because of the long term advantage of a neutral website which is not based at an institution of one of the Bureau members, a new website has been created under [www.uems-genetics.org](http://www.uems-genetics.org), linked to the exam website and will go live within the next weeks – we will let you know when. It also comprises an updated list of National Delegates so that you can contact your European colleagues more easily. There will be a National Delegates ‘private area’ on the website and details about how to access that will be shared in due course.

Decisions regarding the website, and in particular ECMGG and related costs, had to be taken on time and prior to a Section meeting. We are confident that the costs for a commercial partner delivering the written part of the exam will be covered by the examination fees which will be the same as in 2019.

A first **Section meeting** has been scheduled as a **virtual meeting** for **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 16:00-18:30 CET** – please save the date in your calendar. We wish to discuss and approve the above and other important issues. If you have items for the agenda please send them soon because the agenda should be finalised two months before the meeting.

Any points or suggestions you may have are welcome, so please don’t hesitate to contact Ute Moog ([ute.moog@med.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:ute.moog@med.uni-heidelberg.de)) or Peter Turnpenny ([peter.turnpenny@nhs.net](mailto:peter.turnpenny@nhs.net)).

If you want to help with the further preparation of this exam, e.g. as examiner, or if you want to join the question writing group for the next round of questions from April onwards, please contact Jonathan Berg ([j.n.berg@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:j.n.berg@dundee.ac.uk)).

With kind regards,

*Ute Moog*

Ute Moog

President, UEMS Section of Medical Genetics