



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

May 6th, 2021

President's Report of UEMS Section of Medical Genetics (SMG)

The current Bureau of UEMS Section of Medical Genetics was elected in October 2020 and took office on January 1st, 2021. It consists of: Ute Moog (Germany), President; Peter Turnpenny (UK), Secretary; Yvonne Arens (Netherlands), Treasurer; Feliciano Ramos (Spain), Vice-President; Jonathan Berg (UK), Chair Exam Committee. This report is meant to give a brief outline of the Section and to summarise the activities of the last months.

Delegates. At the end of April 2021, the Section counted 44 delegates from 27 countries. 25 of these are UEMS full member countries, Turkey is an Associate Member, and Georgia an Observer Member to UEMS.

Website. A new Section website has been created by Adam Tobias, UK, and went live at the end of January 2021 under www.uems-genetics.org. It is linked to the exam website (www.uems-ecmgg.org) created in 2019. The Section website comprises updated information on the Section's history and activities, including an updated list of National Delegates, and offers National Delegates and Bureau Members a password protected 'login area' with e.g. meeting documents. Passwords have been communicated to each Delegate individually.

Meetings and communication. The Bureau has met regularly since December 2020 (at least) every month, alternately as full Bureau, or as Exec consisting of President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Peter Turnpenny, Feliciano Ramos and Ute Moog participated in UEMS EACCME meetings on March 11-12, 2021, Ute Moog and Peter Turnpenny participated in the UEMS Council meeting on April 23-24, 2021. Section Meetings are scheduled twice a year, in spring and autumn, for the time being as virtual meetings, but in the future hopefully with one in-person meeting annually in conjunction with the ESHG Conference. A **first Section meeting** is going to take place by Zoom on **Thursday 27th May 2021, at 16:00-18:30 CET**. In-between the Section meetings, a Newsletter with current information about the Section's activities has been conceived and was realised for the first time on January 30th, 2021.

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Exam Group and ECMGG 2021. The growing Exam Group has been extremely busy on multiple Zoom-meetings. The exam paper for the written part of the exam for the European Certificate in Medical Genetics and Genomics (ECMGG) (110 multiple choice questions, MCQs) which is to be held on June 18th, 2021, was finished. Major efforts have been undertaken in particular by Peter Turnpenny and Jonathan Berg, past and present Chair of the Exam Group, respectively, to deliver the exam online. The MCQs will now be delivered with the French company “CYIM”. The paper for the oral part (six short structured oral assessments) is far advanced and will be delivered via a Zoom platform on September 17th, 2021. Jonathan Berg provides a separate suggestion for a new structure of the Exam Group.

The registration for the exam was open until May 1st, 2021. 50 candidates have registered: 27 from UEMS full member countries, 15 from Turkey, 2 from Georgia, and 6 candidates from Non-European countries, by chance summing up to exactly the possible maximum number of candidates. Their national certificates were verified by Yvonne Arens who was also responsible for registration management, and they are now asked to pay the exam fees. More information about the exam can be found on www.uems-ecmgg.org.

Finances. A separate financial report is given by the former Treasurer Artur Beke (Hungary) and Yvonne Arens, present Treasurer.

Participation in UEMS activities. Béla Melegh (Hungary) is delegate of the Section to UEMS EACCME (European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education). In 2020, he reviewed 10 EACCME events in the field of Medical Genetics.

Feliciano Ramos (Spain) is delegate of the Section to UEMS CESMA (Council for European Specialist Medical Assessment). He has attended all the meetings, two every year (spring and december), where general guidelines for the organisation and content of the European Exams were discussed, updated and reported to the member Sections.

Short presentations of both delegates are provided separately.

Collaboration. In February 2021, a joint working group of UEMS Section of Medical Genetics (SMG) and the European Board of Medical Genetics (EBMG), Branch of Medical Genetics and Genomics (BMGG) was initiated to define the mutual key roles and tasks, and to find a new structure for the collaboration of UEMS-SMG and EBMG-BMGG. Members of the group are Béla Melegh (Hungary), Alessandra Renieri (Italy) and Thomas Meitinger (Germany) for BMGG, and Ute Moog, Peter Turnpenny and Birgitte Diness (Denmark) for the Section. The working group met and was chaired by Ute Moog on March 22nd, March 29th, and April 19th, 2021, and developed a new concept for EBMG, BMGG and its interface with ESHG and the Section, which will be presented at the Section meeting on May 27th, 2021.

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On behalf of the Section of Medical Genetics

Ute Moog

President, UEMS Section of Medical Genetics

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Secretary's Report of UEMS Section of Medical Genetics (SMG)

The first few months as Secretary to the SMG have been very busy with the activities described by our President. I have sought to organise various meetings and produce minutes in a timely way. In addition to general matters relating to the SMG, administration of the ECMGG 2021 has been very time consuming as we move towards the online format. Whilst this has proceeded smoothly and we are on course for delivering the exam with an online platform provided by CYIM based in Rennes, we have also learned important lessons for running the exam in future years. In due course it is hoped that the ECMGG will generate sufficient funds to employ some part-time administrative help.

We are fortunate to have easy and quick access to the UEMS Central Offices in Brussels. We have found their help and support invaluable as we have been on the steep part of the learning curve as the new Bureau of the Section. UEMS itself has had to adapt significantly to the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in relation to EACCME activity. Many sections cancelled or postponed their exams in 2020 and are moving to online delivery. One positive outcome of the pandemic is a speedier response time of some administration from UEMS. Everyone is now used to virtual meetings and these also mean that more colleagues participate because they can join from home without the inconvenience and expense of travel. The pattern for future meetings and conferences will likely be a hybrid between face-to-face and online meetings.

The future development and evolution of the Section is a matter for us collectively to consider and we hope all delegates feel able to contribute and participate actively. New and challenging, but also exciting, activities will be necessary as together we aim for the standards of education, training and practice of Clinical Genetics across Europe to be raised. To this end we will seek to work under guidance from UEMS and collaboratively with our professional colleagues in EBMG and ESHG as necessary.

Peter Turnpenny

Secretary, UEMS Section of Medical Genetics