



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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27th May, 2022

Report of the President & Secretary, UEMS Section of Medical Genetics (SMG)

This report highlights some of the main activities since the last Section meeting on November 25th, 2021.

ECMGG related matters

After the successful online delivery of the exam for the ECMGG (European Certificate in Medical Genetics and Genomics) in 2021, the exam will again be fully delivered online this year. The written part (multiple choice questions, MCQs) will again use the commercial platform provider CYIM© on June 24th, and the oral part (for successful MCQ candidates) will be held via Zoom on September 19th, 2022. The MCQ paper is now with CYIM® and 58 paying candidates are registered (38 in 2021).

A database to work on and store the MCQs has been negotiated with CYIM© and will be ready for use this summer. A first workshop to edit questions on the platform has been planned for the beginning of September.

The exam group met for a hybrid workshop on March 23rd-25th in Łódź, Poland, which was generously hosted by Edyta Borkowska. The short oral assessments (SOAs) for this year's exam have been further prepared, more than 60 MCQs for the exam in 2023 were reviewed, and general aspects of the exam were discussed. More information about the workshop and other matters has been given in the Newsletter dating from April 6th, 2022.

Following a long debate, it has been decided that the oral exam for the ECMGG in the next years will also be held online. The format of the exam will be re-evaluated over two or three years. In 2023, the exam will be conducted earlier in the year compared to previous years. A provisional date for the MCQ sitting is April 28th, 2023, and for the SOA June 19th, 2023.

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European Training Requirements (ETR) Revision

The revision of the ETR was discussed in depth at Łódź. An initial mapping of existing ETRs in Europe had been done previously by a University of Dundee student under the supervision of Jonathan Berg, and available documents have been collated by a co-worker of Johannes Zschocke at Innsbruck. Both are now being brought together and will be validated and expanded.

CME Survey

A survey on existing national CME registers had been sent out to all European countries represented in either the UEMS or the group of National Human Genetics Societies of the ESHG. 32 countries replied to the questionnaire, among which nearly all countries represented in UEMS Section of Medical Genetics. The results will be presented at the forthcoming Section meeting.

Finance related matters

Since the last Section meeting Cristina Rusu is in office as the new Treasurer and as such a member of the Bureau and member of the Branch of Medical Geneticists of the EBMG (European Board of Medical Genetics). Due to various reasons it has been a lengthy and complicated procedure for her to achieve access to the Section bank account.

The most significant expenditures of the Section in 2021 concerned the ECMGG (the commercial CYIM© platform for the MCQs; fees for the statistical analysis) but were more than covered by income from candidates' ECMGG exam fees. A financial report of the year 2021 as well as a presentation of anticipated expenditures in 2022, will be given by the Treasurer at the Section meeting.

Report of UEMS Council, April 2022

At the UEMS Council meeting on April 29th-30th (in-person at Brussels and virtual for the core meetings) the (revised) ETRs for Neurology, Endocrine Surgery and Anaesthesiology were approved following the typically thorough review process. The proposal of our Section presented by Peter Turnpenny of a baseline of Genetics and Genomics for the ETRs of all sections was very positively received and discussed. In the future, it is recommended to consider this baseline when ETRs are written or revised, and our help may be sought. The creation of a Thematic Federation for Medical Ethics was initiated, and the Section expressed interest to actively contribute.

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The creation of a European Board of Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases was approved. The proposal was presented by Béla Melegh as President of the MJC (Multi-disciplinary Joint Committee) for Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases (RUD). SMG had submitted concerns about the establishment of a 'Board' and intention to operate an exam, presented at the meeting by Ute Moog. The background to the MJC, as a UEMS response to an EU initiative, was explained. The UEMS President emphasised that there should be no overlap in aims, or duplication of effort, between the MJC-RUD and SMG. This will be presented and discussed at the Section meeting.

EACCME (European Accreditation Council for CME) activities were central to several items, among which was the report of the Secretary-General, and concerned, e.g., new EACCME criteria. Feliciano Ramos will provide a short report of the EACCME conference in Seville, Spain, in March 2022. As each Section is expected to have at least two EACCME reviewers, this issue will also be addressed at the Section meeting.

The President of UEMS, Vassilios Papalois, gave an impressive address on the growing tasks and numerous plans of UEMS, e.g. the introduction of more and more targeted meetings, the central role of CESMA (Council for European Specialists Medical Assessment), the development of EACCME, desires for stronger links between UEMS and NMAs (and scientific societies), a wish for publications in particular about ETRs, and an appeal to make more use of fellows (meaning those who passed the exam established by a Section) within our work.

Last but not least, a poignant and moving address was given by the Secretary of the Ukrainian NMA, describing the challenges facing medical services, and their adaptations, as a result of the violent conflict. The presentation received the longest and most heartfelt applause of the meeting.

We look forward to meeting you at the Section meeting on Sunday 12th June 2022, 12.15-14:15 CEST, either in-person at the ESHG Conference in Vienna (Room 1.86) or virtually.

Ute Moog
President

Peter Turnpenny
Secretary

May 2022