



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 CLINICAL GENETICS

Annual Report for 2015 for UEMS Section of Clinical Genetics (SCG)

The year 2015 was the second full year of function for the SCG. The section was formally established in April 2013 at the UEMS Council Meeting in Brussels and the first section meeting was held in November 2013 in Brussels.

The bureau in 2015 included Ulf Kristoffersson (Sweden), president until June 2015, Béla Melegh (Hungary) president from June 2015 on, Kristiina Aittomäki (Finland) secretary, Helen Kingston (UK) treasurer, and vice-presidents Milan Macek (Czech Republic) Feliciano J Ramos (Spain), André Reis (Germany), and Alessandra Renieri (Italy).

Delegates

At the end of year 2015 the section had delegates from 21 UEMS full member countries. These include (Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and UK). Additionally, Turkey, as an associate member has nominated a delegate and Georgia as an observer has also nominated a delegate. Altogether 41 delegates have been nominated to the section.

Finances

During 2014 the main income of the section were the membership fees from national associations. The main expenses are caused by meetings during the year. The Financial Statement of the UEMS Section of Clinical Genetics has been separately reported by the treasurer, Helen Kingston.

Section meetings

The annual section meeting 2015 took place in association with the European Society of Human Genetics Meeting in Glasgow, UK, on June 6th, 2015 at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre. Altogether 18 delegates from 15 countries participated. There was lively discussion particularly about the name of the section and of the speciality. The financial documentation was accepted as prepared by the treasurer Helen Kingston (see below).



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Meetings of the bureau

In 2015 the bureau (board) had altogether 4 meetings, of which 2 were teleconferences. The physical meetings were held on March 17-18 in Budapest, Hungary and on June 6, in Glasgow, UK. The bureau had teleconferences on 21.01. and 18.11.2015. In addition, the bureau has had weekly active email conversations.

Main focus in 2015

Curriculum, syllabus and European training requirements (ETR) for clinical genetics

- To develop a European syllabus for training of specialists in clinical genetics the bureau first nominated a working group (Ulf Kristoffersson, Béla Melegh, Feliciano J Ramos, Alessandra Renieri, Beata Lipska-Zietkiewicz and Peter Turnpenny). The suggestions were further discussed by the bureau and the section meeting and circulated to the delegates. The bureau has started writing the ETR to be discussed within the section and by the national societies before it is presented to the UEMS Council.
- The preparation of curriculum and syllabus is done in close collaboration with the Medical Division of the European Board of Medical Genetics for which Béla Melegh is the President and the bureau members are also members.

Name of the speciality and the section

- Genetic diagnostics has developed due to knowledge on the structure of the genome and subsequent technical development to encompass entire genomes instead of single genes. Therefore a change of the name of the section to UEMS Section of Clinical Genetics and Genomics was suggested by the previous section president and supported by the section meeting in Glasgow. This also initiated a discussion of the name of the speciality and the field within medicine as several versions exist, namely Human Genetics, Medical Genetics, Clinical Genetics and possibly others as well.
- The UEMS Council Meeting in Warsaw proposed that the name of the speciality would be changed to “Clinical Genetics and Genomics” when Annex 5 to the Directive 2005/36/EC is revised. Thereafter the name of the section could be changed accordingly.

MJC for Rare and undiagnosed diseases (MJC RUD)

- In the annual section meeting the new president Béla Melegh suggested that the section should be active in starting a new multidisciplinary joint committee (MJC) for rare and undiagnosed diseases (RUD). This proposal was supported by the section and taken to the UEMS Council Meeting in Warsaw 2015, where it was approved.
- The inaugural meeting of the MJC RUD will take place in the spring meeting in Brussels in April 2016.

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Participation in other activities

The Section of Clinical Genetics is not yet a member of EACCME or CESMA, but is participating in the meetings and has nominated representatives to those, namely Feliciano Ramos and André Reis respectively.

Liaison officer to the European Society of Human Genetics Milan Macek.

Liaison officer to ECA is professor Elisabeth Blenniow, who is a Swedish delegate to UEMS and also the president of ECA

Béla Melegh had a presentation about UEMS to the Clinical Genetics Working Group at the Italian Society of Human Genetics (SIGU) Annual Meeting, October 2015 in Rimini.

On behalf of the Section of Clinical Genetics,

Béla Melegh
President

Kristiina Aittomäki
Secretary of the SCG

UEMS Section of Clinical Genetics