

GIAN BATTISTA PARIGI, M.D. , F.E.B.P.S

Candidate for the post of LIAISON OFFICER

Director, Specialisation School of Paediatric Surgery, University of Pavia
President, UEMS Section & Board of Paediatric Surgery, Brussels
President, International Center for Cooperation to Development, University of Pavia
Coordinator, Center for International Cooperation, “S.Matteo” Research Hospital, Pavia

Born at Ponte Nossa (Bergamo, Italy), 13th October 1954. Married with 3 children.
Graduated in Medicine (1979), Specialized in General Surgery (1984), Oncology (1987) and Paediatric Surgery (1992). Deputy Medical Superintendent, Tosamaganga Hospital, Tanzania (1980-83); Paediatric Surgery Dept. "S.Matteo" Hospital, Pavia (1983-92); Associate Professor, Paediatric Surgery, University of Pavia (1992 >); Director, Specialization School in Paediatric Surgery, Pavia University (1996>); Secretary, National Conference of Directors of Specialisation Schools in Paed. Surg.(2010 >)
Author or co-author of 261 scientific papers (74 indexed full papers, 19 indexed abstracts, 6 books, 34 book chapters, 3 software programs, 125 national papers). Editor-in-Chief of the Italian Textbook of Paediatric Surgery.

- Honorary Member Indian, Romanian, Croatian and Bulgarian Associations of Paediatric Surgeons
- Foreign languages: English, Swahili and French (fluent), Spanish (fair), Portuguese, German (basic)

Positions held in UEMS

1994 - 1998 National Delegate for Italy, UEMS Section & Board of Paediatric Surgery
1998 –2007 Secretary / Treasurer, UEMS Section & Board of Paediatric Surgery
2008 – 2015 President, UEMS Section & Board of Paediatric Surgery

Vision about UEMS

While Secretary and then President of the Section & Board of Paediatric Surgery we started - among the very first in UEMS - the process of creating and publishing the European Register of Paediatric Surgeons (1996), performing Site Visits (Graz, April 1997) and organising European Examinations (Paris, October 1999). On the basis of this experience the Section launched in February 2007 the idea of CESMA, with the first meeting held in Glasgow and attended by 18 Sections: today CESMA is one of the most effective branches of our Organisation. The last but not least ongoing initiative is the “*European Census*” aimed to gather data about the ~450 Centers of Paediatric Surgery in Europe: started in 2013, up to now > 230 Centers answered, and a preliminary report has been presented in the 2015 European Congress of Paediatric Surgery in Ljubljana, Slovenia, organised in close cooperation with the most representative European scientific society in the field, EUPSA. It’s our practical answer to the challenge presented by the European Observatory of Medical Demography of which UEMS is a member.

From the experience gained in more than 20 years spent in the UEMS I got two fundamental concepts, that would guide my possible future activity as liaison officer:

1) The two “arms” of UEMS, National Associations and Specialist Sections, up to now lived more or less together under the same roof but with no particular reciprocal fondness. On the other hand, this coexistence represents an absolute “unicum” in the panorama of EMO, rightfully making UEMS the most representative and original among them. Every effort must therefore be done to steadily increase the interaction between the two “souls” of our Organisation.

2) This “uniqueness” of UEMS bestow on it the responsibility and – why not ? - the prestige to interact more actively and incisively with the EU, particularly with the DG SANCO, acting somewhat as an “*external advisory body*”. This in both directions:

- UEMS → UE supporting - more than till now nicely done, but unfortunately with no so satisfying results - our opinions, recommendations and proposals;
- UE → UEMS recognising formally at least some of our activities such as the European Registers, the European Exams & diplomas, the EACCME system. Moreover, we have two huge topics still fully unexplored, the management of European Reference Networks and the Quality Assurance system: the huge wealth of knowledge UEMS can offer in these fields could be an unequalled contribution to the EU decision makers.

If we really believe in the captivating work of creating a new Europe, through the tiny but nevertheless relevant task of harmonising up to top levels the standard of specialist medical care given to the European citizens, we must be more confident in the strength and yet unexploited talents of an Organisation representing 37 Countries, 43 medical specialties and 1.600.000 specialist medical doctors throughout Europe. Otherwise, what for going on with the UEMS ?