



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

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UEMS MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOINT COMMITTEE in PHLEBOLOGY

30th January 2016

**To Prof. Papalois,
General Secretary of the UEMS**

Letter requesting the creation of the European Board of Phlebology

Dear Prof Papalois,

On behalf of the Multidisciplinary Joint Committee on Phlebology of the UEMS, hereby I contact you with the request to create a European Board Phlebology. Please see below a summary to underline the rationale of this action. Please put into the agenda of April 2016 Brussels Council meeting this aim to enable us to present the objectives to the National Representatives and to the representatives of the sections.

Definition of Phlebology:

Phlebology is the multidisciplinary medical branch dealing with Venous Diseases and focuses on prevention, diagnosis, therapy and rehabilitation as well as research and education, to benefit patients and the general population. Raymond Tournay coined the term "Phlébologie" and he founded the Société Française de Phlébologie in 1947, since then the Phlebology has been practiced by thousands of European Physicians.

Venous Diseases in Europe:

Venous diseases belong to the most common diseases all over Europe with a prevalence of varicose veins of about 25%, of Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI, CEAP 3-6) of about 15% in the general population and of severe CVI with skin changes and venous ulcers 5% in the European adult population. Deep and superficial venous thrombosis and the related venous thromboembolism are other frequent venous diseases. Therefore, the cost of the management of venous diseases for society is significant.

The requirements for a primary speciality are not fulfilled for Phlebology and therefore the aim should be the incorporation of Phlebology as a *particular competence* in the European Directives 2013/55/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of

professional qualifications. This terminology is consistent with all forms of training based on acquisition of competencies.

Skilled phlebologists can offer highly cost-effective treatments. Good evidence-based phlebology will contribute to higher cost-effectiveness for this enormous medical and social burden. Current evidence indicates that patient outcomes are better when patients are cared for by trained phlebologists. In Europe this can be achieved by facilitating the acquisition of harmonized competencies in Phlebology by trainees from a wide variety of primary specialty training programmes.

The Multidisciplinary Joint Committee in Phlebology (MJCP) has been created by the UEMS Council meeting in April 2014 (UEMS 2014/14) with the support of the UEMS Sections of Dermatology, Surgery, Vascular Surgery and Radiology. The main goals of the MJCP are to stimulate optimal, standardized treatment of venous disease, to standardize training and accreditation of phlebologists across all UEMS countries, to promote high quality care and research and to promote the multidisciplinary nature of Phlebology.

The kick-off meeting of MJCP was held in Brussels April 10th, 2015, the 2nd meeting was held in Warsaw October 17th 2015. The MJCP Members have prepared and approved unanimously the attached document “MJCP - Road Map”, which contains the relevant supporting documents:

- I. Phlebology - Definition
- II. Venous Chronic Diseases - Relevance for society
- III. Education of the Phlebologist
- IV. Certification of Phlebology
- V. European Recognition
- VI. Conclusions
- VII. Appendix: MJCP Board; Phlebology in Europe; Curriculum Phlebology

After founding an MJC on Phlebology within the UEMS and the approval of the “MJCP - Road Map”, the institution of a Task Force “European Board of Phlebology (EBP)” is the obvious second step to provide a platform for co-operation between the MJCP and European Phlebological Societies to address scientific and training interests and to develop high quality standards of training in Phlebology.

The aim of UEMS European Boards is to *“guarantee the highest standards of care in the field of the specialty in the countries of the European Union, by ensuring that the training is raised to the highest possible level”*. European Boards are to be considered as the platform for co-operation between Sections, MJCs and Divisions and Scientific Societies to address scientific and training interests. With the European Board Phlebology, the MJCP intends to strengthen its cooperation with national and European Societies of Phlebology and to work on the following projects:

- European Examinations

As mentioned above certification is mandatory to guarantee the highest level of knowledge. Europe still has major differences in its training and the programmes provided. The differences are even more profound for Phlebology. It is crucial that the European population and patients have the same quality in medical care and prevention. This is only possible by providing high quality training programs, to European standards, offered

by qualified and validated Centers and should be based on training, standard methods and with appropriate equipment independently from the wealth of the individual countries. This also responds to the aims of harmonization coordinated by UEMS. The UEMS is the only European organisation, which is able to host this certification (ECAMSQ[®], CESMA). As the European examination is open to a wide group of Physicians with many different backgrounds, this certification will not create barriers and will serve only to guard the desired minimal levels of quality of care in Phlebology. According to UEMS Rules: “European Boards are charged with the organisation of European examinations, where appropriate, in field of their specialty or particular competence”.

- European Training Requirements Phlebology

Under the aegis of the MJCP the EBP will also work on produce European recommendations for specialist training, development of a set of competences, assessment of competence, documents, reports, papers on specialty-related issues and can launch awareness-raising campaigns on issues which they find appropriate. This is necessary to guarantee a high level of phlebological care for the EU community.

The MJCP planned the actions for the creation and constitution of the EBP and for the “European Training Requirements for Phlebology” (UEMS European Standards of Postgraduate Medical Specialist Training, old Chapter 6). The working group to prepare the creation of the EBP consists of the following MJCP Members: JJ. Guex (as MJCP President), F. Mariani (as MJCP Secretary), C. Hamel-Desnos, K.P. de Roos, I. Staelens, J. Traber, T. Urbanek, S. Vasdekis, JC. Wautrecht.

In accordance with the UEMS rules [Part IV - UEMS European Boards; Ref Article X.1, X.2 (Statutes) and VI.8 (RoP)], on the basis of the attached relevant documents, the *MJCP formally requests the UEMS Council to create the working group “European Board of Phlebology”*, with the aims to guarantee the highest standards of care in the field of Phlebology in the countries of the European Union, by ensuring that the training is raised to the highest possible level and to address scientific interests in European Phlebology.

Jean Jérôme Guex - President MJCP

Fabrizio Mariani - Secretary MJCP