



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

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UEMS 2015 / 01

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

UEMS COUNCIL MEETING

BRUSSELS - BELGIUM

Friday 10th April 2015

Saturday 11th April 2015

PRESIDENT: DR ROMUALD KRAJEWSKI
TREASURER: DR GIORGIO BERCHICCI

SECRETARY-GENERAL: DR EDWIN BORMAN
LIAISON OFFICER: DR ZLATKO FRAS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The financial year 2014 –15 will be recognised as one of the key periods in the history of the UEMS. It is unusual to be able to say that while still living in this period, but so much has happened, with such wide-reaching implications, that I feel confident in doing so. Since the UEMS last met events have occurred and decisions have been taken that will have an impact for Medical Specialists throughout Europe, and beyond, for many years to come.

The first historic event is the opening of the Domus Medica Europaea (DME). With the official opening of our building on the evening of 10th April 2015, the largest and longest-established European Medical Organisation (EMO), the UEMS, will have a headquarters that befits this status, and is ideally situated, in the heart of the “political” district, for lobbying purposes. But, this is “only” the ceremonial opening, the address of the UEMS already has changed and our Secretariat already has moved in, and has been hard at work on your behalf.

With this move, the status of the UEMS has changed, by virtue of the organisation becoming a property owner, to that of a landlord with tenants. And, as the UEMS House, DME, also can serve as a meeting venue, it will support us in fulfilling our raison d'être: the representation of the medical profession in Europe, in order to improve the quality of care for our patients and the working lives of our colleagues.

But, the building that is the literal and figurative concrete expression of that status does come at a cost. Unanticipated expenses related to the development of DME have required the UEMS to alter the emphasis of its financial profile: from holding a surplus to ensuring that we always will balance the books. To help in achieving that, we have added, to our existing income streams – of membership subscriptions and our accreditation activities – a third financial stream: of rental income.

All of that has been achieved at the same time that our organisation has delivered its high standards and high output of “business as usual”:

an increase in the activity of the EACCME;

- the development, adoption and implementation of training standards;
- strengthening our financial and organisational governance;
- expanding our political influence, in Europe and more widely;
- welcoming new member organisations and specialities;
- saying farewell to colleagues, and greeting others.

It has been a truly busy and historic year.

ISSUES WITH SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Domus Medica Europaea

Avid readers of these reports – there must be some! – will know that there have been times when the DME project generated more doubt and concern than optimism. It will be a pleasure, therefore, to welcome colleagues to our new home in Brussels, the UEMS House. The tribulations of years – of “house hunting”, planning permission setbacks, problems with architects and with builders – are now starting to be overcome by the recognition that we own this place, we’ve moved in, we have tenants, meetings and examinations have been held in what now really feels like “our home”.

While the Council will be able to enjoy the “finished” DME, the UEMS has received invoices that were unanticipated, in both nature and amount, and go beyond the “usual excess” for building works, even of this extent. Needless to say, legal advice has been taken and the organisation intends to pay only what lawfully can be claimed.

Even at this early stage, the UEMS is proud to be able to welcome, as tenants, the Smoke Free Partnership and the European Patient Safety Foundation – both of which are influential lobbying organisations. Further tenancy approaches have been received and members of the “UEMS family”, National Medical Associations (NMAs) and “sister EMOs” are encouraged to apply for office space now, in order for the “UEMS House” truly to become the home for the representation in Europe, of all doctors.

After considering offers from a range of rental companies, the UEMS Executive has decided that we should take responsibility for our own rental facilities, with a full range of contract types available – from long-term tenancy to facilities for “an office for the day”.

DME already has been used for or considered as an innovative venue, including European speciality examinations, meetings for Sections and Boards, a store for the archives of a UEMS Section and, my personal project, as a library of important

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documents from all of our countries and specialities. The building has been fitted with high fidelity wi-fi networks and “high spec” audio-visual facilities, so please add your ideas here!

None of this would have been possible without the considerable efforts of our Secretariat who, apparently effortlessly, moved from Avenue de la Couronne to Rue de l’Industrie. If you’ve ever moved home, imagine moving more than fifty years of your history and an entire office’s worth of equipment, documents and “stuff”. On behalf of all in the organisation I extend deep appreciation and gratitude to our Secretariat.

Financial matters

As described above, the UEMS now has three income streams: membership subscriptions, accreditation activities and rental income. However, the UEMS’s expenditure – in the short term with regard to invoices for building works, and in the longer term for the loans linked to the purchase and development of our building – also has increased, currently more so.

Given the unexpected invoices related to the refurbishment of DME, an additional loan has been obtained, with our bank recognising our inherent financial strength but aware of our short-term cash need. The UEMS Executive has, therefore, taken the decision, also for the short-term, to delay certain payments, sharing the financial load within the UEMS family. Further information on this matter will be provided at the Council meeting.

Also at the Council meeting, in accordance with the rules of the UEMS, the Board will be asked to consider the current financial reports and the actions recommended by the Executive to ensure continued financial stability.

As the UEMS is recognised as a “large, not-for-profit non-governmental organisation” (AISBL) certain accounting rules apply. The UEMS is subject to the greater scrutiny that applies, throughout Europe, on businesses and organisations.

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The UEMS already has implemented:

- internal auditing of our accounts for 2014 – performed by Dr Hannu Halila and Dr Gerd Hofmann;
- external audit of our accounts for 2014 – performed by the Bureau Callens;
- frequent financial modelling of income and expenditure;
- the opening of 57 accounts – within the group of UEMS accounts – for Sections and Boards, Divisions and Multi-disciplinary Joint Committees;
- the establishment of a new Financial Committee to provide oversight on financial matters.

However, in order to comply fully with the increasingly stringent requirements of Belgian and European financial law, it is essential that all parts of the UEMS family must adhere to the requirements for:

- the presentation of invoices;
- standard accounting procedures;
- confirmation of sources of income.

It is clear that the investment in DME has been a considerable one, from which both our own and future generations of colleagues will derive even more considerable benefit. However, in order to do so, in a stable and sustainable way, it will be necessary to make some challenging financial decisions now.

My particular thanks to Bénédicte Reyhler and Thierry Kalala for the considerable amounts of work that have done in ensuring that the UEMS's finances and accounts are maintained in a suitable manner.

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EACCME activities

During the year 2014 – 15 much of the focus of work regarding the EACCME has been on ensuring a more robust basis for future growth.

This has included:

- new, legally-drafted standard agreements for partnership with Sections and Boards, European Speciality Accreditation Boards, National Accreditation Authorities, other International Accrediting Bodies;
- these agreements have included:
 - 2014 - Polish Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists (NAA, new)
 - 2014 - Swedish Medical Association (NAA, renewal)
 - 2014 - Croatian Medical Chamber (NAA, new)
 - 2014 - Slovak Medical Association (NAA, renewal)
 - 2014 - Finnish Medical Association (NAA, renewal)
 - 2014 - Panhellenic Medical Association (NAA, renewal)
 - 2014 - Turkish Medical Association (NAA, renewal)
 - 2014 - Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (NAA, renewal)
 - 2015 - Medical Chamber of Slovenia (NAA, renewal)
 - 2015 - MOTESZ, Hungary (NAA, renewal)
 - 2015 - European Board of Radiology (ESAB, new)

A further key step in the strategic development of the EACCME has been the creation, this year, of the Governance Board on CME-CPD. This involved the appointment, in accordance with defined competencies from a large list of applicants.

This Governance Board will be chaired initially by Len Harvey, and the following colleagues have been invited to serve on the Board: Ian Starke (UK), Kristiina Patja (Finland), Magdalena Czarnecka-Operacz (UEMS Section Dermato-Venereology), Francesca Rubulotta (MJC Intensive Care Medicine), Wolfgang Grisold (ACOE), Reinhard Grießenow (EBAC) and two members of the UEMS Executive.

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It is particularly important to note the renewal – active as of January 2015 – of the UEMS-EACCME's agreement with the American Medical Association, providing for mutual recognition of accreditation between the USA and Europe and the recognition of territoriality responsibilities. Good progress is being made to ensure the renewal of the equivalent international agreement with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

While these strategic developments will provide the basis for the future development of the EACCME, the day-to-day success of our accreditation function is achieved by the expertise and commitment of Nathalie Paulus and Patricia Demeulemeester (our Secretariat) working with colleagues from the UEMS family who provide their time and knowledge. I record my thanks to all of you – particularly Nathalie and Patricia – and I repeat my request for other colleagues to contribute to this important area.

Over the last year, the EACCME has seen small rises or stabilisations in applications and in the decisions that have been made regarding these.

The most recent figures are as set out below.

e-Learning 2012 to 2014

	2012	2013	2014
Number of applications received	72	91	91
Accredited	62	53	87
Rejected	4	8	0
In amendment	0	0	3
No follow-up from provider	6	30	1

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LEE statistics for the Full Year

New applications	2012	2013	2014
Submitted	1871	1451	1609
Accredited	1762	1194	1476
Rejected	35	34	69
Suspended	74	59	66

LEE statistics for the first quarter of the year

New applications up to 31 st March	2014	2015
Submitted	481	493
Accredited	77	89
Rejected	6	15
Suspended	12	9
On-going	386	380

May I encourage you to encourage colleagues to encourage providers of CME-CPD to apply for accreditation from the UEMS-EACCME.

Accreditation provides learners a greater level of assurance that a learning opportunity is focused on their needs and has been peer-assessed as being of a high standard. Accreditation assures Providers that they are fulfilling the high educational standards expected by specialist doctors throughout Europe.

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The UEMS family and our activities

The UEMS is not only the largest and longest-established European Medical Organisation (EMO); it is also the fastest growing!

We now have:

- 37 National Member countries
- 42 Specialist Sections
- 11 Multi-disciplinary Joint Committees
- 10 Divisions
- 3 Thematic Federations, and
- this Council meeting likely will add to those numbers!

During this meeting we shall have the inaugural meeting of the Section of Medical Oncology, and the first meeting of the Multi-disciplinary Joint Committee on Phlebology.

In order to keep contact with the now more than one thousand active representatives, it is essential that the UEMS maintains an up-to-date database of these colleagues. Please inform the Secretariat when changes occur and, please, in accordance with the UEMS Rules of Procedure, remember that it is the NMA that is responsible for confirming the nomination of speciality representatives.

CESMA and the Sections and Boards

The UEMS continues to expand its expertise and activities in the theory and practice of post-graduate and other specialist examinations, with CESMA now being recognised as the leading cross-speciality authority active at the European level.

Key elements for any examination are that they are linked to what is taught and that the assessment drives learning in a supportive, rather than a reductionist manner. The UEMS continues to make major contributions in this area through the development of

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European Training Requirements, modelled on the UEMS template, that set out the agreed international standard for training and, hence, examination.

CESMA is refining its systems for the quality assurance of specialist examinations so colleagues who are keen to enhance their expertise, or to improve the educational assessments that they make, are encouraged to link in with this work.

Deaths within the family

It was with much sadness that the UEMS family heard of the deaths of two esteemed colleagues. Messages of condolence were sent to the families of Christos Pissiotis, of Luc van Calster and of Jan Amlie, emphasising the recognition, and appreciation, of their colleagues in the UEMS of the considerable contributions each of them made.

European initiatives and lobbying efforts

The UEMS has been invited to take part in, and already has contributed to:

- The Study on Recruitment and Retention of the Health Workforce: How sharing recruitment and retention strategies at EU-level contributes to sustainable health systems:
- The European Joint Action Health Workforce: Planning and forecasting

Continuing efforts are being made to ensure that the gains made by the UEMS in the Professional Qualifications Directive are consolidated, and that we build the case for the next revision – only another six or seven years to go! Lobbying efforts have focused on incorporating European Training Requirements in the annex to the Directive.

The “magic” of DME is also starting to make itself felt, with discussions now taking place with our neighbours and tenants, the Smoke Free Partnership, as to how best we can co-operate and co-ordinate our lobbying efforts.

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Further lobbying work has included:

- CEN – outright opposition
- TTIP – cautious scepticism
- Camp Liberty – statement of support
- Ebola – statement on the potential threat

Secretariat

During this year, the UEMS has said farewell, with many thanks for his contribution in these areas, to Frederic Destrebecq who has taken up the post of Executive Director at the European Brain Council and Jean-Baptiste Rouffet who has taken a post at the Ministère de la Santé in France.

We have welcomed Lise Carratala (lise@uemls.eu) who has shown considerable ability in learning the complexities of her very large area of responsibility and already is making important contributions to the development of our agenda.

I put on record too my particular thanks to Bertrand Daval who joined the UEMS at a very challenging time and has shown himself, not only to be a highly capable colleague but also a respected and supportive leader of the Secretariat.

Edwin Borman

Secretary General

April 2015