

“PREVENTION OF COVID-19”. A Report by Sub-Working Group 1 (SWG1) of the ad hoc Working Group (WG) on COVID-19 of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)

On 29 June 2021, the UEMS Council announced the establishment of an ad hoc Working Group (WG) on COVID-19, headed by the President of UEMS, Professor Vassilios Papalois as its Chair, and its official members - to work in it without any remuneration - selected among those nominated by individual European National Medical Associations and UEMS Bodies. On its first meeting on 9 July 2021, the WG acknowledged the need for strategic and tactical thinking about (a) a shift towards prevention to deal with current and future pandemics; (b) reinforcing engagement of all medical specialists, medical based input, capacity of heavily burdened health systems, control of after-effects of the pandemic; (c) expanding the legislative and organisational scope of the European Commission; (d) improving European cooperation. It decided to produce reports with non-prescriptive guidelines based on overarching principles, adopting a holistic approach, that could be utilised in every individual European country and be meaningful in the long run, i.e., and not to offer advice for the following couple of months. On its second meeting on 12 October 2021, the WG agreed that its purpose - not being clinical but professional - was “to identify and reflect on lessons that could be learned from what had been happening during the COVID-19 pandemic up until that time, and to see how recipients of the WG reports - including the European Commission, the World Health Organization, National Governments, National Medical Associations, specialist physicians - could use them to plan for the future and deal with pandemics and similar challenges”. To this end, five Sub-Working Groups (SWGs) on separate subthemes were created within the WG, and assigned to prepare reports, without any funding for commissioning specific studies. Their selected Coordinators produced a brief document with a few bullet points regarding sub-headings, deliverables and timeframe, which was approved by the WG Chair.

Subsequently, Sub-Working Group 1 (SWG1) on the subtheme “Prevention of COVID-19” drew up, completed and submitted its first report to UEMS Council President on 27 April 2022. Its Members are: Coordinator, **Theodore Bazas**, MD, PhD, Fellow of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of London, public health physician, specialist and consultant in occupational medicine, Member of Committee of Health and Welfare, Philothei-Psychico Municipality, Athens, Greece, Senior Member of Teaching Staff, MSc in Health and Safety in the Workplace, Medical School, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece, National Delegate of Greece at the Section of Occupational Medicine of UEMS, former (FT) Regional Adviser of the World Health Organisation on NCDs and Member of its Experts Advisory Panel on Occupational Health. **Mark Clarfield**, MD, FRCPC, Specialist in Geriatric Medicine, Emeritus Professor of Geriatrics and Director of the Medical School for International Health of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, Senior Adviser of Global Health, former Professor (adjunct), Department of Family Medicine and Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. **Iliia Nadareishvili**, MD, PhD specialist in Public Health, Associate Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology, Head of Research Unit, David Tvildiani Medical University, Tbilisi, Georgia, National Delegate of Georgia at the Section of Public Health of UEMS. **Vassilios Papalois**, MD PhD FICS FRCS UFEBS, Professor of transplantation surgery and consultant transplant and general surgeon, Hammersmith Hospital, clinical lead for medico-legal issues at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, Chair of the Ethics Committee of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary, member of the Research Ethics Committee of the UK Ministry of Defence, President of UEMS. **Nicola Petrosillo** MD, FESCMID, Specialist in Infectious Diseases, Specialist in Internal Medicine, Head, Infection Control, University Hospital Campus Bio-Medico, Rome, Italy, Chair, International Affairs Sub Committee, ESCMID, Chair, MJC Infection Control, UEMS, Chair, Infection Prevention Committee, Cdiff Foundation, Professor of Infectious Diseases, University Saint Camillus, Rome, Italy, President of the Multidisciplinary Joint Committee- Infection Control of UEMS. To read the full Report they co-authored on “Prevention of COVID-19” [click here](#)....