

## **Multidisciplinary Joint Committee Head and Neck Surgery**

### **Background**

Head and Neck Surgery is an example of clinical and research field covered by many medical specialties that perform their procedures in the region of head and neck. Also, it is a field where interdisciplinary collaboration is strongly advocated and specialized centres, particularly in head and neck oncology, are composed of specialists representing several specialties working together to provide the best, comprehensive care.

During discussions at the UEMS Advisory Board and UEMS Council meetings in April 2021, there appeared to be consensus across a number of specialties to create a new MJC in Head and Neck Surgery. The UEMS Executive has taken the initiative and moved forward with this idea to create a formal proposal for UEMS October 2021 meetings.

To this end the UEMS office asked for expressions of interest from all Sections and held a preliminary Zoom meeting of interested parties on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 2021. The interest in the proposal was strong, and was expressed by the following UEMS Sections:

Section of Dermatology-Venereology  
Section of Neurosurgery  
Section of Oro-Maxillo-Facial Surgery  
Section of Otorhinolaryngology  
Section of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery  
Section of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine  
Section of Surgery  
Section of Vascular Surgery

Suggestions for the future of the MJC in Head and Neck Surgery are wide-ranging and exciting. They include:

- Ensuring examinations involving overlapping curricula within the Board examinations are assessed in the same way. Under the UEMS Explanatory notes Ref Article X.1, X.2 (Statutes) and VI.8 (RoP) Head and Neck Surgery would be considered as a Particular Competence.
- Ensuring that all ETRs in specialties where Head & Neck Surgery is part of curricula include inter-disciplinary training, and where a curriculum and syllabus include overlapping practice areas these are configured in the same way across specialties.
- Promoting Interface Training across specialties in Head and Neck Surgery
- Develop common guidelines and promote sharing of all materials across all specialties practicing in this area.
- Include Head and Neck oncology (which involves cancer of the oropharynx, larynx, pharynx, oral cavity and salivary glands) with participation of radiation oncology, medical oncology, and the rehabilitation.

### **Proposal**

Under the UEMS ROPs the UEMS Sections propose the creation of a new MJC. Once created, the MJC will appoint its Bureau, define a scope of its activities, create working groups and make plans for the work.

The proposal to create a MJC in Head and Neck Surgery will be presented at the UEMS Council meeting in October 2021 that will be held in Limassol, Cyprus.

The Executive Committee invites the UEMS Sections that declared interest and other UEMS Sections interested in participation in the proposed MJC activities to confirm their interest by writing to the UEMS Secretary General and join the list of formal proposers to create this new MJC