

лекарска комора србије Број 692 <sub>Патум</sub> 04 03 2016

## ЛЕКАРСКА КОМОРА СРБИЈЕ • SERBIAN MEDICAL CHAMBER

Dear Lise Carratala,

We, the Serbian Medical Chamber, as the national organisation representing all Medical Doctors in Serbia, would like to ask you to support our petition to allow Serbia to become an associated member of UEMS.

In the past two decades Serbia has taken large strides both politically and economically. As a country we bridge the gap between the eastern and western attitudes. Prior to recent advancements, our medical students and physicians were excluded from most International and European organizations and conferences, thankfully these instances are now rare. Serbian physicians can now take an active role in shared patient management with neighbouring European countries and collaborate on research initiatives. In this way our physicians have rightfully gained the respect of fellow medical professionals in Europe, likewise there is visible improvement and development in our own medical practices.

The Serbian Medical Chamber was founded in 1901 and re-established in 2005, as an independent governing body for Serbian medical professionals. Today our members are a consolidation of civilian and military, state and private doctors. The status of the Serbian Medical Chamber has been defined within the statues of Serbian Law governing Health Workers, published in the "Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia" 107/2005. All physicians who, as a profession, work within the health care system, must be members of the Serbian Medical Chamber. Currently, there are 35.200 physicians subscribed as members with a valid license to practice.

In order for our medical professionals to play their part in achieving cohesive treatment across borders, full- training and fellowship exchange programs need to be established. However since Serbia is not yet officially a EU member state, the Serbian medical exams are not recognised across our continent. This creates an impediment for our medical professionals to move within Europe in order to gain and share medical expertise. As a preparatory step towards transition into the EU, we believe that training programs between the EU and Serbia would result in a more unified medical knowledge and better patient shared-care. In addition we envisage returning medical practitioners will help to build new EU-Serbian connections and advance shared academic programs.

Associated membership to the UEMS would give our trained specialists the chance to obtain European accreditation. We believe that this will raise the standard of training within our country and help create a uniform level of clinical care within greater Europe. As a country, Serbia has long history of high medical



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standards and we envisage that we will positively contribute to further advancing and improving medical practices within our continent.

According to the Statutes of UEMS "National organisations representing specialist doctors in other member countries of the Council of Europe but which are not member of the European Economic Area (EEA) and in other interested European countries can become associate Members." Serbia is a member of the Council of Europe. The Serbian Medical Chamber, the national organisation representing all Medical and Specialists Doctors in Serbia, with receipt of this letter, is petitioning you on their behalf, to allow Serbia to become an associate member of UEMS.

We would kindly ask you to accept our request and to support our petition, of becoming associated member of UEMS. We are grateful for your kind consideration of our proposition,

Yours sincerely,

Prim. Dr Vesna Jovanović

General Manager of Serbian Medical Chamber

Belgrade, 07th March 2016