

# History of UEMS

50 Year Anniversary

# Five Phases

1. Foundation
2. Sections & Boards
3. EC & Doctors' Directives
4. Expansion & Diversity
5. EACCME

# Foundation

20<sup>th</sup> July 1958

Instigators:

Dr Jacques Courtois (Fr)

Dr Oscar Godin (B)

# Foundation

12 Attendees:

from Belgium – 4

from France – 3

from Germany – 2

from Italy, Luxembourg and  
Netherlands – 1

+ Mr Christian Paul

# Foundation

## First Office Holders:

President – Dr Courtois – Gynaecologist

Secretary-General – Dr Godin – ENT

Bureau Director – Mr Paul – 38 years



# Primary Aim

First Statutes emphasised the role of UEMS in promoting the highest quality of care and training of medical specialists in Europe for the benefit of the health of all European citizens

# Primary Activity

To convince the European Commission (particularly Mr de Crayencourt) that health care required a Directive establishing comparable high levels of medical training in the Member States.

“Free movement” was conditional on  
“Mutual Recognition of Qualifications”.

# Specialist Sections

1962

In order to collect all the necessary evidence, collate and harmonise the different training in the Member States, individual Specialist Sections were formed in 1962 by UEMS.

Each provided detailed reports on their speciality with future proposals.

Dr G Des Marez collated them all

# Dr Guy Des Marez



# Advisory Committee on Medical Training (ACMT)

Later, the Commission established the ACMT (Advisory Committee on Medical Training) comprised of 3 groups –

Government officials in Public Health

The Practicing Profession

Universities

UEMS members have always been active in it with 2 being both President of UEMS & ACMT (Pouyard & Harvey) at the same time.

# Doctors' Directives

First Directive enacted in 1975

Replaced by Directive - 93/16/EC

Latest Directive - 2006/100/EC

# Organisation

Pre – 1993

Secretary-General controlled all UEMS activity

Increasing workload and diversity needed an active president and regular meetings of the Executive which continues today.

# New Era

Dr Robert Peiffer (B) – Secretary-General –  
1990 – 1999

Dr Leonard Harvey (GB) – President –  
1993 – 1999

Dr Cees Leibbrandt (NL) – Secretary-General  
– 1999 - 2002







# Further Developments

EC involvement maintained re Specialist Recognition but also advice on other areas of developing EC policy

Strengthening relations between Council and Sections

Creation of European Boards to allow Scientific Societies to participate with the Sections

# Further Developments

Increased contacts with medical organisations of Central & Eastern Europe enabling them to become Associate members of Council

Development of consensus policy and Charters to enable UEMS member associations influence their own governments.

# Documents approved

Charters on:

Postgraduate and Continuing Training of  
medical specialists

Visitation of Training Centres

Assurance of Quality

Autonomy of Practice

# Documents approved

Declarations on Quality (Trilogy):

Policy on Continuing Professional  
Development – Basel – 2001

Promoting Good Medical Care – 2004

Ensuring the Quality of Medical Care –  
Budapest - 2007

# Recent Presidents

Dr Cillian Twomey – Ireland – 1999 - 2002

Dr Hannu Halila – Finland – 2002 - 2005

Dr Zlatko Fras – Slovenia – 2005 -







# Continuing Medical Education/ Continuous Professional Development

Response to public & political concerns

Traditionally a voluntary professional  
obligation

Need for the profession to lead

Harmonisation of European CME

Mutual Recognition of CME awards between  
Member States

# European Accreditation Council

Consultation with National Accreditation bodies and Medical Organisations led to the creation of the European Accreditation Council for CME – EACCME in January 2000.

# European Accreditation Council

It is:

Based on mutual trust and understanding  
between authorities and professional societies

Independent

Free of commercial interest

Highly valued by CME providers

Electronic application

Reciprocal agreement with USA

# Dr Bernard Maillet – current Secretary General



# The Future

An expanding EU will continue to need expert Specialist advice to ensure high quality medical care for all its citizens.

Issues:

Cross-border provision of services

Free-movement of patients

Free-movement of doctors

E-Health in all its aspects

Revision of Directive on Recognition of Qualifications

UEMS will also need to modify its structure and working with a non-medical Chief Executive



# The Future

UEMS has reached its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The enthusiasm of its Executive, Council, Sections & Boards and Bureau staff show that it is well prepared to continue to actively represent European medical specialists for many years to come.

To Finish





**Thank You for your attention**