



UEMS
SPECIALIST SECTION OF PATHOLOGY
EUROPEAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY

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**MINUTES OF THE 19TH MEETING HELD IN LUXEMBOURG (LUXEMBOURG) ON
MAY 24TH, 2003**

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The chairman, Prof. Jaime Prat, opens the session at 9.00 a.m. and welcomes the following delegates: Prof. Nils-Petter Aardal (NO), Dr. Cecilie Alfsen (NO), Dr. Calypso Barbatis (GR), Dr. Brigitte Bruun Rasmussen (DK), Dr. Nesimi Buyukbabani (TU), Dr. C. Capesius-Kisliakoff (LUX), Prof. Claude Cuvelier (B), Prof. Dusan Ferluga (SLO), Prof. Hans Goebel (Euro-CNS), Dr. Zoltan Hanzely (HUN), Dr. Peter Kelly (IR), Ms. Gisela Kempny (G), Dr. Nigel Kirkham (UK), Prof. Gamze Mocan Kuzey (TR), Dr. D. Laedlein Greilshammer (FR), Prof. Veli-Pekka Lehto (FI), Dr. Robert Maurer (SWI), Dr. Oscar Nappi (IT), Prof. Jaime Prat (SP), Prof. Dirk Ruiter (NL), Dr. René Scheiden (LUX), Prof. Eero Saksela (FI), Prof. Christer Sundström (SW), Prof. Françoise Thivolet Bejui (FR), Prof. Jan van den Tweel (NL), Prof. James Underwood (UK), Prof. Alain Verhest (Cytology). The address list of delegates is circulated and actualized.

2. NEW MEMBERS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There are two new members: Prof. Hans Goebel (Euro-CNS), Dr. Zoltan Hanzely (HUN). Apologies for absence came from Dr. Anne Marie Bak Jylling (DK, Junior pathologist), Dr. Helena Garcia (PO), Prof. Nives Jonjic (CR), Prof. Jahn Nesland (ESP) and Dr. Carsten Rygaard (DK).

3. MINUTES OF THE NAPLES MEETING (2001)

Minor comments were received on the concept-minutes by e-mail and subsequently incorporated. No further comments were made.

4. REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN

a. Executive committee UEMS

Dr. H. Halila (FIN) was elected President of the UEMS, and Dr. B. Maillat (B), who happens to be a pathologist, as Secretary-General. Prof. Jaime Prat and Prof. Eero Saksela recently visited Dr. Halila in Helsinki and discussed ongoing Pathology issues, including the decline of the autopsy rate (see Addendum I).

b. Mutation in Section/Board

A successor for Prof. Breitfellner (AUS) has not been selected yet. Prof. Gregor Mikuz (AUS) will be reminded to advise. Prof. Eero Saksela was asked to prolongue his membership in order to finalize the activities on the Autopsy Task Group. No suggestions were received for the successor of Dr. Anne Marie Bak Jylling (DK, Junior Pathologist). The terms for membership are four years with possible prolongation for two terms of four years (UEMS procedure, part two, article 24, VII). For the continuity it is important to have an overlap of the terms of the two representatives per country. The national authorities appoint the members.

c. Associated EU members

A letter was sent to the National Medical Association of the Associated EU with the request to provide the names of two delegates for the Pathology Section per country.

d. UEMS document

The UEMS requests comments by Friday 1 August on a document entitled: "Quality Assurance of Clinical Practice". It is suggested to incorporate the autopsy here as quality assessment instrument. The document is placed on the website europathol.org and comments can be sent to the secretary by July 15.

e. CME credit points

The UEMS Section of Pathology/European Board of Pathology fully supports approval for 59 CME credit points of the 19th European Congress of Pathology in Ljubljana, September 6-11, 2003. President of the Congress is Prof. Dusan Ferluga (SLO). A formal application for CME has also been submitted to the Royal College of Pathologists in the UK.

f. Tissue banks

Several important developments on the installation of tissue banks are worth mentioning:

- The EORTC Tissue Bank project guided by Prof. Wolter Oosterhuis (NL). See website eortc@eortc.be and a recent review in Nature Oncology.
- The recently held Madrid meeting on Tissue Banking in Oncology. See website cnio.es.
- A report on Organ Retention produced by the Royal College of Pathologists (Prof. James Underwood, UK). According to the view in this report the Department of Pathology is the custodian of tissues. In some countries a mixed committee of clinicians and pathologists advises on the use of the tissues stored. A tissue bank in Denmark

consisting of breast cancer lesions is organized this way. In the UK an Ethics Committee is involved.

- An English translation of a document with regulations developed in The Netherlands is available now. See website www.fmwv.nl. It is called: "Code for Proper Secondary Use of Human Tissue in The Netherlands. The code contains amongst others regulations on the consent procedures and the rights of patients on information on the outcome of the studies.
- Based on these important developments and the crucial position of Pathology it was decided to install a Task Group on Tissue Banking (see 6).

5. REPORT OF TASK GROUPS

a. Autopsy

The task group on Autopsy, chaired by Prof. Eero Saksela (FIN), has produced a draft for a position paper on European policy concerning the medical autopsies. The draft is placed on the website europathol.org including the powerpoint presentation given by Prof. Saksela. From this presentation it became clear that the whole European medical community should be made actually aware of the decreasing autopsy rates and the threat that it poses to the quality assurance of good clinical practice, patients rights, medical epidemiology and training. The UEMS Section of Pathology should formulate consensus European standard for the recommended autopsy policies to be adopted either through the European commission directives or through national boards of health. During the subsequent discussion agreement is reached on the intentions of the paper general recommendations. However, in several countries (UK, NL) a generic consent for autopsies will not be accepted. In the UK a consent paper (8 pages) is currently used for each individual patient in order to obtain permission. Regarding an optimal autopsy rate, about 30% is proposed by several countries (G, NL, UK). The Task Group will prepare short general recommendations based on a reasonable European autopsy policy. In addition, a publication can be prepared and submitted to a general medical journal.

b. Examination

The chairman, Prof. Jan van den Tweel (NL) gives an overview of the results obtained in the previous five years. Candidates so far were mainly derived from Spain, The Netherlands and Eastern European countries. Therefore, broader participation should be propagated. After ample discussion about pro's and con's of examination and the possible benefits of a European exam it is proposed to endorse the European exam by harmonization with those member states that already use examination (FIN, UK). It would be desirable to compose a fully computerized examination as in the USA. The USA would accept some centers in Europe to participate in a pilot study to harmonize the examinations.

The Task Group, consisting of Prof. Jan van den Tweel (NL), Prof. Jaime Prat (SP) and Prof. Eero Saksela (FIN) is willing to continue the current examination procedure for one year. In the mean time, new tasks group members should be selected in order to develop a new

policy. Prof. Van den Tweel (NL) urges the delegates to stimulate participation to the forthcoming European exam, to be held during the 19th European Congress of Pathology in Ljubljana (SLOV).

c. Dermatopathology

Prof. Dirk Ruiters (NL) has communicated the position of the UEMS Section of Pathology formulated during the Ljubljana meeting to Dr. Hendrik Jan Hulsebosch (NL), previous chairman of the UEMS Section of Dermatology and Venerology, and Prof. Harald Golnick (G), current chairman. Prof. Golnick also supports harmonization, but he would like to retain dermatopathology in academic dermatology. He fully agrees that dermatopathology in private practice should be covered by pathology. Prof. Ruiters will discuss this position during the forthcoming meeting of the ESP Dermatopathology Working Group chaired by Prof. Martin Cook (UK) in Ljubljana, September 2003, and give feedback on further action. The following points were raised during subsequent discussion:

- Dermatopathological diagnostic reports should be signed out by pathologists only.
- The interest of the patient should be the central issue in the positions of Dermatology and Pathology i.e. the quality of diagnosis.
- In Germany an official agreement was made for training and practicing dermatopathology. Dermatologists should have a training of at least two years in dermatopathology in special training sites or in institutes of pathology.
- In France a model on subspecialisation recently has been developed.

These points of view will be communicated among the members of the ESP Dermatopathology Working Group.

d. Harmonization of Pathology Training

The paper prepared by Prof. Ruiters, Roald and Prat will be resubmitted for publication. Prof. Underwood will be consulted in order to make the paper likely for publication in the BMJ.

6. OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

A table containing the main results of the recently held survey was circulated during the meeting and completed by those delegates that had not responded so far. The finalized table is enclosed as addendum II. The main objectives are:

- Harmonise/standardize training including end terms, continuing medical education and competence requirements (charter)
- Stimulate active participation of delegates
- Develop guidelines for organ retention (including tissue bank)
- Stimulate man-power planning and image of pathology

The ways to achieve as proposed by the Finnish delegates are:

- Formulate succinct consensus positions
- Influence EU commission
- Access National Health authorities

In addition:

- Install dedicated Task Groups
- Participate in sessions of European Congress of Pathology

- Launch exchange fellowship program

Most delegates were willing to participate in a Task Group. As this would increase the activities and discussion in the Section/Board, the annual meeting should last the whole day. A majority of the delegates chose to maintain Saturday as meeting day.

7. INSTALLATION OF NEW TASK GROUPS

Based on the foregoing the following Task Groups were (re-)installed:

- Autopsy
Chair: Prof. Eero Saksela (FIN)
Members:
Dr. Birgitte Bruun Rasmussen (DK)
Dr. Dennis Laedlein Greilsammer (F)
Prof. Jaime Prat (SP)
Prof. James Underwood (UK)
Prof. Peter Wünsch (G)
- Examination
Chair: Prof. Jan van den Tweel (NL)
Members:
Prof. Jaime Prat (SP)
Prof. Eero Saksela (FIN)
- Tissue bank
Chair : Prof. James Underwood (UK)
Members:
Prof. Claude Cuvelier (B)
Prof. Veli-Pekka Lehto (FIN)
Prof. Christen Sundström (SWE)
Prof. Francoise Thivolet Bejui (FR)

The Task Groups are asked to formulate succinct consensus positions that can be discussed within the Section/Board and prepare recommendations for further actions.

8. FINANCES

The financial report of 2002 is approved. Members states that have not paid the contribution for 2002 and/or 2003 are urged to do so.

9. VARIA

- Prof. Claude Cuvelier (B) is preparing an international meeting on Pathology Practice in Brussels, in 2004 and asks whether the UEMS Section of Pathology/European Board of Pathology would like to participate. Several members express an interest in active participation.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in Budapest, Hungary, Saturday May 22, 2004. Our host will be Dr. Zoltan Hanzely (HUN).

11. CLOSING

On behalf of all delegates the chairman Prof. Prat expresses his gratitude to Dr. René Scheiden for the excellent organization and great hospitality.