

## UEMS - Frédéric Destrebecq

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**Sent:** jeudi 27 mars 2008 8:53  
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**Subject:** Charter on Training of Medical Specialists - Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine

Dear Dr.Maillet (dear Bernard),

the previously received white book and recently received charter on training in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine requires the following comments from the UEMS-Section of Paediatrics:

- Rehabilitation in children requires a profound understanding of the structure and the function of organ systems during the special period of growth and development. This fundamental basis for any medical intervention in newborns, infants, children and adolescents is only given in one medical speciality, i.e. Paediatrics. In addition, rehabilitation in complex and chronic disorders of childhood and adolescents (cystic fibrosis, congenital heart disease, neurologic disorders in childhood, etc.) requires a substantial specialisation which is only given in the existing spectrum of tertiary care Paediatric subspecialities (Paediatric Cardiology, Pneumology, Nephrology, Gastroenterology, etc.). From this, one must conclude that rehabilitation programs in Paediatric patients can and should only be planned, organised, conducted and monitored by Paediatrician. On this basis, the UEMS-Section of Paediatrics strongly disagrees with any potential attempts of the section on Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine to claim competence in treating Paediatric patients.
- We also are somewhat unhappy about the commonly used abbreviation "PRM" for Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine. In Paediatrics "PRM" is commonly used for "Paediatric Respiratory Medicine", a prominent and very active Paediatric subspeciality. Another medical speciality using the same abbreviation seems to be a recipe for confusion.

I hope that the leaders of the UEMS will understand and support our position in this important issue.

Best regards

Prof.Dr.M.Zach  
(President, UEMS-Section of Paediatrics)

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