

PREPARATORY COURSES PRESIDENT, JEMS SECTION OF SURGERY BRUSSELS, 13 DECEMBER 201A FOREUROPEANIEVANIS PROFESSOR VASSILIOS PAPALOIS JEMS VICE PRESIDENT

### UEMS-CESMA COUNCIL FOR EUROPEAN SPECIALISTS MEDICAL ASSESSMENTS



IS THERE A NEED FOR PREPARATORY COURSES FOR EUROPEAN EXAMS ???

IS IT ETHICAL TO ORGANISE PREPARATORY COURSES FOR EUROPEAN EXAMS ???



#### THE NEED

Benchmarking against European standards and requirements not adequate

Trainees are used to their own system of assessment but feel entirely out of time and place for a European exam

A significant proportion of applicants never had the experience of some of our examination formats

All the published guidelines in the world cannot replace real life communication

If we don't do it, who is going to do it?



#### IS IT ETHICAL

Can the examiner prepare the examinee?

Of course **NOT !!!** 

#### That is why:

- the spin is not to teach you how to pass the exam but to familiarise yourself with the the format and content so that success or failure depends on real competency
- faculty cannot be examiners
- no simulation questions can be used in the exam



#### STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

#### Time:

at least 4 months before the exam

#### Venue:

hospital or university

#### **Faculty:**

- have been but cannot be examiners for 2-3 exams following the course
- local faculty from Universities, Colleges, Scientific Societies
   Holders of Honorary Diplomas



#### STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

#### Cost:

-affordable by all/ Registration fee 1/3 to 1/4 of the exam fees

#### **Number of participants:**

- 30/40 to make it educationally meaningful
- faculty to participants ratio/ small group of committed educators

#### **Social programme:**

-avoid



#### STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

#### **Content:**

- -not everything you want to know and you were afraid to ask
- focus on topics that vary across Europe

#### **Format:**

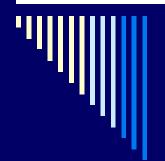
- suggestive reading
- relatively short introductory lectures
- identify and discuss variations of approaches and practice
- exam simulation



#### **MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS**

- Always fully booked
- No complaints for failure to due to "surprise parties" for the content or format
- Excellent feedback
- A certain proportion of participants decide not to take the exam
- Attended by people who are not planning to take the exam





## **Preparatory Courses Transplantation Surgery**

Budapest, Semmelweis University, May 2009
Santander, University of Cantabria, June 2010
Limassol, Cyprus, June 2011
Tel-Aviv, May 2012
Venice, May 2013
Athens, June 2014













#### **PROPOSAL**

Working group

Survey the current status regarding organisation of preparatory courses across European Boards

Produce CESMA guidelines and plan for the future



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTEMTION v.papalois@imperial.ac.uk