

## UEMS ORL Section

Ulrik Pedersen  
President

Adrian Agius  
Secretary general

Renato Piantanida  
Treasurer

## UEMS ORL Section



JULY 14TH, 2015

**Dr. Romuald Krajewski, President UEMS**

**Dr. Edwin Borman, Secretary General UEMS**

Dear colleagues

In the following, I will answer your letter dated April 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 concerning the title of our specialty and the duration of training.

All over Europe, the ENT specialists are performing surgery not only in the ear, nose and throat area, but also in the head and neck area. We have made a general inquiry among all our member states and in nearly all countries, the ENT departments are called department for Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

The reason for that is that head and neck surgery is a natural part of our specialty. Surgeons in our specialty, especially those in the university departments, are familiar with the surgical treatment of salivary gland tumors, skull base tumors and all cancer cases situated in the head and neck region including the thyroid. It is therefore very important for us that our official name reflect what we in fact are doing in our daily practice.

We have discussed this issue in the board of our section and among the delegates and there are unanimous wishes to ask for recognition from the European Commission to change our name to:

### **Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery**

It is important for me to underline that we do not consider this as an offensive action against other specialties who also participate in the treatment of patients with head and neck tumors. We consider it the state of the art to treat most of the patients with major head and tumors in a multidisciplinary setting comprising both our specialty, maxillo facial surgeons, plastic surgeons, neurosurgeons, oncologist and so on.

The duration of training in our specialty in Europe is in most countries of at least 5 years duration. In some countries, the health authorities/governments have plans for the reduction of the training time to 4 years and even less than that. Examples of that is Italy, Spain and Lithuania. The representatives from these countries have asked the board of our section to address the health authorities in these countries to express our concern for this reduction in education time. We have done so and in our letter, stressed that it is very important for the free movement of doctors in Europe that the quality of training is at the same level and duration all over EU.

Yours Sincerely

Ulrik Pedersen, President

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