MEETINGS OF THE UEMS COUNCIL

Reports of UEMS Bodies

Thursday 27th April 2017
Friday 28th April 2017
Israel
1. Section of Medical Microbiology

SECTION MEETING
The annual Section Meeting was held on the 8th of April in Amsterdam just before the annual European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID). A total of 28 colleagues (from 17 full member countries, 3 observer countries and one associate member country) attended. This was so far the largest meeting of SMM. The curriculum was finalized and sent out for approval by the national societies.

BUREAU MEETING
The Bureau of the Section, consisting of the president, secretary (Prof Franz Allerberger), treasurer (Dr Daniela Marchetti) and two liaison officers (Assoc Prof Truls Leegaard – Infectious Diseases, and Prof Katja Seme – Section of Laboratory Medicine) had one meeting in 2016 (Oslo, 11th of March).

COUNCIL MEETINGS
The president attended the UEMS council meeting held in Brussels (20th-22nd October 2016). The spring meeting was cancelled.

EACCME
The EACCME council meeting (9th January) was attended by Dr. Danieal Marchetti, who also attended the 3rd CME-meeting in Amsterdam on 12th November 2016.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER SECTIONS
This year the liaison officer from the Section of Laboratory Medicine could not attend the annual meeting of the SMM. The liaison officer from the Section of Infectious Diseases (Davorka Dusek) attended the annual meeting of the SMM. Truls Leegaard attended the meeting of the Section of Infectious Diseases in Budapest on 10th September 2016. Unfortunately, no invitation was received from the Section of Laboratory Medicine to attend their meetings.

COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES (ESCMID)
There is a close cooperation with ESCMID. The ESCMID President elect (Prof Mario Poljak) and the President of the Trainee Association of ESCMID (Erlangga Yusuf) attended the annual meeting of SMM. SMM was represented by the president at the meeting of the ESCMID Professional Affairs Subcommittee at ECCMID.

OTHER ACTIVITIES
Nomination-letters for UEMS-SMM delegates were updated in cooperation with the UEMS secretary in Brussels.
The European Section and Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (ESBGH) is one of the Specialist Sections of UEMS (The European Union of Medical Specialists), which was founded in 1958 and represents > 1.6 million Medical Specialists, working in 37 countries. Two delegates from each UEMS member country are selected as National Delegates to provide a balance between professional defenders and academics. The Section & Board meet twice a year. In 2016 the ESBGH met in June, in Kusadasi and in October, in Vienna. The meetings in 2017 will be held in June, in Oslo and in October, in Barcelona. The routine business of the Section and Board of Gastroenterology & Hepatology is carried out by an Executive Committee.

Functions of the ESBGH:

- Define, assess and secure the standards of education and training in Gastroenterology and Hepatology.
- Evaluate the quality of International Gastroenterology and Hepatology CME/CPD in conjunction with EACCME.
- Promote exchange of trainee gastroenterologists and hepatologists.
- Collect and analyse workforce demographics in Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

CURRICULUM - The Blue Book 2017 – to be approved at the UEMS April 2017 meeting

The newly revised curriculum, with UEG, EASL and the EJD represented on the writing group, is available at [http://www.eubogh.org/blue-book](http://www.eubogh.org/blue-book).

In the Blue Book are described the Roles of UEMS-Relationship with the ESBGH, the definition of the speciality, the vision, purpose and key objectives of the ESBGH, explanations about the Fellowship of the ESBGH and about Training Centre Accreditation, a description of the ESBGH Examination.

The setting and organization of the Training Programme, including training requirements for trainees, trainers and training institutions are described. The Core Curriculum has been thoroughly reviewed and is divided in several parts:

- Basic competences in gastroenterology and hepatology
- Policies on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
- Competencies and training related to common presentations
- Competencies and training related to diseases and their management
- Endoscopy training
- Ultrasound training curriculum interventional ultrasound (INVUS 1)
In light of the increasing specialization and demands of the speciality, the Higher training modules were also reviewed, including:
- Digestive oncology
- Advanced hepatology curriculum
- Higher training in nutrition
- Interventional endoscopy curriculum
- EUS interventions (INVUS 2)

ESBGH SUBCOMMITTEES

- **Continuing Medical Education (CME Committee):** Chair: Ludwig Kramer: ludwig.kramer@wienkav.at
  The CME Committee assesses the educational content of gastroenterology meetings throughout Europe and further afield for the award of CME credits in conjunction with EACCME. The CME Committee evaluates around 50-75 Live Learning events and 5-10 E Learning applications each year. The CME Committee takes part in UEMS/EACCME consultations and meetings and is actively implementing the EACCME 2.0 guidelines on assessing CME applications (https://www.uems.eu/uems-activities/accreditation/eaccme).

- **Training Recognition Committee (TRC Committee):** Chair, Nurdan Tozun: nurdan.tozun@acibadem.edu.tr
  The TRC assesses applicants for the award of the Diploma/Fellowship of the European Section and Board of Gastroenterology & Hepatology. The TRC also inspects Gastroenterology Training Centres throughout Europe and recognizes Centres of sufficient standard as a recognised ‘Training Centre of the European Board of Gastroenterology & Hepatology’.
  To date, the ESBGH has awarded 1477 Fellowships and approved 73 Training Centres. Three Training Centres submitted their application and wait for inspection.

- **Manpower & Public Affairs Committee (M&PA Committee):** Chair, Gian Dorta: The Manpower & Public Affairs Committee of the ESBGH is responsible for collating and acting on Workforce issues across Europe. Surveys are regularly conducted via National ESBGH delegates providing detailed information which is used in planning services and ensuring adequate numbers of trainees.

- **Examinations Committee (EC Committee):** Chair, Dr Hannu Nuutinen: The Examinations Committee is responsible for maintaining the Academic standards of the ESBGH examination by taking part in Question Writing and Standard Setting.
  The ESBGH Exam is a fully validated assessment of knowledge of gastroenterology and hepatology as laid down in the Blue Book. The examination has been running since 2014 and the fourth examination will take place on April 27th 2017. For further details see http://www.eubogh.org/exam.
Eligibility requirements:
There are no restrictions to entry for the ESBGH exam. There is no limit to the number of attempts that can be made. For doctors in formal Gastroenterology and Hepatology training programmes success is more likely if the exam is taken after the first year.

The remit of the ESBGH exam:
Success in this exam is a demonstration of having achieved the knowledge necessary to fulfil the requirements of the ESBGH curriculum which is a Europe-wide description of the level expected of a specialist Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist.

The first exam was held on 23rd April 2014. Fifty candidates sat in test centres. A post-exam survey had positive evaluations on the content of the exam and about the administration of the exam, the quality of the test centres, etc. The number of candidates doubled in 2015 and 2016. The European ESBGH Exam is now mandatory in Switzerland and the Netherlands. The Examination will be translated into Polish in 2017.

ESBGH-UEG Activities

Common Interest Group at the UEGW - 2014-2015
Educational session – ‘Moving GI Education into the future: Current challenges, future needs’ – UEGW Barcelona, 2017
Collaboration on targeted provision of Training and Education.
ESBGH booth at UEG meetings.

ESBGH Executive Committee:
President of the Section: Dr Jean Paul Jacques
President of the Board: Dr Ian Barrison
Secretary General, Section & Board: Dr Isabelle Cremers
Treasurer, Section & Board: Dr Jan Lillienau
Secretariat Contact: Ana Tavares
Website: www.eubogh.org

The ESBGH maintains contact with stakeholders through our website www.eubogh.org.
The website contains comprehensive information about the Blue Book, the ESBGH Fellowship and accreditation of Training Centres.
3. **Section of Medical Oncology**

1. Invitations has been sent out to countries without representation in the Medical Oncology Section.
2. Also several invitations sent out to the existing Medical Oncology representatives to volunteer in forming a task force to prepare the European Training Requirements for Medical Oncology, total of 5 candidates including myself, a team has been created and the work has been divided fairly in -between these 5 members. The writing of the ETR is in process and expected to be presented in Fall meeting to the UEMS representative bodies.
3. Collaboration in Medical Joint Committee Cancer activities continued both for the completion of existing projects and also creating new ones, the current one is completed and actively involved in preparing the manuscript.
4. Section of Rheumatology

The UEMS Section of Rheumatology and European Board of Rheumatology meeting was held in Paris, 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} December 2016.

Short Summary of the meeting.

The data based on the responses received from 15 countries on the questionnaire related to the European Training Requirement of the Specialty of Rheumatology were reported. The letter sent to Dr. Romuald Krajewski, UEMS President with S&B comments and suggestions on the implementation of the ETR and methods of assessment was presented; the analysis of the questionnaire produced by Rheumatology S&B were also included. The proposed change of the term ‘Training Requirements’ to ‘Training Guidelines’, methods of assessment and their relevance to Appendix 1 of the ETR discussed.

Members of the S&B were presented the report from the UEMS Council meeting held in Brussels, 22-23 October 2016. Emphasized were the approved ETRs: Laboratory medicine, Neurology and particularly the Internal medicine (associated with the rheumatology training; introduction of the milestones in the education and assessment of trainees). The discussion on Brexit and Council’s decisions were presented. The topics of the UEMS Working Group on Postgraduate Training (WGPGT) were presented and discussed. The interest was raised on possibility that an E-platform may be founded by the UEMS, precisely the previously elaborated EU Log would be a perfect tool to develop.

The Activities of the Rheumatology S&B and finances related to the EACCME accreditation of events has been presented and discussed.

The EULAR Executive Committee meeting held in Zurich in September 2016 was presented and relation with EULAR discussed, as regards particularly to the new educational project EULAR School of Rheumatology. The EULAR courses of rheumatology still need some adjustments to fit the ETR. The decision was made about a new proposals on the future collaboration. The participation of the Rheumatology S&B at the EULAR WAD Conference, jointly organized by the European Parliament was reported.

The main topic of the meeting: Aims and objectives of the UEMS Rheumatology Section and European Board of Rheumatology.

The previous work on Missions and Objectives and related activities were presented as well as actual information posted on the Website: www.uemsrheumatology.eu. It was decided that the missions described are not aligned with the missions presented in the UEMS pages. A large discussion was held about the role of the S&B in education, networking, harmonisation, level of health care across EU, promotion of rheumatology, professional standards, standards of Training centres, movements of trainees and rheumatologists across European countries, particularly differences in implementation of ETR and methods of assessment. The role of Appendix 1 was stressed. After the discussion
and group work, the updated version of the mission and objectives was proposed and agreed, please, see it below.

Delegates presented the rheumatology issues from their countries:
Main topics presented were related to the training (duration, participation of internal medicine repartition, difficulties in TR implementation), governmental decisions about the number of trainees, rheumatologists working in the internal medicine service, lack and age of rheumatologists.

The website of the UEMS Rheumatology Section and Board was presented.

Present activities
The UEMS Rheumatology Section and Board is concentrated on the improvement of collaboration with EULAR (European League against Rheumatism, relevant European scientific society), related particularly to the EULAR educational activities, mainly the project EULAR School of Rheumatology. The aligning of ETR with EULAR educational programme is a necessity: EULAR courses need modifications to the Rheumatology ETR. The Rheumatology S&B is now working on the proposal for the meeting with EULAR representatives and future collaboration.
The educational activities of the Rheumatology S&B will be presented at the Annual EULAR Congress; the publication is being prepared.
The number of rheumatologists per country has to be refined.
The next meeting of the Section and Board will be held in Madrid 15 June 2017. The Annual meeting of the Section and Board is planned for 1st and 2nd December 2017 in Paris.
5. Section of Clinical Neurophysiology

❖ Introduction
The CN section in 2016 comprised delegates of 11 European countries. There was one meeting of the CN section in 2016 which took place on the 30th of May at the AC Hotel Bella Sky, in Copenhagen, Denmark, in combination with the 2nd Congress of the European Academy of Neurology (EAN). The meeting was organized by Karin Båtelson (Chair) and Satu Jääskeläinen (Secretary). All other communication with the delegates was performed by e-mail.

❖ Meeting of the Clinical Neurophysiology Section 30.5.2016, Copenhagen, Denmark
AGENDA and minutes of the meeting:
The main topic of the meeting was the current state of the updating process of the UEMS core curriculum for clinical neurophysiology (CN) i.e. the European training requirements (ETR) for CN specialty

1. The principles of the UEMS ETR for CN were discussed: it is clear that this document acts as a recommendation for best practices as regards training the specialty of clinical neurophysiology. UEMS cannot force any country or national authorities to act according to these guidelines, but they serve as an aspirational framework for all European countries who wish to harmonize education and guarantee high level of CN services to their citizens.

2. The current version of the core curriculum (sent to the delegates 27.5.2016 by the secretary) was discussed along broad lines – which parts should be revised or edited, and which should be given in more detail. The modular structure has been widely accepted, also in those emails the secretary had received from the national delegates. So it was decided to go on with this structure, and delete the former proposition (2014) of Tracks A and B for specialist training in CN.

There was a general consensus in this working group meeting that the UEMS ETR is first of all meant to define training period and its contents for those countries in which an independent specialty of CN exists; i.e. where mostly 5 years is allotted for the specialist training according to current UEMS guidelines. Thus, it is logical that the numbers of tests expected to be performed within each module are higher than is current reality in many countries without an independent specialty.

3. It was decided that the secretary will gather in a table format the numbers/test so far received from the national delegates. It is important that each delegate checks and fills in the table the figures of their own country, because the final numbers in the UEMS ETR for CN should be in line with realistic numbers from countries with independent specialty.

4. The secretary promised to edit the core curriculum along these lines, and send it with the minutes of the meeting and the Table of test numbers to the delegates. In addition, it was decided that these documents would also be sent to the members of the Task Force group of the European Chapter of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology (EC-IFCN) that has been working on a similar aspirational recommendation for uniform CN training in the countries that belong to the EC-IFCN (all European countries, Middle East, and Africa).
5. The delegates were given time to comment the draft during the summer months, and it was decided that Karin Båtelson and Satu Jääskeläinen would have a working meeting in autumn 2016 to finalize the document. The updated ETR for CN was decided to be presented to the UENMS Council in 2017.

6. The next meeting of the CN delegates was planned to take place in the next European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (ECCN) in Budapest, 2017.

- UEMS ETR for Clinical Neurophysiology

The UEMS ETR for Clinical Neurophysiology was finalized during a one-day working group meeting in October in Turku, Finland. We had so far received comments and average figures for tests performed during the training period from Spain, Norway, Ireland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, and Finland. The figures vary rather widely between countries, partly because also the training period differs in countries with or without independent specialty of CN. An average number of tests required for full competence in each module of the CN field of practice was calculated and added to the ETR draft. The final proposal with numbers circulated in December 2016 among the CN delegates, who gave their comments and accepted the final document in January 2017. The final updated European Training Requirements for Clinical Neurophysiology will be presented to the UEMS council in the autumn meeting 2017, because neither the president nor the secretary are able to attend the April meeting in Israel.

- Other events or activities of the Clinical Neurophysiology Section

Satu Jääskeläinen and Vivianne van Kranen-Mastenbroek have been part of the European Chapter of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology (EC-IFCN) working party which is going to make a proposal for European Specialist training and Accreditation in Clinical Neurophysiology. A draft of this plan was first presented during the European Congress for Clinical Neurophysiology in Brno, Czech Republic in September 2015. The president and secretary of the CN section participated in a follow-up task force meeting in Budapest, February 2016, arranged by the EC-IFCN to finalize the draft of the recommended training program. This proposal from the EC-IFCN is in line with the ETR that has been updated by the UEMS CN section at the same time. The EC-IFCN task force report is planned to be published in Clinical Neurophysiology in order to get wider acknowledgement for the project, and to enhance the application of these guidelines for CN specialist training also outside the borders of the EU. The project includes a plan to develop a European exit exam for CN specialty.

- UEMS Sections & Boards meeting

The UEMS section & Board meeting as well as the UEMS council meeting were planned for April 2016 in Brussels, but these were canceled due to a terrorist attack in Brussels 22.3.2016. The president of the CN section Karin Båtelson attended the UEMS council meeting in Brussels, 20.-22.10.2017. The CN section meeting took place in Copenhagen, 30.5.2016, as explained in detail in above (point 2).
6. Section of Radiology

After the last Meeting with Delegates (March 5th, 2016), the new Bureau of the Section is composed of: Prof. P. Ricci (President – elected in March 2015), Dr. J.P. Joris (Secretary), Dr. R. Demuth (Treasurer), Dr. C. Nyhsen (Vice-President), Prof. H. Aronen (Member-at-Large ETAP Subcommittee), Dr. M. Adriaensen (Member-at-Large EDiR) and Prof. H. Lamb (Member-at-Large). The Section includes two Divisions: Interventional Radiology and Neuroradiology.

The Section has established its new Secretariat in the Domus Medica Europaea, 2nd floor with the support of the European Society of Radiology. Mr. Francesco Tanzi is currently in charge of the Administrative Secretariat of the Section. The Secretariat could be contacted via phone +32 2486 0641 and email: radiology@uems.eu

The Section Website - http://www.uemsradiology.eu/ - has been fully renovated and will keep the delegates updated on the range of activities of the Section. The Dutch provider WVD is currently in charge of the technical assistance, but in the future the Section could evaluate to harmonise with the UEMS provider.

In 2016, the Section has adopted the official UEMS Repartition Key (based on the population, Gross Domestic Product and the number of doctors) to collect the membership fees. Associate and Observer countries are required to pay a contribution à forfait (€ 200 or € 400) upon the same criteria. According to chapter VI.4 of the UEMS Rules of Procedure, the exercise of the right to vote is subject to payment of the subscription and only member states who have paid their subscription fee can nominate delegates or access to the documents and reports on the Section website.

The Section of Radiology owns a BNP account in Brussels, under the supervision of the Treasurer.

The next Meeting with Delegates will take place at the Dipartimento di Scienze Radiologiche, Policlinico Umberto I in Rome on Saturday, 29th October 2016. The use of the hospital facilities will be free of charge for the Section.

Beginning January 2016, the Accreditation Council in Imaging (ACI), in collaboration with the EACCME, is responsible for accrediting radiological events, e-learning and other relevant sources of CME in Europe. At present, 3 members of the Bureau are directly involved in ACI (Prof. Ricci in the Policy Committee; Dr. Demuth and Prof. Aronen in the Reviewing Committee).

On Saturday 18th June, 2016, an amended agreement – including ACI Terms and Conditions and UEMS/EBR Billing Agreement – between the UEMS and the European Board of Radiology (EBR) has been signed by the respective Chairmen, Prof. R. Krajewski and Dr. L. Donoso. Both organisations will now cooperate in the accreditation of international live educational events and accreditation of e-learning radiological material. Prof. Ricci has encouraged a full engagement of the Section, as a trait-d’union, in the entire process of the agreement.
In cooperation with the EBR, the Section is extremely active in the implementation of EDiR - European Diploma in Radiology, an examination open to radiologists and radiology residents in their fifth year of training. A positive UEMS-CESMA evaluation of EDiR has been given in 2015. In the past, the following topics have been discussed: Scoring methodology, Material to prepare, EDiR skills examination, assessment standards. Since 2015, the EDiR Scientific Board has been restructuring the modalities of oral examinations.
7. European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology - EBCOG

1. EBCOG Post Graduate Examination (European Fellow in OBGYN: EFOG- EBCOG)

2016 saw the launch of the EFOG EBCOG Examination. The purpose of the examination is to assess the level of competency of candidates regarding their knowledge and judgement, although skills and attitude are also evaluated. Candidates who pass the exam become EBCOG Fellows in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EFOG-EBCOG) and will be given a certificate of Fellowship.

The Examination has two parts. Part 1 is a knowledge-based assessment (KBA), and Part 2 is an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). The exam in 2016 was very successful and 26 candidates passed both parts of the examination. There will be a graduation ceremony in May 2017, to formally admit them as European Fellows of EBCOG.

2. EBCOG- ESHRE Joint Examination in Reproductive Medicine

EBCOG and ESHRE are looking to set up a joint examination. It will be joint Post EFOG certification to enhance standards of training and care across Europe in Reproductive Medicine.

3. EBCOG PACT Curriculum Project

We are developing a future-proof specialist training curriculum. This project is the EBCOG Project for Achieving Consensus in Training (PACT) Project. The new Curriculum will help to improve and harmonise the level of training across Europe.

4. Quality Assessment of Training Programmes

A total of 19 visits were conducted during 2016 and 10 on-site visits are planned for 2017. A system of virtual re-visits will start during 2017. At present, 8 countries have implemented their own accreditation system, 17 are working towards it and 3 are being supported.

5. Standards of Care for Women’s Health

UNFPA gave us a grant to translate the EBCOG Standards of Care for Women’s Health into Russian and they were officially launched during the European Congress in Torino in May 2016. They were presented at the Russian Forum "Mother and Child" in Moscow and were highly appreciated by the State Ministry of Health which recommended implementing them. I delivered a lecture on the provision of SRH-abortion services at the UNFPA Regional Ministerial SRH Meeting, on access to modern contraception.

6. EBCOG Position Statements
EBCOG produces Position Statements which are published on our web site and in the European Journal of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology. These are formal statements on issues of public health in Europe.

Seven position statements have now been produced on:
- IVF Treatment and Single Embryo Transfer;
- The Public Health Importance of Antenatal Care;
- Obesity and Women’s Health;
- Alcohol and Pregnancy;
- Medical Abortion;
- The Public Health importance of Sex Education in Schools;
- Violence against Women.

The following statements will be issued in 2017:
- Female genital Mutilation;
- Diet and Exercise in pregnancy;
- Travel in Pregnancy;
- Vaccination in Pregnancy;
- Fertility Control;
- Caesarean Section in Europe.

7. The Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases
EBCOG is working with the European Diabetic Pregnancy Study Group (DPSG) to develop a common approach on GDM screening in Europe. EBCOG fully supports FIGO’s Barcelona Declaration and is a signatory. EBCOG, FIGO and DPSG will organise a consensus meeting at the EBCOG Congress in 2018 to formulate a Europe wide policy statement on GDM screening.

8. EBCOG and WHO Joint Position Papers
In 2015, ‘Entre Nous’, the WHO publication on SRH” published a joint UNFPA and EBCOG paper on “Improving Standards of Care in Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare in the EECA Region” was published.

In 2016, Entre Nous WHO published the following two joint position papers:
1. An EBCOG/PICUM Position Paper on “Addressing Barriers to Access to Health Care for Migrant Women with Irregular Status”.
2. An EBCOG/ISPOG paper on “Perinatal mental health: bridging the gaps in policy and practice”.

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9. **EBCOG and UNFPA**

The first successful EBCOG UNFPA Scholar was Dr Lela Shengelia from Georgia. The second scholarship was awarded to Prof Andrii Tkachenko, from Ukraine. The third EBCOG Scholar, Dr Natalia Silina, is also from Ukraine. At the request of UNFPA, EBCOG has developed Bachelor and Masters Programmes in SRH to be delivered on a regional basis.


EJOG is now the official Journal of EBCOG. EJOG is now publishing our position statements has also published the abstracts from the Torino Congress freely on-line: [http://www.ejog.org/current?page=0](http://www.ejog.org/current?page=0)

11. **The European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

The 24th European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology took place in Torino in May 2016. The Turkish Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and EBCOG will run a joint Congress in Antalya in May, 2017. The 26th European Congress will take place in Paris in March 2018 and the 2020 Congress will be held in Bergen, Norway.
8. CESMA – Council European Specialist Medical Assessments

1. CESMA Reports

CESMA delegates meet twice a year:

- Once in Brussels in winter for two-day meetings, one day dedicated to a workshop and the second to the regular CESMA business meeting.
- Once in Spring, preferably in a country where there is possibility to meet the National Health authorities & discuss expanding European Examinations the first day, and regular CESMA business meeting on the second day.

In May 2016, CESMA delegates met with the representative of the Romanian Ministry of Health and with the representative of the Romanian Presidency in Bucharest. This meeting was a great opportunity to present CESMA work, outcomes and to assess the impact of the European Examination in Anaesthesiology that was adopted as the final exam in Romania six years ago. The Romanian authorities have contacted CESMA several times since the meeting to inform us that they are discussing the adoption of other European Examinations.

On Dec. 2nd 2016 the Second CESMA workshop took place in Brussels. Mark Westwood made a presentation on “How to write extended matching questions?”. A demonstration of poor examiners’ performance was presented by Dr. Goldik, Dr Parigi and L. Carratala. Dr Kuks presented the European examination in Neurology based on the rationale that oral exams are done to test things that cannot be tested during the written exam.

On Dec. 3rd 2016, Winter CESMA meeting took place in Brussels, at the Domus Medica Europaea. Danny Mathysen awarded the Certificates to the Boards appraised by CESMA: Transplant Surgery, Ophthalmology, Hand Surgery, Surgical Oncology, Radiology, Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery, General Surgery, Neurology. Mr Sparrow presented the results of the survey on Exam Status of CESMA members: There is a gradual progression towards on-line exams. All but one of our exams include a written component; most also add an oral. Commercial providers make on-line exams easier to manage. Minimum candidate volume is needed for commercial providers to be viable. In house solutions tend to use optical mark sheets. Need advice from those who’ve gone down this route, before starting on-line.

Dr Piha, Head of Cross-border Healthcare and eHealth of EC, gave a presentation about mobility in Healthcare focusing on three topics: 1/ Patients’ rights in cross-border healthcare. 2/ Health professionals’ mobility as a fundamental right. 3/ Telemedicine.

Dr Piha emphasised that the CESMA project and actions contribute to the mobility framework. CESMA delegates enquired about whether there was EC funding available to support European Examinations. Questions about the practicalities of patient’s right in cross-border & European Reference Networks (ERN) selection procedure were also raised.

Discussion took place about recognition of European Exams, dissemination of Exams, Manual
of exams and lifelong competence assessment.

2. **CESMA Appraisals**

CESMA continues its action on appraisals thanks to Danny Mathysen who is the Liaison officer for appraisals (list of Examinations appraised by CESMA is available [here](#)).

The Examination Group of the Medical Royal Colleges of Physicians UK contacted CESMA Executive Committee with regard to appraisal of its exams. The CESMA Executive welcomed greatly this request, as it is the first time that CESMA received a request from a body outside of the CESMA. The Executive is currently discussing the practical and logistical aspects of this appraisal.

3. **Next meeting**

In May 2017, CESMA will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Glasgow Declaration. It would be a great opportunity to discuss and review the declaration. PRAS Board have been invited to discuss the issues around participation of candidates from outside Europe during the Glasgow meeting.

Presentations and more details about CESMA activities are available: [https://www.uems.eu/uems-activities/harmonization-of-medical-training/cesma/cesma-meetings](https://www.uems.eu/uems-activities/harmonization-of-medical-training/cesma/cesma-meetings)
Due to the nomination of Prof. V. Papalois as General Secretary of the UEMS, a new board was elected in May 2016, during our Section meeting in Belfast. The Autumn meeting occurred in September in Lisbon, on the invitation of the Association of Surgeons of Portugal. A very interesting symposium was scheduled to explain the organisation of Surgery in Portugal.

Since then, several projects have been launched:

- The most important and concrete one being the establishment of the contract with Orzone for the organisation of online MCQ’s for the different divisions. Three of these are preparing the exams within the coming months.

- A second project is the initiation of a standardisation of exams and training all through Europe. The idea would be to induce a reflexion among countries and scientific societies to reduce gradually the differences between training and diplomas.

- A third project is the creation of a survey about the place of woman surgeons in Europe and the difficulties they are facing in a male-dominant profession. This survey is ongoing.

- Reflections are also conducted on the way to establish relationships with national or supranational scientific societies. The Association of Surgeons of Great-Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) is the first one contacted through our Vice-President, John Moorehead (past-president of the association).

All the divisions of the Section are running their EBSQ exams one or twice a year, almost all of them in two phases (written MCQs and OSCE). The divisions of General Surgery, Transplantation and Surgical Oncology have obtained the CESMA approval for their last examination.

Financials: the finances of the Section are in balance. All the divisions accounts are back to Brussels.
Next section meeting early May in Copenhagen on the invitation of the Danish Surgical Association. A pre-meeting symposium will also cover the organisation of Surgery in Denmark and in the Scandinavian countries.

J.M. WEEERTS, FRCS Eng, HonEBSQ GenSurg.