



**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**

20, Av.de la Couronne
B-1050 BRUSSELS
www.uems.net

tel: +32-2-649.5164
fax: +32-2-640.3730
e-mail: uems@skynet.be

UEMS 2006 / 23 en

Minutes of Specialty Section in Nephrology UEMS Maison des Associations Internationales 40 Rue Washington, Brussels

3rd February 2006

1. Present

Prof Brian Keogh, Ireland - President of Specialty Section
Prof Rosanna Coppo, Italy - ERA/EDTA
Dr Bernard Maillet - UEMS
Prof Stasa Kaplan-Pavlovic - Slovenia
Dr Jose Barata, Portugal
Dr Dorothea Nitsch, Switzerland - PWG
Dr Theofonis Apostolou, Greece
Prof Cem Sungur, Turkey
Dr Oguz Soylemezoglis, Turkey
Prof Ray Krediet, Netherlands
Dr Brian Junor, UK

2. Apologies

Dr Kostos Siamopoulos, Greece
Prof Jorge Cannata, Spain - ERA/EDTA
Prof Joe Walshe, Ireland
Dr Paul Stroumza, France
Prof Vladimir Taplan, Czech Republic
Dr Phil Mason, UK

3. Minutes of European Board of Nephrology/Specialty Section in Nephrology UEMS meeting Istanbul 4th June 2005

These were accepted as an accurate account of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

Dr Junor tabled an up to date version of the results of the survey of training in nephrology. Of the 25 EU countries he had received a reply from 19. He believed that Malta, Luxembourg and Cyprus did not have separate training schemes but he would continue to try to obtain information from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Of the non-EU member states of the UEMS he had not been able to obtain data from Iceland.

The Section members felt it was important that the information should be made widely available when complete – possibly by both the UEMS and ERA websites as well as by publication. Dr Maillet added that the UEMS was trying to obtain data like this about differences in training throughout Europe for all specialties. Dr Junor undertook to circulate any draft paper to all members for corrections before submission for publication.



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5. European Board of Nephrology

Prof Keogh reviewed the situation with the establishment of the Board at the meeting in Istanbul in June 2005. He emphasised the need for full collaboration between the members of the Board i.e. the ERA/EDTA, the UEMS Specialty Section and the Presidents of the National Societies of Nephrology in Europe. He thought that one of the main aims of the Board should be to set up a system of visiting training centres throughout Europe with the aim of harmonising training in Nephrology in the European Union and the countries of the UEMS. This should be along with any National Visiting System where one existed but he was aware that there was no system in many countries. An obstacle to the establishment of a visiting programme was the finance necessary and he hoped that this could be overcome with the help of both the ERA/EDTA and the UEMS. Dr Maillet commented that it was important for the political (UEMS) and scientific (ERA/EDTA) groups in Nephrology in Europe to act together. The financial situation was that the UEMS had essentially no funds but that the Scientific Societies were usually financially more secure. He was unable to promise any finance from the UEMS Management. Prof Keogh thought that it was essential that the future of a visiting programme be discussed at the next meeting of the European Board of Nephrology.

The question of an alternative way of ensuring the quality of Nephrologists in Europe by a Board Examination was raised again. Prof Krediet reviewed the problems associated with trying to establish a fair means of assessing quality when there were difficulties with translation and differences in practice both locally and nationally. He felt that the experience of the European Board of Urology in establishing an examination should deter the Nephrology Board from attempting to follow their example. Dr Maillet commented that there were many requests from Urologists in Europe to sit the examination and that both Switzerland and Austria accepted the Urology Board Examination as a "final" examination. Dr Junor said that he thought that was against the rules related to such examinations as "Board" examinations were not supposed to take place until 3 years after any individual was accepted as a Specialist in their own country and therefore he was unable to see the added value of such examinations. Dr Apostolou and Prof Sungur agreed and felt that the most important element was the assessment of training. Prof Keogh thought that the Board should not take a formal examination forward at this stage but was aware that the subject was likely to come up again in the future.

6. Joint CME Committee

Prof Keogh reviewed the discussion at the European Board in Nephrology meeting in Istanbul where it was agreed to amalgamate the ERA/EDTA CME Committee and the role of the Specialty Section in Nephrology of the UEMS into a single European Board CME Committee with three representatives from ERA/EDTA and three from the Specialty Section. The UEMS representatives would be the President and Secretary of the Specialty Section with the latter acting as the Secretary of the new committee for the purposes of communication with EACCME. Dr Apostolou was proposed as the third UEMS representative and this was unanimously agreed. He will serve for a three year period. The ERA/EDTA representatives will be nominated following the Council Meeting in March but applications for CME accreditation in the meantime will be sent to Prof Coppo and Prof Cannata as well as the UEMS members of the CME Committee. This system will be in operation as of 3rd February 2006.

7. EACCME

The proposal from European Accreditation Boards in Cardiology, Pneumology, Nuclear Medicine, Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology was summarised by Dr Junor. Essentially they felt that applications for CME approval should go initially to the individual Accreditation Boards and through them to the EACCME and the National CME Authorities. Dr Maillet then reported on the



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EACCME meeting in November 2005 where the proposal had been discussed. He indicated that an increasing number of Sections/Boards and National CME authorities were signing agreements with the EACCME and the Nephrology Section decided that they should go ahead and sign the agreement with the EACCME. Prof Keogh duly signed the agreement, which means that the Specialty Section will receive an equal share of the CME fees as the EACCME when until that time no fees had been received by the Section for the work carried out. In future Dr Maillet hoped that a system of dividing fees for CME approval with equal shares to the EACCME, the Section/Board and the National CME authority would be established. He also hoped that all the National CME Authorities in Europe would agree on the principle of one hour of CME activity being the "norm" for counting units of CME. He thought a web based accreditation form for EACCME would be in existence from May 2006.

7. Website for European Board of Nephrology

Dr Junor wanted to establish a web site for the Board linked to UEMS and it was suggested by Prof Coppo that it should also be linked to the ERA/EDTA website. Dr Junor undertook to contact UEMS regarding this project. Dr Soylemezoglis suggested that there should be a booth at the ERA Congress in Glasgow to advertise the European Board of Nephrology and that Prof Cannata should be asked to mention the Board in his opening address at the Congress.

8. Treasurers Report

Dr Stroumza had sent an e-mail to Dr Junor stating that the funds stood at 1,716.27 euros and asked about the annual subscriptions. Prof Keogh repeated that this had been agreed previously to be a flat rate of 100 euros per country but that an increase for 2007 might be appropriate.

9. Call for nomination for Secretary of Section and Board

Dr Junor indicated that he was overdue for replacement as Secretary and that he would ask for nominations for Secretary to be made from members of the Specialty Section before the Board Meeting in Glasgow

10. Any other business

There were no other items raised.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Nephrology will be held in Glasgow on 15th July – the opening day of the ERA/EDTA Congress. As Prof Coppo has to attend a session in the early afternoon it was agreed to hold the meeting as close to midday as possible. The details of exact timing and venue will be sent out with the Agenda.