



EBCOG

European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology



UEMS COUNCIL OCTOBER 2017.

Request by the UEMS Section of Gynaecology and Obstetrics- European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG):

To create a UEMS Division of Reproductive Medicine in collaboration with the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG):

Rules of engagement

As stated in the UEMS RoP/Statutes:

A request to create a Division must be submitted to the UEMS Council by the Section interested in creating such a working group.

Background, rationale and purpose:

- Field of activity of the Division has to be a branch of only one recognized Specialty.
- This activity must involve higher training programs.
- It must be effectively performed either in exclusive practice or as a main competence of the main specialty.
- It must be practiced by a significant number of trained medical specialists of the specialty represented by a Specialist Section.

The background for the request by EBCOG:

Four subspecialties are represented on the executive and council of EBCOG. One of the subspecialties is Reproductive Medicine (RM). This subspecialty within the discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology focuses on the management and treatment of infertility and related issues.

WHO defines infertility as the inability of a couple to have a live birth due to either inability to conceive or to pregnancy loss. The European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology has recognized the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) as the provider of subspecialty training in RM. ESHRE is fully represented on the EBCOG Council, Executive Board and Section, as well as in the Educational and Assessment Committees.

The European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (www.eshre.eu) was formed in the early 1980's following the birth of the first IVF baby in 1978. ESHRE now has over 6,500 members and its annual meeting attracts more than 10,000 participants. Within the ESHRE membership, there are approximately 1800 specialists in RM across Europe who constitute the largest specialist-interest group alongside a similar but separate number of members who are Clinical Embryologists. Overall, there are 12 Specialist-Interest Groups (SIG's) within ESHRE that reflect the diverse and multi-disciplinary approach, structure and function.

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ESHRE is a non-profit organisation and hosts many educational events every year, initiates and publishes guidelines, supports research funding and travel Fellowships. With clinical practice in mind, a well-established accreditation system for training recognition has been in place for many years in conjunction with EBCOG to assess the quality of subspecialist training in Reproductive Medicine centres across Europe. Accreditation of Training Centres is especially attractive where there is no national governing body that recognizes or approves subspecialty RM training.

A case for creation of division of RM within EBCOG:

EBCOG would like to create a division of RM in collaboration with ESHRE. In 2016, EBCOG set up its formal examination for generalist obstetricians and gynaecologists. This examination is taken by the candidates at the end of their five year training programmes. They are awarded a diploma entitled: "European Fellow in Obstetrics and Gynaecology- **EFOG by EBCOG**".

As a natural consequence, EBCOG now would like to set up a process of assessment in the subspecialty areas as well. Creation of a division of RM within EBCOG in collaboration with ESHRE will be the first step to set up a postgraduate examination for those generalist obstetricians and gynaecologists who wish to specialize further in the subspecialty of RM. This will be a continuum of assessment process from the EFOG-EBCOG Diploma to subspecialisation in RM to quality-assure these subspecialists.

To facilitate this process, a joint EBCOG- ESHRE working group has already been set up to update the training curriculum, agree on assessment tools and the requirements for approved training centres. Postgraduate trainees in RM are already using, an electronic logbook to record activity, skills and competence level achieved since 2014 for individual Training Fellows to complete their training requirements on a continuing basis.

The proposed examination/ assessment in Reproductive Medicine will follow an approved process of individual trainees according to CESMA and mirroring the successful structure of EFOG by EBCOG. A joint Steering Group of EBCOG and ESHRE within this newly created division of RM will oversee the development and initiation of the examination. The activities of this newly created division of RM will be regularly reported to UEMS through EBCOG.

We are looking forward to the decision of the UEMS Council for the creation of RM division within EBCOG.

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President, EBCOG

Rolf Kirschner
Secretary-General, EBCOG

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