Meeting of the Council for European Specialist Medical Assessment

Brief Report CESMA Meeting
Brussels, 16th November 2013

The meeting was well attended and the discussion was very fruitful. Frédéric and I attended the meeting and provided the attendees with a brief report on recent developments at the UEMS.
The main issues discussed were the following (the minutes of the meeting will be disseminated at a later stage).

− CESMA’s finances

Prof. Papalois provided background information to the delegates regarding the delay in sending the 2013 contribution fees. He recalled the internal financial restructuring process undertaken by the UEMS and stated that CESMA’s invoices would be sent after the meeting as everything had been resolved and clarity made on the remaining issues. The CESMA account was currently under the Section of Surgery account in Switzerland and was credited of 3311€ as of the 16.11.2013.

− Language issues in European Exam

Further to the presentation of European Exams in Cardiology subspecialties, the issue of the appropriate language to be used for European Exams was discussed. Whereas some pointed to the need to use the main communication language i.e English for European exams, others suggested to have translation into national languages as it was clearly demonstrated that taking an exam in one’s native language ended up in obtaining higher results. What is more, some countries were likely to require taking specialty exams could only be done in national language. Concerns were also expressed with regard to automatic translation which was considered as potentially more misleading than without translation. Zeev Goldik pointed to the solution promoted in Anaesthesiology which was to offer translation in national language for the sake of better understanding but the English version remained the « master version ».
We stated that the UEMS had no specific position on this issue but would welcome a proposal from CESMA in this regard.

− harmonisation of EU exams

Upon the presentations regarding the organisation of EU exams in different specialities, Prof. N. Bax wondered whether CESMA could work on the harmonisation of the assessments undertaken under the aegis of UEMS exams. Such process was seen to ultimately reinforce the credibility of the UEMS.

Zeev Goldik (Anaesthesiology)
Chairman

Alfred Tenore (Paediatrics)
Vice Chairman

Owen Sparrow (Neurosurgery)
(Transplantation)
General Secretary
Treasurer

Vassilios Papalois
- Appraisal of EU exams

Prof. Papalois presented the outcome of the appraisal of the EU exam in Transplantation Surgery. He highlighted the robust evaluation process and methodology which led to the issuance of a detailed report pertaining the organisation of EU exams. On that basis, he very much encouraged all organisers of EU exams to engage into an auditing process through the CESMA appraisal process with an aim to improve the quality of these exams and demonstrate the UEMS accountability in this respect.

- UEMS report

We provided a report on the latest developments in the UEMS activities. We updated the delegates on the outcomes of the last UEMS Council (Paris, 18-19 October 2013), announced the start of the renovation work of the UEMS House/Domus Medica Europea and updated the delegates on the Professional Qualifications Directive. We notably emphasised the foreseen hooks within that new legislative framework to increase the recognition of EU Exams notably through Common Training Tests or the European Professional Card. Prof. Hjelmqvist reported on the discussion held in the working group on Postgraduate Training and reported on a survey on the duration of medical specialist training that had been elaborated and would be further fine-tuned. In doing so, the UEMS will be able to have an overview of the different training pathways in different specialties and in different countries.

J-B Rouffet
S&B Coordinator
21.11.2013
Meeting of the Council for European Specialist Medical Assessment

AGENDA MEETING
Saturday 24th May 2014 - 09:00 – 16.00

Austria Trend Hotel Congress Innsbruck

1. Apologies & welcome new delegates
2. Minutes of meeting November 16th 2013 – Brussels
3. Hawks and Doves (Interactive)- Zeev Goldik
4. Oral Exams - what works and what doesn't (Interactive)- Nigel Bax
5. Section of Psychiatry: Assessing performance in psychiatry trainees - experience of piloting a whole system- Andrew Brittlebank
6. European Board Exam Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (EBEORL-HNS) in cooperation with ICAN." (Univ. of Heidelberg et al.) Klaus Albegger (ENT/H&N Surgery) & Konstantin Brass (ICAN)
7. Assessing non cognitive attributes- Ivan Coutinho- Pearson Vue
8. Q Online (IQul) John Boorman
9. Written examination use by CESMA Boards. John Boorman
10. 360° Assessments of Surgical Trainees – a hopeless chimera? Arthur Felice
11. Update on recent examinations. Mariella Catalano (Section of Angiology/Vascular Medicine)
12. UEMS News
14. PWG PGT (Permanent Working Group on Post Graduate Training) report
15. Any other business
16. Date & venue of next meeting