

Sub-specialty certification by the EBU



Dr. Marianne Brehmer
Incoming EBU President
Stockholm (SE)

Urology is increasingly being divided into sub-specialties such as Prostate cancer, Neuro-urology, Stone treatment, etc. Some procedures performed today are so demanding that they should be carried out only in centres where sub-specialist knowledge and skill have accumulated and is well developed and maintained.

Over the last five to ten years, trainees and young urologists have been visiting these 'centres of excellence' to be specifically trained. Today several fellowship programmes for post-graduate training are listed and offered by the EAU and other

organisations. However, there are no common criteria listed that will guarantee a certain quality. The particular kind of expertise may not be available within the national boundaries to urologists who wish to train in these specific fields, and going abroad for a fellowship programme often implies a good deal of burden, personal and financial.

Both in the interest of urology as a specialty and for the individual urologist, it is obvious that a certain level of quality has to be guaranteed in the programmes. The Urological Training Programme Committee of the EBU (which is the European Regulatory Body of the UEMS for urology) has, for several years, worked on a system for certification of centres of excellence in urological sub-specialties. With this sub-specialty certification, EBU aims to certify particular sub-specialty expertise.

So far, we have been focusing on sub-specialties since we believe that to be a real expert it is important to master all different techniques and be able to know when one set of skills should be chosen before another. Special skills in specific treatment techniques, related to particular sub-specialty



knowledge are of lesser relevance at this stage but may be initiated in the near future.

We have now started to offer sub-specialty certification based on a number of criteria (See table below) set up by the committee. The committee has also been working to identify these 'centres of excellence' and to support their position by encouraging them to apply for certification of their special expertise and skill. However, we want to encourage all institutions holding high quality expertise in a certain sub-specialty to apply.

Our intention is that all institutions offering some kind of post-graduate training or fellowship programmes will apply for sub-specialty certification guaranteeing a certain level of quality.

Centres offering training programmes for trainees should apply for EBU RTPU-certification.

Sub-specialty certification criteria

1. Institutional organisation

- a. The centre should have the opportunity to offer post-graduate teaching of a special proficiency which cannot be attained at a standard urological department.
- b. The centre has an adequate number and variety of patients to offer a good overview as well as practical training within the specific topic.

2. Facilities and resources

- a. The centre has adequate technical equipment and updated routines to offer even the latest news in the specific topic.
- b. The centre has access to supporting specialties and other resources of relevance for running the activity on a modern professional level.
- c. The centre should have at least two sub-specialised consultants in the specific topic.

3. Treatment modalities

- a. If there are several treatment modalities for a certain kind of disease or diagnose, it is highly preferred that all of these modalities are available at the centre. If that is not the case, the centre must have good knowledge of all relevant treatment modalities and a functioning collaboration with another centre where these modalities are available. This is essential for two reasons:
 1. Each patient must be offered the optimal individualised therapy;
 2. Adequate validation of different treatment protocols.

4. Research and studies

- a. The centre has to stay updated on national and international research within the specific topic.
- b. The centre performs own research/studies on the specific topic and takes active part in the international debate.

5. Fellowship programme

- a. A fellowship programme including surgical training or some other kind of manual skills must offer good hands-on training at adequate proportions. The host centre must assist the applicant to obtain the certificates required to perform hands-on training.
- b. A fellowship that includes practical training such as operative skill, and with no more than one fellow per supervising consultant will be accepted at the same time. If the centre educates urology residents, there should not be more than one resident and one fellow per supervising consultant.

For more information about sub-specialty certification, visit the EBU website or contact the EBU office.

EBU

P.O. Box 30016
6803 AA Arnhem
The Netherlands

T: +31 26 389 08 46
W: www.ebu.com
E: ebu@ebu.com