



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

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UEMS SECTION OF CLINICAL GENETICS

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the UEMS Section of Clinical Genetics
Saturday May 31st, 2014 Venue: Amber 1 + 2, Milano Congressi, Milan, Italy

Present:

Peter Kreusel, Austria

Ioannides Adonis, Cyprus

Anastasiadou Violetta, Cyprus

Milan Macek, Czech Republic

Jens Michael Hertz, Denmark

Hannele Koillinen, Finland

Kristiina Aittomäki, Finland, secretary

Andre Reis, Germany

Béla Melegh, Hungary

Artur Beke, Hungary

Isabella Borg, Malta

Anette Van Hagen, Netherlands

Torunn Fiskerstrand, Norway

Olga Haus, Poland

Beata Lipska-Zietkiewicz, Poland

Jorge Saraiva, Portugal

Feliciano J. Ramos, Spain

Karin Writzl, Slovenia

Ulf Kristoffersson, Sweden, president

Dunja Niedrist, Switzerland

Helen Kingston, UK, treasurer

Peter Turnpenny, UK

Apologies :

Hans-Christoph Duba, Austria

Michael Speicher, Austria

Micael Bjorn Petersen, Denmark

Heather Skirton, the Chair of the European Board of Medical Genetics (EBMG) attended the meeting and participated in the discussion in §5.

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§1 The meeting was opened by the President of the Section Ulf Kristoffersson at 12.20.

§2 The agenda was approved

§3 The board and all delegates introduced themselves

The procedures of the meeting were explained by the President .

The delegation of each country, which is a full member of UEMS has one vote. The delegations were provided with three sheets of papers for voting; Green=Yes, Red=No, Yellow=abstain from voting.

§4 Budget, budget process and principles

The budget proposal for 2014-2015, cost division between membership countries as well as financial statement and budget frame for 2015-2016 were introduced by the treasurer Helen Kingston.

The Section has no other income than membership fees and a small sum achieved by the board members serving as an assessor for CME in EACCME. Most of the expenses are for the costs for the board meetings and other UEMS related meetings to influence the European agenda .

The Section board has decided that the annual meeting should preferably be held in conjunction with the annual ESHG Conference in late spring every year. As the budget year for UEMS Sections runs from April 1 to March 30 the following year, in principle the budget has to be decided before that date.

The section board suggested the following budget process: At the annual meeting the year before, a cost frame is decided within which the budget for the following year has to be set. Not later than end of January a budget suggestion including cost division between countries is sent to the head delegate of the participating organisation for approval. If a reply is not returned before February 28, the budget is considered approved. The reason for non-approval should be stated by the member organisations so the board has a possibility to improve for coming years. Only countries that have paid their fees for the actual year are invited for the discussion on next year budget.

When the Section has agreed on a budget frame, the UEMS has a suggested a model for dividing costs between countries. The SCG board found it unfair and made a recalculation based on countries population size and BNP, reflecting the grade of economic development of each country. This model was presented knowing that each model has advantages and disadvantages for individual countries.

The budget proposal for 2014-2015, cost division between membership countries, the financial statement, and budget frame for 2015-2016 were all unanimously accepted.

§5 Aims and priorities for the Section

Interaction with EBMG

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ESHG has created a new organization, the European Board for Medical Genetics (EBMG) to establish professional standards of education, training and practice in human and medical genetics and genetic counselling improvement of quality in genetic service by providing European examinations in clinical genetics for Genetic nurses/counsellors, clinical scientists and medical doctors.

<https://www.eshg.org/ebmg.0.html>. The exam is voluntary, but for nurses and scientists important for recognition, which already was achieved by clinical geneticists. The organisation will work according the European qualification directive and be able to certify professionals. Many other Sections of UEMS offer specialist exams in collaboration with their scientific society. At present EMBG is being build up, but there is a strong wish from EMBG/ESHG that the Section should work closely together with EMBG and take a leading position in the building of an exam for MDs.

Heather Skirton expressed a worry that clinical geneticist may mainly be involved with developing the European programs for MDs within UEMS SCG and this may impeach on the collaboration with other professionals within EMBG to achieve the same European recognition as the clinical geneticists already have. It was stated by many attendees that this indeed should not happen and is not in the interest of any professionals.

A Training programme for residents – an update

In the process of getting recognition as a European speciality the endorsement of ESHG and UEMS of a template for a European training programme is of great importance, but this document needs revision. Feliciano Ramos presented the board's suggestions for an update. However, work on this is continuing.

Inventory of specialists in Europe

At present we do not know how many specialists and residents in clinical genetics there are in the different European countries, as explained by Ulf Kristofferson. A plan to make an inventory to find out, and, if possible keep it updated was discussed.

Further to be taken by the board.

General discussion on priority issues for 2014-2020

The board has identified issues that were thought important for the near future. The National representatives need to also identify which professional issues are important in their country and on the European level. Suggestions are welcome and persons who are willing to do the work were encouraged to contact the board. All working groups need not be chaired by a board member, but can be chaired by a National representative. All interested are welcome to participate in the work.

§6 Section website and logo

UEMS has a format for the Sections using the www.UEMS.eu address as official web address. Section website and logo were introduced by Bela Melegh, who has been workign on the SCG web site.

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The logo was unanimously approved. The information included in the website was briefly discussed. The list of national delegates will be included with email addresses to enable contacts. More information, such as a photo or fields of interest can be included, but is optional.

§7 Election of new board members

The Section has not appointed an election committee, but has decided that the board acts as Election committee. Normally the UEMS mandate period is 4 years, once renewable in the same position; the president and at least one of secretary or treasurer should have overlapping periods. The number of UEMS Section board members are minimum 2 (president and secretary/treasurer. At our inaugural meeting in November 2013 the president was elected for 2 years. For the elections at the next annual meeting in Glasgow 2015 the term of the present president Ulf Kristofferson will thus end. He told the Section meeting that he will not be available for re-election, but is willing to stay on as a vice-president for a coming period.

The board suggested that prof Alessandra Ranieri, who is a delegate for Italy, would be elected to the board. No other new board members were suggested.

Alessandra Ranieri was elected to the board.

§8 Endorsement of two ESHG documents

The ESHG and its quality and PPPC committee documents and guidelines are important for the genetic clinics. Their status in Europe would be improved by UEMS endorsement.

The board suggested to the meeting that two such documents would be endorsed by the Section: 1) Background document and Recommendations concerning genetic testing and common disorders and 2) Genetic testing in asymptomatic minors (both available at <https://www.eshg.org/eshgdocs.0.html>)

The meeting decided to endorse these documents and they will be later taken to the UEMS Council and Boards Meeting for endorsement.

§9 The president closed the meeting at 12.45.

Ulf Kristoffersson
Chair

Kristiina Aittomäki
Secretary