

Minutes from the 9th annual meeting of the UEMS, Section for Infectious Diseases, September 3-4, 2004, Strasbourg, France.

Present:

Hannes Pichler	Austria
Adriana Vince	Croatia
George Petrikos	Cyprus
Finn T. Black	Denmark
Daniel Christmann	France
Christian Perronne	France
Winfried V. Kern	Germany
Ernst R. Weissenbacher	Germany
Mario Mondelli	Italy
Gábor Ternák	Hungary
Haakon Sjursen	Norway
Henrique Lecour	Portugal
Dan Duiculesu	Romania
Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle	Sweden
Rainer Weber	Switzerland
Haluk Eraksoy	Turkey
Mike McKendrick	UK
Edmund Smyth	Observer, UEMS Medical Biopathology Section
Ragnar Norrby	Observer, ESCMID
Peter Schoch	Observer, ESCMID

- 1. Welcome, apologies and approval of minutes and agenda.** President Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle, and our host Daniel Christmann welcomed everyone to the meeting. Just shortly before the meeting, Mary Horgan sent apologies for being unable to come. Similarly, Franc Strle and Thomas Benfield had to cancel their participation. The minutes from the last meeting in Cork, September 2003, were approved. The agenda for the current meeting was approved.
- 2. Financial report.** The treasurer/secretary Winfried Kern summarized the financial situation. He reported that the current balance (as of 31.08.2004) was € +9116,05. An overview of all incoming and outgoing payments since the transfer of the business from Haakon Sjursen in July 2003 was shown. Incoming payments were membership fees (2789,90 €) plus accrued interests (52,07 €); expenses were for travelling (2344,21 €), secretarial help (400,00 €) and bank charges (5,00€). The financial report was approved by Finn T. Black who was previously elected to serve as accountant.

Membership fee payments since 2001 were shown in a table, and it was clear that a few countries were delayed in their annual payments despite having been sent formal invoices. Outstanding fees were noted for the following countries: Czech Republic, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain.

Discussions then followed about optimal use of the money in the sense of the section's objectives. The decision was unanimously taken to support the coming annual meeting(s) and therefore to postpone further discussion until after the budget for the coming annual meeting in Dubrovnik (see below) is known.

- 3. Member/observer status fees, terms of offices, statutes.** After the last year's controversial discussions it was now emphasized that it is common and accepted practice that full

members as well provisional members (countries with observer status) pay an annual fee, and our section will adopt this practice. Therefore, members as well as observers (excluding invited delegates from professional bodies like other UEMS sections or scientific societies) have to pay an annual membership due of 200 €. However, there is no means to enforce this rule, and the only consequence of continuous failure to pay would be to delete the country from the mailing list incl. the list of participants at the annual group meeting.

The difference between full member and observer – if not relevant in terms of payments as said above – was explained to lie in active versus passive voting rights. In order to have active voting rights in the section, the delegate's country needs to be a full member. There may be a delay in being recognized by UEMS as a full member in the section if the national delegate as nominated by the the appropriate professional association has not been notified to UEMS. Due to that reason, UEMS in our case does not formally recognize many delegates (e.g. Croatia, Denmark, and others)! All delegates should ask their nominating association to notify UEMS of the nomination. National delegates themselves or section officers are not accepted in notifying UEMS of nominations. Winfried Kern or his secretary Annette Feith will regularly inquire about the member/observer status as recognized by central UEMS and forward to national delegates any information thought to be relevant.

Regarding statutes, Mike McKendrick proposed to review those proposed previously, and discuss this issue next year if needed.

4. ***Report on recruitment efforts.*** President Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle and Winfried Kern reported on the recent developments regarding the list of member and observer countries. Despite some efforts there have been no news on the ID situation and responsibilities in Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Estonia and Malta. News were available from Romania and Cyprus. Both countries nominated delegates, and the section was honoured to welcome at the meeting Dr. Duiculescu from Bucharest, Romania, and Dr. Petrikos from Nikosia, Cyprus. In Spain, there is a new delegate, Dr. Pachon from Sevilla. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the meeting. For Italy, the new delegate is Dr. Mondelli from Pavia. The President welcomed Dr. Mondelli who among other things expressed his apologies for the Italian “silence” over the past few years and the overdue fee payments. All information on members/observers including nominating associations is now held up-to-date by the secretary.
5. ***Report on the May meeting between UEMS Sections/boards and the UEMS Executive, Brussels.*** President Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle summarized the essentials of the May meeting in Brussels where Ingrid and Winfried represented the section. One important topic was the discussion about European examinations following a letter written by the UEMS President and General Secretary at the instruction of the UEMS Council. This letter had pointed out that these exams have no legal status either nationally or at European level and are not part of professional recognition. This had been stimulated by concerns in particular from the German authorities who had threatened legal action in the European Court which UEMS could not have defended. This in turn caused offence to those who had been organising these assessments but it was pointed out that the American Boards when they issued a certificate also issued a document giving details of which this did and did not mean. The UEMS President agreed to issue such an explanatory letter.

Another important topic was the latest development relating to the professional recognition directive. Here, UEMS attempts to help transfer professional EU directives concerning the medical profession from the Market Directorate (focus: mobility) to the Directorate for Health and Consumer Protection (focus: quality) were not successful. The draft new professional directive had been issued by the directorate of the EU concerned with the free movement of labour. A major point now was whether a compromise proposal would be acceptable that specialties will be recognised if they are regarded as an independent specialty in 2/5, i.e. 10/25 member states (instead of the majority of member states).

A third topic was the UEMS Compendium 2004. The proposal of a two page spread for each specialty consisting of 1200 words was accepted, and the section already responded to the request to write something.

Another topic was EACCME (see also below).

- 6. *Report from the ESCMID Leuven workshop on training in ID/Microbiology.*** Mike McKendrick gave a summary of what he presented at the above meeting. A summary can be found on our website (<http://www.uemsinfect.org>) and also at <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2004/040401.asp>. An important point was the concept of an "infection specialist" in the sense of combined infectious disease physician/clinical microbiologist. It was noted, however, that the training period for such a "super"-specialist would be very long, and the concept would be problematic in countries where medical microbiology is not recognized and in practice done by non-medical scientists within laboratory medicine (or clinical pathology as named in some countries).
- 7. *Discussion about collaboration with clinical microbiology.*** Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle welcomed Dr. Smyth from Ireland who is representing the subsection microbiology in the UEMS Medical Biopathology Section. Dr. Smyth summarized the present situation of medical microbiology regarding recognition and training curriculum (see also: http://nc.ibk.liu.se/uems_board/). As expected there are large areas of overlap between microbiology and infectious diseases. For example, according to the proposed curriculum, a microbiologist is expected to acquire competence regarding "advice on diagnosis, treatment and prevention of microbial diseases", but also regarding infection control which is, in addition, a separate specialty/subspecialty in some countries. In a lively discussion on various aspects of potential collaboration it was decided to start with mutual granting an observer status at the annual meetings of each section and explicit reports of recent developments in each field. In addition, the meeting agreed that Mary Horgan as President of EBID should work together with Dr. Smyth in identifying common areas in the training programmes for specialist trainees within the two specialties.
- 8. + 9. *Training charter update / report from EBID.*** Mike McKendrick briefly discussed proposals for changes in the curriculum, in particular regarding items nos. 7, 8, and 13. There was open discussion re amending and updating the curriculum. It was agreed that the changes should be circulated to members for comments and then put on the Section website if it was agreed.
- 10. *Report from EBAID.*** Finn T Black briefly summarized the accreditation process as currently organized. There were 2 applications. There are certain conflicting views of

EBAID and UEMS on the EACCME business. These need to be addressed. There will be revised position paper on the matter which will clearly express the view of the section. Mary Horgan was asked to confer with Finn Black. It was felt very important to remain involved in accreditation procedures, and Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle thanked Finn T. Black for his efforts.

Peter Schoch, Managing Director of ESCMID explained the position of ESCMID in the accreditation process. A body parallel to EBAID, EBACM (CM=clinical microbiology) was created recently; further details can be found on the ESCMID website (directly accessible via <http://www.ebaid.org> and <http://www.ebacm.org>). The present planning is to involve EBACM or EBAID every other year for ECCMID accreditation. According to Peter Schoch, no other plans so far have been discussed.

- 11. *Website report/demonstration.*** Haakon Sjursen reported. The website (<http://www.uemsinfect.org>) is now well maintained. Many documents are available. There were discussions on which personal data (phone, e-mail, etc.) should be protected, and all members/observers were asked to individually confirm this in written form. There were many proposals to include various links. But eventually, a decision was taken to presently just include links to EBAID, ESCMID and nominating national associations.
- 12. *Next President.*** The section – after a 4-year term of acting President Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle – had to elect a new President. The only proposal was Mike McKendrick. Elections were held and Mike was elected with one abstention and without any objection. Mike asked for some time before he would be able to accept the position, but then circulated a letter (dated October 4, 2004) in which he confirmed acceptance of the presidency. Thus, the section has a new President. Congratulations!
- 13. *Next annual meeting.*** It had already been decided earlier to have the 2005 annual meeting in Croatia. Adriana Vince discussed various options regarding the exact date and venue. A decision was taken to hold the meeting on the weekend of September, 9-10, in Dubrovnik. Details will follow. No plans were discussed regarding a meeting during the 2005 ECCMID in Copenhagen and the venue for the 2006 annual meeting of the section.
- 14. *Any other business.*** No other matters were discussed, and President Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle thanked all participants for coming and Daniel Christmann for his valuable and superb organization.

Lund and Freiburg
28. December 2004