

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the UEMS Section for Infectious Diseases, 16th September 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Present

Davorka Dušek (DD)	Croatia
Søren Jensen-Fangel (SJF)	Denmark
Anu Kantele	Finland
Jean-Paul Stahl (JPS)	France
Athanasios Skoutelis	Greece
Zsófia Müller (ZM)	Hungary
Francesco Castelli (FC)	Italy
Nicola Petrosillo (NP)	Italy
Arvydas Ambrozaitis	Lithuania
Aukse Mickiene	Lithuania
Håkon Sjørsen (HS)	Norway
Bente Magny Bergersen (BMB)	Norway
José Luis Boaventura	Portugal
Bojana Beović (BB)	Slovenia
Tatjana Lejko Županc	Slovenia
Jose Maria Miro Meda(JMM)	Spain
Christian van Delden	Switzerland
Nick Beeching (NB)	UK
Meltem Arzu Yetkin	Turkey
Truls Michael Leegaard (TML)	Norway, UEMS MM liaison officer
Zaira Palacios Baena (ZPB)	TAE representative, Spain

Welcome, Apologies and Approval of Minutes and Agenda

President Jean-Paul Stahl (JPS) and our host Bojana Beović (BB) welcomed everyone to the meeting. 19 delegates representing 15 countries, attended the meeting, as well UEMS Medical Microbiology (UEMS MM) representative and Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) representative. Apologies were received from George Petrikkos, Ljiljana Betica Radic.

The minutes of the 2016 meeting in Budapest were approved. The agenda for the current meeting was also approved.

Report of the ID Section's President (JPS)

General assembly, Brussels, October 2016

- Representatives of Sections and Boards are invited to assist Council in an advisory capacity. In particular, Presidents and Secretaries of Sections & Boards represented in the Advisory Board (Art VII)
- New ETRs: Internal medicine, Neurology, Laboratory medicine. Pain medicine was maintained under discussion: more specialties to be involved
- New members :

The two German associations (GFB/ SpiFa) merged

Bulgaria

Serbia

“The UEMS Council unanimously approved the admission of the Arab Board for Health Specialisation in Iraq as an observer member of UEMS”

Council meeting, Tel Aviv, April 2017

A decision: meeting with European Scientific Societies in October 2017. The overall goal is to strengthen relations between UEMS and ESS and to explore new areas of collaboration. We, as ID and CM, have excellent collaboration with ESCMID (Professional Affairs)

- ETR news :

Example of difficulties: the section of Rheumatology had launched a survey on ETR adoption by EU countries. It turned out that the majority of national societies acknowledge the existence of UEMS ETR but keep using their own standards. It would be opportune to come up with a strategy for ETR dissemination.

New validated ETRs : Psychiatry, Nuclear Medicine, Medical Genetics (Clinical before discussion that changed the wording), Gastroenterology

Projects for the coming year:

- To propose for validation of our ETR and curriculum in the general assembly, in October in Brussels

- To implement a directory of legal requirements in the various European countries, in case ID physicians would like to move and work in another country than the one they achieved their teaching. This should be launched after validation of ETR and curriculum.

Membership news (DD)

DD updated the list of the countries' new representatives in the Section as follows: José María Miro Meda and José Miguel Cisneros Herreros for Spain, Tatjana Lejko Županc for Slovenia, Emile Schippers for the Netherlands.

Following countries do not have second delegate in the UEMS ID Section: Hungary, France, Switzerland, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Iceland, Lithuania, Malta. There are no representatives from Bulgaria, Estonia, Luxembourg and Sweden. DD will write to National Medical Associations and National ID Societies to try to get delegates for these countries.

Reports from members, country specific recent developments. Status of the Infectious Diseases Specialty in Europe. (All)

A usual round-the-table discussion was held on the topic.

- **Italy-** Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine have merged into one specialty. FC and NP emphasized that due to economic reasons duration of education has been reduced from 5 to 4 years. There are 55 new trainees per year, trainees are not autonomous and are working under supervision. Italy is the only country in which higher medical training is controlled by Ministry of education therefore it is rather difficult to change curriculum in medical specialities.
- **France-** in 2017 ID has become an independent specialty. There will be one year of general internal medicine (GIM), followed by 4 years of specialty training, but not exclusively on ID wards (ICU, pulmonology etc). There is no exit exam. There are more available positions since every hospital must have specialist assigned for antimicrobial stewardship and infection control. UEMS ID Section helped with recognition of Infectious Diseases as an independent specialty. There is possibility for ID doctors to work in private practice.
- **Denmark-** no significant changes, still independent specialty, no formal exit exam after the end of residency. Training lasts for 5 years with 3 months of Medical Microbiology. There has been some pressure for trainees do to less research with goal of finishing residency program sooner. Antimicrobial stewardship, Infection Control are quite evolving fields. Lot of research is being done in the field of immunocompromised patients and cystic fibrosis. There are approximately 120 ID physicians.
- **Norway-** major changes should occur in the forthcoming period, new rules will apply to all specialties, but not implemented yet. ID is a subspecialty of Internal Medicine. There is tendency for ID to become main specialty and to harmonise curriculum with European Training Requirements. There will be 2 years of GIM, followed by 3 years of ID and 1 year of Medical Microbiology (MM).
- **Turkey-** ID is a main specialty, but there is a joint ID/CM specialty. There is a core curriculum for all education centres in Turkey. Duration of this joint CM/ID specialty is 5 years which includes 6 months of GIM. Proposed curriculum should be implemented in all hospitals, logbook for trainees is not implemented as well as expected. Board exam is not mandatory.
- **Greece-** ID is subspecialty of Internal Medicine or Pediatrics. Duration of training for these two main specialties is 5 years, followed by 2 years of subspecialty ID training. There are 15 major education centres. ID physicians work mostly as ID consultants. Not all hospitals

prioritize ID and there is uneven distribution of ID specialists. CM subspecialty hasn't started yet. There are 250 ID physicians.

- **Slovenia**- no major changes, ID is independent specialty. Duration of specialty is 6 years, although the curriculum for 6th year is not clearly defined yet, perhaps there will be more education in Infection Control (IC) during the 6th year. Work of ID physicians is usually ward based, but not all hospital acknowledge the need for ID physicians and there is uneven distribution of ID doctors. Renewal of ETR and Curriculum is needed.
- **Croatia**- no major changes, ID and Pediatric Infectious Diseases are independent specialties. Duration of training is 5 years, including 22 months of GIM and 3 months of MM. Work of ID physicians is usually ward based.
- **Hungary**- ID is independent specialty in Hungary. Duration of training is 5 years including 2 years of general trunk (Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Hygiene). Number of ID physicians is decreasing over time, currently around 200 ID physicians. There is no separate PID.
- **United Kingdom**- Combined training is compulsory: 2 years internal medicine + 2 years joint training in CM/ID+ 2 years CM or ID or CM/ID. Duration of training for Tropical Medicine subspecialty is 7 years (2 years GIM+5 years ID). There are approximately 120 ID trainees. Due to lack of funding for general medicine there is a pressure for ID physicians doing more general medicine and dealing with more geriatric patients.
- **Portugal**- ID is independent specialty. In the last few years ID physician are very involved in Infection Control. Portuguese Travel Medicine Society has been established. Portuguese ID Society is currently performing questionnaire for all ID physicians to get a better insight in the status of ID specialty in Portugal.
- **Lithuania**- ID is a separate specialty with duration of training 4 years (2 years GIM, 2 years ID). Curriculum is being updated with tendency of extending duration of training and harmonizing it with European Curriculum, but this is uncertain due to financial restrictions. There are 2 ID training centres with 4 trainees per year. Number of ID physician is around 80.
- **Finland**- ID is a separate specialty with approximately 120 ID physicians. Duration of training is 6 years. Training in CM, IC, and management training is obligatory. There is an exit exam.
- **Switzerland**. Approximately 90 ID specialists. Training is performed in 7 teaching centres and 16 local hospitals. Tropical Medicine is a separate specialty. There has been complete revision of curriculum and training requirements, duration of training is 6 years. There is a plan to create AS programme for the whole country.
- **Spain**- JMM explains that this is the first time he attends an UEMS-ID meeting and he does so as a representative of the SEIMC. There is no specialty of infectious diseases (ID) in Spain (neither as a primary specialty nor as subspecialty of internal medicine). SEIMC has been trying to create the ID specialty for 20 years but has not yet succeeded by the blockade of the Spanish Ministry of Health. JMM thanks to the UEMS-ID (Dr. Mario Mondelli) for the letters of support for the creation of the ID specialty. The last Royal Decree of specialized health training was approved in Spain in 2003. In the year 2015 the Ministry of Health approved a new one, in which infectious diseases were a subspecialty of internal medicine. The SEIMC challenged the Royal Decree to the Supreme Court of Justice and it suspended it for economic reasons (the economic report was wrong) and no longer entered into technical issues such as the creation of the ID specialty. In Spain the health system is transferred to the 17 autonomous regions and to approve the creation of a new specialty they must give the approval in the Interterritorial Council, where all the Health Councilors are represented. The SEIMC has made a great effort last months/years and has spoken with all the political parties of the Spanish Parliamentary and the majority of Health Councilors of the 17 autonomous communities and at this moment most agree on its creation or do not oppose. The next meeting of the Human Resources Commission of the Interterritorial Council will be in October 2017 and the SEIMC believes that the creation of the ID specialty will be on the agenda. JMM hopes that the creation of the ID specialty will be approved. If this is the case,

the creation will be carried out through a specific Royal Decree and the SEIMC will use the Curricula and training of the new UEMS-ID chapter for its development.

Report from EBID (NB)

- New Training Requirements for the Specialty of Infectious Diseases
- New Curriculum for the Specialty of Infectious Diseases
- Report on CESMA activities: meetings Dec 2016 (Brussels) and Glasgow (May 2017)

More detailed information on ETR, Curriculum and CESMA activities can be found in ppt that are appended to the minutes.

New ETR and Curriculum are planned to be submitted to the UEMS Council in 2018.

Formation of Multidisciplinary Committee in Infection Control (NP)

UEMS ID Section and UEMS MM Section with support of EUCIC have proposed formation of Multidisciplinary Joint Committee in infection Control. This MJC IC will harmonize parts of the curricula and ETR pertaining to IC in both UEMS ID and UEMS MM Sections and will work on promoting visibility of IC among all UEMS specialties.

Approval of MJC IC formation is on the agenda of the forthcoming UEMS Autumn meeting in Brussels.

Report from EBAID (ZM)

ZM has started her activity at the end of April 2017 at EBAID, so she didn't attend the UEMS Advisory Council on CME (EACCME). The recognition of CME-CPD activities with European CME credits (ECMECs) is granted via Continuing Medical Education platform. Until the end of September 2017 evaluations were performed on 11 applications for European CME credits for live educational events. All applications were accepted. In 2017 accreditations E-learning education began in the field of Infectious Diseases also.

Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE) news (ZPB)

During the last year and the beginning of 2017 TAE have been involved in several activities. TAE day was held at ECCMID in Vienna, it was a great meeting and we receive a really good feedback from seniors and trainees who attended the symposium. Also, TAE has updated the flyer information with contacts on social media (Facebook and twitter). TAE have launched a new survey on mentorship supervision and management and at the moment of the UEMS meeting it had more than 300 answered questionnaires. TAE has participated in the organization of 2 postgraduate ESCMID courses: "Challenges in the management of viral hepatitis" and "Antibiotic therapy in practice".

The future plans include:

- co-organization in several symposiums for the next ECCMID 2018.
- Co-organization of a new postgraduate course
- Improve networking adding more contacts to our network.
- Improve presence on social media (Twitter, Facebook).

- Analyse the survey and share the data. Participating on a web platform for online courses (training) with ESCMID.

Cooperation with the Section of Medical Microbiology (TML)

UEMS Section of Medical Microbiology now has approved European training requirements and a curriculum, and it is also approved by UEMS centrally. At the annual meeting in Vienna in 2017 (just before ECCMID) it was agreed to establish a working group for a European exam in MM. The group has mostly discussed how to arrange such an exam, who will be able to sit for such an exam and other practicalities. There is still much work left to be done, and the work to collect/write MCQs has not even started. The idea was to do this in collaboration with ID, as many questions can be used for both specialities.

Financial Report/annual fees (DD)

The current balance of the UEMS ID section, as of 15th September 2017, is 24 686,67 Euros. Overview of incoming and outgoing payments was shown and approved by delegates. The incoming payments consisted from the annual fee payments from national associations. The payment from UEMS/EACCME for the EBAID live events evaluation have been partially received.

The current situation of membership payments was presented. DD will again contact national ID societies that haven't payed annual contribution.

Wrap-up, date and venue of next annual meeting

Spanish colleagues, Zaira Palacios Baena Jose Maria Miro Meda, kindly offered to host the next Annual in Sevilla, Spain in September 2018.

At 4 pm on Saturday 16th September 2017 the meeting was closed. Jean Paul Stahl thanked the participants for coming and Bojana Beović for the hospitality and the excellent organization of the meeting.