



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES
SECTION SPÉCIALISÉE DE MALADIES INFECTIEUSES

EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS
SECTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Press release UEMS-ID
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Berlin: Declaration of Physicians Dedicated to the Diagnosis and Care of Patients with Infectious Diseases

Burning issues in Infectious Diseases like antimicrobial resistance, the emergence of new and often life-threatening infectious diseases, the lack of high-quality vaccines for key diseases, and inadequate expertise in international migration medicine are key concerns of humanity. These challenges are solvable through cross-border cooperation. Everybody relies on high-quality medical expertise, but unfortunately Europe still has a patchwork-like situation in this regard. Physicians dedicated to the diagnosis and care of patients with Infectious Diseases want to change this. These specialists raised their voices in Berlin to make health care important again for all Europeans. Borders are just a hindrance. Health is a fundamental human right and not a privilege. Only together can we battle health issues worldwide, especially the challenges in Infectious Diseases.

On the occasion of the annual meeting of delegates, which took place in Berlin on September 20th and 21st, 2019, the Infectious Diseases Section of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS-ID) presented the **Berlin Declaration** on the European perspectives of health policy aspects and especially on developments in Infectious Diseases. (*Declaration is attached*)

Prof. **Jean Paul Stahl**, MD from France and President of the UEMS-ID: “We want to communicate our European positions and demands regarding the health care in Europe especially in the field of Infectious Diseases. We recognize that these challenges can only be solved through cross-border collaboration and cooperative international research. We need to tackle multidrug resistance with professionalism, otherwise more people will die unnecessarily. Therefore, we advocate that the training of physicians in Infectious Disease and Microbiology is pivotal to ensure the health care of people living in Europe. Training and patient care in Infectious Diseases and Clinical/Medical Microbiology must be uniform and cooperative in Europe.”

Dr. **Davorka Dušek**, MD from Croatia: “Infectious Diseases are constantly evolving and therefore represent major challenges for public health. One of the most important issues we are faced with is antimicrobial resistance due to antibiotic misuse, inadequate infection control measures and lack of new antimicrobials. Another burning issue is the emergence of new and potentially life-threatening diseases. Poor vaccination coverage results in higher prevalence of vaccine preventable diseases such as measles. Migration issues and climate changes contribute to changing patterns of infectious diseases. Major advances in treatment of malignant diseases mean that there are more immunocompromised patients who are exposed to multidrug resistant bacteria.”

Prof. Dr. **Andrew Ullmann**, MD from Germany and Member of the German Bundestag: “This is the first press conference of the UEMS-ID. It’s time that the experts speak up. Our declaration is a great demonstration of European unity by physicians despite tendencies of separation. Only by achieving unity, we will be able to prepare our future in health. Everybody relies on high-quality

medical expertise, but unfortunately Europe has still a patchwork-like situation in this regard. This is what our profession wants to change.”

Dr. **Jose M. Miro**, MD delegate from Spain, commented on the special situation in Spain: “Currently the specialty of Infectious Diseases does not exist in three European countries, either as a primary specialty or as an Internal Medicine subspecialty. Spain is sadly one of them, Belgium and Cyprus are the other two. The current Spanish government is receptive, and hopefully the specialty will be created in the near future.”

Dr. **Nick Beeching**, MD from the United Kingdom and Chair of the European Board of Infectious Diseases: “A new European Training Programme was approved in 2018 to remedy differences in practice around Europe. This details how training should be delivered and the competencies that should be acquired, and thus could become a European standard. This will improve the quality of practice across Europe and also enable specialists to work across borders.



v.l.n.r.

José Maria Miro, Davorka Dušek, Andrew Ullmann, Jean Paul Stahl, Nick Beeching (Photo: Stefan Daniel)

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View the press conference via ‘ID in Motion’: [To watch the presentation, press here.](#)

Berlin Declaration: [click here to download](#)

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What is UEMS?

The European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) is the oldest medical organization in Europe as it celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2018.

With a current membership from 40 countries, it is the representative organization of the National Associations of Medical Specialists in the European Union and its associated countries.

Its structure consists of a Council responsible for and working through 43 Specialist Sections and their European Boards, addressing training in their respective Specialty and incorporating representatives from academia (Societies, Colleges and Universities).

UEMS represents over 1.6 million medical specialists in all the different specialties. It also has strong links and relations with European Institutions (Commission and Parliament), the other independent European Medical Organizations and the European Medical / Scientific Societies.

By its agreed documents, UEMS sets standards for high quality healthcare practice that are transmitted to the Authorities and Institutions of the EU and the National Medical Associations stimulating and encouraging them to implement its recommendations.

What is ESCMID?

ESCMID is the European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. It's one of the leading scientific societies of the world. Since its founding in 1983, ESCMID has evolved to become Europe's leading society in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases with members from all European countries and all continents. For more than 30 years, ESCMID has been an influential component in the professional lives of microbiologists and infectious disease specialists and now reaches more than 7,000 individual and 30,000 affiliated members around the world. ESCMID, based in Basel, Switzerland, welcomes new colleagues from all nations.

What is EBID?

The European Board of Infectious Diseases (EBID) is composed of representatives of the European Union of Medical Specialities (UEMS) Specialist Section of Infectious Diseases. The EBID was inaugurated by the UEMS Specialist Section of Infectious Diseases in London on 11 September 1998. Its primary focus is on harmonization of the content and delivery of postgraduate and specialist training in Infectious Diseases across Europe. At a national level, training in Infectious Diseases is regulated by National Authorities, which set standards in accordance with national rules and European Union/European Free Trade Association (EU/EFTA) legislation, as well as in accordance with the recommendation of the UEMS/European Board of Infectious Diseases, EBID.

What is EBAID?

The European Board for CME Accreditation in Infectious Diseases (EBAID) is a permanent subcommittee of the UEMS Section and Board of Infectious Diseases. This subcommittee is responsible for accreditation of continuous medical education (CME) in the specialty of Infectious Diseases.