

Minutes from the 15th annual meeting of the UEMS Section for Infectious Diseases, 3-4 September 2010, Liverpool, UK.

Present.

Mario Mondelli (MM)

Kate Adams

Nick Beeching (NB)

Thomas Benfield

Ljiljana Betica Radi □

Jose Boaventura

Daniel Christmann

Dan Duiculescu

Bruno Hoen

Andrzej Horban

Tinja Lääveri

Mike McKendrick

Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle (INE)

Haakon Sjursen (HS)

Finn Trunk Black (FTB)

Adriana Vince (AV)

Welcome, apologies and approval of minutes and agenda.

President Mario Mondelli (MM) and our host Nick Beeching (NB) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Reiner Weber (Switzerland), Franc Strle (Slovenia), Andrew Ullmann (Germany), Winfried Kern (Germany), Haluk Eraksoy (Turkey) and Georg Daikos (Greece). The minutes of the last meeting in Bucharest, Romania, were approved. The agenda for the current meeting was also approved.

UEMS General Meeting (Brussels, March 2010): Matters arising.

EACCME. MM said that Central UEMS is seeing an increasing amount of cash flow. To this end, an EACCME Taskforce has been set up because of the need of transparency (projected income ~ 1,000,000 €), to avoid conflicts of interest with the pharma industry and guidelines were being developed for commercial support of CME/CPD events. Unfortunately, a policy paper has remained in draft status for the last two years. There has been a proposal to split revenues in three profit shares: 1/3 to UEMS, 1/3 to the section which must hold account although legally not possible on behalf of UEMS, 1/3 to the national accreditation authority. The fee was set at 600 € per live event and e-learning although the boards do not receive compensation for e-learning events. The assembly gave mandate to the president to clarify this point and to voice the section's reasons during the forthcoming meeting in Prague to modify this.

Working Group (WG) on future structure of UEMS. Recommendations were made to revise the UEMS internal structure as follows:

Mandate period:

Members of enlarged executive: 3 yrs (renewable once)

Presidents & Secretaries of Sections: 4 yrs (renewable twice!)

Chairs of 3 groupings: 2 yrs, non renewable.

The number of active section members attending Council Meetings has increased (n=38). A new staff dealing with relationship with sections & boards was recently appointed (1st April 2010). WG's should organize meetings at their own convenience and work primarily by mail.

Meeting of sections and groupings will be organized as outlined below:

Spring Meeting (Brussels):

S & B meetings: 1 person/section (President or Secretary/Treasurer) (Friday)

Discussion forum (open)

Standing committees

WGs

EU affairs

Board meeting (Saturday), Head of delegations only

Council meeting (Saturday)

Fall Meeting (venue to move around EU Member States, Prague 7-9 October 2010):

S & B meetings (Thursday)

Discussion forum (open)

Standing committees

WGs

EU affairs

Board meeting (head of delegations only) (Friday)

Council meeting (Friday)

Council meeting (Saturday)

Standing Committees.

ECAMSQ (European Council for the Accreditation of Medical Specialist Qualification) : includes WG on PGT and CESMA (Council for European Specialist Medical Assessment) for the whole area of PGT.

EACCME

QA in specialist practice

All to be chaired by a medical specialist appointed by the Enlarged Executive (EE).
Other members appointed by EE. Mandate flexible.

European Specialty certificate. There was discussion on the following points:
Ownership of qualified specialized medical practice

UEMS responsible for accreditation and standard of clinical practice and quality of training.

MM said that the ID section should move forward and prepare a syllabus/CV in response to the launch of EACPGT and possibly use existing work by other sections as template. The President of the section of Pediatric Surgery offered advice on this matter. MM proposed the assembly to create a Working Committee which will be chaired by Nick Beeching because of his extensive and longstanding expertise in the field, Haakon Sjurson as President of EBID, one further member from the section, two members of ESCMID representing Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology and one member of the Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE). The proposal was approved unanimously.

Additional matters.

Questionnaire on Flu Pandemics. Stakeholder Consultation to seek the views of key stakeholders on what action the European Commission should take to strengthen European Union Pandemic Influenza Preparedness. Two main areas:

How useful was the 2005 plan both during the pandemic preparedness phase and during the response to pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and how should it be improved?

What should be done at EU level to improve EU pandemic preparedness?

Questionnaire divided into sections covering, preparedness and co-ordination, surveillance, containment and mitigation (including vaccines and antivirals), health system response, international communication and communication with citizens. Final section is about multi-sectorial preparedness.

Compiled by MM on behalf of the ID Section and by AV as a private citizen. During discussion it was felt inappropriate that UEMS was consulted on matters that pertain the European CDC rather than the UEMS ID Section. IN suggested that MM write to the UEMS President Zlatko Fras to clarify the Section's point of view. This was done immediately after the section's meeting.

Liaison with Medical Microbiology Section:

Requested by President Prof Degener President of the Medical Microbiology Section

Designation of Liaison Officer (MM Officer: Joergen Prag, DK).

The assembly unanimously proposed and voted Adriana Vince as Liaison Officer of the ID Section.

Section's website.

Andrew Ullmann could not come to the meeting but provided an extensive slide report on this topic. Several specific problems were identified on which the assembly commented and discussed. Although it was acknowledged that the website had been under attack by hackers, it was felt that the access to the homepage was not intuitive and probably unnecessarily laborious. Although going through the contact page eventually led to the homepage, it was felt that this could not act as deterrent to hackers while making the access more difficult to ordinary visitors. The section's opinion was that it was time to restore a direct access to the homepage. A link from the ESCMID homepage to the UEMS-ID website was also suggested. The list of delegates needed extensive update and AV offered to provide AU with the most recent list and the 2010 report on the activity of the ID Section. Establishing a link with the TAE website was thought to be important. It was also agreed that the latest version of chapter 6 will be provided by HS (rapidly done) and it was suggested that the current listing under "documents"

was inappropriate, whereas “training and education” would have been a better section. Graphics could be improved.

AU responded quickly to the assembly’s suggestions and comments and most of the changes were done immediately after the section’s meeting.

Candidates to election of new president of EBID.

HS mandate will come to an end in 2011. There were no candidacies and MM asked HS whether he was willing to continue with the excellent work he had been doing over the past several years and prolong his appointment. HS said he would think about this proposal.

Members/observers status/developments. (AV)

Bruno Hoen has replaced Christian Peronne as a delegate from France. There have been contacts with Serbian Medical Chamber, however they have not sent a delegate to the meeting.

Still not a second member appointed for some countries.

Reports from member – countries. (AV)

Portugal – difficulty in increasing micro training to 6 months. Added Infection Control as mandatory.

Italy – reduction in training centers by 50% with no change in the number of trainees.

France – anticipate getting full national recognition for the speciality of Infectious Diseases by the end of 2011.

Finland – there is a possibility that Infectious Diseases will stop being part of a University Diploma.

Croatia – there is a slow move towards UEMS structure. There is still adult and pediatric combined at the present time.

Poland – no change

Norway – no change

Romania – introduced specific training and accreditation for doctors using antiretroviral drugs. Plan to have an intensive care facility in every Infectious Diseases hospitals (some are pure ID hospitals) which will be managed by the ID physicians together with a visiting anesthetist.

Sweden – no changes

Denmark – no changes

UK – current update on proposed common trunk reported.

Report from EBAID. (IN)

EBAID has evaluated 38 live events for European credits. Of these, 35 were approved.

Seven e-learning applications have been evaluated and one was not approved.

The EACCME electronic evaluation system works better since the new site is operative. However, there are still inefficiencies and room for improvement. Finn Black and Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle will raise these points at the EACCME general council meeting in Brussels on November 27.

Regarding e-learning evaluations, two points:

1. these evaluations yield no income to the Section for ID, only to the individual evaluators. Since EBAID handles the administrative part of finding evaluators, the Section should receive remuneration. It was decided that this point will be raised at the meeting in Brussels.
2. finding evaluators is not easy for the EBAID coordinator. To expand the cadre of possible evaluators, INE will prepare a practical written guide for how to do evaluations. After approval from the rest of EBAID, this guide will be sent to Adriana Vince for distribution among the Section members who may then recruit voluntary evaluators among their ID colleagues.

Finn Black will continue as coordinator for EBAID for another year. Ingrid Nilsson-Ehle continues as chairperson, Thomas Benfield and Nick Beeching as members.

Financial agreement for the work of the coordinator continues.

EWTD

There was general discussion on EWTD and a sense that some countries such as Denmark have a strict 37 hours per week including on call though individuals may have to do extra and be paid for it (often get compensatory week off every 6 weeks). Some countries have a nominal EWTD compliance but in reality do not comply. In no country were consultants apparently restricted by the 48 hours per week.

Concern was expressed by the trainee representative and supported by the Section that the time of training should be filled with appropriate activity and not include activities such as venesection which apparently in some centres may take up to 2 hours per day.

Financial report. (AV)

AV reported that the current balance (as of 31.8.2010) was 22.045 €. An overview of incoming and outgoing payments was shown and approved by delegates. The sum of 4400 € was transferred from UEMS/EACCME for the EBAID live events evaluations in 2009. The current situation of Membership payments was represented. It was agreed to resend the invoices for 2009 to members who have not paid the annual fee. The question was raised how to use the resources. It was again agreed that section could support the costs of annual meetings up to 3000 €. The section should also support members from countries with limited resources to attend the meetings. It was decided that the annual fee should not be changed for the time being

Strategy for section and board of infectious diseases.

MM reiterated the point that the ID section should work on producing a syllabus/CV to be ready at the launch of the European Specialty Certificate. Also it was felt that the newly created committee chaired by NB should work on a European Exam on Infectious Diseases. It was agreed that a draft document should be ready for approval at the next section meeting in 2011 and submitted for approval to UEMS before the Spring Council Meeting in 2012.

Date and venue of next annual meeting.

George Daikos could not attend the section's meeting in Liverpool but reiterated the invitation to host the next meeting in Athens, 9-10 September 2011. This was accepted to alternate venues between Northern and Southern Europe. Freiburg will probably host the meeting in 2012.

AOB.

Poor attendance by the membership to the annual section's meeting was thought to be an important problem to address. This could be due to financial issues, time and/or venue of the meeting, lack of motivation or involvement in specific initiatives within the section. To this end, MMcK kindly offered to prepare a questionnaire that will be circulated among the membership to investigate this point. At 12 noon on Saturday 4th September the meeting was closed. Mario Mondelli thanked the participants for coming and Nick Beeching for the hospitality and the excellent organization of the meeting.

Mario Mondelli,

Adriana Vince

