THE EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

WORK AND SCOPE OF THE UEMS SECTION OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Introduction

In the European Union the professional affairs of medical specialists are represented by the UEMS. This organization is the umbrella of the official national specialist associations working together in order to discuss and try to harmonize the different national regulations present in the European area and conform the European Union needs.

Sharing together Continuing Medical Education, achieving Continuing Professional Development, harmonizing the training for the medical specialist profession, the Clinical Governance and the Quality projects, both at National and at European level, is the basis on which the UEMS is founded.

The UEMS General Council and UEMS specialist Sections like the Section of Medical Microbiology and the Section of Infectious Diseases work together in this context.

UEMS Organization.

The history of UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialties)

UEMS has been founded in 1958, a year after the Council of Europe established the first components of the European Union (Italy, France, Germany, Benelux). A present components of UEMS are 35 National Associations as described in tab 1

UEMS is the oldest European Medical Organization.

UEMS represents currently around 1.4 million doctors.

UEMS is an ONG (non government organization). Secretariat staff is active in Brussels.

The Section of Medical Microbiology

The Section of Medical Microbiology has recently reviewed the training requirements for Medical Microbiology, which were accepted with minor changes, at the annual UEMS meeting in Brussels in May 2013.

The new Training Requirements for the Specialty of Medical Microbiology were accepted at the UEMS Council meeting in October 2013.

The new requirements state that all training should take place in a recognized institution or training centre. The specialty training should be under qualified supervisor and the programme should acknowledge opportunities to check the trainee proceedings during the whole period of training. The quality of the training institution should be addressed by an external team of specialists in Medical Microbiology.

The training period is five years, to be reduced only in case of advanced experience in one or more fields of Microbiology.

A core training programme for Medical Microbiology was published in 2007 when microbiology was still part of the Section of Laboratory Medicine / Medical Biopathology.


The aim of the Section of Medical Microbiology is to undertake a revision of this document in the near future.

The Section will work to achieve its aims by trying to:

• increase the number of European countries being active participants in the Section of Medical Microbiology;
• exchange ideas and projects with other European organisations to increase knowledge and cooperation in the field of Medical Microbiology;
• enhance the importance of our specialty throughout the European Scientific Community;
• make the Section more visible and its actions suitable to the new European needs in the field of infection;
• cooperate and exchange liaison officers between the Section of Medical Microbiology and the Section of Infectious Diseases;
• cooperate and exchange liaison officers with the Division of Medical Microbiology in the Section of Laboratory Medicine / Medical Biopathology (representing European countries where Medical Microbiology is not fully recognized) to achieve a profitable exchange in the interest of Medical Microbiology;
• cooperate with the Section of Infectious Diseases with a Multidisciplinary Joint Committee in Infection Control.

CONCLUSIONS

UEMS will always work in the spirit of promoting a better understanding and cooperation among the European professionals and the Section of Medical Microbiology will work and make its best in order to promote the Medical Specialty of Microbiology in Europe.

More information can be found in the front page of UEMS (www.uems.org) in the space dedicated to the Specialty Sections. The email addresses of the President, Secretary and Treasurer can be found there in the Medical Microbiology Section.

The wish, in the near future, is to create a forum for discussion of most important European events in the Microbiology page on the website. Our homepage address in the website is the following: http://www.uems-smmm.org/