



President

Dr. Siroos Mirzaei
AUSTRIA
E-mail: siroos.mirzaei@wienkav.at

Secretary / Treasurer

Dr. Roland Hustinx
BELGIUM
E-mail: rhustinx@chuliege.be

Member

Dr. Ariane Boubaker
SWITZERLAND
E-mail: a.boubaker@lasource.ch

UEMS Section and Board of Nuclear Medicine National Delegates Assembly 2020

Minutes

Venue: online

Date: Friday, **December 11**

Time: 09:00 – 10:30

Participants:

UEMS/EBNM: Executive Committee:

S. Mirzaei – UEMS/EBNM,

R. Hustinx – UEMS/EBNM,

A. Boubaker - UEMS/EBNM - **EXCUSED**

Z. Ozcan – UEMS/EBNM Fellowship Committee - **EXCUSED**

M. Farsad – UEMS/EBNM CME Accreditation Committee,

R. Hustinx – UEMS/EBNM Education & Syllabus Committee,

J. Prior – UEMS/EBNM Accreditation Committee,

H. Silber – UEMS/EBNM Office

M. Zieglmeier – UEMS/EBNM Office

S. Niederkofler – EANM Office

UEMS/EBNM National Delegates and Deputies

1. Welcome by the UEMS/EBNM President and approval of agenda

S. Mirzaei opens the meeting and welcomes the participants of the Delegates Assembly.

2. News of the UEMS/EBNM President

S. Mirzaei starts with his report and presents an overview of the year 2020. S. Mirzaei informs that the Homepage has already been updated to reflect the current composition of the Executive Committee and the Committees. Moritz Zieglmeier will replace Michaela Bartain in 2021 to support the UEMS Office.

A total of 6 ETRs were approved without comments by the EBNM section. Therefore, all ETRs have been approved.

The CME Meeting in October 2020 was very much focused on the Basel declaration and in specific the implementation aspect of the CPD aspect (continuing professional development). The Basel declaration needs to be updated accordingly. For instance, Belgium does not have a mandatory CME system in place. CPD has been

UEMS/EBNM Office, Schmalzhofg. 26, 1060 VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Tel: +43-(0)1-890 44 27, Fax: +43-(0)1-890 44 27-9, E-mail: office@uems.eanm.org, URL: <http://uems.eanm.org>

recommended, but is yet not in place in any countries, but is therefore under discussion to be implemented in the future.

S. Mirzaei has been invited by the Pakistani Society of Nuclear medicine to attend a webinar. There has been an extended discussion about the EBNM fellowship exam, which consists of two parts – MCQ and oral. One of the main discussion points was about potential substitution of the physical oral FEBNM exam (Plan B), given the current pandemic which hinders travel and physical meetings in case that the situation pertains in 2021. An online oral fellowship exam would be an option if technically feasible and given that the office can support the implementation. S. Mirzaei asks therefore about reports and experiences from other countries regarding this matter. The Executive Committee is in contact with the radiology section, who do have a software in place to perform online oral exams, to learn about this system being used. There is no information regarding the costs available yet.

The second item on the agenda was the discussion on the syllabus requirements to fulfil a certain number of cases during traineeship. Some trainees, particularly in US, where facing difficulties in achieving the numbers needed, so the potential substitution through cases was raised. The Executive Board discussed with the Committee eChairs and came to the conclusion that it should not be changed. Contacts with the UEMS central in Brussels confirmed that there is no such case in Europe. All Delegates are invited to share information on this item if available.

S. Mirzaei shortly informs that despite a high number of webinars being organized in 2020 by the IAEA, the option for CME accreditation was not taken up by the IAEA. Awareness should be raised among the IAEA.

The clinical audit session had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the circumstances.

During the EANM virtual congress, the UEMS/EBNM had a virtual booth to be represented. At the congress also the update of the Nuclear Medicine Guide was presented. The EBNM is proud of being part of this cooperation project with EANM and hopes that the cooperation will continue this path. Another project idea that was launched but put-on hold is the development of a Nuclear Medicine Student's textbook. Every section of the UEMS/EBNM was involved in creating it, as it was edited the first time in 2018 by R. Hustinx. S. Mirzaei hopes that this will be picked up in the near future, when the settings are more favourable, as it presents a valuable tool.

3. Education & Syllabus Committee – R. Hustinx

R. Hustinx welcomes everyone and informs that the members of the syllabus committee have not changed.

R. Hustinx informs, that he is proud because of the big accomplishment of committee, that is the completion of the Nuclear Medicine Guide. The initial publication was launched in 2018 as app as well as a printed book. The 2020 update was done online-only and the Editorial Board was chaired by Paolo Castellucci with a total of three UEMS/EBNM members, including J. Prior, contributing to this joint project. R. Hustinx invites the Delegates to browse the guide, as it is now truly up to date. The updates concern all three sections: Basic Science that has been augmented by AI and radiomics, the diagnostic NM part has been completely revised and updated, including a section on FAPI, which is not used yet. The therapeutic NM part now also includes a chapter on

treatment with ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA. R. Hustinx is thankful for the contribution by all volunteers to the Guide. This project will be ongoing for years to come and he hopes the second edition will meet the previous success.

For the next two years, the Syllabus Committee will work on the Update of the European Training Requirements (ETR) including both challenges (Radiopharmacy, drug development, radiation protection) as well as opportunities (Theranostics). R. Hustinx expects proposals for changes to the format of the ETR put forward by the UEMS central but is not sure how to proceed formally. R. Hustinx invites the participants to share their thoughts and questions.

S. Mirzaei is pleased that the period of disagreement with the Board of radiology and the attempts to merge the specialties are considered to be over. The new developments in the area of therapy/theranostics make an update of the ETR necessary. However, it still needs to be considered that not all countries have access to these novel treatments and that the position and mandate of those departments shall not be affected negatively through the new ETR. With more treatment becoming available, also the training component in clinical oncology shall be expanded. Delegates raise the need for more cooperation and better training in internal medicine as well as the need for more facilities. R. Hustinx agrees that NM shall focus on enhancing the knowledge in the mentioned clinical areas (e.g. oncology). **The Education & Syllabus Committee will reach out to the membership to get a better overview of the national situations and opinions on the ETR revision.**

4. Financial report of treasurer

R. Hustinx thanks H. Silber and M. Zieglmeier for their support in managing the bank accounts and starts with the financial report. The main funding sources remain unchanged: the majority comes from the payments by the national societies (13.975€) as well as the agreement with EANM for providing services in providing the syllabus (15.000€). Additionally, the FEBNM Examination fees brought in 9884,90€, also approximately 2500€ from Accreditation centers and 2700€ from EACCME. The total amount of benefits therefore is 44.059,90€.

The expenses are dominated by the physical meeting costs (17995,97€) and the association management services by EANM (15.000€), which will go down due to COVID-19. The rest includes minor points, bringing the total amount of expenses to 34.832,62€. Overall the section closes the year 2019 with an overall plus of 9227,28€.

5. CME Accreditation Committee (CME credits are mandatory for events requested under the auspices of the EANM)

M. Farsad presents a comparison of the accredited meetings held in 2018 and 2019 and the initially planned meetings in 2020. The main provider remains the EANM (17 Events), followed by the IAEA (2 Events). For 2020, a majority of meetings was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. Accreditations were mainly applied to webinars in 2020, with EANM/ESMIT still being the main provider. M. Farsad contacted the IAEA responsible to raise awareness for the CME accreditation for webinars in 2021, as webinars have been organized without acquiring CME points. The UEMS Central Office in Brussels has revised the accreditation for webinars, which is now based on package deals, based on the number of webinars that are planned.

M. Farsad recaps on the working group of CME/CPD which held a meeting mid October. The Basel declaration from 2001 needs to be revised in order to meet the current requirements. A workshop (October 16) was proposed to start with the revision process. M. Farsad states that the CME landscape is not homogenous throughout Europe and not all countries are accepting the European CMEs -the situation not easy to review, as some regions in countries are recognizing CME points, some not. However, this situation is constantly changing. In some countries, there are even regional differences regarding the acceptance of CME points. **M. Farsad invites all Delegates to share their national experiences whether their country is accepting CMEs in full or regionally.**

S. Mirzaei informs, that Austria recognizes the European CMEs. The respective delegates of Lithuania, Estonia, Croatia and Italy also inform that their countries recognize the European CMEs.

6. Accreditation Committee (Nuclear Medicine Clinical Practice and Training Centres)

J. Prior is pleased to report that 8 centres were newly accredited since the last report, in total 37 training centers or NM departments. J. Prior is happy with the number of accreditations despite the pandemic.

J. Prior informs that the EANM/ESR/ESTRO-led European Commission project called QuADRANT (Part of a large EU finance program) dealing with clinical audits in the three specialties will also include a contribution by the Accreditation Committee. J. Prior informs, that there are two pathways for the accreditation of nuclear medicine centers – via ISO certification or through a national audit.

The QuADRANT project will see a 3-day webinar series in the upcoming week including a presentation about the Department Accreditation that UEMS/EBNM is issuing. J. Prior is positive that the webinar will help in raising the profile of the department accreditation. Clinical audits as such are compulsory based on the EURATOM regulation that came into effect in 2018, however, only a minority of countries has firmly established clinical audit processes. In Switzerland and Sweden, it is already in place and hopefully many more countries will start the process soon.

J. Prior informs that the survey that was discussed at the last meeting could not be picked up in 2019 due to the circumstances.

J. Prior to provide link to the BSS Directive to be included in the minutes

<http://www.eurosafeimaging.org/clinical-audit/quadrant>

7. Fellowship Examination Committee – FEBNM

S. Mirzaei reports on behalf of the Chair of the Fellowship Examination Committee. The online MCQ was done mid-September, the oral exam is planned for early 2021. In 2020 the Spring sessions were fully cancelled and the applications were shifted to autumn, the geographical distribution of participants is comparable to previous years (mostly Asian countries).

The Committee hopes that the oral exam will be possible in 2021, but the Committee is looking into alternatives. The Committee is also pleased with the cooperation with ESMIT. S. Mirzaei states that there is still no country in Europe that is accepting the FEBNM exam as equal to the national examination. It would be beneficial if one of the countries would start as this would pave the way for other countries. S. Mirzaei hopes that maybe Cyprus will accept. This would mean the first step to have it accepted throughout Europe.

S. Mirzaei thanks the participants for attending the meeting and discussing issues online. In the name of the committees, S. Mirzaei wishes a happy end to this challenging year and closes the meeting.