



UEMS Section of Neurology – European Board of Neurology

15/16 NOVEMBER 2019, ANTALYA, TURKEY

TIME AND DATE: Friday, 15 November 2019, 16:00-19:00
Saturday, 16 November 2019, 09:00-13:00

VENUE: Maritim Pine Beach Hotel & Convention Center

Friday, 15 November: Scientific meeting 16:00-19:00 - Hall B

16:00: Welcome by Prof. Serefnur Ozturk and Prof. Patrick Cras

The exact program and the questionnaire have already been sent to you (they are enclosed again).

Friday, 15 November: Social program 10:00-15:00

Historical tour (Ancient sites of Antalya)

Saturday, 16 November: UEMS EBN Business meeting 09:30-13:15

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Bureau

Patrick Cras, President (BE)
Jan Kuks, Vice President (NL)
Magnus Andersson, Treasurer (SE)
Martin Rakusa, Secretary (SI)

Full members

Ovidiu Bajenaru (RO)
Marianne de Visser (NL)
Sten Fredrikson (SE)
Mette Lindelof (DK)
Gereon Nelles (DE)
Lacramioara Perju-Dumbrava (RO)

Associate members

George Chakhava (GE)
Serefnur Özturk (TR)

Apologies

Anne Hege Aamodt (NO)
Michael Ackerl (AT)
Ida Bakke (NO)
Maria Berizde (GE)
Tim Counihan (IR)



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Gilles Edan (FR)
Antonio Federico (IT)
Carlo Ferrarese (IT)
Lionel Ginsberg (UK)
Evija Miglane (LV)
Mustapha El Alaoui-Faris (MA)
Pablo Irimia Sieira (SP)
Alain Jager (FR)
Anita Kamondi (HU)
Anne-Mari Kantanen (FI)
Georgios Kaponides (CY)
Jera Kruja (AL)
Petr Marusic (CZ)
Kristina Ryliskiene (LT)
Miguel Rodrigues (PT)
Brian Sweeney (IR)
Pille Taba (EE)
Stephan Zierz (DE)

Absent

Josanne Aquilina (MT)
Eduard Auff (AT)
Erik Hvid Danielsen (DK)
Hadjigeorgiou (GR)
Ruta Kaladyte Lokominiene (LT)
Monique Reiff (LU)

The president warmly thanks Serefnur Öztürk for the kind invitation.

2. MINUTES FROM OSLO UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Jan Kuks is not sure whether such minutes can be considered approved, as he does not know whether they have been read. He emphasises that he would support going through the minutes at the beginning of the next meeting, which will be decided.

For this time, to approve the minutes, formal approval is requested from each delegate by e-mail.

3. PRESIDENTS REPORT

The president gives some information about the UEMS Council meeting in London attended by the former EBN President Alexandre Bisdorff.

There was a reshuffle of the board. The President is now Prof. Vassilios Papalois (UK), the Secretary General is Dr. Joao Grenho (Portugal), the Treasurer is Dr. Othmar Haas (Austria), the former President Prof. Romuald Krajewski (Poland) is now Liaison Officer; several Vice Presidents are also elected. The new expanded Executive Committee of the UEMS will take office on 1. January 2020.

Further news from the Council meeting

EACCME: The number of applications and revenues is increasing, the Brussels office needs to expand to cover the costs. There was also a discussion about the need to divide the EACCME somewhat differently in order to cover the costs.



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Seven more countries will join the EACCME system. Spain has also adopted the EACCME system for all national events. Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands are considering joining the EACCME system.

Treasury in general: The meetings with the Section Treasurers were considered very useful and will continue, methods will be used to facilitate the work and compliance with tax regulations will be a priority.

The management fee is used for this purpose.

Domus Medica is fully rented, but could increase its income by organising further events.

The following ETRs have been adopted: Allergology, Pathology, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Radiooncology / Radiotherapy, Sports Medicine.

There was a fruitful discussion about the maximum number of CME points for one day.

The EACCME decides 8 points for one day, Belgium e.g. gives 6 points.

The President stressed that the current financial situation of the UEMS is healthy, the total surplus for 2019 is estimated at around € 250.000,- and most assets are held in section accounts.

The President also had some *feedback from Groupings 1 Meeting, London, BMA House, October 2019*.

The administrative platforms for managing the funds seem to work well (60-70%). Gabrielle Lohner reports that this is an internal process in which the Section is not currently involved. She continues to send out all invoices on a monthly basis. The UEMS staff are easy to reach and willing to provide information.

The concept of the reserve policy is that the Sections should have a current reserve needed for the implementation of the Section's projects for two years. We have this reserve. By the end of 2019 we are expected to present a budget for one year and a provisional budget for the second year.

All Sections must pay the administrative fee by 1. December 2019 at the latest; if for any reason a Section is unable to do so, it may contact the Group Chairperson; we have agreed in principle.

The Presidents are of the opinion that the liaison activities of the UEMS should be strengthened in order to have an impact on Europe. EBN supports this position.

At the last UEMS Board meeting in October 2019, it was decided to appoint a new Internal Auditor, currently the third. In order to emphasise the importance of the participation of sections and bodies in the UEMS organisation, it is proposed, for reasons of transparency, to appoint this third auditor from among the members of the Advisory Board. One person should come from one of the Sections.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP SITUATION

Magnus Andersson shows the income and expenses in the period from 1.10.2018 to 30.09.2019 as well as the membership fees for 2019 with 2 missing countries: Iceland and United Kingdom. We have no contacts to Poland and Slovakia yet. We have taken them from the dues file and distributed their percentage to the other countries.

The daily accounting is done at the Medical Academy Vienna, then all invoices are scanned and sent monthly to Brussels.

Jan Kuks asks about the fees we have received back from Orzone, it is € 29 000,- in the relevant period. After all, there was no loss due to the cooperation with Orzone.

The budget for 2020 shows a surplus of about € 12.500,-. We also have to establish a budget for 2021.



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EBN has about € 80.000,- in its account and has contributed around € 52.000,- to the UEMS Internal Fund to support the UEMS financially in the recent past. The most important conclusion is that our financial situation is healthy. The report for the period 01.10.2018-30.09.2019 was adopted.

5. EXAMINATION: REPORT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK TO THE NEXT SESSION IN PARIS

Ayan Caliskan, education expert in Turkey, who has supported our EBN exam for many years, attended our meeting between 10:00 and 11:00 when the first half of point 5 was discussed.

Jan Kuks started with a summary of the conclusions and agreements on the EBN exam made at our last meeting in Oslo. His second point was the report he wrote with Gabrielle Lohner on the 11th EBN examination in 2019. The report was gratefully accepted without further comments and will be published on our website.

Next we went through the questionnaire of the candidates (see report) and made some decisions about changes in the procedure for the 12th exam in Paris 2020 (see later). About 50% of the candidates completed this survey. One of the important points in the survey was that about 1/3 of the candidates was not entirely satisfied with the wording of the questions for the written exam. This can be a problem with their knowledge, but also with our ability to translate our question ideas into perfect English. In the future candidates may indicate their country of origin that we know if the difficulty in understanding is due to language problems. Some of the candidates felt that they had not received enough information before the exam. Changes we have made to our website during the year because of problems with Orzone may explain this, but on the other hand it is our experience that many candidates do not read the website properly. The clinical case presentation at the hearing was well received, but needs further explanation. More than half of the candidates found that the fee for the exam was not affordable. Patrick Cras proposes to add a question to know if the candidate is receiving grants for the exam. Only one third of the candidates would welcome a Level 1 examination in their own country, but we should recognise that the outcome of this question may be distorted, as potential candidates who do not ultimately apply for an examination at the EAN Congress venue would also be satisfied with a Level 1 national examination. Finally, some candidates found the duration of the written tests too short and pleaded for fewer but longer tests. In the end, in the open question, we received many positive responses to the examiners and to the exam as a whole, and that was encouraging.

We have decided as follows with regard to the comments of the candidates:

- The examination fees will not be changed.
- The duration and number of written examinations on the day of the examination will not be changed.
- We will try to reduce changes on the website during the year to a minimum and indicate them with red characters.
- We will also ask candidates to build a Powerpoint for their CAT.
- There was a discussion about the Rate Open Book / Closed Book questions (which is now 60/40), although some delegates were for 50/50, it was decided to keep them on 60/40.
- We will set up a 10-minute meeting where all candidates will be asked to complete the survey to achieve a higher response rate.



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Looking at the final sum for the Oslo examination, we had a plus of € 12.370,-, the Step 1 exam in Paris resulted in a minus of € 810,- since there were only 6 candidates instead of the planned 25 candidates. Nevertheless, we found this experiment useful for the future. It is controversial whether we should reduce the fees because we do not aim for financial success, but we felt that we should keep them as they are now, because fluctuations can lead to confusion among candidates, and we cannot be sure that they will be consistent with new developments in the near future. The RRFS members will maintain their discount rate of € 100,- as long as we are not sure about EAN-incentives, which are discussed now. The point of giving a reduction in the case of a joint posting of many candidates (as planned in France) was discussed and we have opted for a flat rate offer of 10% if more than 20 candidates are sent together by one national society and a flat rate payment is made at registration.

Then the survey taken by the examiners was discussed. 13/20 examiners completed the survey and Tim Counihan from Ireland sent us an email with valuable comments. Most of the examiners' responses were very positive and 12/13 would be happy to participate in the 2020 exam as well. 2/13 did not consider it necessary to test scientific skills and 4/13 were moderately enthusiastic about the CAT (no negative reactions). It was suggested that candidates should be asked to write a review and this idea was welcomed, but EBN did not opt for it for logistical reasons (a lot of time for both candidates and examiners). Half of the examiners felt that they did not have the opportunity to properly prepare for the clinical cases. This problem can be solved by sending in the Powerpoints beforehand. We did not make a decision on this point at the meeting. Many cases were quite exotic and some candidates presented patients who had not seen themselves. This is not our goal, and the instructions for the candidates will be adjusted. Suggestions for the future were "clinical trial life demonstration" and "video cases to comment". The latter can be realized without much effort, but the structure of the exam would have to be reorganized because of this additional station. The same is true for the earlier idea and beyond that, testing the clinical trial really requires a lot of effort in organizing equipment and patients to be examined. In addition, there may be a lack of consensus among investigators from different countries on how to properly conduct a neurological examination. 11/12 responders would be willing to have an additional training for oral exams in one day, as offered by CESMA. In the open questions, there was a request to adapt the assessment form for the clinical case and a request for more written feedback to candidates, especially for underperforming candidates. In the calculation of the final score it was requested to increase the weight of the oral part (now 30%). We have decided to leave this as it is, as the results of the written part are much more reliable. Finally, it was suggested that candidates should be given the opportunity to upload their presentation before entering the exam room in order to save time. This requires considerable effort in drop box procedures or doubling the number of PCs required for the exam. We have left that as it is for the future.

With regard to the comments of the examiners, we have decided as follows:

- The CAT remains in the Orals, the candidates are asked to build a Powerpoint for their CAT (as said before).
- Before the day of the exam there will be a dinner for the examiners.
- The clinical case assessment form will be changed and there will be more room for comments on candidates' performance.

The number of examiners needed for Paris can only be estimated. If the trend of previous years continues, we will get more candidates in Paris and therefore need more examiners in 2020. Gabrielle Lohner has rented a contingent of hotel rooms (see later) and we can probably get additional French examiners who don't need accommodation. Prof. Vincenzo Silani has applied as an examiner and we are happy to have him on board. In addition, no less than 7 candidates from the Oslo exam applied as examiners. One of them was the Spanish candidate who achieved the most in the Oslo exam. 5/7



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applicants came from outside Europe. In one of the previous sessions it was decided not to admit young examiners as they may have less experience in the examination and general neurological practice and are therefore vulnerable to a very strict assessment of their young colleagues. This is a matter of course, but it has now been decided that senior neurologists (experience in clinical work, science and training) from Europe should be our examiners.

Accommodation: Gabrielle Lohner rented 21 rooms for the night before the exams. Two rooms are reserved for the organizers of the exam (GL and JK), leaving 19 rooms for examiners. We expect that some examiners (Prof. Kruja, Dr. Bisdorff and Prof. Cras) may have their own rooms. The hotel will be the Ibis Paris Vaugirard Convention 15ème, which is 15 minutes walk from the venue and the Hotel Mercure, where the exam will take place. We made this decision for economic reasons and saved more than 3000 € on our budget. Gabrielle Lohner has negotiated to reduce the price for food on the day of the exam from 56 to 40 Euros per person, which brings us about 2300 Euros.

An advertising letter to the national companies has not yet been sent. Unfortunately, Prof. Atte Meretoja from Finland has not yet been able to send his comments and suggestions.

The registration of candidates was carried out by Orzone in 2017 and 2018. We all know about the problems we had with them. For this year the VMA has done the registration itself, which requires more effort from Gabrielle Lohner, but we will keep this procedure for the time being. Gabrielle came to an efficient procedure with a clear form for our website.

As already announced at the last meeting, we have chosen the Portuguese provider iCognitus. Now the contract has been signed by UEMS and Jan Kuks as representative of our board. They offer their services at the lowest possible price and offer good opportunities for online examinations and subsequent result analyses. They even promised a demonstration for the website so that the candidates could get used to the questionnaire before the exam day. In Paris, we will conduct the exam in secure mode with paper catalogues as a backup and no access to the Internet other than the iCognitus website for the candidates. We will probably try a secure browser in the near future.

Step 1 - Step 2: Meanwhile we take the written and oral examination within one day at the location of the EAN Congress. Many boards take national Step 1 (written) and international Step 2 (oral) examinations separately. The question is whether we should adopt this policy. Advantages are (i) the pre-selection of candidates in one's own country, (ii) the examination day can be fully dedicated to the oral stations providing opportunities for additional stations, (iii) there could be a significant increase in candidates taking Step 1 in their own country (possibly instead of a national examination). There are also disadvantages: (i) candidates still have to travel to a central place in their country, (ii) the results of the oral and written examinations can no longer compensate each other, (iii) the complexity of the organisation of the whole process will increase significantly, (iv) we can only continue to take step 1 exams in countries where there are enough candidates (so that a possibility to take the whole examination at the place of the examination should still be possible), (v) the whole procedure will be considerably more expensive, not only because of the complexity of the process, but also because of additional costs for ICT, accommodation and handling of the certificates. This should be compensated by an increase in fees for candidates which are already considered unaffordable.

Dealing with questions.

Now we have a new provider, we should restart our question handling process. We now have 160 verified questions in our database. This number should increase significantly. Prof. David Vodusek made a round along the EAN sections and received several files with questions. Unfortunately, these questions require a thorough review process and are far from use. The provider makes it possible to check these questions online. Jan Kuks asked for reviewers from the EBN board, but received only two answers during the meeting: Sten Fredrikson and Patrick Cras, they are both very experienced in this area. This led him to repeat that it is of the utmost importance to divide the tasks and responsibilities for the exam within the EBN (and the EAN-EBN Joint Education Board). The question will be asked to the missing delegates as well. As already mentioned, the EBN examination contains 40% closed book questions. Jan Kuks



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believes that candidates should know what to expect in this part of the exam and therefore asks questions about the EAN-EFNS guidelines offered to candidates for preparation on our website. He has drawn up a new list of guidelines published over the last 6 years for the upcoming exam in Paris. In addition, Prof. Klaus Toyka from Germany made his electronic book on neurological examinations available to EBN exam candidates. Jan Kuks is of the opinion that once we have done this, we should also include questions in the (closed book) exam, there is no point in offering the Toyka book without reference to the exam. Marianne de Visser noted that the Toyka book was not financially supported by the EAN Board and therefore doubts whether we can use it in our EBN examination, which is prepared in cooperation with the EAN. She also objected to some parts of the work. This will be discussed further beyond this meeting.

6. RELATIONSHIP WITH EAN/TASKS OF EAN-RRFS MEMBERS

The participation of the EAN-RRFS members was supported by the Section; we hope to see a representative in Paris.

We have not yet received a new name for an RRFS member. It should be the same person as for the Joint Education Committee.

The role of the representatives of EAN-RRFS would be to act as a liaison and discussion forum for more experienced neurologists and to provide information about their needs... the problem is that they are usually only present at 1-2 meetings.

One of the RRFS representatives will attend the EAN board meeting in the future (without voting rights).

7. JOINT EDUCATIONAL BOARD (JEB) AND SOP

It has been defined which tasks the JEB will have. The cooperation with the EAN is very important to increase the amplitude of the exam, to win new members, to provide us with educational material, to study the quality of the exam, to advertise the exam.....

Everyone is aware that there are several responsibilities between UEMS EBN and EAN, but a common interest.

Marianne de Visser points out that everyone must be aware of the UEMS EBN's responsibility for the examination tasks. Gabrielle Lohner will send the SOPs to Marianne, who will make her comments. The next JEB meeting is scheduled for 28 February 2020. Until then, we should discuss who will be responsible for which task after receiving further information from the EAN and EBN boards.

A little more publicity on the exam and the European Training Requirements documents should be prepared for the European Journal of Neurology and/or a Journal of Medical Education..

8. SURVEY ON FUTURE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXAMINATION

Dr. Nelles presents his draft survey on the idea of how the exam will really affect the future career of EBN fellows who passed the exam up to 10 years ago. He presents the whole series of questions.

The suggestions of the other delegates are as follows:

The president proposes to add information on how many minutes it will take to complete the questionnaire.

He mentions that we need to have an idea of the fees and how many of the fees were paid by someone other than the candidate himself.



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The president reformulated one of the questions to "In which year out of a total of.... years did you take the exam?"

He also stresses that there should be a categorical scale for the fees with points 1 to 5.

He also suggests to reformulate the following question to make it more positive: "Could you have developed your career the same way without the exam?"

The survey should be sent in time before the next meeting, but it could also take until the meeting in Georgia.

Gereon Nelles was thanked for an important piece of work.

9. EACCME/ACCREDITATION OF E - LEARNING EVENTS

Eaccme is one of EBN's core businesses.

In January 2000, the UEMS founded the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) with the aim of promoting the highest standards in the development, implementation and harmonisation of continuing medical education (CME) and later of continuing professional development (CPD).

The purpose of the EACCME was to provide accreditation of international CME in Europe and to facilitate the recognition of credits between different countries in Europe. In order to achieve this goal, UEMS-EACCME has signed cooperation agreements with countries in Europe and beyond.

In order to support this recognition process, UEMS-EACCME has introduced a common "CME currency": the European CME Credit (ECMEC).

In 2009, the EACCME introduced criteria for the accreditation of e-learning materials.

In 2016, EACCME introduced EACCME 2.0, including new forms of CME/CPD activities.

The UEMS EACCME announced in March 2019 that the EACCME platform would also accept applications submitted by a journal editor on behalf of his reviewers for credits for the review of scientific and educational material. As a journal editor or reviewer, you can collect CME points in this way if required. The system works as long as you do not have the required number of CME points.

Accredited activities are: Live educational events, E-learning, Blended learning, Publications, Review activities

The number of CME points varies from country to country.

The President pointed out that the review for life educational events for an event takes about 5-15 minutes when the programme is complete and the necessary information is available.

Accreditation process

Material and application form will be reviewed by the two assessment bodies designated by EACCME:

-National accreditation authority of the country in which the LEE will take place.

-Relevant specialised organisation, whether it is the UEMS Section and the UEMS Board or a partner of the European Speciality Accreditation Board (ESAB).

EACCME is solely responsible for the appointment of these designated assessment bodies.

The proposal for visitation and accreditation will be resubmitted at the next meeting of the JEB:

1 The JEB updates the visit and accreditation process.

2. UEMS-EBN & EAN stimulate accreditation.

3. EAN prefers to award scholarships to scholars who visit an accredited department.

A lot of preparatory work is still required. You may have a document on how a visit should take place, but



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the most important task is how to prepare a training center for the visit. We should have a checklist and explanations of what visitors will visit and what they will look out for, so that the Visitor Centre can prepare for the visitation.

The fee for the visit should continue to be € 3,000 plus any travel costs for visitors. Serefnur Öztürk points out that the amount is not so important, the payment proves to be problematic, since in most hospitals there is no official budget for visitations. However, we agree to an incentive of 50% of the costs for the first three centres requesting a visit.

10. WEBSITE/TWITTER

Link leading to the Twitter account: https://twitter.com/UEMS_Neurology

The most frequent individual successor on the EBN Twitter account is the Turkish society and some other societies in Europe. It would be great if the EAN would follow us.

Our Twitter account could really be used to advertise the exam (information about early booking fees...).

The delegates should continue to encourage their companies to exchange links on their website and to promote testing in this way.

Martin Rakusa has kindly published some pictures from Antalya.

On the website (www.uems-neuroboard.org) you will find detailed information about the exam.

11. RELATIONS TO OTHER SECTIONS AND MJC's

The re-launch of a MJC on Immune-Mediated Diseases was initiated by Prof. John (sjohn@uos.de), who gathered the number of experts from different fields and proposed to improve and harmonise knowledge about IMD in Europe, to raise awareness of the complex issue, to define training requirements and to emphasise the importance of increased cooperation between disciplines. It is approved by the Board of UEMS.

There are quite a few sections involved, and Neurology is one of them.

Delegates were asked who was interested.

12. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

The President thanks Serefnur Öztürk for the warm welcome and declares that we do not have enough delegates to make valid decisions, so that we do not get a classical approval, but a formal approval by all members in writing.

- We will ask Dr. Krajewski, the UEMS liaison officer, what the situation is with Poland (Patrick Cras will write him a letter).
- We will ask for formal approval of the Minutes and review them at the next meeting.
- In addition to the 2020 budget, Gabrielle Lohner will prepare a budget for 2021.
- We will increase the response rate to the questionnaires by describing what we changed in the exam, based on the results we received from the previous questionnaires and to reserve some time just for completing the questionnaires at the end of the exam-day..
- For countries that send at least 20 candidates if the registration is in a group and the fee is paid



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as a lump sum, we offer a group discount of 10% on the registration fee.

- We will update the website to adapt it to the exam format. There should be no contradictions on the exam website compared to letters sent.
- Patrick Cras will make a proposal to amend the instructions for clinical cases. He will also make a proposal to adapt the evaluation forms.
- We will investigate whether all presentations can be uploaded to the laptops so that examiners can review the presentations as the candidate enters the room.
- We postpone the decision from step one and step two exam.
- Klaus Toykas' book will not be included in the exam.
- The section considers a financial incentive for the visitation that covers 50% of the cost of the first three training centers applying for the visitation.
- Some of the questions on Gereon Nelles' survey design will be adapted.

The current situation of the mandates is as follows:

The mandate of President Patrick Cras ends in 2019, renewable.

Jan Kuks will remain Vice-President until 2021, non-renewable.

The mandate of Magnus Andersson as Treasurer ends in 2021, renewable.

The mandate of Martin Rakusa as Secretary and Webmaster ends 2021, renewable.

The mandate of the president stands for elections.

Please let us know if you wish to be a candidate for presidency on 23. May 2020.

13. NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting will take place on 23. May 2020 at the EAN congress site in Paris.

Dr. George Chakhava proposes the date of 23/24. October 2020 for the autumn meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia

LUNCH AND END OF THE MEETING