



## UEMS Section of Neurology – European Board of Neurology

24 October 2020, Go to meeting video conference

### UEMS EBN/SN meeting

**Time and date** Saturday, 24 October 2020, 09:00-10:30

**Venue** Video conference

### MINUTES

<b>1. ROLL CALL</b>	<b>09:00 – 09:10 HRS</b>
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#### **Bureau**

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

#### **Full members**

Eduard Auff (A)  
Ida Bakke (NO)  
Gilles Edan (FR)  
Carlo Ferrarese (IT)  
Sten Fredrikson (SE)  
David Garcia Azorin (SP)  
Lionel Ginsberg (UK)  
Pablo Irimia Sieira (SP)  
Matthew Jones (UK)  
Anita Kamondi (HU)  
Anne-Mari Kantanen (FI)  
Mette Lindelof (DK)  
Charlotte Lützhof Rath (DK)  
Deborah McIntyre (LU)  
Gereon Nelles (DE)  
Johanna Palmio (FI)  
Lacramioara Perju-Dumbrava (RO)  
Miguel Rodrigues (PT)  
Brian Sweeney (IR)

#### **Associate members**

George Chakhava (GE)  
Alla B. Guekht (RU)  
Jera Kruja (AL)  
Serefnur Öztürk (TR)



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### Absent

Anne Hege Aamodt (NO)  
Josanne Aquilina (MT)  
Dominique Boucquey (BE)  
Christian Bsteh (A)  
Mustapha El Alaoui-Faris (MA)  
Maria Berizde (GE)  
Tim Counihan (IR)  
Marianne de Visser (NL)  
Renoud du Pasquier (CH)  
Georgios Hadjigeorgiou (GR)  
Pall Ingvarsson (IS)  
Alain Jager (FR)  
Ruta Kaladyte Lokominiene (LT)  
Georgios Kaponides (CY)  
Philippe Lyrer (CH)  
Petr Marusic (CZ)  
Evija Miglane (LV)  
Kristina Ryliskiene (LT)  
Pille Taba (EE)  
Norbert Vella (MA)  
Stephan Zierz (DE)

The president welcomes the members and regrets that the EBN could not accept the friendly invitation of Dr. George Chakhava to Georgia due to the current circumstances.

A minute of silence follows for Prof. Dr. Bajenaru.

2. COUNCIL MEETING AND APPROVED ANTALYA MINUTES
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09:10 – 09:15 HRS
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Patrick Cras thanks Serefnur Öztürk for the beautiful and successful stay in Antalya.

The president summarizes the main topics of the council meeting he could not attend; there were quite a few problems with the platform. There is a request for participation in the working group on postgraduate education. Serefnur Öztürk is ready to join this special working group. Some ETR have been approved electronically in different sub-disciplines.

The financial situation of the UEMS has not improved, and retained funds from the Internal Fund cannot be paid out.

We have decided that Dr. Toyka's book will not be included in the exam. JBMK will inform him of this.

The first training center that applies for the visitation will receive a 50% reduction of the fee of € 3.000,-.

Patrick Cras encourages the EBN delegates to apply for the expiring positions of the board.



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3. TREASURER'S REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP SITUATION	09:15 – 09:30 HRS
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Magnus Andersson shows the income and expenses in the period from 01.01.2019 to 31.12.2019 and from 01.01.2020 to 30.09.2020 as well as the membership fees for 2020 with 3 countries missing: Italy, France and United Kingdom. We have no contacts to Poland and Slovakia yet. Patrick Cras will send a letter to Dr. Krajewski asking him about the EBN membership situation with Poland.

The budget for 2019 shows a surplus of about € 70.823,-. The EBN has about € 116.762,- on its account and will have the hotel costs (€ 5665,-) of the cancelled exam in Paris (force majeure) reimbursed. Only 3 candidates wanted to have their exam fees refunded from 2020. In Belgium, this is because the candidates have been reimbursed by their university departments. This may also be the case in other countries. Some of these candidates will not take the exam in Vienna. We should develop a strategy so that the societies or university department would not pay twice.

In the recent past, the EBN has paid about € 54.000 into the internal fund of the UEMS to support the UEMS financially. With regard to this withheld fund Patrick Cras asked Bertrand Daval (CEO UEMS) if there was a plan for reimbursement of this fees. The answer is that unfortunately the UEMS finances are in a situation where the UEMS is not yet able to repay these funds. The retained accreditation fees for 2014-2016 will not be refunded until the section proves that this money is really needed.

This same problem led to many discussion between many sections and it was an amount of € 21.000 that let the whole board of the section of surgery decide to resign. We will again and again try to get the retained money back from UEMS.

Nevertheless our financial situation is healthy.

The budget for 2020 is positive, the budget for 2021 depends heavily on the number of candidates.

The report was accepted.

4. EXAMINATION: REPORT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK TO THE NEXT SESSION IN VIENNA	09:30 – 10:00 HRS..
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Since the EBN exam 2020 could not take place in Paris due to COVID problems, we had about 100 candidates to disappoint. Most of them, 70%, had already paid. We invited them for the next year or the year after, 2022. Three candidates asked for their money but many others left it on our account and we expect them back in the next two years. As we cannot be sure about this, we will write them all an e-mail with the question whether they want to take the exam and if so, when.

Yesterday three UEMSmembers and Gabrielle Lohner had a meeting with the joint educational board (JEB, a cooperation between the EBN section and the EAN) and they prepared themselves for the upcoming exam. JBMKs' document about the future of the exam was used. This document was sent to you as an attachment to the invitation to this meeting.

For next year we felt forced to organize an online exam and to divide the exams in two parts: the written exam on June 18th and the oral exam on two weekends in the end of May.



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We now have a Portuguese Exam-Provider who can handle the online written exam with a procedure that seems to be pretty safe from fraud. Gabrielle Lohner, Pablo Irimia Sieira, Sten Fredrikson and Jan Kuks will make the necessary arrangements for the written exam.

The oral exam will be organized with help of the EAN-Headoffice.

As in 2019 we will ask our candidates to write an essay, critically evaluate a topic and develop a clinical case. For the first two parts the candidates will have to submit some documents which will be scanned for plagiarism at the EAN Headoffice and Sten Fredrikson is in charge for evaluating these documents to see if they are suitable to be presented to the examiners.

Some help from the EBN is requested to carry on with the Exam.

1. First of all, further questions should be added to the database. For the moment there are enough, but for the next years some additional questions would be desirable.
2. Second we need some delegates for reviewing the questions we have now. This can be done at home via a link to our database.
3. Finally we need examiners for the online oral examination.

5.	EUROPEAN TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (ETR)	10:00 – 10:10 HRS
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Another topic on the agenda of the Joint Educational Board was the European Training Requirements, a document containing a core curriculum for postgraduate training in Neurology and requirements for trainers and training centres. The previous version dates from 2016 and we aim to publish a new issue every five years. In the meantime the curriculum is being revised in the EAN. The final product should come from the European Board as it will be controlled and endorsed by the UEMS. It is said that not too much has changed from the previous document but we will have to pay more attention to innovations in medical education such as competences, (entrusted) professional activities and some other. Once the revised ETR is sent to our section we will need members who are interested in going through the document as well - to come to an extended version. This draft will then be offered to the entire section for a final (?) edition. The goal is the Vienna meeting 2021.

6.	EACCME/ACCREDITATION OF E - LEARNING EVENTS	10:10 – 10:20 HRS
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Patrick Cras has conducted the EACCME reviews in recent months, but the number of submissions to the EACCME system has decreased significantly. If before the Covid crisis he probably saw 5 requests per week, now there are about 5 submissions per month. Webinars are the most common submissions, and live webinars are now treated as live events. It is no problem to review this. The main principles still apply. The EACCME system, with a fairly reduced number of submissions, is running as in the past two years. There is no proportional increase in e-learning.

7.	JOINT EDUCATIONAL BOARD	10:20 – 10:30 HRS
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The JEB met yesterday on 23.10.2020. The principle of visitation was agreed upon. Patrick Cras is trying to write this in the new board certification criteria in Belgium. He mentions that if you have 1 or 2 countries that take the initiative and demand a European system of visitation and



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accreditation, others could follow. We heard from Pr. Benedikt Schoser that it will be very difficult in Germany because the responsibility lies in the different regions. Other countries, which perhaps have a different education system that is more centralized, could follow this initiative. If the introduction of this European visiting and accreditation system in Belgium is successful, this would be a good example. The formation of a visitation team should be done jointly by the EAN and the UEMS- EBN/SN, as well as the decision on a possible creation of incentives. We still need a checklist that we can send to the departments. We also need names of people who would like to participate in such visitations.

8.	SURVEY ON FUTURE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXAMINATION	10:30 – 10:40 HRS
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Gereon Nelles has developed a survey on the professional development of post-graduate fellows after the EBN exam. The aim is to find out how the exam affects the career of the fellowship holders. The survey is divided in 4 categories:

1. where do the successful candidates come from, where were they educated, how many years of residency have they had?
2. content of the exam itself: do the questions represent clinical work and general practice?
3. examination fees: do the fellows consider the examination fees to be reasonable; who pays the fees?
4. development of post exam carriers

The feedback from Antalya has been incorporated in an updated final version, which will be sent by e-mail together with the minutes of this meeting.

9.	SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN	10:40 – 10:50 HRS
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Approval of the Antalya minutes

Approval of the Treasurers' report with the preliminary budget for 2020 and 2021

Reask UEMS central for the retained EACCME funds regularly.

We need input for the exam from all members regarding:

- questions: there is help for writing the correct questions
- reviewers of questions
- examiners

The ETR are now with the EAN. When the document is received back, it will be forwarded to the whole committee for an interim statement. It will be finalized at the next meeting.

The exam will be online on June 18th, 2021 for the written exam

We need to constitute a visitation team. If you want to be a candidate for the visitation team please write a letter and please explain your previous experience in visitation.



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10. NEXT MEETINGS

10:50 – 11:00

The next meeting will hopefully take place on June 19, 2021 on site in Vienna.

### Post Scriptum to all members

We would appreciate an e-mail from all members with answers to the following questions:

1. Would you be willing to write questions for the database following instructions as will be sent to you?
2. Would you be willing to review existing questions in the database. If so, you will receive a link and further instructions to work at your own place.
3. Would you be willing to act as an examiner in the online oral examinations to be held on the last two Fridays and Saturdays of May 2021.
4. Would you be interested to continuing with the ETR document as delivered by the EAN to get to a final version?

Please send your answers before December 1<sup>st</sup> to [gl@wma.co.at](mailto:gl@wma.co.at)