

MINUTES

THIRD MEETING OF THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY JOINT COMMITTEE (MJC) in HAND SURGERY UNDER UEMS

Budapest, September 18, 2008, 14:00-16:00

Present

B. Maillet, Secretary General UEMS

Z. Magyari, Vice President UEMS

T. Raatikainen, General Surgery Section UEMS/Chairman of Hand Surgery Section UEMS

M. Ceruso, Secretary General FESSH

Zs. Szabó, Chairman of Examination Committee FESSH

K. Szigedi, Management Office FESSH

Apologies

F. Schuind, Chairman of the European Accreditation of Hand Surgery Committee of FESSH/Secretary of Hand Surgery Section UEMS

S. Sourmelis, Orthopaedic Surgery Section UEMS

M. Ceruso welcomed participants of the meeting and thanked B. Maillet for the support in showing the way of relating FESSH to UEMS.

The main goal with today's meeting is to understand how to proceed further on in order to improve FESSH cooperation in the activities of the MJC of Hand Surgery and how to support the FESSH examination.

1. Discussion regarding the minutes of the last meeting

M. Ceruso reports that the UEMS website included Hand Surgery in the list of MJCs, and requests to add the minutes of the last meeting in Lausanne to the website. FESSH Management Office is to send a reminder for the request to B. Maillet.

For having hand surgery competencies approved by UEMS Council, FESSH should prepare a document with the definition of the specialty and characteristics of the training. B. Maillet will provide FESSH with a copy of other MJC's books as a template for the Hand surgery document. F. Schuind on behalf of FESSH will prepare this document and send it to all the Sections that are interested in hand surgery (Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, General Surgery, Paediatric Surgery) before the next meeting. This document offers the possibility for Sections to reply if they intend to. It is suggested to give a 3 months time to have feedback from them, and afterwards this document can be presented to the UEMS Council that will be held next March in Brussels.

M. Ceruso asked to define competencies that are to be approved by UEMS. B. Maillet confirmed that competencies are meant for giving the concepts of a basic specialty: there is no need to go to in-depth definition.

M. Ceruso also asked to clarify what exactly the Glasgow Declaration is, having this been mentioned among the meaningful documents of UEMS related to training. B. Maillet illustrated it producing the updated copy of 17th November 2007. All the Sections involved in examinations will hold their next meeting on December 6, in Brussels. It would be useful if FESSH representatives attended with a 5-minute presentation to give an overview on the organisation of FESSH and the examination.

A meeting of UEMS will also be held on accreditation in November 22, where FESSH could be present as observer. M. Ceruso asked T. Raatikainen if he could participate in these meetings.

2. Acknowledgement of FESSH examination

T. Raatikainen inquired if the national Hand Surgery examination, where one exists, can be in the future accepted as FESSH/UEMS examination through harmonizing of the national examinations with the European examination.

Z. Magyari expressed his belief that, at present, no exam of the same level can be done all over Europe, as it is the national exam, where one exists, that one should take. Then, if interested, he should go further for the European exam.

M. Ceruso agrees with Z. Magyari and notes that national examinations under the umbrella of FESSH can certainly be taken into consideration for the future but that, at a shorter term, reality is to offer FESSH examination, as it is now, accredited by UEMS.

At any rate, all parties agreed that it could be the aim, in the next years, to harmonize national examinations with FESSH examination and if countries are ready to accept and implement common ways of examination, then a common procedure could afterwards be used.

B. Maillet suggested that a European Board in Hand Surgery should be formed for this purpose. Practically, a Board is not only formed by Sections of UEMS but by people of the Scientific Societies as well. It can be created within the MJC. Members could be the representatives of the various Sections involved in hand surgery and appointed members of the FESSH Council with equal representation of the political (UEMS) and the scientific (FESSH) part. This European Board would manage both examination and accreditation matters. B. Maillet agreed that our group can be indicated as UEMS MJC/European Board in Hand Surgery, as already done in some of the recent UEMS records on hand surgery.

To foster progression of FESSH\UEMS relationship, Zs. Szabo proposed the following schedule

- October, 2008 – Chairman of the FESSH European Accreditation Committee, F. Schuind is to prepare the requested document
- December 6, 2008 – chairman of the FESSH Examination Committee, Zs. Szabo presents the examination procedure in Brussels
- January 31, 2009 – deadline for feedback on FESSH document by Sections
- February 28, 2009 – FESSH document sent to UEMS Council
- March, 2009 – FESSH document presented for the UEMS Council in Brussels
- June, 2009 – following approval of UEMS Council, the next examination will be a common FESSH/UEMS exam at the next FESSH Congress in Poznan

B. Maillet confirmed that since FESSH is already an official part of UEMS, the above procedure can be approved. He also confirmed that the above demonstration to the Council is for introduction, it is an announcement made by FESSH and it is not an issue to be accepted or refused by UEMS.

T. Raatikainen inquires about finances of the exam and if FESSH should pay for UEMS for the common examination. B. Maillet answers that UEMS has no economical interests, but this aspect is to be clarified in the future. Zs. Szabo reported that candidates pay a fee of 350 Euro for the FESSH exam, which brings no profit to FESSH itself and covers only part of the necessary expenses of examiners and the providing of facilities for the examination. FESSH therefore supports the examination expenses every year.

It is agreed that for the FESSH Diploma Examination in 2009 the diction 'FESSH and European Board of Hand Surgery Examination' can be used. For the year 2010, the title could be 'European Board of Hand Surgery Examination'. Diplomas are to be issued according to this agreement with the use of FESSH and UEMS logos. At forthcoming examinations, representatives of MJC could be invited as examiners.

3. Accreditation of FESSH Meetings

B. Maillet informed us that UEMS is harmonizing the training program between specialties and they are also harmonizing the accreditation. There is a formal Agreement to be accepted and signed for each participating Section. In accordance with it, the request for accreditation shall be submitted by the organizer to UEMS EACCME in advance, who will provide credits for international meetings and international instructional courses (but not for industry supported courses) within 3 months. UEMS as a central office is responsible for the agreements with the countries of Europe and the American organisms, as there is an agreement between UEMS and the American Medical Association on mutual recognition of credits. There is a fee for accreditation that is based on a sliding scale depending on the expected number of participants as below:

Number	UEMS	Section	NAA
up to 250	100 €	100 €	100 €
251 – 500	200 €	200 €	200 €
501 – 1.000	300 €	300 €	300 €
1.001 – 2.000	400 €	400 €	400 €
2.001 – 5.000	500 €	500 €	500 €
> 5.000	1.000 €	1.000 €	1.000 €

The invoice is issued by UEMS but the income is shared and distributed among the 3 parties involved, that are UEMS, the Section involved and the National Accreditation Authority. The document of the formal Agreement was given to FESSH Management Office after the meeting and a decision is to be made by the FESSH Council.

M. Ceruso proposed that following the next FESSH Council phone conference in October, application for accreditation of the FESSH Congress in 2009 may start, following the agreement of the Council.

B. Maillet gave copies of the UEMS Yearbook 2008, programme book of UEMS 50th Anniversary Conference and a brochure on 'Development and Structure of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development in Europe' to representatives of FESSH.

B. Maillet suggested to appoint a Treasurer in the UEMS MJC/European Board of Hand Surgery to deal with finances regarding accreditation fee for UEMS. M. Ceruso will request D. Egloff, Treasurer of FESSH to accept this proposal for the future.

4. Next meetings

- ✓ November 22, 2008
Accreditation Meeting – Brussels, Belgium
- ✓ December 6, 2008
Examination Meeting – Brussels, Belgium
- ✓ February 10, 2009 (1st choice) or February 18, 2009 (2nd choice) – 14:00 – 16:00
4th MJC in Hand Surgery Meeting – site proposed: Hungary
- ✓ June 6, 2009 – 14:00 – 16:00
5th MJC in Hand Surgery Meeting – Poznan, Poland

K. Szigedi will check potential flights to Poznan and inform those invited to the meeting on June 6, 2009.