

MINUTES

4th MEETING OF THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY JOINT COMMITTEE (MJC) in HAND SURGERY

Budapest, February 7, 2009, 13:30-15:30

Present

Z. Magyari, Vice President of UEMS Enlarged Committee
S. Sourmelis, Orthopaedic Surgery Section UEMS
M. Ceruso, Secretary General FESSH
Zs. Szabó, Chairman of Examination Committee FESSH
K. Szigedi, Management Office FESSH

The aim of this meeting was to discuss the contents, structure and distribution of the White Book on Hand Surgery to be presented for UEMS Sections and Boards in the very near future.

1. White Book on Hand Surgery

The most recent activity of the MJC is to prepare a document to be presented to the Sections in UEMS. Its aim is to define Hand Surgery, to discuss how training is performed in the different countries of Europe and to illustrate how the National Societies interact in Europe and which activities they share at a supranational level. FESSH should include into the document information about the European Diploma Examination, as it is organized each year.

S. Sourmelis informed that the document has to be sent to all those sections who are interested, where hand surgery is part of their work, but not to each of the Sections of UEMS. It should be sent directly and not through the central Secretariat.

The White Book will then be distributed to the various Sections for observations and suggestions. The purpose is to have everybody's remarks on this document. After receiving everyone's feedback, the MJC will come together again to discuss and to approve the final document to go before UEMS.

The current form of the White Book's draft was then discussed. It was underlined that it is necessary to give a clear description of Hand Surgery as there are various views about what is included into its comprehensive definition. S. Sourmelis noted that peripheral nerve lesions, such as brachial plexus injuries, upper and lower limb nerve injuries are part of hand surgery.

It was also noted that training in hand surgery in Europe should be exhaustively illustrated in the document.

S. Sourmelis recalled that hand surgery, as an added qualification, is pertinent to all those Sections which are involved in such a field.

Z. Magyari added that this is exactly the reason why this meeting is called Multidisciplinary Joint Committee. This is an inclusive, not an exclusive condition. In so doing we are going to provide the best service to those having hand surgery problems. Hand surgery belongs to whoever is competent in dealing with hand.

As soon as the revised document is ready, it will be distributed among MJC in Hand Surgery members by e-mail; according to the feedback we get, it will be re-examined and then we will distribute it to the Sections of UEMS (plastic, paediatric, general surgery, orthopaedics, etc). The more people will actively contribute with their remarks and observations the better the result.

S. Sourmelis suggested to avoid using words that are not uniformly used in the different countries of Europe. As an example constructures can be mentioned as they are common terms everywhere.

M. Ceruso confirmed that the document will be produced by FESSH and will be distributed as soon as approved by MJC. A time of 3 months was agreed on for feedback.

Finalization of the White Book will not interfere with the other activities undertaken under the umbrella of UEMS\CESMA.

FESSH will organize its examination in 2009 as 'FESSH and European Board on Hand Surgery' examination.

2. All other business

M. Ceruso informed that FESSH was presented in Brussels at the CESMA meeting on December 6th. FESSH Management Office will ask CESMA to include Hand Surgery on their website, where forthcoming examinations are listed. FESSH will also accreditate its annual meeting.

Next meeting of the 'Presidents and Secretaries of the UEMS Specialist Sections and European Boards' is held on February 21st in Brussels. FESSH Management Office should contact Mr. F. Destrebecq to include our MJC in the agenda. Introduction, proposals, information on the White Book of Hand Surgery in Europe will be given. The draft is under revision and it will than be distributed to Sections. Some slides could also be included in the 5 minutes presentation.

CESMA meeting is on March 28th in Brussels, where M. Ceruso has been invited.

Z. Magyari offered to show M. Ceruso's presentation at the Enlarged Committee Meeting. He also talked about the new situation and problems of immigrants coming from outside Europe and its effect on acceptance of diplomas in various European countries.

S. Sourmelis mentioned a meeting in April that we should ask for invitation.

M. Ceruso invited UEMS to participate to the General Assembly of FESSH at the Congress in Poznan this year.

3. Next MJC Meeting

A date for the 5th MJC in Hand Surgery Meeting is set for June 6th, between 14:00-16:00 in Poznan, Poland, in conjunction with the XIV FESSH meeting . S. Sourmelis called attention that this day is the last day of the EFORT meeting held in Vienna. Finally, it was decided to leave the original date as appointed earlier and decide upon the next meeting date when it can be foreseen, by what deadline the feedbacks from interested UEMS Sections are expected. If the deadline is not over by then, we shall postpone the next MJC Meeting.

M. Ceruso thanked everyone for his participation and closed the meeting.