The collaboration between EBCOG and UEMS

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The speaker
- Graduate of the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians in Ireland
- Specialist since 1979 University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- MHA University of Oslo, Norway
- Norwegian representative to the ECOG/EBCOG in various positions since 1994
- No conflict of interest.

THE UEMS
- Established in 1958
- 37 countries
- Up to 1.6 million specialists
- 43 medical specialties

THE UEMS Objectives
- Promote free movement through the harmonisation/sharing of competence of the highest level of specialist training and medical care

Visions
- Set standards in the fields of
  - Postgraduate Training (PGT)
  - Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development (CME-CPD)
  - Quality Assurance in specialist medical practice

THE UEMS Structure

UEMS Members
- Full Members
  - National Medical Associations of the 28 European Union Member States
  - National Medical Associations of the European Economic Area Countries Iceland, Norway & Switzerland
- Other members
  - 3 National Medical Associations of countries of the Council of Europe (Associate members: Armenia, Israel & Turkey)
  - 3 National Medical Associations of countries observers (Georgia, Lebanon, Morocco)
ROLE AND FUNCTIONING OF UEMS SPECIALIST SECTIONS

UEMS Sections
- Created by and reporting to the UEMS Council
- Composed of practicing medical specialists
- Nominated by the National Member Association of their country
- Chaired by an Executive (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Presidents)
- Meeting at least twice a year
- Aiming to improving the quality of care provided to patients

UEMS Sections - Objectives
- Setting Standard of Medical training at the European level
- Promoting their discipline at the EU level
- Analyse the free movement of medical specialists within the EU
- Raise awareness on the needs and expectations of specialists
- Liaise with relevant European Scientific Societies and engage in fruitful co-operation

Multidisciplinary Joint Committees
- Breast Care
- Hand Surgery
- Juvenile Mediated Disease
- Intensive Care Medicine
- Mental Medicine
- Oncology
- Pain Medicine
- Primary Care Medicine
- Psychiatry
- Sports Medicine
- Spine Surgery

ADVOCATING FOR HIGH QUALITY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- European recommendations for Specialist Medical Training since the 1970s
  - European Curriculum
  - Syllabus of training
  - European Training Requirements

- Development of European Specialty Examinations
  - Voluntary initiative to promote quality & excellence
  - Adaptation & Quality control
  - Integration of National training accreditation requirements
  - Cooperation with European Scientific Societies
  - Long history & increased recognition
The CESMA is a Thematic Federation of the UEMS created in 2007 with an aim to provide recommendations and advice on the organisation of European examinations for medical specialists.

The Members of CESMA are the delegates to UEMS Specialist Sections and European Boards involved in the organization of European Specialty Examinations.

Adoption of guidelines on organisation of European Specialty Examinations (MCQ writing; proper examination procedures, appeal mechanisms):
- Adoption of the UEMS-CESMA guide to successfully writing MCQs
- Adoption of the UEMS-CESMA guideline for organisation of European postgraduate medical assessments
- Adoption of the UEMS-CESMA guideline for examiner selection for European postgraduate medical assessments

UEMS European Diplomas should be seen as a mark of excellence. In some European countries the European Examinations were adopted officially and as such, these now have legal status. In some European countries agreements of mutual reciprocity were established between the European Examinations and the National Authorities’ equivalent.

THE UEMS – SUPPORTING LIFE-LONG LEARNING THROUGH CME-CPD

EACCME®

- The UEMS-EACCME® has been active for 12 years, providing accreditation for international conferences and meetings
- Detailed new criteria for the accreditation of Live Educational Events was introduced on 01/01/2013 (UEMS 2012/30)
- Dedicated website for accreditation of Live Educational Events: www.eaccme.eu
  - Transparent process

The application process in practice
- Dedicated website for accreditation of Live Educational Events: www.eaccme.eu
- Transparent process

THE UEMS – VOICING MEDICAL SPECIALISTS NEEDS & EXPECTATIONS AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

The application process in practice
- Dedicated website for accreditation of Live Educational Events: www.eaccme.eu
- Transparent process
UEMS LOBBYING ACTIVITIES
- Frequent meetings with
  - the Director of DG Health and Consumers;
  - the Head of Unit, DG Internal Market
  - the Head of Unit, Professional Mobility
  - Key Opinion Formers
  - Many MEPs
- ... and involvement as experts in
  - The Commission’s Joint Action on Healthcare Workforce
  - Study on Effective Recruitment and Retention strategies
  - EU-funded projects
    - E-Health (U4H, Ethel, EPHA, HOPE...)
    - Data Protection (DG Just, COCIR...)
  - Other lobbying players
    - Medical Industry : Medtech (code of ethic in PGT)

THE ADDDED VALUE OF THE UEMS
- greater strength through mutual co-operation
- a unified voice in the international representation of medical specialists
- international excellence in key areas of relevance to the medical profession
- effective interaction with individual Specialties and National Medical Associations (SNMAs)
- addressing interdisciplinary issues in emerging areas of specialist medical practice
- setting the basis for robust accreditation of educational meetings
- developing new harmonised models for the training of the next generation of medical specialists
- Streamlining collective efforts by calling EMGs to work under the same roof

European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology - EBCOG

EBCOG & UEMS
- EBCOG is the Board of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS).
- The purpose of UEMS is to harmonise and improve the quality of medical specialist practice in the EU.

EBCOG OFFERS:
- European Standards of Care for Women’s Health
- Specialist and subspecialists’ Visiting and Accreditation
- Certificates for Trainees who have trained in an EBCOG-accredited department
- Training the Visitors Courses
- Training the Trainers Courses
- An EBCOG Master Class on the Development and Adaptation of Evidence Based Clinical Guidelines
- Basic Ultrasound Courses
- European Fellowship Exam (EFOG-EBCOG)

EBCOG’s Aims & Activities
- EBCOG’s aim is to improve the health of women and unborn and newborn babies by promoting the highest possible standards of care.
- EBCOG’s core activities are education and training.
EBCOG’s Structure

- EBCOG is led by 4 Officers: President, President - Elect, Secretary - General and Treasurer, assisted by an Exec.Sec.
- The Executive Committee meets twice a year and is responsible for making recommendations to Council and ensuring that the strategic goals are met.
- Council is made up of two national delegates from each of our member countries. It is the decision-making body of EBCOG and also meets twice a year.

EBCOG has 38 member countries

Albania (observer member), Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, FYROM, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo (observer member), Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Morocco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

EBCOG & the Subspecialties

EBCOG Collaborates closely with the 4 European Subspecialist Societies:

- European Society of Gynaecological Oncology - ESGO
- European Association of Perinatal Medicine - EAPM
- European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology - ESHRE
- European Urogynaecology Association - EUGA

Representatives of all of the Subspecialist Societies sit on the Executive Committee and Council.

Together, EBCOG and the subspecialist societies have jointly produced training programmes and log books, identified shared gaps in subspecialty knowledge, established and collaborated closely on the scientific programmes of each European Congress.

EBCOG & Special Interest Societies

EBCOG also works closely with special interest societies via the Standing Committee on Training and Assessment:

- European Association of Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology (EURAPAG)
- European Federation of Colposcopy (EFC)
- European Society of Contraception (ESC)
- European Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy (ESGE)
- ESIDOG/ESSM/Etc (Conferences)

EBCOG & ENTOG (The European Network of Trainees in Ob/Gyn.)

EBCOG is very supportive of ENTOG, and the President of ENTOG sits on its Executive Committee and Council.

ENTOG organises an annual Trainees’ Meeting and Exchange Programme alongside the EBCOG Congress and intervening years.

ENTOG collaborates with EBCOG in all of EBCOG’s training initiatives and activities in the development of pre-Congress Courses and has its own vote within EBCOG.

ENTOG receives an annual grant of €6,500 from EBCOG.

EBCOG’s Committees & Working Parties

- Standing Committee on Training Recognition (SCTR)

One of EBCOG’s priorities is to promote the introduction of visiting in those countries which do not have a national visiting and accreditation system and to date over 110 visits have taken place.

- The SCTR and the subspecialist societies also conduct subspecialist visits, according to the subspecialist visiting and accreditation programmes.
EBCOG’s Committees & Working Parties

- **Standing Committee on Training and Assessment**
  - The SCTA has produced training programmes and log books for both specialist and subspecialist training. The SCTA is currently focusing on the evaluation of skills training in conjunction with ESQG, psychomotorics in O & G (together with ISPOG) and e-learning and telemedicine.
  - The EBCOG PACT Project began officially in September 2015 and will run until August 2018. It is supported by the European Commission’s Erasmus project.

  The aim of the project is to create a high quality pan-European Obstetrics & Gynaecology training curriculum to improve and harmonise the health care of women throughout Europe.

- **Working Party on Training the Trainers (TTT)**
  - EBCOG organises and delivers multi-disciplinary Training the Trainers courses.

- **Working Party on Training the Visitors**
  - EBCOG organises and delivers multi-disciplinary Training the Visitors courses.

- **Working Party on a Simulation Consortium**
  - This Working Party is in the process of mapping current simulation models, systems and activities in different countries with the aim of creating an EU Simulation Consortium of Hospitals and Institutions and developing a simulation based curriculum which could be validated and used by training centres across Europe.

EFOG-EBCOG Examination

During the Congress in Torino in May, we will also be launching our new post-graduate examination in OBGYN (European Fellow in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EFOG)).

This development has involved an enormous amount of preparatory work. The exam will be in two parts: a Knowledge Based (KBA) Assessment, which will take place in Torino, followed by a clinical skills test (OSCE) which will take place later in the year. Successful candidates must pass both parts of the exam to be awarded an EBCOG – EFOG Fellowship.

EBCOG and UNFPA

- The UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) has given a grant to translate the EBCOG Standards of Care for Women’s Health into Russian. These documents were translated by the UNFPA and the Russian Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ROG), which is a member of EBCOG.

- The UNFPA is planning to launch these standards at the 24th European Congress of EBCOG in Torino in May 2015. The event will be fully supported by the UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Office.

- EBCOG-UNFPA Scholarship: This award is the result of collaboration between UNFPA-Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (EECARO) and EBCOG. They are offering two annual awards, each of €4,000, as a contribution towards the expenses of the successful candidate visiting a specialised centre which offers knowledge and skills to advance quality improvement in sexual and reproductive health.

EBCOG’s Position Statements

EBCOG’s Position Statements are published on our website and now in the European Journal of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology which is now the official Journal of EBCOG. These are intended to be used as formal statements on issues of public health in Europe.

Six position statements have been produced or updated:

- In Vitro Fertilisation and Single Embryo Transfer: The Public Health Importance of Antenatal Care
- Obesity and Women’s Health
- Alcohol and Pregnancy
- Medical Abortion and the Public Health Importance of Sex Education in Schools
- Diet and Exercise in Pregnancy
- Travel in Pregnancy: Vaccination in Pregnancy
- Fertility Control
- FGM
- Caesarean Section in Europe
- Violence against Women

More Statements are currently being developed on:

- Diet and Exercise in Pregnancy
- Travel in Pregnancy: Vaccination in Pregnancy
- Fertility Control
- FGM
- Caesarean Section in Europe
- Violence against Women
### EBCOG and WHO

EBCOG acts as a representative for obstetrics and gynecology in relation to the WHO Regional Office for Europe.


### EBCOG & UEMS

- EBCOG is the Board of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS).
- Regularly in consultation with the UEMS Central Organisation.
- Taking part in the UEMS Council and Advisory meetings.
- Taking part in the EACOG Council and Advisory meetings.
- Taking part in regular consultations and meetings in various UEMS networks.
- In accordance with the UEMS Rules and Regulations...

...because the aims and purposes are equal.

- The purpose of UEMS is to harmonise and improve the quality of medical specialist practice in the EU.