

UEMS

MINUTES OF MEETING 23RD FEBRUARY 2007, ANTALYA

1. Welcome

Professor Reulen (HJR) welcomed delegates to the meeting. New delegates were:

- Professor Helseth (Norway)
- Professor D'Avella and Professor Calbucci (Italy),
replacing Profs. R. Delfini and M. Collice
- Professor Bognar (Hungary)
- Mr Kemeny (UK)
- Professor Tamasauskas (Lithuania)

Apologies were received from:

- Dr Mühlbauer (Austria)
- Dr Brennum (Denmark)
- Professor Lasjaunias (ESNR)
- Professor Wester (Norway)
- Mr Hide (ESPN)
- Professor Cunha e Sa (Portugal and Secretary)
- Dr. Olga Mateo (Spain)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

APPROVED with no amendments

3. Section of Neurosurgery UEMS

a. Report of President

HJR reported that:

- A position paper on training for neurosurgeons in endovascular procedures had been given provisional approval by the Administrative Council of the EANS. (see item 11)
- 22 out of 27 countries had responded to the Workforce Planning questionnaire – the results were circulated to the meeting. HJR informed the meeting that data had been received from France and Greece but these had not yet been included in the document
- The first draft of the standards relating to training in Radiosurgery was ready. IT WAS AGREED that this would be considered at the next meeting of the Section.
- HJR recommended that each delegate should send a report or the minutes of the Section meetings to their Society

b. Report of Treasurer

Professor van Loon (JvL) reported that:

- There are now 27 members in the EU including Bulgaria and Romania.
- The Secretaries and Treasurers of the National Societies were thanked
- It was agreed that HJR should trace the Presidents of the following societies:- Bulgaria, Ireland, Cyprus, Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Belarus
- Monies have been received from the UEMS for the Joint CME Committee as its share of the fees paid by organisers applying for

European CME Points (ECME). A proportion of this is also due to the EANS, however the EANS has waived the requirement in this instance

4. JRAAC

Professor Trojanowski (TT) reported that:

- Accreditation has been awarded to the Department of Neurosurgery in Istanbul
- A site visit has been carried out by Mr Lindsay and Professor Steudel with TT as the national observer, to the Department of Neurosurgery in Sosnowiec, Poland. Full accreditation has been recommended
- There are 4 applications in progress:- Zagreb, St Gallen, Bielefeld, Bucharest
- Visits/observation of national examinations have been started with Dr Cesarini attending the examination in Warszawa. This may in the long-term lead to European Accreditation of a national examination
- Membership of JRAAC:- 4 members will be retiring (Professors Lobo Antunes, Neil-Dwyer and Gjerris). IT WAS AGREED that the following should be members of JRAAC from the UEMS:- Professors Cunha e Sa, Emery (officially in post at the UEMS representing France from the end of 2007), Unlu, Matge and HJR (ex-officio as President of the Section). Members from the EANS are a matter for the Administrative Council of the EANS
- Thanks was extended to all contributors to the work of JRAAC

5. EANS

Mr Lindsay (KWL) reported that:

- Training courses had been held in Bratislava and Antalya. The next course is in Lisbon in June 2007
- A very successful Research Course had been organised in Cambridge with 65 delegates. The next course will be in Lisbon in June immediately preceding the Training Course
- The next Training the Trainers course was to have taken place in Antalya, however one of the facilitators was not available. Therefore the next course will also be in Lisbon in June this year immediately after the Training Course
- The second CME course had taken place in Antalya. Attendance was low and the EANS is at the moment considering the format and viability of these courses
- The first pilot post-graduate spine course will take place in Croatia in December. This is the first of a 2-year cycle and is aimed at accredited neurosurgeons
- Organisation of the European Congress is continuing. Targets for sponsorship and the exhibition income are on schedule. The scientific programme has been launched with 120 lectures (www.eans2007.com)
- EANS/AOSpine short-term spine fellowships:- Funding has been secured for 4 of these in 2007 each worth €12 000. Hosts will be London, Leeds, Paris and Nijmegen
- At its recent meeting, the Administrative Council agreed that it could no longer nominate Chairmen of Joint Committees with the UEMS. Each organisation should nominate members and these should then appoint their own Chairman. The Joint CME Committee will be separate from

the educational activities of the EANS in order to avoid any conflict of interest and therefore a new Post-Graduate Education Committee of the EANS will be established. The Administrative Council will nominate 2 members of the Joint CME Committee (JCME). The Examination Committee will operate along the same lines as far as nomination of its members goes as this is also a joint committee (JEC). The EANS will nominate 6 members

- The format of the EANS Winter Meetings is being reviewed and may change

6. Election of President Elect of Section

HJR informed the meeting that

- His term of office is ending in Summer 2008
- The next President of the Section has to be elected 1 year before taking office, therefore in Summer 2007
- IT WAS AGREED that nominations should be sent to HJR or Stephanie (SGB stephanie.garfield@virgin.net) at least ONE MONTH before the next meeting therefore **on 30th MAY 2007**
- There will be an election at the next meeting should there be more than one nominee

7. European Working Time Directive

HJR reported that:

- The position paper had been printed in Acta volume 148 and is now available
- In Germany all surgical disciplines together will organize a symposium on that matter and invite politicians, tariff partners, etc. (Berlin, May 22, 2007) It seems that trainees could use the opt out in order to obtain 48 hours plus time for training. In order to reduce the risk of abuse of this, departments have to show evidence of a written training programme and this opt out applies only to surgical training
- Trainees have demonstrated through the use of their logbooks that due to the EWTD they carry out 28% -30% fewer operations during training and that therefore training requirements cannot be met within 6 years.

8. Position Paper concerning Board Examination

Dr Cesarini (KC) reported that:

- A meeting of the European Examination Board had taken place in Glasgow in February attended by Owen Sparrow
- KC had visited the examination in Poland and there is a proposal for members of the JEC to visit other national examinations. However the problem of language must be addressed
- Suggested that the next EANS oral examination should take place immediately before the next Section meeting. Invited delegates to observe the examination in order for them to report on it to their National Societies. Delegates interested in doing so should contact KC
- Some smaller countries do not have their own examination and use the EANS examination. In addition all trainees following the EANS Training Courses have to take part I just before their 4th course
- There is an ongoing question as to how to increase numbers of candidates for Part II

Discussion:

- Time lapse requirement between end of training and eligibility for candidacy to Part II should be reduced to 6 months post training
- Should there be a development towards a European standardisation, it is essential that the JEC should set standards for its own examination and accreditation/performance review
- Skills cannot be judged in an oral examination and this would have to be addressed
- National Societies could request accreditation for their own examination from the JEC and also adopt the EANS Examination as an alternative to the national examination

The meeting considered the Position Paper. The following changes were agreed:

- The name of the committee (EANS Examination Committee) should be changed to JOINT EXAMINATION COMMITTEE
- There should be 12 members
- Additional paragraph at point 1} Practical Proposals:- “The Joint Examination Committee will work towards the setting of standards of the European Examination in order for National Societies to recognise it as being of the same standard as their own”
- Wording of point 3) should be amended as follows:- “National societies shall elect a delegate to an Examination Panel in order to provide national input to the European Examination work.”
- IT WAS AGREED that the document should be printed in Acta EANS affairs and printed copies should be sent to the National Societies

9. Training Charter – Amendments

HJR reported that:

- 1000 copies had been printed and that the stock was now virtually exhausted
- A second edition will be printed and will include the operative figures and competency tables as appendices
- Acknowledged the work done by KWL

10. Application of Neuroradiology as Division

HJR informed the meeting that the European Society of Neuroradiology had asked to become a division of the Section of Neurosurgery. It cannot become a section in its own right as in order to do so the “specialty” must be recognised in 2/3 of European countries and this is not the case. In order for the organisation to be represented at European level therefore, it must become a division of an existing Section. It would function as a separate division although observers and delegates would be exchanged.

Discussion:

- Both the Sections of Neurology and Radiology would have to approve the proposal. However it would be difficult for the UEMS to reject the proposal should both of these Sections approve it
- The preliminary training charter (item 11) provides for equal access to training for neurologists and radiologists as well as neurosurgeons

THE PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Neurointervention: How to Implement

The meeting considered the final draft document:

- Point 3.3 wording should be amended:- “ Trainees with an accredited training in radiology can complete the programme in two years if they enter the programme after at least 12 months of dedicated, elective training in the clinical aspects of patient assessment acquired in an accredited programme, or its equivalent, and 12 months of diagnostic Neuroradiology in an accredited programme, or its equivalent at the discretion of the programme director” APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- The document should be entitled “Standards of Training in Endovascular Neurointerventional Therapy”. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- Implementation of the guidelines:- By trainees on rotations in the units involved in the development of the guidelines; disseminate via presentation of the document to the next EANS Vascular Training Courses in Lisbon in June 2007 and Croatia in 2009, as well as through the EANS network of Individual Members and Member Societies and via the EANS website

12. CME, Report of Permanent Working Group

Professor Constantini (SC) for the Joint CME Committee (JCME) reported that:

- 17 applications for ECME had been received to date. 9 of these were from the Aesculapium. 2 applications had not been approved due to the national nature of the events
- Information on the existence of the process will be disseminated via the EANS network
- HJR acknowledged the work of SC

13. Manpower Planning: Results of Enquiry

HJR reported that:

- Responses will be circulated in tabular form in the next 6 weeks in order to give countries time to amend their responses after the meeting
- The document will be discussed further at the Section meeting in June
- A questionnaire relating to future needs will be developed and circulated by email
- Work on this by the Section of Neurosurgery is well in advance of other Sections

14. Other Business

- Concern was expressed as to the lack of mention of Neurosurgery in the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission. There was a brief discussion as to the need for greater presence of neurosurgical clinicians at European meetings and discussions

15. Date of Next meeting: Saturday 30th June at 0900, Brussels