

## Report from European Board of Dermato-Venereology 2015–2016

EVA JOHANSSON BACKMAN, SWEDISH REPRESENTATIVE IN EBDV

*Department of Dermatovenereology, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden.*

*E-mail: eva.dermis@gmail.com*



### Background

*UEMS and EBDV (website: <http://www.uems-ebdv.org/web/>)*

The UEMS promotes and guards the interests of medical specialties at an EU level. The organization currently has representation from 37 national medical organizations. Together they form the UEMS council. There are several sub-sections in the UEMS, including a large number of specialist sections. The European Board of Dermatology and Venereology (EBDV) is one of these and consists of 1–2 delegates from each Member state.

In the UEMS there are also working groups for issues common to all specialties, such as continuous medical education (CME), E-health, postgraduate training and quality of care.

The EBDV conducts internal work and participates and collects information on issues at a central level of the UEMS and its sub-sections. A short report regarding on-going external work is given to the national EBDV delegates during EBDV spring and fall meeting.

The EBDV has a new president as of the spring meeting 2016, Professor Peter Arenberger, from the Czech Republic.

### Meetings

Since last summer, the EBDV has had a fall meeting during the EADV conference in Copenhagen, in October 2015, and a spring meeting in Split, in April 2016. In addition, a working group meeting, with a focus on the 2016 European Specialist exam in dermato-venereology in 2016 and on the update of common European Training Requirements for the Specialty of Dermatology and Venereology took place in February 2016, in Poznan.

### EBDV – Internal on-going work

#### *Training requirements*

Work is underway to update the Training Requirements for the Specialty of Dermatology and Venereology. That work is

being led by Professor Harald Gollnick, who is also involved in the development of a new global curriculum, through the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS), in which the EBDV is now a member.

#### *European Board Examination*

This year's specialist exam took place in Frankfurt on August 5–6 and was the first to be administered in digital format. It contains both a written and an oral part. There are still only a few dermatologists, 30–40, who take the exam and about half of them come from countries outside the EU, mainly the Middle East. The working group for the exam held a separate meeting in Poznan in February 2016, when this year's exam was reviewed. The undersigned was invited to attend this meeting and it is my understanding that there is much work remaining to improve and modernize the content of the exam questions, as well as ensure that the questions are clearly linked to a curriculum that is widely accepted among the national specialist organizations throughout Europe. The website for the exam is <http://www.uems-ebdv.org/web/index.php/uems-board-examination>.

#### *European Guidelines*

The European Dermatology Forum (EDF) develops new common European Guidelines for Dermatovenereology. The EBDV has a subcommission who review and comment on these guidelines. This year new or updated guidelines for Chlamydia, Mycoplasma, Non-gonococcal urethritis, Acne, Cutaneous lupus erythematosus, Merkel cell carcinoma, Psoriasis and High-dose immunoglobulins in dermatology have been written and approved. All guidelines can be found on the EDF's website (<http://www.euroderm.org/edf/>).

#### *Wound healing*

There is a newly formed thematic federation, a subdivision of the UEMS, for wound healing. This group includes representatives from specialties who are involved in the care of this patient group, such as dermatologists, plastic surgeons, vascular surgeons, specialists in infectious diseases and in diabetes. The federation has developed a proposal on a cur-

riculum regarding the knowledge and skills that should be acquired by the specialists who are largely responsible for this patient group. The intention is that this curriculum should be incorporated in the specialist training programs on a national level. A proposal on what requirements should be met in order for a clinic to be classified as a centre of excellence for wound healing, both in terms of expertise and also with regard to equipment and facilities, was presented and will be further developed.

#### *Decision concerning the length of specialist training and the official name of the specialty*

The EBDV has submitted to the UEMS (for further communication to the European Commission), a document which states that the length of a specialist training program in Dermatovenereology in Europe is 5 years and that the title of the specialty is Dermatology and Venereology (Dermatovenereology)

#### *National delegates*

The EBDV wants to see better representation of national delegates at the Board meetings which are held twice annually, as well as increased participation in the work carried out in the various internal working groups. It also wants to ensure that the national organizations get information about the on-going work in the EBDV/UEMS. There are a few countries who have not had a representative attending the meetings, or participating in any internal work for a number of years.

#### *Economy*

EBDV has a balanced budget and 2015 ended with a smaller surplus. This was mainly due to slightly lower costs than expected for the meetings during 2015 as well as lower than expected costs for the organization of the specialist exam. The national fee to EBDV will be unchanged in 2016, 3 Euro/member.

#### *European Committee for Standardization (CEN)*

In Europe, there is a committee that works on standardization issues, European Committee for Standardization (CEN). Over the past few years this committee has performed work on standardization of different medical procedures, among them aesthetic surgery as well as aesthetic non-surgical procedures. This document regulates competency requirements as well as ethical considerations, the use of medications, anaesthetics, etc. Despite protests from many medical organizations at the national level, as well as organizations at the EU level (the UEMS with subdivisions) this document was approved. A number of people have considered this process non-transparent and feel that there has been inadequate consultation of experts.

There is on-going work to get this document repealed and to prevent the CEN from carrying out future standardizations; that this should be left to the medical profession itself who has the collective expertise to do this. This work has, to a large extent, taken place outside the EBDV. Several countries, in particular Germany, have been active in this process.

#### **EBDV – external work/representation**

During the past year the EBDV has, through representation from the board, participated in two UEMS council meetings, in which central work, including the budget and work in different subsections have been presented. There have also been two CESMA (specialist exam) meetings. At these meetings topics regarding the creation of good multiple-choice questions and single best answers have been addressed. There is a desire for uniformity in the construction of questions. During the meetings inspiring examples from specialties that has had a great success in raising interest and participation in the European exam were highlighted, where the exam reflects a new common European curriculum for which wide acceptance among the member states has been reached.

During the EACCME meeting, UEMS Advisory Council for CME-CPD, new criteria for live educations have been discussed and agreed upon. New potential areas for CME accreditations has also been on the agenda. The president of the EBDV also participated at the EDF's meeting in Switzerland at the beginning of this year. An excellent report of the meeting, written by Professor Anders Vahlquist, can be found an earlier issue of Forum for Dermatology and Venereology (1).

For in-depth information on the EBDV and the UEMS there is additional material on their websites (2, 3) and it is also possible to contact the national EBDV representatives.

#### **Acknowledgement**

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#### **References**

1. Vahlquist A. Report from the European Dermatology Forum (EDF) Meeting in Zurich on 21–23 January 2016. *Forum Nord Derm Ven* 2016; 21: 68–69.
2. Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes. <https://www.uems.eu/>.
3. European Board of Dermato-Venereology. <http://www.uems-ebdv.org/web/>.