

NEWS LETTER NO. 1 – 2008

UEMS – EUROPEAN BOARD OF PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE (EBPRM)

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A. **The European Board of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine** is a working group of the Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Section of the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS., European Union of Medical Specialists). It was founded by a separate statute in 1991.

The Board is interested in defining in clear terms "European Standards", i.e. the basic elements for a European training programme, the opportunities and conditions for training rotation, attachments, exchanges and the average level of required knowledge and technical competence.

More specifically, Board aims are to harmonize the training in E.U. so as to ensure optimal rehabilitative care for patients in the countries of the European Union.

The main activities of the Board are:

Harmonization of PRM training in Europe (training curriculum and logbook)

Certification of PRM specialists (by examination and equivalence)

Certification of PRM trainers

Certification/Recertification of PRM training sites

Continuing medical education and recertification of PRM specialists

Accreditation of European congresses and teaching programmes

Recently, the need for simplifying these procedures has led to the structure of a new website www.euro-prm.org, with updated technical features.

The aim of this website is to provide updated information, useful resources and online registration procedures through a user-friendly interface. Information regarding the Board has been grouped in thematic categories, which are easily accessible by clicking on the relevant sub-menus located under "PRM Board" in the main menu area.

B. In **the General Assembly** of the UEMS Section and Board in Bucharest, September 13–15, 2007, during the workshop of the European Board, Jean-Michel Viton on behalf of the working group on Education (G. Vanderstraeten, J.M. Viton and F. Franchignoni) presented the following aims of the World Action Plan for Initial Education (WAPIE):

To teach disability issues to all medical students

To spread knowledge to PRM trainees

To involve in research PRM trainees

To consider PRM Doctor as a physician, as a researcher, as a manager, as a specialist in communication.

The following Resolution for the UEMS Council has been voted:

"Teaching of disability issues should be strongly suggested for the curriculum of medical and paramedical education"

C. **The European Board Examination 2007** was successfully completed on Saturday November 24, 2007. The examination took place simultaneously in 12 European countries, with

the participation of 50 PRM doctors. Forty-eight (48) of them succeeded and two (2) failed. The results were validated in the Board Jury Meeting in Athens on January 11, 2008.

Certificates for those who passed the examination will be delivered to National Managers during the next PRM Section and Board of the UEMS General Assembly, in March 2008. National Managers will distribute the certificates to the candidates who successfully passed the exam, provided that they already hold their national PRM Specialization Diploma. Last-year trainees will receive their European Board Certificates after they obtain their National qualification as PRM specialists.

Candidates who failed can participate in the European Board exams 2008, without paying examination fees. Further information will be provided by their National Managers.

D. **The Council for European Specialist Medical Examinations** (CESME) organized in Brussels on November 17, 2007 a meeting, with a wide range of specialties represented, including PRM with the presence of Prof. Xanthi Michail, President of the Board of PRM.

Items related to the broader issue of European Specialty Examinations in the framework of the "Glasgow Declaration" were discussed.

There was a general consensus that there should be a European Examination Board financed by the UEMS. Such a Board would require administrative staff, and would have to budget for the employment of educationalists and statisticians in order to maintain standards, commission audit, and progress the system of assessment in higher medical training. It was emphasized that, on this very important matter, it is CESME who must instruct the politicians as to what is required and not the reverse. Participants also agreed that in the future CESME should operate as an advisory group under the banner of the UEMS Council and its working group on postgraduate training. Finally it was decided that the date of the next meeting will be on February 16, 2008 in Brussels.

During the UEMS PRM Board, Executive Committee meeting, in Athens on January 11–12, 2008 active participation in the UEMS CESME was decided. Therefore, besides the President of the Board, it was decided that Jean-Michel Viton will be the second delegate to represent the European Board of PRM, participating in the CESME meetings.

E. A multidisciplinary **Joint Committee of Sports Medicine** was installed within the UEMS to make a charter on training of medical specialists in the EU. The requirements for the specialty Sports Medicine will be proposed including the minimum curriculum, the criteria for training institutions and trainers within the specialty. Prof Nicolas Christodoulou has been appointed as President of this committee. G. Vanderstraeten is a member of this committee that is advised and supported also by members of the EFSMA (European Federation of Sports Medicine Associations).