

UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

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NEUROLOGY

Report on activities of the European Board of Neurology, based on the protocol of the last meeting of the section in Cork, Ireland, March 2005. The report gives an outline of the discussed topics.

Education:

A questionnaire of neurologists in training is being conducted by Dr Wiles, UK. For trainees in the UK the RITA evaluation has been established. Other assessment tools are subject to evaluation. A core curriculum for the contents of neurological trainees has been developed by the EFNS education committee jointly with the UEMS EBN. The paper has been accepted for publication by the EJN.

Exchange of trainees

The development of the OFTEN program needs stronger participation. Dr Galvin and Dr Grisold have experience with a "short term" (1 month) exchange of residents between Ireland and Austria. The Irish neurological society was very supportive, and so was the city of Vienna. Local accommodation in hospitals and hospital staff meals were made available by the hosting department.

Dr Rakowits reports on a UK-Belgium exchange program where English doctors can stay up to one year.

The president encouraged all members to engage actively in exchange programs.

Nils Erik Gilhus (N) as the representative of the EFNS was asked to suggest to the EFNS to extend the financial support of the "department to department" program to participants of the OFTEN program.

CME/CPD

Dr Grisold (A) reported on the CME-EACCME meeting in Brussels in November 2005. A protocol was sent to all EBN members. The joint UEMS/EFNS-EACCME advisory board is working well and has received several applications from European meetings for review.

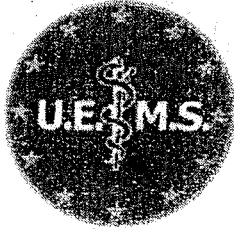
European Qualification:

The EBN received a request whether the EBN was willing to send observers to national board examinations. Dr Murphy (IR) is in contact with a Turkish colleague and suggested that an examination of a training site may be more useful than the visitation of a board examination.

The current status of pediatric neurology in relation to the EBN, in particular the access of neurologists to neuropediatrics is a matter of debate. Dr Neville (pediatric section) will be asked for a copy of the last version of the agreement. It remains unclear how child and adolescence psychiatrists can enter this curriculum, as they are psychiatrists and not neurologists.

Subspecialisation:

The Austrian and Italian societies for neurorehabilitation have sent a letter to be acknowledged as a subspeciality within the UEMS/EBN. The general opinion is that a subspeciality of neurorehabilitation will not be supported by the UEMS/EBN



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Master of science for neurological subspecialties:

It is agreed that the MAS is a decision of the single university. Several other degrees such as MAS for stroke, epileptology and palliative care are awarded by several universities. It is pointed out that these titles are academic titles, but do not result in a subspecialty within neurology.

A Dutch subspecialty program exists, which has several training options, lasts one year and results in a subspecialist title. The plan of these proceedings will be sent to the EBN for discussion.

CPME

On 7 April, 2005, a meeting of the CPME took place in Brussels and aimed at restructuring the representation of European medical associations. CPME, which was organizing this meeting has a major influence in the political scene in Brussels.

Neuroethics

The UEMS SEN/EBN was informed of the cancellation of the special interest group on neuroethics in the EFNS.

The WFN still has a subcommittee on ethical questions, the AAN issues ethical guidelines for neurologists. A questionnaire-based European survey on ethical questions has been performed and will be presented as a poster at the EFNS congress in Athens at the educational session.

A paper on the ethical issues of driving of patients with seizures and epilepsy, based on the guidelines of the international league against epilepsy will be prepared.

Palliative medicine in neurology:

Only preliminary results exist from 11 countries. The majority of countries have not answered. Therefore a concluding statement is not possible at present.

Administration:

The organisation and restructuring of the website will be necessary.

The report of the treasurer reveals that several countries have not paid their membership fees.

Two members of the board will act as auditors in the future.

The new EU states should also be reminded to pay membership fees.

The rules of the EBN will be modified (inclusion of auditors).

The future structure of the UEMS/EBN spring meetings will include a series of local lectures before the meeting. This will give the hosting country the possibility to present its neurological structure to the members and will give the UEMS/EBN the possibility to present its work in the host country.

Prof. Grisold, Secretary Section