

UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

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VASCULAR SURGERY

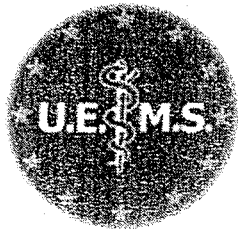
It was an excellent and fruitful year for the Section of Vascular Surgery (VS) of the UEMS, which was previously a Division within the Section of Surgery and then was granted independent Section status by the Management Council, oct. 15th 2004, in Lisbon. Recognition of VS as a monospeciality, with its own articulate body of knowledge and professional skill, is indeed a firm starting point for the improvement and enlargement of vascular care in Europe. Our special Committee for "**Territorial expansion and implementation of vascular events**" is working hard to find an appropriate accommodation for vascular surgeons and their organizations, coming mainly from the eastern european Countries. A model should be found for training, certification and continuing medical education (CME) which on one side fits with their cultural heritage and learning modalities, and on the other side fulfils the needs for high, reliable standards of the European Union, allowing free professional circulation within its borders. Harmonization is the key-word also with respect to the new Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications [COM(2002)119] (1).

The **European Board of VS-Qualification assessment** is one of the most important way to assure professional reliability; under the chairmanship of David Bergqvist it has reached excellent levels. The assessment is divided into four parts devoted to: clinical competence, scientific judgement, discussion on previous experiences compared with presented log-book and practical surgical skill test. From 2005 this last one will be integrated on an experimental basis with an endovascular skill test, which in the future might become a full assessment on its own for endovascular specialists. A working group was settled to implement endovascular procedures and study the best ways to organize such assessments. We are also considering to establish an **interdisciplinary assessment** for "**Vascular Diagnostic**" in which Vascular Physicians, Radiologists, Neurologists and some others would be interested and involved. Again a focused Working Group was formed: the new assessment are supposed to proceed from 2006. At the moment for the EB Vasc S-Q assessment the eligibility is granted to colleagues holding a diploma in VS (for Countries where VS is a monospeciality) or in General Surgery and presenting a logbook with at least 200 indicator procedures.

For Countries where local academic authorities recognize such an assessment as an exit exam for VS, the candidate may sit the exam 6 months prior the end of training.

Positive initiative is also gaining momentum to have the assessment recognized by local health organizations and universities in order to give it legal value.

CME Committee was very active under the chairmanship of Hajo van Bockel. All major vascular surgical European meetings applied for accreditation: 17 applications were received and accreditation was granted to 15 events meeting the required rather strict criteria. Workshops were also organized.



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Now further developments are under way since CME accreditation will be considered also for "not only-surgical" events in the frame of close relationship with the International Union of Angiology (IUA) representing mainly Vascular Physicians. Our ad hoc Committee is consequently integrated by experts in Vascular Medicine and Vascular Diagnostics.

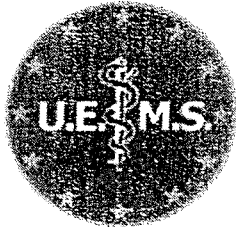
Such close collaboration became particularly evident and fruitful when a multidisciplinary Working Group was formed to study the possible **Guidelines for the organization of Vascular Centres in Europe**. The opportunity to provide the vascular patients all needed expertise, medical, endovascular and surgical, is at present widely recognized: our Section took the leadership 2 years ago and the Guidelines are very close to be completed. The 3rd draft, approved in principle in London, in April 2005, will be submitted to further revision and hopefully will be presented for final consent and publication during the forthcoming plenary meeting of this Section in Helsinki, in September 2005.

Since longtime we started a **Registry of Training Centres in Vascular Surgery** in the EU and thanks to the dedication of Jes Sandermann some preliminary results were achieved: taking a precise census is indeed a difficult enterprise because the landscape is changing, because the EU has enlarged and because titles and organizations are quite different among the various member Countries. However most of the training centres were enlisted and acquisition of technical details is well under way. To monitor training is obviously the best way to work on the future of a speciality. Coherently the **actual role of women in VS** was taken into consideration: a doctoral thesis, sponsored by our Section, is almost completed at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (UK) which will precise the entire matter and provide a fresh look into this particular problem.

A book on the "**Status of Vascular Surgery in Europe**" (2) was edited by this Section of VS in collaboration with the European Society of Vascular Surgery (ESVS) and published by Elsevier. It was a real hit not only in our continent but also in the far east and across the Atlantic.

A second editorial initiative is almost completed: a volume on "**Vascular Surgery**" in the series of the European Manual of Medicine, published by Springer-Verlag (3). It was also edited by our Section, particularly thanks to Christos Liapis, our past Secretary and now acting President of the ESVS.

Finally we are working on the project to form, within the UEMS, a **Federation of Surgical Specialities** which is supposed to go far beyond the present grouping. Following the proposal of Roger Greenhalgh a closer relationship and ways of cooperation should be established between all surgical specialist sections of the UEMS with the purpose to defend the common interest of surgical disciplines.



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This Section of VS is very busy and is looking forwards to new achievements in favour of European Vascular Surgeons.

References

- 1) Draft legislative Resolution of the EP on COM (2002) 119
(Codecision procedure: first reading) Feb 11th, 2004 RR/51776 EN.Doc
- 2) Status of Vascular Surgery in Europe. Liapis CD, Passke WP, Benedetti-Valentini F, Wolfe J, Horrocks M and Lepántalo M Eds. Elsevier Publ. Amsterdam 2004
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