REPORT ON THE DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY – OCTOBER 2017

Arthur Felice
Notable dates

- **12th and 13th May 2017:** CESMA Meeting in Glasgow
- **26th and 27th September 2017:** Part 1 and Part 2 of the UEMS EBSQ General Surgery Examination in Krakow.
- **27th September 2017:** Meeting of the UEMS Division of General Surgery in Krakow
- **September 2018:** Election of new Executive for the Division of General Surgery
The examination is not only a priority for the Division, but the essential funding stream.

It constitutes our contribution for the improvement of professional standards and consequently patient safety.
Number of candidates by the year

Year

2010 .......... 11
2011 .......... 12
2012 .......... 26
2013 .......... 19
2014 .......... 36
2015 .......... 32
2016 .......... 28
2017 .......... 41
First time we were using the Orzone online service for the Part 1 (MCQ) Exam on the 26/09/17

Part 2 (OSCE Circuit) was carried out independently of Orzone

Late resolution of problems with timely communications directed to the right persons

Problems with Chair of Exam:

I. E-mail on 02/07/17: Inability to carry out duties

II. Uncertainty about attending the Examination despite direct inquiries.
In the last months I had not only to cope with the ongoing process of ISO certification in my hospital, I installed a second surgical dept. (Chairman: Georg Bischof) and took my responsibility in the hospital quality management besides from everyday clinical workload. Last week I received the vocation to be the "Chief Medical Officer" in my hospital.

This means that I have now to reschedule my working time. I will stay in my post as President of the UEMS Board in any case with all responsibilities, but I have to reduce other time consuming works, that can be shifted away from my desk. This is why I have to draw back from the very time consuming work preparing the GenSurg Exam. I am happy and proud, that we relaunched GenSurg successfully and established our Exam as guiding line and basis for all other surgical examinations and went successfully through the CESMA validation process and started with the electronic online exam.

For me it is from now on not possible to enter questions into the databasis, structure the conduction of the exam, esp. the OSCEs. In any case I will support you with the questions from my database and all the MCQ and OSCE scenarios that already exist and also give you all macros and necessary layouts.
Resolution of difficulties

- The initial communication difficulties with Orzone were successfully resolved and the course of the Part 1 of the UEMS EBSQ General surgery Exam was smooth and very efficiently carried out.
- I had to take over the duties of Chair of the Exam in the run-up to the Exam.
- Since the official Chairperson of the Examination did not turn up for the Examination in Krakow, I took over the role.
Some crude data for the 2017 Examination

- Eligible candidates: 41
- Ratified their payments: 39
- Postponed till 2018: 2
- Dropped out for various reasons e.g. Visa: 2
- Problems with serious delays in flights (arriving very late and missing Part 1): 4
- Sat the Examination: 31
- Passed : 29
- Failed: 2
What we learnt from the run-up to the Examination

- Boundaries of responsibility must be clear and the duties linked to the office held must be carried out.
- Better communication. Our cooperation with Orzone means that all preparations for the Part 1 must be finalised by the Spring of 2018.
- Re-sitters need to register for the re-sit by the deadline as well. Thus, the maximum number of candidates will be known on the date of the deadline.
- We need to make the Exam more professionally managed. This might mean more financial outlay, but it is essential if the EBSQ General Surgery is to grow in recognition, popularity and stature.
We are not ready yet for multisite venues for Part 1.

Part 1 should serve as a selection process with only candidates passing the Part 1 modified Cohen Standard Setting being allowed to sit the Part 2 (OSCEs). This would allow more candidates to sit the Part 1 without overstretcheding the times for Part 2.

Venue should be more stable and central. Perhaps another attempt should be made to stage it at the DME in Brussels.

Can we disengage from Squiz? The Section and Board should define our legal position re: Squiz contract.
The coming UEMS EBSQ General Surgery Examination

- Venue: Malta
- Dates: September 2018 on the two days prior to the UEMS Surgery Section and Board Meeting.
Division involvement in events since the Copenhagen Meeting

- One CESMA Meeting
- Involvement in the European Training Requirements (ETRs) Review Committee
- The UEMS EBSQ General Surgery Examination
- One Division of General Surgery Meeting
Source of Income so far is only from Examination and Honorary Fellowship fees.

Balance on 7th April 2017: € 37,567.12.

Healthy balance, but it will only take one or two exams with poor participation to render it precarious.

Can the Division institute a small annual Fellowship retention fee?
Malta in September 2018: Will include the election of the new Division Executive for 2018 – 2022.
Any Questions?
Thank you