MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
UEMS EUROPEAN BOARD OF SURGERY (EBS) &
AND THE
LEBANESE SOCIETY FOR GENERAL SURGERY (LSGS)

Preamble

The objective of the European Board of surgery (EBS) of the UEMS is to assess, set standards for and progressively harmonize the content and quality of training and continuing medical education (CME) and professional development in all fields of surgery within the member states of the European Union (EU) and other UEMS states towards legislation.

The medical communities of the East Mediterranean and North Africa suffer from heterogeneity in their standards of surgical education and surgical practice, and, due to their proximity to the European continent, wish to cooperate with the European institutions to level these standards to those of Europe.

This can only lead to the advancement of the professional development of surgeons in the region to the highest standards with the relevant international recognition.

The standards of surgical education (Knowledges & Skills) are published elsewhere in the relevant documents. The catalogue is the basis for the examination, which consists in an Eligibility procedure and the Board Examination. Successful candidates are rewarded the qualification “Fellow of the European Board of Surgery (F.E.B.S.)”.

The Board Fellowship is a strategic key competency and steering tool to enhance personnel selection in the future. By that the EBS offers the application for the Board Fellowship to candidates from other countries in order to validate and monitor key competencies and the qualification of presumably migrating physicians.

The EBS closely cooperates with scientific societies (e.g. ESS) and the cooperation partners are integrated in the executive functional bodies of the Board. An outstanding feature of cooperation is to commonly conduct Board Examinations and Preparatory Courses.
COOPERATION OF THE EBS WITH THE LSGS

The following General Provisions and Outlines are valid providing that the application of the Lebanese Order of Physicians for Observer Status in the UEMS is going to be accepted.

The UEMS Section and Board of Surgery and the LSGS are in the process of establishing and implementing a new memorandum of understanding regarding their future collaboration.

This agreement consists in the following steps:

§ 1. General Provisions and Outlines

1. Within the LSGS, a Lebanese Board of Surgery (LBS) exists since 2000, and covers the field of General surgery, as well as all its subspecialties.

2. The LBS officially represents the LSGS in the UEMS Section and Board of Surgery and in the Division and Board of General Surgery as member with voting rights.

3. The cooperation respects all regulations, documents and quality measures of the UEMS.

4. The LBS is accountable to and reports directly to the EBS.

5. The LBS acts as official, fully competent and functional UEMS representative organ in their designated field of operation following a relevant decision by the EBS.

6. The EBS cooperates with the LBS and may delegate certain procedures and activities (e.g. preparatory courses, eligibility, examinations, visitations) to the LBS.

7. The LBS receives a cooperation mandate from the EBS to establish a regional center for surgical training and evaluation in the city of Beirut.

8. The regional center in Beirut will serve as strategic bridgehead for common cooperative projects in the Near/Middle East and North Africa.

§ 2. Delegates in UEMS bodies

1. The LBS nominates one delegate and a substitute for each of the following official UEMS Section/Board/Division bodies:
   - UEMS Section and Board of Surgery
   - Division of General Surgery
     - Eligibility Committee
     - Examination Committee
     - Credentials Committee
     - Preparatory Course Committee
2. The LBS delegate is a full member in the UEMS Division and Board of General Surgery and covers e.g. the promotion of the common project, the acquisition of candidates for the Board Examination and the visitation and accreditiation of centres.

3. The LBS delegate in the Eligibility Committee takes regional responsibility for filtering and conducting the candidates' Eligibility process following the rules and criteria of the UEMS. Their initial recommendation is scrutinized according to the SOPs by the other members of the Eligibility Committee and formally approved by the EBS.

4. The LBS delegate in the GenSurg Examination Committee ("Examination Liaison Officer") nominates the members of the local Examination Board to conduct the Board Examination, suggests Honorary Diploma (HD) and cooperates in the preparation and selection of questions.

5. The LBS delegate in the Credential Committee serves following the rules of the EBS.

6. The LBS delegate in the Preparatory Course Committee is responsible for the organisation of local courses and is invited to cooperate with the EBS in the organisation of courses in other locations.

7. The election for the above mentioned posts will be conducted in Beirut in June 2014.

§ 3. Infrastructure & Organisation

1. A local unit in Beirut within the LSGS secretarial office is established.

2. A "hotline" between the Beirut and the Berlin office is established.

3. A common "dropbox" for the exchange of documents is installed.

4. The LBS is encouraged to set initiatives for the promotion of the common project in the relevant region in collaboration and under the auspices and following the ROPs of the UEMS referring to the President of the EBS.

5. The promotion of the common project in the relevant region is established by publishing specialised leaflets, contacting the ministries of health, the medical associations, the academic centres and the training hospitals of these countries. Regular visits and conferences should be planned to occur every two years in each country.

§ 4. Board Examination

1. Yearly examination sessions should take place in Beirut. A number of 50 candidates are prospectively awaited each year. For each session, between 8 and 12 examiners should be invited from the European countries. Their accommodation in Lebanon will be of 4 nights.

2. The European examiners will be invited to Beirut by the LSGS who is supposed also to plan their travel and accommodation.

3. The Diplomas to the successful applicants are provided by the UEMS-EBS.

4. The relevant F.E.B.S. certificates carry the names and signatures of the UEMS Section of Surgery president, the EBS president and the LBS president.
5. The LBS is allowed to offer to the successful applicants (Eligibility and Examination) a certificate of recognition of achievement which will carry, in addition to Lebanese signatures, the signature of the EBS president.

§ 5. Preparatory Courses

1. Two training sessions per year should be organized in Lebanon or in other countries of the region (depending on the number of local candidates). Three lecturers from Lebanon and Europe will participate in each training session. For the whole period of five years, 10 training sessions will be implemented, half of them at least in Lebanon.

2. The "Preparatory Course" are organized and conducted in cooperation with the UEMS EBS.

§ 6. Visitation and Accreditation

1. The accreditation of visited training centers in the relevant area is conducted by the EBS and the LBS in cooperation following the regulations of the UEMS.

2. All visitation certificates and/or accreditation diploma are provided by the UEMS EBS.

§ 7. Final remarks

This agreement, in case of success, will help Lebanon, the Eastern Mediterranean and the North African countries to improve their surgical healthcare standards and to level their professional surgical practice to that of the European countries. The medical care of the local population will, doubtlessly, profit from this progress.

On the other hand, the European interest in this geographical area will be increased, bringing more mutual understanding and peaceful cooperation between the people of both regions.

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The President of the Lebanese Society for General Surgery

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The President of the European Board of Surgery
Chairman of the GenSurg Examination Board

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