Report of the Surgical Oncology Division

Chair: Ms. Lynda Wyld
Presented by: Ibrahim Edhemovic
The 2015 EBSQ examination in Surgical Oncology took place in Naples on 12th and 13th September.

- 26 applicants: 2 ineligible on the basis of inadequate log book experience

- 24 eligible and accepted

- 5 withdrawals (1 illness, 1 failure to obtain a visa, 3 deferrals to 2016)

- 3 no shows on the day

- 16 candidates examined
Two papers: one focused on general oncology knowledge, the second based on clinical cases and testing application of knowledge and critical thinking.

Pass mark set by Anghoff referencing

None excluded from analysis
Academic viva (part 2 of 3)

- Candidates allocated 2 academic papers of current interest
- Papers allocated based on their declared 2 subject preferences
- 1 hour to read both papers and then a 30 minute academic viva
- Focus on critical thinking, trial design and methodology plus evidence based practice.
Clinical viva (part 3 of 3)

- 10 pre prepared cases covering all major cancer sites
- Evaluates clinical management skills, decision making and clinical knowledge of current best European practice
- Each candidate discusses 2 case scenarios themed around their specialist subject (HPB, Upper GI, Visceral, breast)
Outcome

- 3 candidates failed. Pass rate 81%
- 1 very poor score on both MCQs, borderline academic, good clinical.
- 1 failed all 3 sections outright
- 1 failed the academic viva and was borderline on the written.

- 3 prize winners: all given free registration at the next ESSO congress in Krakow, 2016 where they will be awarded a gold or silver medal at the General Assembly.
  - 1st Prize: Mr Chazoor
  - 2nd Prize: Mr Harris
  - 3rd Prize: Mr Thasler
On line system – the first impressions

- Setting-up a new exam was simple and straightforward

- Some data already published on Division of Surgical Oncology webpages were inaccurate and outdated, so we had to update

- Webpages editing required some learning; however, after some testing the whole process turned out to be simple and easy
Early future plans

- To have a separate written exam 2 months before the oral at local exam sites (one in India, one in Egypt, officially moderated and invigilated by collaborators. Same paper at all sites. May be an on line paper if we can sort out the technology in time.

- If pass the written exam, invited to the oral exam in Brussels 2 months later.

- To help reduce costs both for the exam board and also for the candidates.
On line written exam

- The issue of the online exam is still pending and we are waiting for the technology

- Actually, the technology already exists

- Our biggest concern is how to prevent illegal assistance (cheating) during the exam as well as copying and distribution of the questions
New exam in September 2016

The exam will be held in the the old format (written and oral at same place)
Later future plans

- Imaging interpretation or maybe communications are at the development stage

- Taking out the breast part of the exam and making the exam viscerally focused is currently under consideration