REPORT ON THE DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY – MAY 2017

Arthur Felice
Notable dates

- **12**th May 2016 – Annual Division of General Surgery Meeting in Belfast: Decision to hold the EBSQ General Surgery Exam in Krakow on the 26th and 27th September 2017 in conjunction with the ESS Conference.

- **14**th May 2016 – Decision by the UEMS Section and Board to collaborate with ORZONE so that the MCQ part of Examinations change to an electronic format.

- **3**rd September 2016 – Prof. Vassilios Papalois on behalf of the UEMS Section and Board signed the contract with ORZONE.

- November 2016 – Details of the UEMS EBSQ submitted to ORZONE on its request, so that a platform could be formulated.

- **16**th December 2016 – Meeting and training session with ORZONE in Gothenburg.

- January 2017 Agreement with ESS regarding the collaboration for the EBSQ General Surgery Examination.
An 8 month delay

Updating the Website update had not been possible.

Advertising of the Examination and call for applications was delayed
Possible consequences

- Decline in the number of applicants for the UEMS EBSQ General Surgery Examination
- Alienation of Examination Board members and grass roots.
Suggestions emerging out of networking

- The President of the Division to take over from the Chairperson of the Examination Board (pressed by professional commitments), the onus of concluding the agreement with the ESS regarding cooperation for the EBSQ Exam – Done

- A small yearly subscription for all Fellows of the European Board of Surgery. Proposed by Paul Ridgway and accepted by grass roots – Awaiting the ‘nihil obstat’ of the UEMS Board

- Moving from the fixed passmark of 75% to the Cohen Standard Setting, which means that the passmark will be set electronically at 60% of the 95th percentile - Accepted by grass roots

- Increase the Examination fee by Euro 100 to cover increased costs.
The extent of the MCQ data bank accepted by ORZONE according to the contract: Only 200 MCQs. It would mean that we would still have to create the whole MCQ Exam from scratch every time.

Paying by pay pal or similar methods is not possible in some countries and this problem has to be confronted and a solution proposed for candidates from such countries.

The Examination Committee will be dealing with two electronic interfaces: ORZONE and Squiz. This is not user friendly.
ORZONE MCQ Bank – For this year provide ORZONE with the 200 MCQs, respecting our blueprint, out of our own data bank of well over 1,000.

In the future try to convince ORZONE to retain a bigger MCQ data bank, if the price is not prohibitive.
Solutions: Payment method

- One preferential payment method
- Alternative ‘escape’ method when above not possible.
Suggestions to streamline this dichotomy had to be abandoned because of contractual obligations - i.e. No solution.
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.
Part 1, i.e. the MCQ part of the Examination on the 26\textsuperscript{th} September 2017, will be held at the Conference Centre Faculty of Medicine JUMS, Krakow, Poland.

Part 2, i.e. the OSCE Circuit on the 27\textsuperscript{th} September 2017, will be held at the 1\textsuperscript{st} Department of General Oncological and GI Surgery, Krakow, Poland.

Details confirmed at the recent ESS Board Meeting.
Division involvement in events since the Lisbon Meeting

- Two CESMA Meetings
- One CESMA ‘Examination Appraisal
- Two NASCE Meetings
- One ORZONE Meeting/Training session
- Involvement in the European Training Requirements (ETRs) Review Committee
Source of Income so far is only from Examination and Honorary Fellowship fees.

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

This would include the money (source from EBSQ General Surgery Exams in 2015 and 2016) previously on loan to the Section returned back at end of 2016.

Should cover the running costs and reimbursements for the Examination, even though the applications for the 2017 Exam have so far been slow.
Next meeting of the Division

- Krakow 27th September 2017
Any Questions?
Thank you