STATUTES OF THE DIVISION OF GENERAL SURGERY (GenSurg)

1. Introduction

General Surgery (GenSurg) is a Division within the "Section of Surgery" which was formed in 2015 to prepare specific advice on issues relating to training, harmonisation, standardisation of training and professional practice in General Surgery (GenSurg) within the UEMS countries for the benefit of training in GenSurg and patient care.

The "Division of General Surgery" is a non-profit organisation.

2. Title and Board

The section shall be known as the "Division of General Surgery" associated with the "Section of Surgery" of the "European Union of Medical Specialists" (UEMS) and the "European Board of Surgery" (EBS).

The "Division of General Surgery" with its "Board of General Surgery" is especially responsible for the GenSurg Board Examination of the EBS.

3. Composition

3.1. There shall be up to two representatives from each member state of the UEMS who shall be nominated by the competent national professional medical organisation(s), which can be the national scientific society and/or professional organisation in official communication with the UEMS and the EBS.

3.2. In any voting process, each country is entitled to only one vote. If a country has two members and one of them is present at the time of a vote, this member is entitled to vote without consulting the second member. If both members are present and consensus cannot be achieved, the most senior (longer serving member) is entitled to vote.

In the event of a full member being unable to attend a meeting, he/she may nominate a deputy previously nominated by the national medical organization to attend in his place, subject to the prior approval of the chairperson.

3.3. The "Division of General Surgery" may include non-voting delegates representing e.g. the major European scientific societies, associations for surgeons in training and representatives of the associated and observer countries of the UEMS.
Official national organisations for GenSurg surgeons in associated and observer UEMS countries may be invited to nominate representatives to attend meetings at the discretion of the President. Representatives of these countries shall not have entitlement to vote.

3.4. The tenure of each full member shall be for 4 years. The mandate shall be renewable. Following completion of their term, the members of the "Division of General Surgery" are responsible for ensuring their succession following consultation with their professional organisations. This is to ensure proper representation of all countries at any given time.

3.5. The President of the UEMS Section of Surgery and the President of the European Board of Surgery shall be voting members of the "Division of General Surgery".

3.6. The "Division of General Surgery" shall elect an Executive Committee from amongst its members, which will include the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The last two offices may be held by the same person.

3.7. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall have a tenure of 4 years and shall be eligible for re-election. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall not be elected at the same time. The tenure of the Secretary will be for 4 years, renewable for up to two further terms of 4 years.

The Vice Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer shall be eligible for election as Chairperson.

A Founding and/or Honorary President can be full-voting member of the Executive Committee.

3.8. Official representatives of full EU member states shall be eligible for election to office.

For the election of Executive Officers the Secretary will notify members of the "Division of General Surgery" of an impending vacancy one year in advance and ask for nominations at the same time.

Any nomination should be proposed and seconded by two members of the Division. The Secretary will then arrange a postal ballot to all members of the Division 6 months before the appointment will become active.

3.9. The Chairperson and Secretary of the Division shall attend meetings of the Speciality Section of Surgery of the UEMS and the EBS as ex-officio members. If the Chairperson or the Secretary cannot attend the meeting, the Chairperson can authorise any other member of the Executive Committee to represent the "Division of General Surgery".
3.10. The Division may appoint working parties or commissions to prepare draft documents or recommendations on specific topics for consideration by the full "Division of General Surgery".

4. Objectives

4.1. To prepare advice concerning all aspects of professional practice in GenSurg in the context of the EU for the benefit of the EU political administration through the UEMS structure and ensuring that training in GenSurg is maintained at the highest level.

5. Accountability

5.1. The "Division of General Surgery" shall report to the UEMS Management Council through the UEMS Section of Surgery and the EBS.

5.2. Relations with any organization or institution outside the UEMS shall be in accordance with the current UEMS rules of procedure.

6. Functioning

6.1. The "Division of General Surgery" shall meet at least once per year and the minutes of the meeting shall be forwarded to the UEMS Section of Surgery and the EBS. The date and place of every meeting is to be decided at the end of the previous meeting.

The Division meetings can be in conjunction with the UEMS Section of Surgery as common trunk to all Boards is an issue.

The business meeting of the Division can be linked to a EBS GenSurg examination process and to the relevant location.

Extraordinary meetings can be called by the Executive Committee or following the request of one or more members and approval by the Executive Committee.

6.2. Meetings will be made known to the Section of Surgery.

6.3. Meetings shall be organised in such a way that will allow the maximum possible number of members to attend and to entail the minimum of expense.

6.4. Meetings may be attended by the General Secretary of the UEMS or a nominated deputy who shall be a member of the Management Council.

Meetings may also be attended by the President of the UEMS Section of Surgery or the President of the EBS or a nominated deputy who is a member of the Management Council of the UEMS Section of Surgery.
6.5. The agenda shall consist of subjects proposed by the members of the Division, officers of the UEMS Section and Board.

6.6. The agenda shall be circulated to the members and the Secretary General of the UEMS, the UEMS Section of Surgery and the EBS at least 1 month before the meeting.

6.7. The minutes of the meetings shall be circulated to all members, the President and Secretary of the UEMS Section of Surgery, the President of the EBS, the General Secretary of the UEMS and the Management Council of the UEMS within 1 month of the meeting.

7. Financing

7.1. The "Division of General Surgery" is a non-profit organization and is financed by the fees of the applicants for the two parts of the GenSurg EBS Eligibility I and II accreditation process.

The Division is also financed by any legal financial benefits for its contribution to various professional/scientific activities (i.e. meetings, publications).

The Division can accept legal public (i.e. EU bodies, national government bodies, professional/scientific organisations) or private (i.e. gifts, contribution by the commercial sector) contributions donations.

A financial contribution/donation to the Division can only be accepted under the strict rule that is offered in order to help the Division to achieve its objectives and without any obligation of the Division towards the body(ies)/organisation(s)/person(s) offering the contribution/donation.

7.2. The Division shall hold a subaccount in Euros according to the statutes regulation of the UEMS.

The Treasurer and one more nominated person by the Executive Committee are the authorised users of the account.

The Treasurer and the second nominated user of the account have to present at the annual meeting of the Division a signed report of the account as well as copies of the bank statements of the account.

The Treasurer and the second nominated user must also forward each annual report to the Treasurer of the Section of Surgery of the UEMS and the EBS.
8. Funds

The national scientific societies and/or the official national organisations and/or professional organisations shall be responsible for the travel and accommodation expenses to enable its representative to attend the meetings.

9. Board of General Surgery

9.1. The "Division of General Surgery" shall create a "Board of General Surgery" that will be entrusted with the problems of training, EBSQ Board Examination, Continuing Medical Education (CME), Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and quality management for the accreditation of GenSurg surgeons and specialised organisational structures (e.g. Department for GenSurg Surgery).

9.2. The Board will have the responsibility to develop the necessary documents for defining the "transferable competency" of GenSurg by developing a syllabus including the content of training and learning outcome in GenSurg, defining mandatory theoretical knowledge, practical and clinical skills (with a detailed catalogue of interventions, procedures and operations including provisional arrangements and compensatory rules), training requirements for recognition of trainers and training institutions and mechanisms for assessment and evaluation, all in cooperation with the EBS and following the standards and regulations provided by the EBS.

9.3. The Board will have the responsibility of organising the qualification process to be accredited as "Fellow of the European Board of Surgery /GenSurg" (F.E.B.S. /GenSurg) in cooperation with the EBS and following the standards and regulation provided by the EBS.

9.4. The Board shall implement all structures and processes for Eligibility and Examination quality management including the creation of an Eligibility Committee, an Examination Committee and a Credentials Committee following the regulations by the EBS.

The Board qualification process for Fellowship shall undergo a regular external quality control process and audit as provided e.g. by the CESMA (Council of European Specialist Medical Examinations).

9.5. The Board Examination shall include a MCQ test and an OSCE circuit according to the provisions and standards provided by the EBS.

9.6. Visitation and accreditation of Training Centers shall be performed according to the UEMS provisions.
9.7. The Board will have the responsibility to substantially cooperate in the harmonisation and standardisation process of European surgical training.

10. Future Amendments

The Statutes as well as the EBS Fellowship qualification process (Eligibility and Examination) can be amended following relevant suggestion by a member of the "Division of General Surgery" and approval by 2/3 (two thirds) of the countries members which are represented at the time of the discussion of the amendment. For that 50% +1 of the countries members of the Division should be represented.

All amendments shall be in accordance with the EBS standards and regulations for the Fellowship qualification process.

Arthur Felice
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Foundation & Honorary President of the Division of General Surgery