UEMS Section of Surgery
Malta, 2012

The Future of General Surgery in Europe
European Union

- **EU - laws**
  - unique legal system which operates alongside the laws of member states of the E.U.

- **EU - directive**
  - is a legislative act of the E.U. which requires member states to achieve a particular result without dictating the means of achieving that result.

- **EU - advisory boards**
  - Comité Pérmanent
  - (A.C.M.T. – Advisory Committee for Medical Training)
  - U.E.M.S. – Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes
Amendments of E.U. directives

- Directive 1993/16/EC (9 member states)
- ACMT activities (harmonization)
  - Gaetano "Nino" Salvatore (+ 1997)
- several amendments
- UEMS activities
- Directive 2006/100/EC (27 states)
  - Revision 2012?
  - amended "Chapter 6"
Directive regulates …

- automatic mutual recognition
  - e.g. Gen Surg

- general system
  - all other (sub)specializations

- main issue: harmonization
Examination - GenSurg

- 2001 – 2004
- no motivation due to automatic mutual recognition
- no application from abroad EU
  - used as entrance into the EU
- harmonization at lowest common denominator useless
- reduction to common trunc
UEMS Sections, Divisions & Boards

- **39 Sections**
  - Surgery
  - Urology, G & O, ORL, Ortho, MFS, Neurosurgery
  - Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic surgery
  - Pediatric Surgery
  - Cardio-Thoracic Surgery
  - Vascular Surgery

- **within the sections**
  - Divisions (e.g. Division of General Surgery)
  - Working Groups
  - Boards (represent scientific societies)
Specializations in Surgery
"The pie, envelope, orange concepts"

- General
- Thoracic
- Hand
- HBP
- Tx
- Breast
- N.N.
- Trauma
- Oncology
- Endocrine
- Coloproct.
- Vascular
- Common Trunk
Section of Surgery
"The grapefruit concept"
Definition of GenSurg

discussion on 4th Oct 2003

- "a little bit of everything but at a lower level"
- "general surgery is what is left when the specializations are taken away"
  - "but who trains the specialists in basic skills"
  - e.g. the thyroid may be totally out, and the colon ...
- some countries have no GenSurg (EC directive for mutual recognition ?)
  - "who does the acute appendicitis in the night ?"
- "the grapefruit concept is perfect, but there are borders between the slices, this does not reflect reality"
- "avocado concept"
  - takes into consideration the overlaps
Definition of GenSurg

- GenSurg is the totality of surgery excluding those operations deemed better done by specialists, according to national requirements.

(Maurice Stokes, 2003)
The House of Surgery
The House of Surgery
Future perspectives

Section of Surgery & E.B.S.

- Vascular
- Oncology
- Breast
- Pediatric
- General
- Thoracic
- Hand
- Plastic
- Coloproct.
- HBP
- Trauma
- Orthop.
- Endocrine
- Tx
- Urology
- Gyn/Obst.
GenSurg Exam - Relaunch

- qualification beyond "automatically mutually recognized" CCST-GenSurg
- set up high level (knowledges & skills)
- take into account national issues (e.g. flexible endoscopy, trauma, breast, thyroid)
- EBSQ – examination
- Cooperation with scientific societies (ESS)
- Qualification with "title" F.E.B.S.
  - "Fellow of the European Board of Surgery"
The Project

- Examinations in combination with a European scientific society meeting (E.S.S.)
  - lectures for preparation
- Examinations in local combination with the annual congress of a national/international surgical society
  - more candidates (hopefully)
  - starting with the larger countries (more candidates)
  - quickly move into the new EU-member or applicant states (more interest – hopefully)
- Handbook of Surgery
E.B.S.Q. – Modular Concept

- Heart Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery
- Endocrine Surgery
- Traumatology
- Transplant Surgery
- Coloproctology
- Surgical Oncology
- Breast Surgery
- Hand Surgery
- HPB Surgery

- General Surgery
- Visceral Surgery
- (Gastrointestinal Surgery)
- GI Endoscopy & Funct. Diagnostics
- Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
- Emergency (On call) Surgery
- ..........
The Modular Concept

- draw back from denominations
  - omit jungle of different names for the same contents
  - (e.g. GI-surgery and visceral surgery)
  - omit same name for different contents
    - (e.g. emergency)
  - omit harmonization (=never ending story)

- switch to competencies
  - honest logbooks from different institutions
  - enhance rotation (no "challenge trophy")
The Modular Concept

- considers national peculiarities of contents
  - e.g. thyroid surgery, breast cancer, endoscopy

- allows variable duration of training

- considers national structural requirements
  - e.g. Finland versus Greece (geography)

- allows individual programs based on contents
The Modular Concept

- Endoscopy
- GenSurg
- Oncology
- Vascular
- Thoracic
- Trauma
- GenSurg
- On call

- Endocrine
- HBP
- Vascular
- Tx
- On call

- Vascular
- Metabolic
- Gen Surg

- HBP
- MIS
The Modular Concept

- Contents
- Competencies
- Qualification