STATUTES OF THE BOARD OF ECS SURGERY

The UEMS invited its specialist sections with the formation of their own European Boards for their respective specialties.

Members shall be leading representatives of the national organisations and scientific societies representing their country on a professional, scientific and university basis.

The foundation shall be constituted in accordance with these statutes and the rules of procedure of UEMS and the specialist sections.

The European Boards shall provide fresh impetus for achieving high quality medicine and completing arrangements for the free movement of specialist doctors.

1. Introduction

The "European Board of ECS Surgery (EBECSS)" is created within the "Division of ECS Surgery" and in association with the "European Board of Surgery" (EBS) and the "Section of Surgery" of the UEMS.

The EBECSS is constituted in accordance with the statutes, declarations and rules of procedure of the UEMS.

The members of the EBECSS shall be elected from leading representatives of the national organisations and scientific societies of general surgery of UEMS full member countries on a professional, scientific and academic basis. The members of the board should be FEBS/ ECS Surg or honorary diploma members of same.

The EBECSS shall achieve its objectives by setting and recommending standards to the EBS and by encouraging health authorities, national and international scientific societies of general surgery to live up to such standards.

2. Objectives

The main objective is to guarantee to the patients the highest standards of care in the field of ECS Surgery in the countries of the European Union (EU) by ensuring that the training of the ECS surgeon is raised and maintained to the highest possible level. This shall be achieved by the following means:

The EBECSS shall assess and report to the "Division of ECS Surgery", the EBS and the Section of Surgery the current contents and quality of training in general surgery in the different countries of the EU.
The EBECSS shall define the contents of training of ECS surgeons (syllabus, log-book) and standards for training programs and shall implement mechanisms for the maintenance of these standards.

The EBECSS shall define the requirements to which the training institutions and teachers in ECS surgery should conform. Based on the agreement of participating institutions, requirements can be subjected to site-visit control.

After appropriate assessment of eligible candidates the EBECSS shall recommend to the EBS the issuance of an European Board Fellowship in ECS Surgery.

Assessment of the quality of training of ECS surgeons may take place at his/her request according to the different criteria laid down by the EBECSS.

The EBECSS shall facilitate the exchange of ECS surgical trainees between the training centers of the various countries of the EU to enable a better harmonisation and quality of training.

The EBECSS shall establish criteria of evaluation in Continuing Education.

Visitation and accreditation of Training Centers shall be performed according to the UEMS provisions.

The Board will have the responsibility to substantially cooperate in the harmonisation and standardisation process of European surgical training.

3. Accountability

The Executive Bureau of the UEMS shall officially communicate with the EBS through the "Section of Surgery" and the "Division of ECS Surgery".

The "Section of Surgery" and the Executive Bureau of the UEMS shall be entrusted with communicating all opinions issuing from the EBECSS and the "Division of ECS Surgery" to the competent UEMS bodies.

The "Division of ECS Surgery" shall submit through the "Section of Surgery" to the UEMS for ratification any changes to statutes relating to the membership and functioning of the EBECSS.

4. Board Composition and Members

The EBECSS shall consist of one or two representatives of each member state. One representative shall be a member of the national delegation to the "Division of ECS Surgery". The Division can appoint an additional representative, after inviting nomination from the relevant national professional bodies.

The EBS shall nominate one or two of its members to attend meetings of the EBECSS. They may send substitutes. The scientific and/ or professional societies of General Surgeons in the EU and representative organisations of general surgeons in training may be invited to nominate non-voting observers to attend meetings at the discretion of the Chairperson.

The Chairperson of the Management Committee may invite consulting experts in the context of its (their) activities, who have no voting rights.
The replacement of an EBECSS member or his/her substitute may be decided by the respective National Society by withdrawing the nomination to the EBECSS. The replacement must be indicated to the "Division of ECS Surgery". The term of representation will be 4 years and will be renewable. The terms of the 2nd representative of a country follow the same scheme but will stagger with the terms of the 1st representative.

5. Management Committee

A Management Committee will be elected amongst the EBECSS members. The latter is composed of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Treasurer and Secretary are the same as those in the "Division of ECS Surgery".

The President of the European Board of Surgery shall be member of the Management Committee with full voting rights.

The Management Committee shall communicate with the General Secretary of the UEMS, the Section and Board of Surgery and the "Division of ECS Surgery" who shall be informed of the activities of the EBECSS as prescribed in the Statutes of the UEMS (minutes of plenary meetings decisions taken, all changes in the membership of the Boards, changes in Management Committee, etc.).

Duration of terms of office of the Management Committee: The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall remain in office for 4 years and the terms are renewable.

6. Funds

The funds of the Board shall be acquired by: contributions of the national associations and societies of general surgery - subsidies and donations - gifts, institutes of heir and legacies - other legal benefits - fees for European Board of Surgery Qualifications (EBSQ) assessments.

7. Meetings of Board Members

A session is held at least once a year in conjunction with the session of the "Division of ECS Surgery". Additional meetings may be convened by the Management Committee, in agreement with or at the instigation of the UEMS "Division of ECS Surgery".

The agenda consists of items proposed by members of the EBECSS, by the Management Committee, by the "Division of ECS Surgery"/Section of Surgery, by the EBS or by the UEMS Management Council or its Secretary General.

The agenda of the meeting shall be communicated to the EBECSS members at least one month before the meeting.

The minutes of the meetings, as well as all resolutions, recommendations, opinions, studies and other documents are to be sent after approval by the EBECSS to the Chairperson and the members of the EBECSS, to the President and the members of the Division, to the Secretary of the Section of Surgery, the secretary of the EBS and to the UEMS Secretary General.
The Management Committee meets at least every six months. The meetings are convened by the Chairperson and/or the Secretary. The agenda and the relevant information are described to the Management Committee members.

In order to save time and money the meetings of the EBECSS should be held at the same time and location as the meetings of the Division of ECS Surgery and the Section of Surgery. The agenda of these committees should be harmonised in advance to enhance effective project work.

8. Voting

Each country represented on the EBECSS has one vote. The EBS also has a single vote. Representatives of a UEMS associated or observer countries have a consultative voice only.

9. Board Examination and Fellowship

The "European Board of ECS Surgery (EBECSS)" within the "Division of ECS Surgery" is entrusted with the problems of training, EBSQ Board Examination, Continuing Medical Education (CME), Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and quality management for the accreditation of ECS surgeons and specialised organisational structures (e.g. Department for ECS Surgery).

The Board will have the responsibility to develop the necessary documents for defining the "transferable competency" of ECS by developing a syllabus including the content of training and learning outcome in ECS surgery, 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.

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

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).

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

The EBECSS can designate committees, charged of the study and presentation of proposals concerning specific objectives of the EBECSS, always in accordance to the UEMS statutes and rules of procedure.

The committee(s) shall relate to the Management Committee.

10. Future Amendments

The Statutes as well as the EBSQ Certification Process (Eligibility I and Eligibility II) can be amended following relevant suggestion by a member of the Division 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.

Lars Bo Svendsen
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