

Romania – UEMS, EBO

The Annual General Assembly of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) – section of Ophthalmology and European Board of Ophthalmology (EBO) took place between 11 and 12 of June 2016. 29 countries were represented, Greece and Turkey being associated members. For the first time, this year, the Medical Residents in the Ophthalmology Association were also represented by the delegate from Malta. Romania is a member of UEMS and for the last 5 years, it has been represented at the EBOD exam by 2-3 examiners. At this meeting, our country was represented by Assoc. Prof. Marian Burcea, MD, and Cornel Stefan, MD.



Fig. 1 National delegates from Romania, Cornel Stefan, MD, and Assoc. Prof. Marian Burcea, MD

During these 2 days, many aspects regarding UEMS, EBO, the involvement of Romania in these two organizations, the curricula and scholarships for residents were discussed.

Regarding the improvement of the quality of clinical training for residents, an increase in the number of European Clinical Centers for residents was discussed. Unfortunately, there is not a European unified curriculum for the training of residents yet, the clinical training and the

requirements for residents are different in different countries. In addition, steps are being taken to overcome this difficulty. EBO still awards scholarships of 1000 euro for a period of 4 to 6 weeks. If a resident is awarded this scholarship, he cannot apply for another, for example for SOE.

The account of The General Assembly of 2015 was unanimously adopted. The Secretary General presented the annual report and the Treasurer presented the economic report for 2015, the budget for 2016, and the national contributions for 2017.

Following the elections for UEMS 2017-2020 for the Ophthalmology section, the Presidency is assured by Holland, Secretary General – Ireland, Deputy Secretary General – France, Treasurer – Finland, Bruxelles Liaison – Italy.

The discussions of the Executive Committee and the members were focused on the possibility of creating a European Academy of Ophthalmology similar to the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). This organization should reunite the European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE), UEMS, and EBO. For the time being, this goal is difficult to achieve.

The other matters discussed were the European CME (Continuing Medical Education) credits. The CME credits system is not unified, in many countries the European CME credits are not recognized, and the national CME credits are not recognized in Europe. Regarding this subject, the AAO is the example to follow again by unifying and recognizing the CME credits nationally and internationally.

The possibility of EBOD (European Board of Ophthalmology Diploma) exam to replace the national examination in every country was analyzed. Switzerland and Belgium already replaced their national examination with the EBOD exam and in France, the EBOD exam is mandatory. As for Slovenia and Holland, they strongly recommend sitting for this exam. EBOD takes place once a year in Paris and the admittance fee is 500 euro. The possibility of opening another center for the exam in Germany was discussed. This exam is addressed to residents in their last 2 years of training and ophthalmology specialists. In 2016, there were 619 candidates, 139 being specialists. There were 11 Romanian candidates and only 3 of them passed the exam.

Subspecialty exams will be a part of the EBOD exam (the one for glaucoma is already taking place; the third year now – in collaboration with the European Glaucoma Society (EGS) - FEBOS). The collaboration with ESCRS and EURETINA (European Society of Retina Specialists) will be sought in organizing the future subspecialty exams (cataract, refractive surgery, clinical retina).

EBO encourages residents to apply for scholarships and to sit for the EBOD exam through the National Delegates.

**Assoc. Prof. Marian Burcea, MD
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National Delegates**