



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

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UEMS SECTION OF RADIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Bureau of the Radiology Section, please find your copy of the Newsletter.

Booth of the Section - ECR (2017)



As this second issue of 2017 will follow the ECR, we have decided to dedicate the newsletter to the outcomes of the past European Congress of Radiology and to the most relevant meetings that took recently place in Vienna. The Section has been granted its own booth thanks to the kind support of the ESR and some promotional material has been distributed with success to the many visitors present at the ECR. This year's edition - whose main theme has been the Young - has seen a record participation of 26.829 visitors!

Alongside the interesting scientific sessions, the meeting with delegates of the Section as well as

the one of the Neuroradiology division took place, with another little record regarding the attendance. Furthermore, a dedicated ESR- UEMS Joint Session and the ESR-UEMS

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Leadership Meeting have been organised to discuss future engagements and common efforts of both organisations.

Concerning EBR, ACI and EDiR, you will find the outcomes of the last meetings in the present newsletter: the President of our Section, Prof. Paolo Ricci is the new ACI Scientific Director, starting March 2017.



ECR 2017 concept: the Flower Gardens of Radiology

Finally, I wish to remind you that the next meeting of the Section has been scheduled in Rome at the end of October 2017 and that, according those delegates in good standing with the subscription fees of the Section will be able to cast a valid vote.

Thank you again for your collaboration and precious support in Vienna!

The Bureau of the Section would like to formulate the best Easter greetings to all the delegates and to their families!

With warmest regards,

Francesco

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UEMS and ESR to share a common EU vision

On Wednesday, 1st March 2017 - at the European Congress of Radiology in Vienna - a special Joint Session of the ESR and UEMS took place to celebrate this important and fruitful professional partnership between the two organisations. The ESR started to cooperate with the UEMS in the field of EU affairs a few years ago, but the collaboration has been enhanced with the creation of an ESR office in the Domus Medica Europaea, the house of European Medical Specialist in May 2016.



Dr. B. Maillet (left)

Dr. Bernard Maillet - Treasurer of the UEMS - explained the involvement of the European Union of Medical Specialists in EU affairs: overall applicable principles, sometimes conflicting, are solidarity vs mobility. A definition of Europe is also still uncertain, as 28 EU Member States coexist with a smaller Euro zone and with the Schengen area. While a comparison

between EU and national level is feasible regarding the political structure, the organisation of healthcare is still something deeply anchored to the national level and strong discrepancies have been maintained in the regulation of specialist training.

Regarding the hot topics on the European agenda, both organisations believe there is room for improvement in the EU Directive on Professional Qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC), further amended in 2013. In the Directive's current form Radiology is listed under two names: Radiology and Diagnostic Radiology, thus creating a problem of terminology in most European countries. Furthermore, the focus is on training duration rather than on contents and criteria, which could be perceived as a major issue by most radiologists. Additionally, ESR Quality, Safety and Standards Committee - chaired by Prof. Jane E. Adam - has suggested that the minimum number of training years should be raised from four to five in order to be in line with the ESR European Training Curriculum for Radiology, now endorsed by more than sixty national radiology societies.

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Dr. M. Adriaensen- Section of Radiology (left)

Despite having been discussed in the past, to date no professional cards have been implemented for medical doctors. Since the Directive on Professional Qualifications will be revised in 2020, ESR and UEMS have planned to work together in order to better match the new document with the reality of radiology practice in Europe, to encourage professional mobility and a fair recognition system of CME credits.

Finally, Dr. Adriaensen introduced to the ESR audience the basic concepts of CPD - Continuing Professional Development as implemented by EACCME, which provides an international, independent and dual review process, solely financed by the application fees. ECMEC is the European standard system for CME credits and 1 hour of activity is equivalent in 1 ECMEC, half day gives a maximum of 3 ECMEC, full day a maximum of 6 ECMEC. We have assisted to a shift from voluntary to mandatory CME in Europe in the last 2 decades and, as stressed by Prof. Ricci, national or regional chambers of physicians are now usually responsible for issuing CME cards which hold individuals' records of electronic credits and relative final certifications.

Outcomes of the last Neuroradiology meeting

The last meeting with delegates of the Neuroradiology division took place in Vienna during the European Congress of Radiology on Friday 03rd March, 2017. The new Bureau is composed of:

President: Prof. Marek Sasiadek (Poland)

Secretary: Dr. Francesca Benedetta Pizzini (Italy)

Treasurer: Prof. Gerhard Schroth (Switzerland)

Prof. Sasiadek welcomed the delegates and the guests: among them, Prof. Boris Brkjacic - representative of the European Society of Radiology, Prof. E. Turgut Tali, chairman of the European Board of Neuroradiology, as well as Prof. Paolo Ricci and Dr. Remy Demuth from the Section of Radiology. The components of the Bureau expressed their willingness

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to closely cooperate with the parent Section and with the division of Interventional Radiology in order to represent the radiological family of the UEMS with a strong single voice, which is also one of the keystones of Prof. Ricci's presidency.

An important shared aim of the new Bureau is to further enhance the already excellent relations with the most relevant European institutions and scientific societies, in particular with the European Board of Neuroradiology (EBNR), the European Society of Neuroradiology (ESNR), the European Society of Radiology (ESR) and the European Society of Minimally Invasive Neurological Therapy (ESMINT).



Malmö, venue of the next meeting with delegates (left)

Concerning the internal affairs of the division, the delegates approved the *Standards of Practice in Interventional Neuroradiology*, presented by the German delegate - Prof. O. Jansen - on behalf of the Working Group for the Standards of Practice in INR.

Furthermore, the Training Curriculum in Interventional Neuroradiology - originally formulated under Prof. Flodmark's presidency, will be submitted to the competent UEMS body - the ETR Review Committee - according to the following timeframe:

- First draft of the document to be received not later than 2 months before the UEMS Council meeting.
 - A first draft will be sent to ETR Review Committee, composed by representatives of UEMS Groupings, National Medical Associations, Sections & Boards for comments. Observations shall be received not later than 1 month before the Council meeting.
 - A final draft version of the document will be transmitted not later than 2 weeks before the Council.
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- The final text will be published 2 weeks before the Council.

The next meeting of the Neuroradiology division will take place in Malmö (Sweden) on **Saturday, 16 September 2017** at 16.30.

Voices from the ECR: EDiR, a mark of excellence

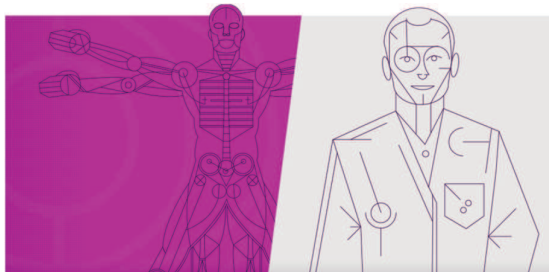
EDiR – the European Diploma in Radiology – is the EBR examination open to radiologists and radiology residents in their fifth year of training.

An EDiR examination took place during the ECR with 305 candidates, as reported by Violeta Iranzo – EBR Executive Manager – during the ESR-UEMS Leadership Meeting in Vienna. The EBR Office is ready for new challenges, projecting a total of 800 candidates for 2017 with exams taking place in Vienna, Barcelona, Linköping, Islamabad, Istanbul, and Paris.

Currently, EDiR would like to approach various Eastern European countries (e.g. Slovenia, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Romania) in order to increase the number of candidates from those regions of Europe and is also looking far beyond European frontiers. The EDiR Scientific Board – directed by Dr. José Vilar – will evaluate in a further meeting whether the pass mark should be relative (norm-reference) or absolute (criterion-reference).

Dr. Miraude Adriaensen – Member-at-Large of the Section and UEMS representative in EDiR Standards Committee – gave the delegates an updated on facts and figures. Up to now, 1,617 candidates have applied since the creation of the Diploma in 2011, 911 candidates have passed the examination and the current pass rate is 78%.

Link: <http://www.myebr.org/edir/edircommittee>



The logo of EBR – European Board of Radiology

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ACI sets out to harmonise CME accreditation

The Accreditation Council in Imaging (ACI) was officially launched in January 2016 in cooperation with the UEMS EACCME and with the Section of Radiology, after in 2015 the two organisations agreed to cooperate in the accreditation of interventional live educational events and e-learning material in imaging.

On *ECR Today* - the official journal of the European Congress of Radiology - Prof. Paolo Ricci, president of the Section and newly appointed ACI Scientific Director explained how CME has become mandatory in most EU Member States (e.g. Italy and Germany) and how the UEMS established EACCME in 2000 with the specific aim of encouraging and promoting high standards in CME. Nowadays, EACCME sets itself as the link between national level (Accreditation Authorities), UEMS Specialist Sections and CME providers, thus contributing to the harmonisation of CME/CPD activities across Europe. UEMS and EBR have been cooperating since 2015 to organise the accreditation of live educational events and e-learning material in imaging, with a significant role played the Radiology Section.

Prof. Christian Loewe - Chairman of the ACI Reviewing Committee - added the ACI reviewers recommend a number of ECMEC (CME credits) in parallel with the national accreditation authorities of the country hosting the event. As a final stage, the credits proposed by both are validated by the EACCME in close collaboration with the Reviewing Committee. Prof. Loewe - who is also Chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology, Department of Bioimaging Image-Guided Therapy at the Medical University of Vienna, thinks the Committee is playing a key role in ensuring there is no commercial influence in the events accredited, as independence from industry and other third parties is essential for achieving the necessary quality in education.

Even more important for the involvement of the radiology specialty in the UEMS, Prof. Ricci and Prof. Loewe will both take part to the EACCME Governance Board - the newly revised structure announced at the EACCME Advisory Council meeting of 14th January 2017 - in the two following Working Groups:

- Expansion of recognition of professional qualifications
- Collaboration with other healthcare professionals

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Prof. Christian Loewe - ACI

Strategic Investments for the future of healthcare

On 27 February, the European Commission DG SANTE, in co-operation with DG ECFIN, DG RTD and the European Investment Bank (EIB), held a seminar to present and discuss new forms of investment for innovative forms of healthcare.

In particular, the event promoted the Investment Plan for Europe and the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), as an effective financial instrument to support European health systems' reforms and other necessary investments in the health sector.



Dr. Jyrki Katainen - EU Commission Vice President (left)

While some countries struggle with the legacy of an oversized and inefficient healthcare system, facilities as hospitals and university clinics are often owned by different public entities and competing for the same patients. In addition, huge disparities in salaries for medical staff still persist, in particular between Western and Eastern Europe, while the lack of management expertise and of long-term strategic financing schemes are a common mark of most EU Member States.

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Over 100 attendees participated in the conference, including representatives from EU Member States and regional authorities, healthcare managers and service providers, as well as public and private investors active or interested in the health sector.

The main goals have been fixed as follows:

- Involvement of a broad range of public and private partners and investors & combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches
- Liaison between public/private actors and stakeholders (investors, health providers, policy-makers, regulators, universities, SMEs)
- Necessity of creating eco-systems where all different players can work together and partnerships adjusted to the local context.

The broad scope is to reach sustainable health investments on a long-term basis, not just infrastructure, including eHealth strategies, telemedicine, and mobility of data, patients and professionals.



To conclude, health is a major and growing expense in all EU countries, but the health sector remains one of the major employers and there are huge opportunities for profitable investments for public and private actors.

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Links:

https://ec.europa.eu/health/investment_plan/events/ev_20170227_en

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?newsletter_service_id=261&newsletter_issue_id=2881&page=1&fullDate=Thu%2023%20Mar%202017&lang=en

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