

## ACTIVITIES OF UEMS – SECTION DERMATOLOGY AND VENEREOLOGY

In the time when Republic of Croatia is a candidate to enter European Union (EU), it is proper moment for all members of the Croatian Dermatovenerological Society to learn more about UEMS-Section DV.

The European Union of Medical Specialists – UEMS (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes) started its activities in 1958 with the main goal to promote high quality specialist medical care and harmonization of specialist medical care within Europe. UEMS is a non-governmental organization whose members are national medical associations of the EU member countries, along with Switzerland, while observers are, at the moment, two EU candidate countries, Croatia and Turkey. Although the head office of the UEMS is located in Brussels, there is no direct relationship between the UEMS and EU. In 1962, the UEMS established Specialists Sections for each of the main disciplines practised in member countries. In the UEMS Sections, national organizations of each specialty are represented with two delegates *per* country; Croatian delegates/observers are Prof. Jasna Lipozenčić and Assist. Prof. Branka Marinović.

In 1993, an EU directive was issued concerning facilitation of free movement of doctors within EU and mutual recognition of their diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications. As neither curricula nor the quality of training were regulated by the EU, this became a major task for the UEMS. Besides this, there is also the need of different control bodies that could guarantee that the level of training in recognized centers meets the established standards. Furthermore, the quality of medical specialist practice and continuing medical education should be at the same level in all EU and UEMS member countries. All this requires 'harmonization' within Europe, which has also become a major task of UEMS.

To facilitate this process, the central UEMS organization in Brussels has created few charters. First was the Charter on training of medical specialists in the European Community in 1993; in this Charter there are five chapters common to all specialties, followed by the very important Chapter 6 that provides information on special training requirements for a specific specialty, which is produced by each specialist Section. Second one was the Charter on continuing medical education in EU, created in 1994; the UEMS Dermatology and Venereology Section adapted this charter according to the situation in dermatology and venereology, and formed CME Guidelines in Dermatovenerology which were completed in January 1999. To support these guidelines, in 2000 UEMS formed European Accreditation Council for CME (EACCME) to coordinate credit point assignments for congresses of international importance. Besides this, each country, member of UEMS, is still responsible for CME policy in the respective country. Third Charter was the one on quality assurance from 1996. The last one is Charter on the visitation of training centers, finished in 1997. This charter was also adapted by the UEMS Dermatology and Venereology Section in 1999. Visitation of training centers is mostly performed at the national level but in the future supervision at the European level should be installed.

One of the tasks of the delegates and observers is to bring these Charters to the attention of their national organizations and to assist in the implementation of these Charters in different European countries.

For harmonization of dermatology and venereology in Europe as well as for the execution of the Charters, close collaboration between the European dermatology-venereology organizations is of utmost importance. It is also very important to develop European guidelines for the diagnosis and/

or treatment of particular dermatology-venereology conditions in order to improve patient care.

The idea of harmonization of specialist education in EU was in part accomplished by establishment of the Dermatology and Venereology Board examination. First exam was held in Frankfurt in August 2007.

For 5 years now, Dermatopathology Exam organized by the UEMS Section of Dermatology and Venereology and UEMS Section of Pathology together with the International Committee for Dermatopathology has been held in Frankfurt at the beginning of December. More information on this exam can be found at <http://www.icdermpath.org/boardc/>.

Two meetings of the UEMS Section of Dermatology and Venereology are held every year. The last one, Spring Meeting, was held in Brussels on March 29, 2008. From the few topics discussed, some important things from the report by Prof. Harald Gollnick, actual President of UEMS Section of Dermatology and Venereology should be pointed out. He said that we have to hold and raise our position in community not to be perceived as

“external doctors”; this is of utmost importance in health care reforms – almost persistent process – where we have to ‘fight’ for best solutions and positions for dermatology and venereology. Speaking about fields that we share with other specialties, he said that cooperation between different specialties is very important, but dermatologists-venereologists had to hold their position, primarily through upgrading their knowledge. Prof. Gollnick also spoke about the importance of harmonization of undergraduate as well as resident training, which will allow them to move from one country to another.

Concerning the last point, we can be proud because the Proposal of Charter of specialist training in dermatology-venereology in Croatia, developed in 2007, follows Chapter 6 of the Charter of training, with some adaptations to our actual situation and possibilities.

Assist. Prof. Branka Marinović, MD, PhD  
Professor Jasna Lipozenčić, MD, PhD

## NEWS FROM WEB OF SCIENCE FOR ACTA DERMATOVENEROLOGICA CROATICA

It is an honor and pleasure for the Editorial Board of Acta Dermatovenerologica Croatica

(ADC) to receive coverage in the prestigious Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) by Thompson Scientific Services and official notification on the journal inclusion in the SCIE for 2007.

Acta Dermatovenerologica Croatica as the official journal of the Croatian Dermatovenerological Society was evaluated for suitability according to the 2006 and 2007 volumes (four issues *per* year). Efforts have been made for the journal ADC to bring information of special interest to readers. Medicinska naklada as a publisher has also contributed greatly to the journal's SCIE coverage.

The contents of ADC is rich: Editorials, History of Medicine, Original Scientific Articles, Clinical Articles, Case Reports, Biographical Items, Book Reviews, News and Comments.

I would like to express due recognition to all Editorial Board members for their hard work during 15 years, especially in the last 10 years, to bring ADC to a respectable place in the world of high indexed journals – on the Web of Science.

Professor Jasna Lipozenčić, MD, PhD  
Editor-in-Chief