UEMS/EBNM endeavour

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Nuclear medicine syllabus updating

Nuclear medicine has been a recognized medical specialty for many years. In Europe it was first recognized in 1988. In 1989, together with Michel de Roo, Desmond Croft achieved “formal recognition” of nuclear medicine as a separate medical specialty within the *Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes*/European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). The Section of Nuclear Medicine appeared in 1990 within the UEMS, and the European Board of Nuclear Medicine (EBNM) was created in 1993. Its main objective, according to Article 2 of the Statutes, is “to ensure the highest standards in the field of nuclear medicine ...” [1]. Later in 2003 the UEMS Section of Nuclear Medicine and the EBNM merged “in order to unify and facilitate activities, mainly to improve and harmonize the training of nuclear medicine throughout European countries to the highest possible standards”, as stated in Article 1 of the Statutes [1]. The Educational and Syllabus Committee, after a careful and detailed consideration of all the changes pertinent to the state-of-the-art practice of nuclear medicine as an independent specialty, organized a well-structured document containing the up-to-date level of training required for anybody to be able to practice diagnostic and therapeutic (outpatient and inpatient) nuclear medicine. There is a need

to settle the “ideal” training, including qualitative and quantitative components, in order to avoid what Hundeshagen said in a personal communication in the second half of the last century “The years after 1947 left it to the initiative of individuals, whose chiefs either tolerated—or in some cases even encouraged—they in dealing with the problems of radioisotope applications. As everywhere, nothing was available. There was but sparse information, since at that time almost no specialty journals were accessible.” This and other interesting descriptions of events that led to the establishment of nuclear medicine as an independent medical specialty can be read in the *History of Nuclear Medicine in Europe* by Feld and de Roo [2].

The present document (Syllabus for Postgraduate Specialization in Nuclear Medicine – 2011/2012 Update) is a guide and each country will decide on the best amount and distribution of training components, as it is stated in its preamble.

Why this new section in the *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (EJNMMI)*?

The publication of the Syllabus for Postgraduate Specialization in Nuclear Medicine – 2011/2012 Update is one of the objectives to start this regular *EJNMMI* section. The other is to increase the visibility of the work that is done by the committee members of the UEMS/EBNM. To achieve this we are planning to maintain up-to-date information as often as possible during the calendar year 2012. This will be maintained as from January 2013, as long as the interest continues and we, at the UEMS/EBNM, find topics and good reasons/arguments to maintain our input to the official journal of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM).

The Syllabus for Postgraduate Specialization in Nuclear Medicine – 2011/2012 Update can be found at doi:10.1007/s00259-012-2076-1.

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We also need the acceptance and approval of the Editor-in-Chief and publisher of the *EJNMMI*.

The Editor-in-Chief of the *EJNMMI*, Professor Ignasi Carrió, deserves our trust and all the efforts we can develop to make this section a success for the future. We need the support of all nuclear medicine physicians actively working in public and private institutions to improve this UEMS/EBNM endeavour.

It is time to ask for the contribution of all. It is paramount to promote clinical services of higher and higher quality, ideally certified and accredited by the UEMS/EBNM Accreditation Committee.

Information on activities of the UEMS/EBNM: fees schedule, dates, etc.

The logistics of all the work done by the UEMS/EBNM is presented at the EANM website under the title UEMS/EBNM. However, repeat information with periodic updates is an important issue and will be confirmed within this section of the *EJNMMI*. The most important dates for meetings and educational activities, in particular the Fellowship of the European Board of Nuclear Medicine (FEBNM) examination schedule, as well as results will be published as general information.

Members of the committees are requested to attend other more general UEMS meetings and make interim reports of what has been discussed and decided. It is our intention to summarize within this section those activities and the most important issues related to all the working priorities of nuclear medicine physicians throughout Europe.

As an example of the tasks successfully completed by our team at the UEMS/EBNM, in particular the CME Accreditation Committee (chaired by Teresio Varetto, Italy), a list of the web pages for accredited events during the year of 2011 follows:

<http://mednuc.unige.ch> (Cours avancé d'imagerie hybride en langue français)

<http://www.nuclearmedicinediscovery.org> (From Dosimetry to Biological Effect: Radiobiology as Guide to Clinical Practice in Nuclear Medicine)

http://www.nuk.usz.ch/lehre_und_forschung/ContinuingEducationPETCT/advanced/Seiten/default.aspx (Advanced Course in PET/CT imaging)

<http://eanm11.eanm.org> (CME Sessions during EANM'11, Annual Congress of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine)

<http://eanm11.eanm.org> (EANM'11 Pre-Congress Symposium 5, Imaging Amyloid Plaques in the Brain—First Results from Clinical Phase II–III Studies)

<http://eanm11.eanm.org> (EANM'11 Pre-Congress Symposium 4, Beta-Cell Imaging)

<http://eanm11.eanm.org> (EANM'11, Annual Congress of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine)

<http://eanm11.eanm.org> (EANM'11 Pre-Congress Symposium 2, Receptor Imaging—What Do We Measure?)

<http://eanm11.eanm.org> (EANM'11 Pre-Congress Symposium 3, Peddose.net—Do We Apply Too Much Radiation in Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine?)

<http://eanm11.eanm.org> (EANM'11 Pre-Congress Symposium 1, Dosimetry and Therapy: new trends and perspectives)

<http://www.nuclearmedicinediscovery.org> (Present and Future of Clinical Nuclear Medicine) http://www.nuk.usz.ch/lehre_und_forschung/ContinuingEducationPETCT/basic/Seiten/default.aspx (Basic Course in PET/CT imaging)

<http://esopnm.net/7esopnm/> (7th European Symposium on Paediatric Nuclear Medicine)

<http://www.idkd.org/?page=85> (IDKD Nuclear Medicine Satellite Course “Diamond”)

http://www.nuk.usz.ch/lehre_und_forschung/ContinuingEducationPETCT/cardiacfellowship/Seiten/default.aspx (Fellowship in Cardiac SPECT, CT, PET and Hybrid Imaging)

http://www.nuk.usz.ch/lehre_und_forschung/ContinuingEducationPETCT/fellowship/Seiten/default.aspx (Fellowship in PET/CT imaging)

In addition to these meetings, another named “Industry Meets Science—From Manufacturing to Clinical Practice” held in Petten, The Netherlands, was also CME accredited through the CME Accreditation Committee.

In summary, we want to keep all nuclear medicine physicians in Europe well informed about their medical specialty. This will not be a discussion forum, but a setting that provides information and calls attention to topics that we hope to be considered of paramount importance for all those physicians providing nuclear medicine services at all levels, including public and private, hospitals, clinics, universities and research environments.

Conflicts of interest None.

References

1. EANM site <http://www.eanm.org/>; UEMS/EBNM site <http://uems.eanm.org/>.
2. Feld M, de Roo M. History of nuclear medicine in Europe. Stuttgart: Schattauer; 2003. A sample of this book can be found at the following site: http://books.google.pt/books?id=MumQU40Pe04C&pg=PA141&lpg=PA141&dq=Nuclear+Medicine+in+the+UEMS&source=bl&ots=ER7yPpyv2h&sig=szDSZrcJoqu3PWbO2_WNURdMLF4&hl=pt-PT&sa=X&ei=XU4ET43eGI7J8gOrz9CvDA&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=Nuclear%20Medicine%20in%20the%20UEMS&f=false.