

2019 Autumn UEMS Surgery Section Business Meeting Report

Brussels, BELGIUM (October 4-5th, 2019)

The president welcomes new delegates from the Netherlands and Croatia and new division executives from HPB and Transplant Surgery among others. Among the big changes, several divisions no longer deliver spontaneous Honorary Diplomas. Overall, examination fees range from 400 to 1000 euros. Five divisions have increased their fees.

Transplant Coordinators have new statutes. The Surgical Oncology division is currently working on theirs. They also wish to extend their mandates from 2 to 4 years and to better define their collaboration with the European Society of Surgical Oncology, following the lead of the Breast Surgery division which signed a memorandum of understanding with ESSO this year. The division published a very successful book and has been asked to write a new one, a revision guide.

Other bodies want to make more clear or launch a cooperation with societies: the HPB executives with the European Society on the accreditation of training centers; the OG division with a European society as well as with the UEMS Cardiothoracic surgery group, the Abdominal Wall Surgery working group with the European hernia society to launch an examination. While young surgeons see this as a motivation to learn more, others raise the concern regarding the increasing role insurance companies in litigation when it comes to specialty certifications.

The Transplant Surgeons, on their end, promote their activities through the national delegates who attend national congresses. The Vanguard FEBS also help as they take part in the preparatory courses and examinations to rejuvenate the organizational teams. Similarly, the Transplant Coordinators also want to promote their examination to national authorities. On top of that, they want to study the needs of each country.

As for the Section as a whole, the national delegates and the executives of each body discussed inviting the public health section to the next meeting. They also discussed inviting MEPs via the national delegates, with the goal of widening the relations with European institutions. Besides the need for the examination recognition, the trends toward “overspecialization” and the work load of surgeons pushing potential parties out of the profession. A working group is created to search for a new provider. Using applications to improve the work and communication flows among working group members is also brought forward. Finally, the 2020 Spring business meeting location is decided: the meeting will be held in Zagreb, Croatia on the 24th and 25th of April.