UEMS Section of Occupational Medicine

MINUTES

Belgrade

Saturday 8. November 2008
2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Serbian Institute of Public Health “Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut”
Dr Subotica 5, 11000 - Belgrade

1. Participants and apologies

Participants:
- Milan Tucek, Czech Republic
- Luc Quaeghebeur, Belgium
- Dick Spreeuwers, The Netherlands
- Jacques van der Vliet, The Netherlands
- Ewan Macdonald, UK
- Petar Bulat, Serbia/EASOM
- Kaj Husman, Finland
- Anne-Christine Markset, Norway
- Elena-Ana Păuncu, Romania
- Monica Ballester, Spain
- Andre Weel, EASOM
- Damian Fotache, Romania
- Knut Skyberg (Secretary), Norway
- Consol Serra (President), Spain
- Annette Gässler (Treasurer), Germany
- Ritva Helimäki-Aro, Finland
- Reinhardt Jäger, Austria
- Milan Milozevic, Croatia
- Ole Carstensen, Denmark
- Paulo Coelho dos Santos, Portugal

Apologies:
- Nundita Retoo, UK
- Jonas Brisman, Sweden
- Alenka Škerjanc, Slovenia
- Stanislav Pusnik, Slovenia
- Mats Berg, Sweden
- Elsbeth Huber, Austria
- Vlasta Deckovic-Vukres, Croatia
- Thomas Kraus, Germany
- Nikki Cordell, UK
- Jadranka Mustajbegovic, Croatia

2. Welcome
Consol welcomed participants at the meeting. The joint meeting EASOM – UEMS on Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon was very positive and it was agreed to have further EASOM-UEMS joint meetings. Minutes on that meeting will be circulated. Consol proposed to add on the agenda of the meeting a further discussion about Baur’s initiative to create a new group of research in OM in Europe, which was approved.
3. **Minutes of last meeting** (Glasgow/Brussels, 12th/19th April 2008)
   No corrections were made. The minutes were approved.

4. **Surveys**
   Monica informed that the survey is to be published in an international journal (Occupational medicine). A draft will be sent out shortly for comments before the end of the year.  
   **Action: Monica**

5. **Research projects**
   - UEMS OM project proposal: Milan M presented a draft on behalf of Jadranka and Thomas. The proposed project title is “Occupational health of occupational health providers as a patient safety issue”.
     A cross-sectional study design is proposed, including 6 hospitals per country. Questionnaires and indexes to indicate work ability, quality of life, human work index and stress were discussed. GHQ12 is internationally validated. Questionnaires should be short and not more than 3. Intervention vs. cross-sectional design should be considered. Human error indicators would be interesting, but it may be difficult to find a scale or instrument to measure them. Other indicators such as sickness absence and patient claims were suggested. The duration of the project is proposed for 1-2 years. The section supported the project development. Milan and Jadranka will revise the protocol for our next meeting in spring. Comments from members will be welcome. 
     **Action: Milan, all**

   - ATOM: Ewan summarised the development of the project that started after the Hamburg UEMS meeting as a European-based initiative and later developed into an international perspective, including also the US, South Africa and Japan from the Barcelona workshop (November 2006). Funds from the Leonardo Foundation were obtained, but after pondering the allocated resources compared to the enormous amount of bureaucracy that it implies, it was decided to decline such funds. The project development is slow but progressing. The last ATOM meeting took place last April at the ICOH conference in Glasgow, and two action working groups were formed for the development of a portfolio (Nikki) and an multiple choice questionnaire (MCQ) (Consol). Nikki is working on the project for her PhD.
     There is a high international interest in the project. New sources of funding are needed.
     The Section supports further development of the ATOM project.
6. **Website**

Ole reported on the website development, under the Bilbao website. The layout is quite simple and the menu needs to be reduced. Some members already have had access to the draft version. It must be decided what is open and what is only accessible for members. The national societies will be asked to link to our website. They will also be informed about the link to them from the UEMS website. Milan M has offered to maintain our website, and shortly will upload the many documents that the Section has produced, and all members are asked to contribute to it.

*Action: Milan, all*

7. **Finances**

Annette informed that she is no longer a formal German representative. Thomas Kraus is taking over as formal section member. However, Annette is asked to continue as treasurer and observer for the present period.

Annette presented our current financing state. She has reviewed the different countries’ contribution to the section. Invoices of €150 per country for 2008 and 2009 will be sent to all members. An account overview with in and out movements and present balance was given and a new travel form draft was presented. National associations’ names and addresses were recorded. It was agreed to have an external auditor in addition to our internal.

Annette’s efforts to sort out our finances were highly appreciated. Plans for future spending were asked for.

In very exceptional cases Annette can accept cash payment during a meeting.

It was agreed that membership payment in good standing will be required for voting.

*Action: Annette*

8. **EXOH website**

Dick reported about the development of the website and distributed some written information. The primary purpose of the website is an exchange program for occupational physicians. It opens in January 2009. [www.exoh.nu](http://www.exoh.nu)
9. **Elections**

The present 4 years period is nearing its end. Elections for president, secretary and treasurer of the Section are planned for the next meeting. Ewan was asked to coordinate the process. Members who are willing to be candidates should contact Ewan by email or phone. If someone wants to propose another person, please also let Ewan know.

**Deadline for proposing candidates: 1st February 2009.**

**Action: Ewan and all**

10. **Baur’s initiative to create a new European OM group for researchers**

Xaver Baur attended the joint UEMS-EASOM meeting by invitation, as agreed in the previous UEMS meeting and EASOM general assembly (Amsterdam, August 2008). He presented his group’s plans and a discussion followed (see minutes of the joint meeting).

It was agreed that research collaboration is welcomed. Formal representation in UEMS is difficult, but we want to avoid another independent European organisation in Occupational Medicine. It was decided that Xaver Baur should be offered further discussions with our section to explore how a research group could cooperate with our section. Consol will stand for further contact.

**Action: Consol**

11. **AOB**

   - A new paper on CPME is coming. Three leading countries are discussing leaving CPME. Jacques will keep us updated.

   - Dick told us of his PhD dissertation (26th November), which can be obtained from him: “Registries of occupational diseases and their use for preventive policy.”

12. **Conferences and upcoming events**

   - Jacques informed about new consensus papers prepared for the European Commission. One is “Mental health in the elderly.”

   - There is an upcoming conference for management, called Enterprise for health. [www.enterprise-for-health.org](http://www.enterprise-for-health.org)

13. Next meetings

Spring meeting: 16th May with EASOM, in Prague. Autumn meeting: 10th October. Lisbon has been proposed.

Consol thanked participants, both members and observers, for coming and for their contributions and discussions during the meeting.

We were grateful for all arrangements being made by our Serbian hosts, special thanks to Petar Bulat.

1st November 2008

Consol Serra
(President)

Knut Skyberg
(Secretary)
### Action plan: revised (as of April 2008) priorities and working groups

**Appendix.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIORITY</th>
<th>Working group</th>
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| 1        | **To continue and strengthen the development of the Section’s website**  
Ole Carstensen (Webmaster and contact person)  
Dick Spreeuwers (Co-Webmaster)  
Knut Skyberg  
Consol Serra |
| 2        | **To advance in the harmonisation of basic requirements and quality of speciality training programmes.**  
Stanislav Pusnik (contact person)  
Milan Tucek  
Anne-Christine Markset  
Petar Bulat (EASOM)  
Ljiljana Kezunovic |
| 3        | **To influence stakeholders and legislators and to promote one voice for OM at EU and national levels.**  
Jacques van der Vliet (contact person)  
Elsbeth Huber  
Damian Fotache |
| 4        | **To advance in the harmonisation of CME criteria and recertification.**  
Kristiina Mikkala (EASOM) (contact person)  
Alain Cantineau  
Nurka Pranjic  
Milan Tucek  
Annette Gäßler |
| 5        | **To promote good practice and continuous quality improvement.**  
Kaj Husman (contact person)  
Ewan Macdonald  
Consol Serra  
Rosa Naumoska  
Monica Ballester  
Vlasta Deckovic-Vukres |
| 6        | **To contribute to the assessment of training programmes and trainees.**  
Ewan Macdonald (contact person)  
Elena Pauncu  
Jadranka Mustajbegovic  
Nikki Cordell |
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<tr>
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<th>Objective Description</th>
<th>Contact Person(s)</th>
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| 7 | To participate in key forums and conferences with important impact on the speciality. | Jadranka Mustajbegovic (contact person)  
Paulo Coelho dos Santos  
All |
| 8 | To collaborate with EU institutions related to occupational health | Tom McMahon (contact person)  
Consol Serra  
Kristiina Mukala (EASOM)  
Jacques van del Vliet  
Elsbeth Huber |
| 9 | To strengthen the impact of the Section in member countries | Consol Serra (contact person)  
All |
| 10 | To find new ways in OH to cope with the changing world of work, new intervention techniques, knowledge transfer. | Dick Spreeuwers (contact person)  
Ewan Macdonald  
Alenka Skerjanc  
Luc Quaeghebeur  
Rafael Timermans |
| 11 | To make a plan of future tasks to finance | Consol Serra (contact person)  
Knut Skyberg  
Annette Gässler |
| 12 | To attract new members | Consol Serra (contact person)  
All |
| 13 | To discuss the establishment of a future Board within the Section | Knut Skyberg (contact person)  
Consol Serra  
Bernard Maillet (UEMS) |
| 14 | To ensure that all member countries contribute equally to the financing of the Section. | Annette Gässler (contact person) |