



UEMS SECTION OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

MINUTES

Meeting Copenhagen 20.+21.3.2015

Friday 20.3. 2015 (13:30 – 20:00)

Saturday 21.3.2015 (9:00 – 17:00)

1. Participants and apologies

- **PARTICIPANTS:** Alenka Škerjanc, president (Slovenia), Klaus Ernst Stadtmüller, secretary (Switzerland), Simon Bulterys, treasurer (Belgium), Karl Hochgatterer (Austria), Christine Klien (Austria), Jadranka Mustajbegović (Croatia), Vlasta Dečković Vukreš (Croatia), Milan Tuček (Czech Republic), Ole Carstensen (Denmark), Thomas Kraus (Germany), Satu Vaihkonen (Finland), Ferenc Kudaz (Hungary), Maija Eglite (Latvia), Nicole Majery (Luxemburg), Tor Erik Danielsen (Norway), Kristian Vetlesen (Norway), Jolanta Walusiak Skroupa (Poland), Pedro Gustavo Reis (Portugal, Dick Spreeuwers (The Netherlands), Nikki Cordell (United Kingdom), Ana Maria Frazao, standing guest (EJD), Giso Schmeißer, standing guest (EASOM President).
- **APOLOGIES:** Maie Vahisalu (Estonia), Kari Reijula (Finland), Patricia Maladry (France), Elisabeth Isnard (France), Tom O'Connell (Ireland) Ivo Iavicoli (Italy), , Damian Fotache (Romania), Ian Aston (United Kingdom)

20.3.2015

2. Company and work site visit: Novozymes (<http://www.novozymes.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>)

Mrs Ghita Hansen, the site manager of Novozymes, Hillerødgade, Copenhagen together with Dr. Anders Larsen, Occup. Physician and Medical Director introduced us in the special aspects of enzyme production and the challenges for health and safety of the employees. Novozymes produces enzymes for a whole range of purposes, especially for household care and the food and beverage industry. The most prominent occupational health aspect is the potential of enzymes for sensibilisation and the induction of allergies. Dr. Anders thoroughly explained the strategy for primary and secondary prevention. A worksite walk through completed the afternoon.

Presentations Mrs. Ghita and Dr. Larsen: website members only

A refreshing walk led the group through the central cemetery of Copenhagen passing the tomb of famous Hans Christina Andersen to the house of the Danish medical Chamber, Domus Medica where we could have a nice dinner.

3. Presentation and discussion: Occupational Medicine in Denmark

Our member Ole gave us an overview of the history of OM in Denmark, the regulation of health and safety at work in the past and in the present and provided some structural data.

Dr. Larsen made a critical reflexion on OM in Denmark and closed with four theses about what OM should be and provide in the future.

(presentations also on our website: <http://uems-occupationalmedicine.org>)

All participants contributed lively to the discussions and it was a consensus, that the presentation about the hosting country and its OM – system should be given on Friday evening before the meeting resulting in a better understanding and broader discussion than a short presentation on Saturday morning.

20.3.2015

Welcome

The president expressed a warm welcome to all participants and especially to Dr. Hans Hjelmqvist, UEMS vice-President, who gave us the honour of his presence during the whole meeting.

4. Minutes of the last meeting (Glasgow, 29. + 30. August 2014)

- Minutes were adopted without comments, questions or remarks.

5. Information from UEMS (given by Dr. Hjelmqvist)

UEMS, founded in 1958, has grown so much the last years, a number of new sections emerged. Good cooperation with the professional organizations on the European level is necessary and sometimes not easy (example European Society of Cardiology).

The Board and 4 vice-presidents (= enlarged executive) have a telephone conference every Monday evening. The costs for the Domus Medica has resulted much higher than the budget. Actually, the decision was taken that the premises could not be used without paying, even for the UEMS section meetings.

UEMS is dealing with a number of other important questions concerning postgraduate training and lifelong learning.

6. Sections finances (Simon Bulterys)

Simon Bulterys reported about the closing situation 2014 and the actual cash position.

To summarize: the budget is good for limited actions and will cover the foreseeable expenses in 2015, if all open positions will be paid.

(For details see annex 1)

7. Website (Ole Carstensen)

The web site does not have many visits. All members of the sections are encouraged to spread the information about this web site of the section. Our URL should be linked to the Sites of national OM societies. Ole needs the URL of these sites

8. Reports from meetings (Nicole Majeri), Alenka Škerjanc

The contribution of the section at the conference on "Prevention of alcohol and drug use in the workplace" in Strasbourg was welcomed and raised a lot of interest. (see also Alenka's email from October 17th 2014.)

A discussion arose among the section members about what good OM consists in.

9. Surveys (Alenka Škerjanc, Ana Frazao)

In a survey performed by the UEMS Occupational Medicine Section to official representatives from 25 European countries, 17 declared that employers in their countries are obliged to offer medical examinations to their employees, being it also compulsory for employees to undertake them in 12 of them (data pending publication). Health surveillance was exposed by the UEMS OM representatives to be the most relevant current task of the average occupational physician in Europe (!) and workplace risk assessment should be the most relevant task in general. More than 50 % of working time the average specialist in occupational medicine dedicates to perform preventive health examinations (20 % in northern EU countries, 40 % in western EU countries, 60 % in southern EU countries and more than 70 % in eastern EU countries). A special time will be dedicated on the Agenda to discuss the results on the future meetings.

Maria Ana presented first results from her questionnaire concerning the postgraduate training in OM. As there has been very little response up to now, she will send out once more the questionnaire in a more customer-convenient form and hopes to be able to present a complete evaluation in autumn.

10. Section's working groups

The leaders of the three WG summarized work and results which the groups presented in Glasgow. After that "refresher" in the group, the WG continued their work in groups and presented the results afterwards to the plenum.

WG 1: Training in OM: Formation of specialists in OM and its harmonisation in the UEMS member states
See annex 2

WG2: Occupational diseases

See annex 3

Members: Jolante, Nicole, Vlasta, Ferenc, Klaus, Dick

WG3: Integration UEMS OM in EU-OSH strategic framework (annex)

See annex 4

11. Collaborations

Giso Schmeisser reminded the collaboration between the section and EASOM in the frame of the summer school. Information will be sent to all UEMS representatives in a due time.

12. Upcoming OM events

- Scientific meeting for Society of Occup. Med. in UK Manchester from 07-09 Jul 2015
<https://www.som.org.uk/meetings-courses/som-asm-2015/>
- EASOM Summer School 2015 – Teaching about psychosocial risk factors at work will be held In Slovenia (Lake Bled, 27th to 29th August 2015): <http://www.easom.eu/>

13. Any other business

Next meeting 02.10. - 03.10.2015, Šibenik, Croatia

There is a web page for the autumn meeting in the city of Šibenik (Croatia), the nearest airport is the Airport Split, also a beautiful ancient residency of the Roman king Diocletian.

http://hdmr.hlz.hr/6kongres/home_en.php

The meeting closed at 17:00 p.m.

Klaus Stadtmüller
Secretary

Alenka Škerjanc
President