



**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES  
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS**

*The UEMS Section of Rheumatology  
The European Board of Rheumatology*

**The aim of the UEMS Section of Rheumatology and the European Board of Rheumatology is to maintain the highest level of care with the best outcome for those with musculoskeletal conditions through establishing and maintaining high professional standards amongst rheumatologists in Europe.**

**The UEMS**

The UEMS was established in 1958, one year after the founding of the European Economic Community, to establish common criteria for specialists to move between member countries. It has continued to focus on professional and training issues that are relevant to the ability that doctors have to practice in any member state with mutual recognition of their training. The UEMS works closely with the European Commission and the Advisory Committee for Medical Training (ACMT). It works through a Board and there are Sections in 36 specialties.

The UEMS Section of Rheumatology was established in 1962. The European Board of Rheumatology was created by the UEMS Section of Rheumatology in 1993, in common with the other specialty sections, as a working group to guarantee optimal care in rheumatology by bringing the training of rheumatologist to the highest level possible.

**Objectives**

- To raise standards of specialist training by
  - establishing standards of training centres
  - ensuring these standards are met by training centres by processes of accreditation, documentation and visitation
  - ensuring that trainees have a comprehensive training according to UEMS / EBR and national standards and that there is evidence of the satisfactory completion of this with the acquisition of appropriate competencies through log books, appraisal and possibly by examination
  - enabling training in different centers within Europe
- To maintain standards of clinical care by recommendations for requirements for Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development
- To ensure provision of appropriate and high quality educational activity; setting and monitoring standards for courses, meetings and other educational activities
- To promote the development of the specialty of rheumatology and assure the quality of care given

## Who is the membership?

The membership represents practicing rheumatologists and academic rheumatologists throughout Europe. The UEMS Section of Rheumatology is composed of 2 delegates from each of the EU-countries and there are also representatives from observer countries. One delegate is from the relevant professional organisation and one from the academic organisation of each country. The membership of the European Board of Rheumatology is identical. The delegates liaise with their organisations so that a European consensus can be achieved. There is a close working relationship with EULAR and the President of EULAR and the Chair of EULAR Education and Training Standing Committee are members. There is an Executive Group composed of the President, Past-President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and the Coordinators of the Working Groups.

## Working Groups

The activities of the UEMS Section of Rheumatology / European Board of Rheumatology is done through working groups. These focus on the specific objectives of the organisation.

### *Accreditation*

Ensuring high standards of the practice and teaching of rheumatology and of research by systems of accreditation against agreed standards

### *Training Standards*

Ensuring high standards for specialist training

### *Continuing Medical Education / Continuing Professional Development (CME/CPD)*

Ensuring high standards of clinical rheumatology in practice through establishing and maintaining standards for CME / CPD specific to rheumatology

### *Rheumatology in Practice*

Ensure the highest standards of rheumatological practice

## What has been achieved so far?

The UEMS has produced charters for Medical Specialists in the EU; training of Medical Specialists in the EU; CME of Medical Specialists; Visitation of Training Centres; and Quality Assurance of Medical Specialists in the EU.

The UEMS Section of Rheumatology / European Board of Rheumatology has developed consensus documents:

- Recommendations for training centres, trainers and trainees
- A specialist training curriculum and logbook
- Charter on CME in Rheumatology
- Core curriculum for CME / CPD
- Standards for quality assurance of CME activities

A database has been developed of specialist training centres throughout Europe.

Surveys have been undertaken looking at Manpower, Training programmes and Patterns of Clinical Practice. These can be found on the web links below or through the [www.EULAR.org](http://www.EULAR.org) website.

## Current activities

The UEMS Section of Rheumatology / European Board of Rheumatology are developing:

- A European Exchange Training Programme
- Methods to assess rheumatologists such as examination and visitation
- Quality assurance of clinical practice

Professor Anthony D Woolf  
President, June 2004