

**Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the UEMS –Angiology/Vascular Medicine Division
held in Brussels,
7th June 2008**

1. Brief history of Angiology/Vascular Medicine in the UEMS (*slide presentation*).
 - The main stage leading up to the presentation by VAS of the candidacy for an Angiology/Vascular Medicine Section of the UEMS, from representation within the IM Section up to ratification of the Division of Angiology/Vascular Medicine by the UEMS Council.
 - Following questions asking for detailed information, the criteria existing up to now for defining the Sections and Divisions within the UEMS were investigated and evaluated, also in relation to the Specialties existing in the various different companies.
 - The UEMS Rules for Sections and Divisions (*slide presentation*) were presented.
 - Everyone present stressed their great enthusiasm for a result that starts a new age for Angiology/Vascular Medicine and expressed their warm appreciation of Professor Catalano's commitment and tenacity in achieving the common goals.
 - Recognition for the positive contribution and support on the part of the IM Section under three Presidents, leading up to reiterated unanimous votes in favour of the Angiology/Vascular Medicine Division, and for the efforts of the current President, two successive General Secretaries and the current UEMS President was reiterated.

2. Criteria for invitations to join the Division – Working method followed (*slide presentation*)
 - The criteria for inviting parties to join the Division (both up to now and in future) and, in particular :
 - Letter of invitation to the *Presidents* of the known Vascular Scientific Societies in Europe.
 - Request addressed to the *Presidents* to appoint a representative of the Society, member by right of the Division Board. A second representative may be named later (or immediately) as a Deputy, to be informed of all decisions, minutes etc, but who will be active as a member of the Board in the absence of the first representative.
 - No invitations have been sent out asking candidates to stand or on the basis of acquaintances or importance, since the criterion is to ask the National European Scientific Societies to make the appointments.
 - All Members of the Board are on an equal footing, in accordance with UEMS and EU Rules, regardless of the Society or country they represent.
 - The invitations were all sent out in the same period, with some minor differences in dates due to the difficulties encountered in identifying the Presidents or the up-to-date addresses of some Societies.
 - Whenever it was necessary to decide and in all relations, only the UEMS Rules have been and will be followed, in addition, of course, to mutual respect in a spirit of co-operation.
 - This manner of working is approved also for the future.

3. Scientific Societies that have officially joined the Division (*slide presentation*)

- The Scientific Societies belonging to the Division were presented. They all attended the meeting except for Sweden, the Netherlands and Switzerland, all of whom asked to be excused and confirmed their complete willingness to co-operate (confirmation that Switzerland had joined and appointed its representatives was received by e-mail during the meeting).
- Due to difficulties in contacting the Slovakian and Polish Societies we were waiting for confirmation of participation and the appointment of their representatives (contact has now been made, at the time of rafting the minutes).
- General satisfaction was expressed for such a rapid participation of the Scientific Societies. The only one that has decided not to join the Division for the moment is the German Society. Professor Catalano expressed her regret for this unexpected stand and her confidence that this incomprehension will be overcome considering the aims common to all the European Societies. This position was shared and expressed also by the other Members of the Division, who confirmed their hope that the German Society would soon join, abandoning its isolation. For this reason the minutes of the Angiology Division meeting will also be sent to the Board of the DGA (German Angiology Society).
- Other Societies will be invited to join us (up till now not known) from countries not yet represented (also through contacts with the local Internal Medicine Society) following the UEMS aims.

4. Definition of Angiology/Vascular Medicine

- The first task of the Division will be to define Angiology/Vascular Medicine and the areas covered by this specialty.
- It was decided to go into this matter in depth, also in connection with the definition of Chapter 6 (see below), starting immediately.
- Only the following aspects (which had already been brought up at earlier meetings) were approved:
 - The term Medical Angiology must be replaced by the term Angiology , since – by analogy to other specialities – it is implicit that it concerns solely the medical area.
 - In view of the fact that the various different countries use either of the two terms Angiology and Vascular Medicine (synonyms), it was decided to pair them (Angiology/Vascular Medicine) in order not to cause confusion. As the basic definition that (as indicated above) will have to be considered in further depth and extended, Angiology/Vascular Medicine is “the Medical Discipline concerned with vascular diseases and their prevention”

5. “Chapter 6”

- Data collection: it was decided to collect by mid July at the latest all the material available in the various different countries about education and training in Angiology/Vascular Medicine. Once the material has been received by Professor Catalano’s secretary’s office, it will be circulated as a basis for working on (next point).
- Distribution of the work. Each Member of the Board of the Division present took responsibility for part of the work, which must be ready in draft form and sent to the same address within the first week of September, after which we will go on to the next stage.

- It was decided to give preference to working via e-mail and phone meetings before arranging another meeting (when the draft is in an advanced stage, ready for submission for discussion first at Division level then in the single countries).
- Involvement of parties absent from the meeting: The parties who did not attend the meeting will also be involved in the work, with proposals defined as additional or working jointly with others on specific issues, proposed by them.

ACTION : All present-list of commitments- (Switzerland will be contacted to be involved in the work)

6. Towards a European Diploma

- The European Diploma is an important stage in the work of the Division.
- The European training initiatives already activated in the past were recalled, including the recent European Fellowship in Angiology and European Master in Angiology/Vascular Medicine. Together with the outcome of the national programmes, this will form a basis for working in.
- The work of the IM Section on its own Diploma will provide a further important contribution, in addition to other existing experiences.

7. Election of the President and Secretary

- The President and Secretary of the Division were then elected in accordance with the UEMS Rules.

The following were elected unanimously:

President: Prof. Catalano

Secretary: Prof. Poredos

Prof. Catalano had been the Representative for Vascular Medicine in the IM Section while Prof. Poredos had been its Deputy (VAS) .

- The Board of the UEMS Angiology Divisioni is thus represented:

Renate Koppensteiner	(Austrian Society of Angiology)
Karl Von Kemp	(Belgian Working Group of Angiology)
Patrick Carpentier	(Collège des Enseignants de Médecine Vasculaire)
	(Collège Français de Pathologie Vasculaire)
Karel Roztocil	(Czech Republic Vascular Medicine Society)
J. Wouter Jukema	(Dutch Society of Vascular Medicine)
Emmanuel Diamantopoulos	(Hellenic Society of Internal Medicine)
Zsolt Pecsvarady	(Hungarian Society of Angiology & Vascular Medicine)
Claudio Allegra	(Italian Society of Vascular Pathologies – SIAPAV)
Dan Olinic	(Romanian Society of Angiology & Vascular Surgery)
Matiaja Kozak	(Slovenian Vascular Society)
Stefan Agewall	(Swedish Society of Hypertension, Stroke & Vascular Medicine)
August Gallino, Kurt Jaeger *	(Swiss Society of Angiology)
Pavel Poredos	(Vas-Vascular-Independent Research and Education -European Organization)
Mariella Catalano	(Vas) Representative for Vascular Medicine in the IM Section

* (waiting confirmation representative & deputy)

8. All correspondence should be addressed to mariella.catalano@unimi.it. The presence of the organising secretary's office as a reference point in the person of Yvonne Stewart, VAS secretary, was approved.
9. Next meeting: The date of the next meeting will be defined after checking the progress of work, after consulting all the members, with sufficient notice.

Present :

- Anita Carlizza (on behalf of Claudio Allegra), Italy
- Patrick Carpentier, France
- Mariella Catalano, Italy
- Emmanuel Diamantopoulos, Greece
- Thomas Gremmel (on behalf of Renate Koppensteiner), Austria
- Matija Kozak, Slovenia
- Dan Olinic, Romania
- Zsolt Pecsvarady, Hungary,
- Karel Roztocil, Czech Republic
- Karl Von Kemp, Belgium

- Yvonne Stewart (secretary)

Apologies :

- J. Wouter Jukema, The Netherlands
- Thomas Kahan, Sweden
- Poredos , Slovenia