Dr. C. Leibbrandt

Secretary- General UEMS

cc. President, Internal Medicine Section UEMS

November 2002

Dear Dr. Leibbrandt,

Vascular medicine is an emerging specialized medical practice rapidly growing in many European countries. It involves the physiopathology, epidemiology, diagnosis, prevention, non-surgical treatment and rehabilitation of arterial, venous, lymphatic and microvascular diseases.

Considering that:

1) vascular diseases are the largest cause of mortality in Europe and that their cost induces a huge economical burden on all National Health Services;

2) knowledge of pathophysiology, biology, diagnostic procedures and therapy in the field of vascular disease has grown enormously during the last decade;

3) expertise in vascular explorations requires lots of specific practical training;

4) there are more than 100 Units/Departments of Vascular Medicine/Angiology in nearly all European Countries .

5) recognition in Vascular Medicine/Angiology is fundamental also in the perspective of creating further Vascular Centres.

6) and therefore there is urgent needs for standards and regulations about training and practice in vascular medicine.

The following National Societies of Vascular Medicine in Europe support the petition by VAS (Vascular - Independent Research and Education - European Organisation) to the UEMS Management Council to recognise a subsection of Vascular Medicine within the Internal Medical Section.
This subsection was approved by the Internal Medicine Section of UEMS Lisbon 12-13 October 2001."

**VAS**

- Vascular - Independent Research and Education
- European Organisation -

- Scientific Coordinator Prof Catalano

**Austrian Society of Angiology**
- President Prof Minar

**Belgian Working Group on Angiology**
- President Prof Van Damme

**Czech Society of Angiology**
- President Prof Roztocil

**German Society of Vascular Medicine/Angiology**
- President Prof Theiss

**Italian Society for Vascular Investigation**
- President Dr Antignani

**Polish Angiology Society**
- President Prof. Andercou

**Romanian Society of Angiology and Vascular Surgery**
- President Prof Blinc

**Slovenian Vascular Society**
- President Prof Blinc

**Società Italiana di Angiologia e Patologia Vascolare (SIAPAV)**
- President Prof Androzzi

**Société Française de Médecine Vasculaire**
- President Prof Carpentier

**Swedish Society of Medical Angiology**
- President Prof Lindgarde

**Swiss Vascular Union**
- President Prof Bounameaux

With kindest regards.

VAS - Head Office - c/o Research Center on Vascular Diseases - University of Milan - L. Sacco Hospital - Via G.B. Grassi, 74 20157 Milan - Italy - E-mail: vas@mailserver.unimi.it Phone +39/02/3567109 - Fax +39/02/3562819  website: www.vas-int.org