



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

RUE DE L'INDUSTRIE, 24
BE- 1040 BRUSSELS

T +32 2 649 51 64

www.uems.eu

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN:

- UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists)**, an international non-for-profit organization incorporated under the laws of Belgium, having its registered seat at Rue de l'Industrie 24, 1040 Brussels – Belgium, hereby validly represented by Prof. Vassilios Papalois, UEMS President and Dr Grenho, UEMS Secretary General, acting through its Specialist Division of Angiology (Angiology/Vascular Medicine, being synonymous), hereby validly represented by Prof Jean Claude Wautrecht;

Hereafter: "UEMS Division of Angiology"

And

- VAS-European Independent Foundation in Angiology/Vascular Medicine**, a Foundation incorporated under the laws of Italy, having its registered seat at Milan, hereby validly represented by Prof Mariella Catalano

Hereafter: "VAS European Foundation"

The parties sub (1) and (2) shall hereafter be referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties".

RECITALS

The "*UEMS Division of Angiology*" and the "*VAS European Foundation*" are active in areas relevant to the quality of medical specialist practice in Europe and to the quality of care for the benefit of European patients. The Parties are willing to create a partnership that will promote and facilitate their activities in this area.



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The overall goal of collaboration and cooperation is to define joint actions, to achieve the best possible outcomes and to increase visibility of both parties.

The parties seek through this Memorandum of Understanding ("*MoU*") to define their partnership, to continue, to explore and to develop new opportunities in accordance with their objectives and competence. Through this MoU, the Parties also aim to establish an efficient and transparent communication between them.

This "*MoU*" formalize an already existing collaboration active from the onset of the UEMS Division and up-dated with the voted document of agreement December 2018 (attached)

THE PARTIES DECLARE

THAT 1. SCOPE

This MoU outlines the principles of cooperation and collaboration between the "*UEMS Division of Angiology*" and the "*VAS European Foundation*".

2. INTENTION OF THE PARTIES

The Parties acknowledge that this MoU does not, and is not meant to, constitute a legally binding agreement between them. Whenever an activity undertaken by both Parties would require a formal legal framework Parties will conclude a formal, legally binding agreement.

The non-binding relationship between the UEMS and the "*VAS European Foundation*" governed by this MoU is that of independent contractors. Nothing contained in this document will be construed as constituting any other relationship between the Parties.

This MoU does not prevent or limit "*VAS European Foundation*" or UEMS to enter agreements with other parties. Both Parties declare that they will not enter agreements that would jeopardize or invalidate this MoU and, whenever reasonable doubt would arise as to whether a new agreement is



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likely to be in conflict with this MoU, the Parties will communicate and strive to resolve outstanding issues.

3. INTERNAL POLICIES

Subject to the terms of this MoU, the implementation and pursuit of the goals, objectives, conditions and terms of this collaboration will be carried out in accordance with the internal policies and procedures of each Party.

4. SCOPE OF COMPETENCES AND ROLES

a) "VAS European Foundation"

According to its articles of association, the "VAS European Foundation" mission is to contribute to the development of Angiology/ Vascular Medicine (Angiology and Vascular Medicine are synonyms used in different Countries), in multicentre co-operation amongst clinicians and researchers throughout Europe and Worldwide.

The final aim of VAS is the fight against Vascular Disease for its prevention and control for the benefit of patients and the society. VAS is determined to achieve high Quality results with Independence from any economic interest and enabling Collaboration amongst its members. The triad Research – Education – Clinical Practice has been at the core of VAS timely implementation of results in clinical practice. VAS has signed agreements for collaboration with 38 Organizations, in Europe and at International level.

To achieve this goal, the key activities of the "VAS European Foundation" include:

- Define and organize European Programmes on Education and Training in Angiology/ Vascular Medicine, interacting with Universities and actively supporting UEMS harmonization process (European Diploma, European Training Centres-ETC)
- Promoting and organising European vascular research projects;
- Obtain recognition for Angiology and Vascular Medicine specialty at European and International level and enforce networking and collaboration ;
- Contribute in guaranteeing vascular patients the right to complete and qualified care, identifying key aspects in the Health organization;
- Creating increased awareness of vascular disease, of the prevention of risk factors among the patients and the public at large, promoting International Collaborations and Networking;



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- Close co-operation with Universities, Hospitals, UEMS, International and National Scientific Societies, the World Health Organisation and the European Union;

b) UEMS

According to its articles of association, the UEMS objectives are to promote the harmonization of training standards for specialist physicians within the European Union and to promote free movement of specialist doctors within the European Union. The UEMS is independent from medical industry in order to assure unbiased position in areas of medical politics and in accreditation of CME.

The key activities of the UEMS include:

- Political lobbying (European Commission, Parliament, Support of NMAs);
- Standard setting for specialist training and practice;
- Accreditation of continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD).

The UEMS members co are 37 National Medical Associations Specialist Sections, their Divisions and Boards, and Multidisciplinary Joint Committees are UEMS bodies, created to promote and defend the interests of medical specialists in their respective fields and to improve the quality of medical specialist training and practice at the European level.

5. MUTUAL RECOGNITION Each Party acknowledges the competences of the other, according to its articles of association.

Each Party acknowledges that the other is an essential partner in the development and improvement of the quality of medical specialist practice of Angiology/Vascular Medicine in Europe. Parties recognize that their continued collaboration should be a crucial and integral element to the future success of both organizations and their members.



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6. AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UEMS AND THE “VAS European

Foundation”

Parties undertake to collaborate in order to achieve the objectives of mutual interest.

The areas of collaboration between the UEMS and the “VAS European Foundation” already include, but shall not be limited to:

- Elaboration of European specialist training curriculum
- Organisation of specialist European examinations
- Organisation of visitation programs
- Development and promotion of high quality, unbiased CME/CPD
- Setting European standards of specialist practice
- Monitoring status of Angiology/Vascular Medicine and developments in specialist practice of Angiology/Vascular Medicine in European and other countries
- Lobbying efforts
- Provision of joint opinion and statements to the EU institutions
- Networking between specialties
- Engagement with:
 - trainee representatives
 - patients organizations

The UEMS and the “VAS European Foundation” commit to continue working in close cooperation and to actively exchange information that is of common interest and/or might be of significance to both organizations and their members.

Parties recognize that:

- Due to the long lasting existing active collaboration
- Due to the fact that “VAS European Foundation” (before an Association called VAS-Independent Research and Education-European Independent Organization-) has been the Founder



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Organization, proposing and following the process to create the UEMS Division by the UEMS Council

- “*VAS European Foundation*” has been voted to act also as the Educational Body of the Division, due to its relevant independent educational programs, integrated to the UEMS aims and accreditation processes
- “*VAS European Foundation*” has been involved in collaborating in the UEMS expertise on accreditation of CME/CPD, elaboration of Training Requirements and curricula and organization of European Examinations, being represented in EBEEAVM.
- Following the UEMS suggestions, VAS introduced inside its Statute the collaboration, support of the UEMS Division activities as well as don't be in contrast to the UEMS general aims to help harmonization around Europe
- From the constitution of the Division, two members of VAS have been invited to join the Division as Founder Organization of the Division (no vote right)
- Each Party is a key partner in areas of collaboration described in this document;
- “*VAS European Foundation*” expertise concentrates on organization of CME/CPD, scientific research, development of practice guidelines and standards, as well as in acting as Educational Body of the Division, collaborating in ETC Accreditation (being responsible on behalf of the Division for the Validation Process, as described in the ETR Document) and being part of the EBEAVM
- UEMS expertise concentrates on accreditation of CME/CPD, elaboration of Training Requirements and curricula and organization of European Examinations.
- Parties agree to involve the other Party when elaborating major policy documents at the earliest possible stage of the process in order to receive its input.

7. EUROPEAN BOARD

The UEMS and “*VAS European Foundation*” acknowledge that the European Board is the framework for cooperation and the forum for discussion between representatives of both Parties. The European Foundation recognizes that European Board in Angiology/Vascular Medicine is a UEMS body and should follow the rules of the UEMS described in its Statutes and Rules of Procedures.



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The Parties will closely cooperate to establish satisfactory representation of each Party in European Boards.

8. COMMUNICATION

The UEMS Division will be in charge of communication with the “VAS European Foundation” in all matters regarding areas of cooperation defined in this MoU, including communications to the UEMS Executive, other UEMS bodies and to UEMS constituency. This MoU does not change the UEMS representation rules described in statutory documents or waive information and approval duties of UEMS Section/Division.

The “VAS European Foundation” will communicate with UEMS Division in all matters regarding areas of cooperation defined in this MoU.

The “VAS European Foundation” and the UEMS Division will each appoint a person for all contacts with the other party. Should there be a change in each Party's contact person, the partner shall inform each other as soon as possible.

Both parties will provide a link on their website to the other's website.

a) Official announcement

An official announcement of the present agreement will be made on both Parties websites as a common statement by the UEMS and the “VAS European Foundation” after signature of the agreement. The statement will be also circulated to both Parties constituency.

9. REPRESENTATION

The President of the “VAS European Foundation” or an appointed representative of the VAS European Foundation is invited to take part to the UEMS Division's executive meetings.

As a Founding Organization, two representatives of “VAS European Foundation” have already been accepted as delegates (no vote right) inside of the Division from its creation.



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Likewise, the President of the UEMS Division and Secretary or another representative of the UEMS Division is invited to take part in meetings of the "VAS European Foundation" Executive or an appropriate body).

10. FUNDING

This MoU does not include the exchange of funds between parties.

11. MODIFICATION

This MoU can be modified or amended only by a writing signed by both parties.

12. TERM AND TERMINATION

This MoU is concluded for an indefinite period.

13. EFFECTIVITY

This MoU is effective immediately upon signature of all parties here to.

Date: 22nd June 2020

For UEMS

Prof. Vassilios Papalois
President of UEMS

Dr João Grenho
Secretary General of UEMS



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For UEMS Division of [Prof Jean Claude Wautrecht-President]

For VAS-European Independent Foundation in Angiology/Vascular Medicine [Prof Mariella Catalano-President]