Chapter 6 Training of medical specialists in the EU.

Requirements for Medical Biopathology/Laboratory medicine.

Article 1 Central monitoring authority for Medical Biopathology/Laboratory medicine at EU level

1.1 The Educational Board of the UEMS Section of Medical Biopathology is the Monitoring Authority for each of the specialities represented in the Section
1.2 The general standards for recognition of institutions and teachers in the different specialities included in the Section of Medical Biopathology (SMB) are regulated in the Documents "Application form for recognition of training centres", "Guideline for the recognition of training centres", and "UEMS SMB Board Certification and Training Centres"
1.3 Training centres have to present a training programme in accordance with European Quality standards. Medical Biopathology will work toward a European system for quality assurance of teaching and training.
1.4 In order to obtain and to maintain SMB Board certification, every centre has to regularly demonstrate that they work in accordance with appropriate accreditation standards (EN 15149).
1.5 The SMB should collaborate closely with recognised national bodies to initiate and maintain a system of manpower planning for the specialities.

Article 2 General aspects of training in Medical Biopathology/Laboratory medicine

2.1 Candidates for training in the different specialities in Medical Biopathology should be physicians licensed in a country of the EU or they should have an equivalent qualification approved by the host country. It is the primary responsibility of each training institution to establish further criteria for entry into their training programme.
2.2 The minimum duration of training in the different specialities in Medical Biopathology/Laboratory medicine should be 5 years including one year of clinical practice outside the Medical Biopathology/Laboratory medicine Department gained after obtaining licence to practice as a doctor.
2.3 The section of Medical Biopathology estimates that a learning period of about one year in basic skills is required for each speciality in the section. During this period experience in the field of basic medical biopathology, statistics, quality assurance, information technology, management and communicative skills would be obtained.
2.4 Programmes to cover the training requirements for the specialities should be available for all trainers and trainees.
2.5 A nationally accepted system of quality control and assessment of training should be implemented (see 1.3 and 1.4).
2.6 The section supports the existing arrangements in the European Union countries to control entry into the training grades. Manpower planning policies are limited by the lack of adequate data (see 1.5).
2.7 The SMB supports the facilitations of training periods abroad in other countries of the EU during specialist training

Article 3 Requirements for training institutions

3.1 In the first instance all nationally recognised training centres will be accepted for training.
3.2 To achieve full training in the different specialities in Medical Biopathology it may be necessary to gain experience and receive training in more than one centre.
3.3 National standards for training institutions differ. The Specialist Section believes that a European standard is desirable and should be developed over the next years.
3.4 National recognition for training centres should be based on structured educational visits of the European Union standards when these have been defined.

Article 4 Requirements for teachers within the speciality

4.1 The chief of training should have been practising as a specialist in that speciality for more than 5 years. There should be additional teaching staff. The teacher and the staff should provide training in all aspects of the speciality. When an aspect of training can not be provided in one centre it will be necessary for the trainee to be taught elsewhere by a teacher approved for that purpose.
4.2 The chief of training should work out a training programme for the trainee in accordance with national rules and the recommendations of the Educational Board of SMB.
4.3 The ratio between the number of qualified specialists in the teaching staff and the number of trainees should provide a close monitoring of the trainee during their training and provide adequate exposure of the trainee to training.

Article 5 Requirements for trainees.

5.1 The present goals for the education should serve as the basis for the specialist training and a more detailed individual training plan should be written by the chief of training and the trainee soon after the start of the training..
5.2 The training requirements for each speciality can be found on the sections homepage, where it is updated regularly: http://www.uems-smb.org/uems/01-PDF/BB_2012May_Final.pdf.
5.3 "Main Learning objectives" for specialty training

• "Specific skills": To build up their experience the trainees should perform a sufficient number of laboratory procedures of sufficient diversity. The trainee should understand the scientific basis of such procedures and the clinical basis for applying them to particular problems of diagnosis and patient management. Competencies in different analytical techniques and instrumentations are also needed.

• Laboratory Management: The trainee needs to have experience under supervision in formulating departmental policies and clinical guidelines, and applying the leadership and team-work skills that are necessary to implement them. The trainee should understand how a modern laboratory service is organised, how different staff groups contribute to the pre-intra-and post-analytical processes and how the service operates within the hospital and the regional and national system of health care.

• Data management skills to evaluate information derived from the population served and from the technical procedures applied in the laboratory. These skills should include familiarity with it and the use of databases and statistical packages.

• Communication Skills: The trainee should have sufficient linguistic ability to communicate fluently with patients, with medical and other colleagues and to write meaningful reports. The trainee should be able to study international literature and to communicate with foreign colleagues. Communication skills should also be developed by report writing, presentation of data at (scientific) meetings, trough contributions to group discussions and attendance at departmental business meetings.

• Research and development: Experience in research and development is important for developing skills in independent and team-driven problem solving and the critical assessment of publishing work and for gaining analytical expertise. All trainees should undertake at lest one research project during their training.

• Familiarity with all aspects of health and safety requirements for laboratories.

• Quality management. The trainee must be familiar with its theory and practice as well as to the international and national rules. The trainee should be able to collaborate and/or improve quality system in use or to implement one if needed.

• Clinical training in internal medicine or a closely-related speciality is mandatory for one year. The clinical training should provide first-hand knowledge about the role of the laboratory in clinical diagnostic strategies and improved knowledge of the needs of the health sector that should be catered for by the laboratory

• The trainee should acquire life-long habits of reading, using literature and other information database searches, consultations with colleagues, attendance at scientific meetings, and the presentation of scientific work as part of continuing education.

5.4 Assessment: The trainee should keep a personal, up-to-date log-book according to national rules as well as UEMS/European Board recommendation.