

The European Academy of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (EAORL-HNS)

Report by: Mr Richard A Maw, Bristol, UK and Mr Patrick J Bradley, Nottingham, UK.



All European countries have hospitals or clinical departments dedicated to the care of patients who suffer from diseases of the ear, nose and throat; some dating from the 15-16th century. At present, each of these countries has a national society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) to which the majority of clinicians and specialists belong. Only recently has the concept of interchange of medical specialists been encouraged and recognised. It was with this in mind that the European Federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies (EUFOS) was formed “to promote, to coordinate and to unify the advancement of ORL in Europe”, (www.eufos2004.org).

With the establishment of the European Union, it was necessary to “harmonise and improve the quality of training of medical specialists in Europe”. So, in 1958 UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists) www.uems.net was founded. In 1962 the ORL-HNS specialist section was formed. Within each country there also exist many sub-specialist organisations related to ORL-HNS, eg, Otolaryngology, Rhinology, Laryngology and Head and Neck Surgery. During this same period, enthusiastic individuals and groups within Europe formed specialist European Societies such as the European Rhinological Society (ERS) 1963 (www.europeanrhinologicsociety.org); the European Laryngological Society (ELS) 1995 (www.else.org); the European Association of Otolaryngology and Neuro-otology (EAONO) 1995 (www.eaono.org); and, more recently, the European Head and Neck Society (EHNS) 2005 (www.ehns.org). Logically, there developed a need to coordinate the activities of these various organisations related to ORL-HNS.

This was the driving force to form a European Academy of Otorhinolaryngology,

Head and Neck Surgery (EAORL-HNS) to bring together all of the European sub-specialty organisations in collaboration with EUFOS and UEMS; to provide harmonisation and rationalisation of courses, congresses, instruction sessions and teaching programmes within Europe. There is also a need to provide a framework for instruction of trainee otorhinolaryngologists at affordable prices. At a recent meeting of the EUFOS Standing Committee of Training and Continuing Medical Education held in the ORL-HNS Department, University of Marburg, Germany in February 2005, the principles of the EAORL-HNS were agreed and thus it was formally founded.

The EAORL-HNS was first mentioned in the EUFOS presidential address, by Professor Klaus Jahnke in Berlin 2001. At a subsequent meeting in Oporto in 2002, the topic was again discussed at the EUFOS Executive Committee Meeting. There were further discussions by EUFOS and UEMS in Thessalonika in 2003 when the Executive Committee accepted the concept of the EAORL-HNS. At a meeting in Essen in 2004, where all of the European Societies met, they gave their support to the concept of the EAORL-HNS. In May 2004, in Vienna, there was a further presentation to the EUFOS Executive Committee. Subsequently, in Rhodes September 2004, the EAORL-HNS project was presented to the EUFOS General Assembly. In October 2004, in Nice, the project was presented to the UEMS. The final meeting was held in Marburg, Germany, in February 2005, at which the Byelaws were formulated. The Byelaws are documented below.

The aims and objectives of EAORL-HNS are:

1. To be a permanent organisation which will co-ordinate the activities of the different European academies, associations, federa-

tions or societies of Otolaryngology, Rhinology, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Skull-base Surgery, Audiology, Phoniatrics, Paediatric Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery and other possible existing or future organisations devoted to these or other specialities allied to Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery.

2. Such co-ordination will advance the art, science and ethical practice of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery through education and lifelong learning.
3. The EAORL-HNS will co-ordinate high quality training and exchange programmes, according to the Charters of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), as directed by the UEMS ORL Board and Section; and in conjunction with the European Federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies (EUFOS).
4. The EAORL-HNS will harmonise and disseminate information from these various organisations regarding their different courses and training programmes and other activities. It will provide the means for communication and collaboration between the organisations. It will distribute information about European Otorhinolaryngological guidelines.
5. It will encourage co-operation between the European and National organisations for research activities related to Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery; and it will co-ordinate in fundraising for grant-giving bodies relating to ORL-HNS research and continuing medical education.
6. It will assist in the dissemination of information regarding various European Congresses or ORL-HNS for the organising committees, eg. the EUFOS Congress. Its particular aims

Back (L-R)

Jacques Magnan (EAONO)
Klaus Jahnke (EUFOS)
Richard Maw (UEMS ORL)
Klaus Albecker (EUFOS)
Erwin Offeciers (IFOS)
Heinz Stammberger (EUFOS)
Gerhard Rettinger (ERS)
Jan Olofsson (EHNS)

Front (L-R)

Marc Remacle (ELS)
Reidar Grenman (UEMS ORL)
Patrick Bradley (ELS)
Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen (UEMS-ORL)

are to promote and support congresses and courses that will be affordable to trainees and fellows.

7. It will collaborate with the UEMS ORL Section and Board and the aforementioned organisations to
 - 7.1 assist in the distribution and use of a log book for ORL trainees.
 - 7.2 encourage the principle of regular visitation of ORL-HNS Departments.
 - 7.3 develop programmes for sub-specialty training in ORL-HNS.
 - 7.4 develop a European Board of Certification of ORL-HNS.

Membership of the EAORL-HNS:

1. The founding European ORL-HNS sub-specialty organisations
 - 1.1 European Academy of Otolology and Neuro-Otology (EAONO)
 - 1.2 European Rhinologic Society (ERS)
 - 1.3 European Laryngological Society (ELS)
 - 1.4 European Head and Neck Society (EHNS)
2. Other legally constituted European sub-specialty multi-disciplinary organisations:
 - 2.1 European Academy of Facial, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
 - 2.2 European Skull base Society
 - 2.3 European Society of Paediatric Otorhinolaryngology
 - 2.4 Medical Speciality Organizations in Audiology, Phoniatics, Allergy and Immunology
 - 2.5 Permanent Working Group (Junior Doctors)
3. EUFOS as representative of the National ORL-HNS Societies in Europe.
4. UEMS ORL Section and Board.
5. Members without voting rights
 - 5.1 Corporate organisations
 - 5.2 Co-opted members from non-European groups

Byelaws Of The European Academy Of Otorhinolaryngology-Head And Neck Surgery

1. Name and Registration

The name of this medical organisation shall be the European Academy of Otorhinolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery (abbreviation EAORL-HNS). It will be a non-profit making, non-political scientific educational organisation. The registered office of the European Academy will be located at Vienna.
2. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of EAORL-HNS are:

 - 2.1 To be a permanent organisation which will co-ordinate the activities of the different European Academies, Associations,

Federations or Societies of Otolology, Rhinology, Laryngology, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Skull-base Surgery, Audiology, Phoniatics, Paediatric Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery and other possible existing or future organisations devoted to these or other specialties allied to Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery.

2.2 Such co-ordination will advance the art, science and ethical practice of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery through education and lifelong learning.

2.3 The EAORL-HNS will co-ordinate high quality training and exchange programmes, relating to the aforementioned organisations (paragraph 2.1), according to the Charters of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), as directed by the UEMS ORL Board and Section; and in conjunction with the European Federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies (EUFOS).

2.4 The EAORL-HNS will harmonise and disseminate information from these various organisations regarding their different courses and training programmes and other activities. It will provide the means for communication and collaboration between the organisations. It will distribute information about European Otorhinolaryngological guidelines.

2.5 It will encourage co-operation between the European and National organisations for research activities related to Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery; and it will co-ordinate in fundraising for grant-giving bodies relating to ORL-HNS research and continuing medical education.

2.6 It will assist in the dissemination of information regarding various European Congresses of ORL-HNS for the organising committees, eg. the EUFOS congress. Its particular aims are to promote and support congresses and courses which will be affordable to trainees and fellows.

2.7 It will collaborate with the UEMS ORL Section and Board and the aforementioned organisations to

- 2.7.1 assist in the distribution and use of a log-book for ORL trainees
- 2.7.2 encourage the principle of regular visitation of ORL-HNS Departments
- 2.7.3 develop programmes for sub-specialty training in ORL-HNS
- 2.7.4 develop a European Board Certification of ORL-HNS

3. Membership

The EAORL-HNS Board will have a membership as follows :

3.1 The founding European ORL-HNS sub-specialty organisations

3.1.1 European Academy of Otolology and Neuro-Otology

3.1.2 European Rhinologic Society

3.1.3 European Laryngological Society

3.1.4 European Head and Neck Society

Each will elect two delegates to the Board, each from a different European country

3.2 Other legally constituted European sub-specialty multi-disciplinary organisations will elect one ORL delegate as follows:

3.2.1 European Academy of Facial, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

3.2.2 European Skull base Society

3.2.3 European Society of Paediatric Otorhinolaryngology

3.2.4 Medical Speciality Organizations in Audiology, Phoniatics, Allergy and Immunology

3.2.5 Permanent Working Group (Junior Doctors)

3.3 EUFOS as representative of the National ORL-HNS Societies in Europe will nominate three delegates.

3.4 UEMS ORL Section and Board will nominate two delegates.

3.5 Members without voting rights

3.5.1 Corporate organisations

3.5.2 Co-opted members from non-European Groups

4. Organisation of the Board and the Executive Committee

4.1 The Board will consist of voting delegates from the European Organisations listed in Section 3. The term of office for each delegate will be four years, which may be renewable for a further period of two years.

4.2 Duties of the Board. The Board acts for the EAORL-HNS to facilitate its aims and objectives. The board will meet at least once a year as a general assembly or as often as is required in the interest of the EAORL-HNS. The decisions of the Board are carried by a simple majority vote. 50% of voting delegates represents a quorum.

4.3 The Board will elect the following Executive Committee:

4.3.1 President

4.3.2 General Secretary

4.3.3 Treasurer

4.3.4 Vice-Presidents as representatives of the European ORL-HNS sub-specialty organisations (EAONO, ERS, ELS, EHNS); (provided any of these representatives are not already holding the position of president, general secretary or treasurer)

4.3.5 Two UEMS ORL section representatives (provided either of these representatives are not already holding the position

of president, general secretary or treasurer)

4.3.6 Two EUFOS representatives (provided either of these representatives are not already holding the position of president, general secretary or treasurer)

4.3.7 One PWG representative

4.3.8 Invited members as representatives from other sub-specialty organisations or groups as required

4.4 If Executive Committee members are unable to attend meetings, they may appoint a board member, who has voting rights, to act as a deputy.

4.5 The President shall be from any European ORL organisation, but may only serve for four years. He or she will preside over the Board and the Executive Committee meetings or will appoint a deputy member from the Executive Committee.

4.6 The general secretary or deputy will keep minutes of the Executive Committee and Board meetings and will correspond between different organisations within the Board.

4.7 The treasurer will produce annual audited accounts and reports for approval by the Board.

4.8 The Executive Committee is charged with implementing the decisions of the Board of EAORL-HNS.

4.9 The Executive Committee will represent the EAORL-HNS in International affairs.

5. Amendments and Dissolution

Amendments may be made provided they do not alter the original intent of the EAORL-HNS. They should be sent to the general secretary three months before the next Board meeting. They will be approved or rejected by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee. Only the Board, as a general assembly, can consider a proposal to amend the statutes or dissolve the EAORL-HNS. If

the Board is convened for the purposes of dissolution of the EAORL-HNS, a quorum of at least two-thirds of Board members is required. If a quorum is not achieved, a postal vote of members of the Board will be taken to confirm or reject dissolution.

The following founder members sign these Byelaws and receive an original copy:

- Klaus Albegger (EUFOS)
- Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen (UEMS ORL Section)
- Patrick Bradley (ELS)
- Reidar Grenman (UEMS ORL Section)
- Klaus Jahnke (EUFOS)
- Jacques Magnan (EAONO)
- Richard Maw (UEMS ORL Section)
- Jan Olofsson (EHNS)
- Erwin Offeciers (IFOS)
- Marc Remacle (ELS)
- Gerhard Rettinger (ERS)
- Heinz Stammlinger (EUFOS Congress 2007)

Nomination and Appointment of a holding Executive Committee for the EAORL-HNS:

After the agreement of the byelaws of EAORL-HNS, it was necessary to establish a holding Executive Committee. These nominations will stand until the meeting in Vienna in 2007, or until such time as the byelaws become a legal document. It was agreed that the EAORL-HNS would be registered in Vienna.

- Executive Committee:
- EAONO Jacques Magnan
 - ELS Patrick Bradley
 - ERS Gerhard Rettinger
 - EHNS Jean-Louis Lefevre
 - EUFOS Klaus Jahnke
 - EUFOS Klaus Albegger
 - UEMS Richard Maw
 - UEMS Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen
 - PWG Vacant.

Subsequently the following positions in the EAORL-HNS were confirmed unanimously by

those present:

- President: Klaus Jahnke
- General Secretary: Jacques Magnan
- Treasurer: Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen.

Further Information: A website will be available on www.eu-acad-orldns.org.

Addenda

Addendum 1

These byelaws are a draft version pending legal counselling and consideration and as such have no legal status in their present form and will require further consideration by the Board and Executive Committees.

Addendum 2

The EAORL-HNS will be able to fully liaise with EUFOS when the Constitution of the European Federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies enables the byelaws of the EAORL-HNS to be fully implemented.

Addendum 3

- Future events:
- 2006 EAONO, ELS Subspecialty European Academy or Society meeting
 - 2007 European Academy of ORL within EUFOS meeting
 - 2008 Subspecialty European Academy or Society meeting
 - 2009 European Academy of ORL-HNS alone (ORL General and Sub-specialties)
 - 2010 Subspecialty European Academy
 - 2011 European Academy of ORL-HNS within EUFOS meeting

Every even-numbered year, advanced and separated training programme of Otolaryngology, Rhinology and Laryngology societies.
Every odd-numbered year, General ORL training programme of European Academy with and without EUFOS (the periodicity of EUFOS being every four years).



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