

Annual Report of Otorhinolaryngology Section of the Union of European

Medical Specialties (UEMS) – January 2008

Now that the Union of European Medical Specialties is celebrating its 50th Anniversary it is an opportune time to reflect on the achievements of the Otorhinolaryngological - Head and Neck surgery section.

This section has always been active and reflects and leads opinion in Europe but especially has excellent academic contacts with the rest of the developed world.

The Annual Meetings take place over a long weekend and the last five years have been in the following locations:-

2003 Thessaloniki - Greece

2004 Nice – France

2005 Salzburg – Austria

2006 Bratislava – Slovakia

2007 Limassol – Cyprus

The meeting in 2008 will be in Norway.

The topics for the meetings are always pre-planned including structured questionnaires to each countries representatives of the relevant topic and the delegates all contribute by working in co-ordinated groups which report back to the plenary session.

In the last years the topics have included: visitation, indications and outcomes of ORL operations; an analysis of training in all the states but especially newer accessional states, a revision of the UEMS ORL-HNS log book; sub-specialty training and most recently a revision of chapter 6 adopted for ORL-HNS, the training requirements for medical specialists.

At each meeting there is a report on manpower figures for each member state and detailed information of the training centres including comments on their special interest and also the contact information.

Topics of the 2008 meeting will include the planning of the structure of an European examination in ORL-HNS and finalizing the subspecialty trainings programs including log book.

There is good attendance and it is with great regret that our French colleagues, who have long been active, and were the hosts in 2004 have now withdrawn. We look forward to their return in due course.

In recent years the UEMS-ORL section has played a leading role in the establishment of an European Academy of Otolaryngology to enable academic developments to be disseminated.

Professor Reidar Grenman from Finland has proved a very successful President and will be succeeded in 2008 by Professor Karl Hörmann from Germany.

Mr Richard Maw from the UK was a popular and effective Secretary General who retired at the last meeting and has been replaced by Mr David Proops who is also from the United Kingdom. As treasurer Thomas Somers from Belgium has taken over the responsibility of the accounts. We are very fortunate to have a permanent secretariat in Dr Maria de la Mota who is based in Spain and is herself an Otolaryngologist.