

Is a European Exam in Infectious Diseases a way forward?

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<http://www.uems-id.eu/>

ESCMID PAS/UEMS Workshop Ljubljana June 2014



Short answer

- Only within a framework of improved training standards
- In conjunction with objective workplace based assessments
- As an optional extra to start with
 - For some trainees who want an extra certificate
 - For some countries to use as their definitive knowledge based examination

Concerned parties

- **UEMS**
 - European Section of Infectious Diseases
 - European Board of Infectious Diseases (EBID)
 - CESMA, ECAMSQ
- **ESCMID** including PAS, Education, TAE
- **European and national authorities**
 - Accreditation of training programmes
 - Specialist registration

Joint Subcommittee UEMS (ID) & ESCMID

- Established in 2010 as initiative of ID Section
- UEMS chairs, with a majority of members
- Initial Membership:
 - Nick Beeching (UK), Chair (EBID)
 - Andrzej Horban (Poland) (UEMS)
 - Håkon Sjursen (Norway), President EBID
 - Kate Adams (UK), President TAE
 - Evelina Tacconelli (Italy) (Professional Affairs Officer, ESCMID)
 - Murat Akova (Turkey), ESCMID Education Officer

Functions of committee

- To address issues such as:
 - Expanded Curriculum
 - European Examination
 - Log book/portfolio
- Draft curriculum circulated among section members and final document for submission to UEMS
- Finalising for mid 2014

What are examinations for?

- To test or confirm ability to practise at **defined specialist level**
 - In one country
 - Across Europe
- Therefore needs defined **curriculum**
- Agreed **standards for training**, including training centres, trainers

Assessment of training

- Duration of training OR
- Competency based

- Log books of attendance & cases
- Workplace based assessments
- Multisource feedback
- Diplomas eg DTM&H, Dip HIV Medicine etc
- Supervisors reports

- Complex portfolios
- Formal reviews (usually annual)

Assessment - examinations

- When?
 - During (formative/summative)
 - At the end

Types of examination

- **Formative**
- Used during training to identify gaps in knowledge/performance that need to be improved
- **Summative**
- Pass/fail examination that has to be passed to allow progression in training or certification



**Royal College of Surgeons
Cruikshank 1811**

Assessment - examinations

- **When?**
 - During (formative/summative)
 - At the end
- **Components**
 - Short cases/Long cases
 - Lab work
 - OSCE (different stations)
 - Viva (oral)
 - MCQ
 - Extended or multiple matching MCQ
 - Essays & short notes

Domains tested in examination

- Knowledge

- Can be objectively assessed in various formats in a reproducible fashion eg MCQ

- Skills

- Can be assessed in carefully constructed settings eg multiple OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) stations

- Behaviour

- Best assessed as part of training, needs structured assessment and recording methods

CESMA

Council for European Specialist Assessment

European Training Requirement Template for
all specialties to replace “Chapter 6”

UEMS 2012/29

Chapter 6



UNION EUROPEENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

U.E.M.S.

European Training Charter for Medical Specialists, UEMS 2008

EUROPEAN BOARD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Chapter 6, CHARTER on TRAINING of MEDICAL SPECIALISTS in
the EU

Chapter 6 contents

1. Introduction

1. Monitoring issues, quality assurance, manpower

2. General aspects of training

1. Selection

2. Duration of training (2 yrs Internal med, 4 yrs ID)

3. Structure

4. Curriculum

5. Log books

6. Assessment

7. Mobility

Chapter 6 contents (continued)

3. Requirements for training institutions
4. Requirements for teachers
5. Requirements for trainees

ESCMID Online Lecture Library
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UEMS-CESMA Exam survey 2014

John Boorman

European Board of Plastic,
Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery

Innsbruck 24th May 2014

**Responses received from 28/38 Sections
21 hold examinations**

Sections (**not**) holding summative exams

Anaesthesiology	ORL-HNS
Angiology/Vascular Medicine	Orthopaedics and Trauma
Cardiology	Paediatric & Neonatal Intensive Care
Dermatology and Venereology	Paediatric Surgery
Emergency Medicine	Paediatric Urology
Gastroenterology & Hepatology	Pathology
Hand Surgery	Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine
Infectious Diseases	Plastic Surgery
Intensive Care Medicine	Rheumatology
Medical Biopathology	Surgery
Neurology	Thoracic Surgery
Neurosurgery	Urological Surgery
Occupational Medicine	Vascular Surgery
Ophthalmic Surgery	Internal Medicine

c/o John Boorman/CESMA

Summary (21 Boards, 26 exams)

- Most (20/26) admit non-UEMS candidates
- Almost all (24/26) have an MCQ component
- Most (19/26) MCQ exams are in English only
- Most (16/26) are at a single venue
- Most (15/25) are paper-based
- Larger exams tend to
 - Use multiple languages
 - Offer multiple sites
 - Be computer-based
- Candidates prefer computer-based exams

Summary 2

- Many computer systems in use
 - To deliver exam
 - To analyse results
- Pass marks are set by many methods, which produce markedly different outcomes
- Candidate groups vary in their overall ability
- Use criterion based setting of pass marks, such as Angoff procedure

Extra Challenges for ID

- Lack of recognition of specialty in some countries
- Small faculty/number of training centres in some countries
- Variation in infection patterns & practice
- Variable antimicrobial resistance patterns
- Inequity of access to diagnostic and therapeutic modalities
- Lack of European guidelines

Specialist Examination

- Do we need one?
- What is European exam for?
 - Final pass/fail for accreditation
 - Part of full portfolio as in UK
 - Alternative/extra exam for trainees who want to move
- What format?
- How to write questions based on many national guidelines?
- What language?
- Voluntary or compulsory?
- Cost and frequency?

Exam choices (EBID Sep 2012)

- Do we want one?
 - Compulsory exit/part of overall assessment
 - Optional extra
- If so which?
 - IDSA
 - UK SCE
 - New European exam
- European exam
 - Start again
 - Adapt UK exam (or identify another)



IDSA Fellows In-Training Exam

The Fellows In-Training Exam (ITE) gives fellows an opportunity to identify areas in which they need additional programmatic instruction and self-directed learning. Test takers are able to compare their scores with fellows nationwide.

The exam is offered over a two-day window to allow programs to test all of their fellows and provide necessary clinic coverage. Fellows may only sit for the exam on one of the two testing dates.

[> Information for Program Directors and Proctors](#)

Exam Details

Dates	Time	Location	Length	Cost
February 3 & 4, 2015	9:00 a.m. in each time zone	Fellows' home institution (special arrangements may be made with nearby institutions)	150 questions	\$225 per fellow \$50 fee for each cancellation
February 2 & 3, 2016				

Registration Information

Registration for the 2015 exam will open in early November 2014.

- Training program directors will register their fellows online
- Credit card payments will be accepted online only at the time of registration
- All fees not paid at the time of registration must be paid by check and sent to IDSA

For questions or concerns not covered on this page, please [contact us](#).

At-a-Glance

- [> Take the practice exam](#)
- [> ITE System Requirements](#)

Test Dates

February 3 & 4, 2015
February 2 & 3, 2016

This exam was developed by members of the ID Training Program Directors Committee in conjunction with the [National Board of Medical Examiners \(NBME\)](#) to assist fellowship programs in meeting ACGME competency requirements.

Infectious Diseases

Specialty Certificate Examination in Infectious Diseases

Exam date	UK registration period	Pearson VUE UK booking window	International registration period	Results release
10 September 2014	14 May – 6 August 2014	10 June – 9 August 2014	14 May – 11 June 2014	4 weeks after exam date

The Specialty Certificate Examination in Infectious Diseases is delivered once a year.

[Eligibility requirements](#)

[Qualification: Certificate in Infectious Diseases](#)

[Curriculum and blueprint](#)

[Resources for trainees](#)

Part 1

Part 2

PACES

Specialty Certificate Examinations

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[Dermatology](#)

[Endocrinology and Diabetes](#)

[Gastroenterology](#)

[Geriatric Medicine](#)

[Infectious Diseases](#)

[Medical Oncology](#)

[Nephrology](#)

[Neurology](#)

[Palliative Medicine](#)

www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/specialty-certificate-examinations/specialties/infectious-diseases

Specialist Certificate Examination (UK) - Summative

- Currently 200 MCQ questions only (with some images)
- Best of 5 answer format based on clinical scenario
- Can be done anywhere with suitable test centre computers
- Much quality input required to simplify & standardise language & presentation (so it is expensive for trainees)
- Does not test bedside performance/behaviour

ID Section/Board discussions 2013

- Common curriculum
- OK but will not change if not compulsory
- Being finalised
- Common exam
 - Compulsory European only **yes**
 - Extra **probably useful**
- Training trainers **strong support, few have it**
 - Perhaps use ESCMID support

ID Section/Board discussions 2013

- Workplace based assessments
 - Few have these and few understand it
 - Accept minimal recommendation and menu
- Inspection of training programmes
 - National
 - 50% have something
 - European
 - Use ESCMID centre platform & funds

Specialist Examination

- Do we need one? **Yes**
- What is European exam for?
 - Final pass/fail for accreditation
 - **Part of full portfolio as in UK (eventually)**
 - **Alternative/extra exam for trainees who want to move**
- What format? **MCQ similar to UK SCE**
- How to write questions based on many national guidelines?
- What language? **English**
- Voluntary or compulsory? **Voluntary to begin with**
- Cost and frequency? **Yearly at first**

Progress on MCQ examination

- UK SCE questions (n=45) being assessed by members of Board and joint UEMS/ESCMID committee
 - Ongoing results suggest about 75-80% of questions usable across Europe
- TAE will present results of own survey of trainees success/views later today

Conclusion 1

- The best way forward is improved training standards across Europe including:
 - Accreditation/inspection of training centres
 - Trained trainers
 - Training portfolio/logbook
 - Workplace based assessments (skills, behaviour)
 - Regular formative reviews (currently 11/17 yearly)
 - Locally appropriate and objective formative and summative examinations

Conclusion 2

- A computer based “best of 5” MCQ is the best way to test certain domains of knowledge
- Some aspects of knowledge and skills could be tested by OSCE type examination (for future)
- Behaviour and on-job performance can only be tested in the workplace
- Development of European examination requires significant resources

Conclusion 3

- UEMS/ESCMID to form project to:
 - Develop package of training & workplace standards
 - Develop optional European knowledge examination (MCQ)
 - Explore OSCE style examination
 - Assess and amend recommendations for compulsory/optional European specialist assessment process including examinations



UEMS Infectious Diseases

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Documents and Forms

Lancet Infectious Diseases 2011: Professional challenges and opportunities in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases in Europe by R.C. Read (linked to PubMed)

ESCMID workshop - ID training (not linked)

Chapter 6, European Training Programme Infectious Diseases

Survey 2006-2007, ID training programmes in Europe (not linked)

Training Logbook Infectious Diseases

Educational Supervisor Report Infectious Diseases

CME Guidelines Infectious diseases, September 1999

EACCME European Accreditation for Continuing Medical Education

A presentation at ECCMID held in April 2012 by Dr Nick Beeching (Liverpool, UK) on "The Role of UEMS Infectious Diseases" can be downloaded here.

[Infectious Disease Training Curriculum & Assessment Issues for UEMS/ESCMID \(Briefing paper presented to the ESCMID](#)

www.uems-id.eu/index.php/resources

References

Read RC *et al.* Professional challenges and opportunities in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases in Europe. *Lancet ID* May 2011;11(5):408-15

Cooke FJ *et al.* Postgraduate training in infectious diseases: investigating the current status in the international community. *Lancet ID* 2005 Jul;5(7):440-9

ID Specialty Certificate Examination in UK

www.mrcpuk.org/mrcpuk-examinations/specialty-certificate-examinations/specialties/infectious-diseases

UK web resources for terminology

Specialty training curricula in infectious diseases and in tropical medicine

www.jrcptb.org.uk/trainingandcert/ST3-SpR/Pages/Infectious-Diseases.aspx

Glossary of terms used including competency assessments

<http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/about-us/Pages/Glossary-of-Terms.aspx>

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ESCMID & other web resources

Curricula for ID and Clinical Microbiology

www.escmid.org/profession_career/speciality_training/

Trainee Association of ESCMID (TAE)

http://www.escmid.org/profession_career/trainee_association_of_escmid/

UEMS Section of Medical Microbiology

<http://www.uems-smm.org>



Thank you