

## Report:

### **EuSEM Federation Presidents Meeting: Stockholm, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

#### Introduction:

The Specialty of Accident and Emergency Medicine was recognized in Malta in 1997 when the government approved the post of a Director Emergency Services. In 1999 the first official training posts in the specialty came out and in 2004 (when Malta joined the EU) the specialty was included in the first national register of recognized medical specialties.

Huge efforts were put in by a number of doctors who wanted the specialty to progress. A lot of work was invested in establishing structured training and recruitment of new trainees. Major stumbling blocks were lack of a curriculum, few senior doctors to train, unpopular shift hours and the relative lower wages when compared to that of other doctors who work longer hours.

In January 2008 the official and national training curriculum and criteria for career progression were established. We also changed our shift hours. These two changes proved to be big incentives and attracted a number of new trainees. The official training program comprises of 2 years Basic Specialty Training (BST) which have to be completed by the passing an examination (Membership of College of Emergency Medicine UK). Successful BST is certified by a Certificate of Completion of Basic Emergency Medicine Training (CCBEMT). Trainees then go on to 4 years of Higher Specialty Training (HST) with yearly appraisals. Successful HST is certified by a Certificate of Completion of Specialty Training (CCST) in EM and specialists become registered in the national register.

In 2008 trainees from the 'older system of career progression' were assimilated in the new scheme and new ones were accepted. Since then four HST trainees completed their training and were awarded the CCST and two BST trainees

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progressed to HST. A number of other trainees are in the first or second year of their BST.

Present Manpower:

- 5 Consultants
- 4 Resident Specialists
- 2 HST trainees
- 14 BST trainees

Interviews for a 6<sup>th</sup> consultant post were completed this week and results are pending.

Plan is to increase the consultant pool so as to cover more hours in the ED.

Training:

A lot of time and efforts are dedicated to training with regular tutorials, work place based assessments and continuing medical education meetings. All this training is logged by the trainees and appraised at the end of each year.

This year the government issued an official post of a Training Coordinator in EM. Results of interviews are pending. Once this person is officially elected it is envisaged that training improves and a new budget will help its further development.

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### Website:

The official website of the AEPM.GMTE was launched this summer. We hope to make this a tool for e-learning and we are already using it as an important means of communication to our members.

### Vision:

- We plan to continue with regular recruitment of trainees with the main aim of having all permanent posts filled in by EM specialists (a total of 36). Eventually we want to expand the consultant coverage.
- We plan to improve our training further by having a dedicated training coordinator and overseer.
- We plan to invest in e – learning and Ultrasound learning and we are at the moment exploring a number ways. One Resident Specialist has just started studying for an M.Sc. Course in Ultrasound at King’s College London.
- We are in discussions with the government and medical union regarding better wages.

### Expectations:

We would like to see the development of a European Diploma in EM and we will be ready to adopt this in our training system. At the moment we lack an exit exam but we would like to adopt an internationally recognized one.



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