

To the president of the national society of neurology

Vienna, 19 November 2020

Re: Call for participants in the European Board Exam in Neurology

Dear Colleague,

This letter is intended to inform you about the European examination for neurologists and to encourage you to send candidates, especially those who have completed their training, to take this international exam in 2021.

Although opinions about a united Europe may differ, mobility on our continent continues to grow, leading to an increasing migration of patients and doctors across European borders. Scientific, health and educational cooperation within Europe facilitates medical-scientific research and should promote patient care at the highest level.

The *European Academy of Neurology* (EAN) is responsible for supporting the realisation of most of these ideals in the field of neurology. The *European Board of Neurology* (EBN), as part of the *Union of European Medical Specialists* (UEMS), promotes the highest level of neurological patient care by safeguarding the professional and ethical status of neurological specialists and harmonising training programs for neurologists in Europe.

The European Board Exam in Neurology is organised by the UEMS-EBN in collaboration with the EAN. The examination consists of a theoretical and a practical part and takes place once a year at the EAN Congress venue. We are anxious for meeting the high demands of this exam.

Assessment is an integral part of a training program and a logical step towards harmonisation is the development of a European Neurology Examination. Such an examination is primarily intended to test neurologists at the end of their training but could also be used by other participants for self-assessment in reflective practice and to inform on their own medical training needs. Continent-wide board exams have been standard practice in the United States for many years, and Europe should also aspire to this.

Several medical specialties, anesthesiology as one of the forerunners, already offer annual European-wide examinations, taken by thousands of candidates who set a harmonised level for their specialists, contributing to quality care in this field throughout Europe and facilitating migration for professionals wishing to move within Europe. Although such European examinations currently have no legal status, national authorities increasingly recognise some of them as equivalent to their national examination.

Since 2009, the European Board of Neurology has offered an annual examination for neurologists. Those who successfully pass their assessments receive a certificate confirming their award through our examination.

Examination questions and clinical assessment tasks are very carefully prepared by neurologists from across Europe, with important input and support from the EAN, including European guidelines and learning resources, leading to a level and variety of topics that cannot easily be achieved within the borders of a nation.

Several national neurological societies in Europe support us and encourage neurologists to take the exam at the end of their training, and in some cases even financially support their candidates in taking the EBN exam. In some countries, the EBN exam becomes the exit exam for trainees in neurology. In other countries, accreditation can be recognised for those candidates who have passed the exam (which makes the exam attractive to local neurologists as well).

The coronavirus outbreak has forced us to quickly transform the European Board of Neurology face-to-face exam into a supervised online exam that also includes a multiple choice test and open book questions. In a few weeks we will provide more detailed information about the exam on the UEMS European Board of Neurology website and the EAN website.

This letter is a request to stimulate neurologists or residents of your country at the final stage of their training to take the EBN examination and, if appropriate, to support their participation. Details on the 13th European Board examination in Neurology can be found on our website (www.uems-neuroboard.org).

From now we offer a package deal with a reduction of 10% to societies sending 20 candidates or more at once. Furthermore, individual candidates applying for the exam will get a reduction of 10-20% on the fee of the EAN-congress independent of their achievement on the exam.

Please forward this letter to the heads of the neurological training centers in your country.
For further information or clarification, please contact us (j.b.m.kuks@umcg.nl).

Best wishes,

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President UEMS-EBN

Prof Dr. D.B. Vodusek
EAN Chair Joint Educational Board

Prof. Dr. C. Bassetti
President EAN

Prof. Dr. J.B.M. Kuks
EBN Chair Joint Educational Board
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