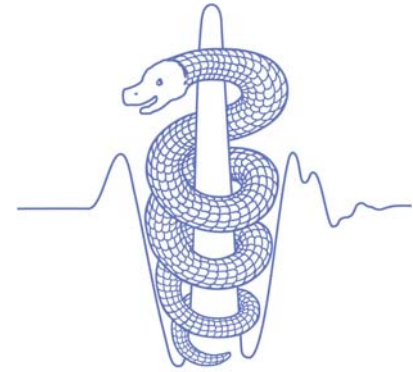


EFSUMB Newsletter

European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology



Newsletter Editorial for EFSUMB



Obviously my pleas for items for the newsletter seem to have started to bear fruit. Following two excellent articles in the last Newsletter we have another two items of interest for this one. Ioan Sporea who many of you will know is the director of the WFUMB Centre of Excellence in Romania has written an article about his centre and the Euroson Schools in Romania which continue to be very successful and have given much needed training to many doctors in that Country. Jouko Pirhonen has written an account of the Norwegian Society Annual Meeting. They seem to have made what for them is a historic decision. Certainly for those of us lucky enough to be able to travel to meetings of other societies it is always very interesting to hear both how similar the pro-

blems are in different countries but sometimes how a major issue in one country is of less importance than another and vice versa.

As well as the planning for Euroson 2007 in Leipzig which is well advanced thoughts are already being given to changes in the various committees of the European Federation. The cycle of events has changed from a three yearly one to a two yearly one so that there will be widespread changes in the Executive Bureau, the Board of Directors and the various committees. EFSUMB can only flourish with volunteers from member societies in all parts of Europe. I hope that as last time there are many nominations for the various committees to ensure the continuing development of the influence of EFSUMB on matters relating to ultrasound across Europe.

Well the holiday season is upon us and will be well advanced when you read this. I hope you all have a pleasant time whatever you are doing.

David Pilling
Editor EFSUMB Newsletter

Romania - Timosora

The World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB) Centre of Excellence



The ultrasound world is a special one. For medical practice the ultrasound examination is sometimes the "third hand" of the clinician. Many specialties use this tool for improving diagnosis. On the other hand it is an operator dependent method and needs a learning curve in order to be used at the highest level. That is why teaching programmes are very important in this field.

The World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology - WFUMB and also the European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology - EFSUMB understand the need for education in the field of ultrasound and the importance of an organized unitary system of teaching. Thus, WFUMB support the formation and development of Centre of Excellence to support education and training in ultrasound.

The Timisoara's Ultrasound Learning Centre had the honour to become a WFUMB Center of Excellence from 16th September 2006. We would like to take this opportunity to present our Ultrasound Learning Centre.

In Romania Prof. Gheorghe Badea (from the University of Medicine Cluj) performed the first abdominal ultrasound examinations in 1978. In Timisoara ultrasound examinations started in 1984 undertaken by Prof. Ioan Sporea, Prof. Gheorghe Gluhovschi and Petru Boiboreanu. In 1987 the first ultrasound practical courses were organized in Timisoara, and since 1992 we have organised two theoretical and practical ultrasound courses of three months duration every year.

Up to now more than 800 physicians have started their ultrasound experience at Timisoara's Ultrasound Learning Centre. Prof. Ioan Sporea, head of the centre, Mi-rela Danila, Roxana Sirli, Adriana Tudora and Alina Popescu, form the faculty of the centre. The centre organizes two courses every year of general ultrasound for three months each, a month course of interventional ultrasound and two weeks courses on FAST (Focused Abdominal Ultrasound in Trauma) ultrasound.

The participants on the courses benefit also from the educational materials of the centre: books, videotapes and educational CD's and DVD's. The educational web site of the centre allows ultrasound practitioners to present their experience and to learn from others (www.sonotm.ro).

In 2001 the centre organised the first Euroson School (Small Parts Ultrasound) in Romania in conjunction with the Romanian National Conference of Ultrasound.

In 2008 we shall be the host of the most prestigious European ultrasound meeting - EUROSON 2008, and we use this oppor-

tunity to invite every one to take part in this important event and to enjoy Romanian hospitality.

*Ioan Sporea,
Head of the Department of Gastroenterology, University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Victor Babes" Timisoara*

NFUD goes its own way

The Norwegian Ultrasound Society (NFUD) was founded 31 years ago, and it has been since then a part of Norwegian Medical Association (NMA). In the beginning the vast majority of members were licensed physicians, mostly gynaecologists, radiologists or intern medicines. However, the number of paramedics in our society has been increasing constantly, and today around half of the 230 members are not physicians but midwives, engineers, etc.

Based on rules of the NMA, an associated society of NMA such as NFUD cannot, have members other than physicians. This has led to a situation where these non-phy-

sician members have not been able to vote in general meetings nor be members of the Board.

After a long discussion in the Board over many years, we felt that the situation was ready for a historical change. We had several meetings with the Norwegian Medical Association with the aim of remaining a part of NMA due to some advantages for doctors i.e. membership registry, a member is informed automatically of the possibility of commenting on new documents, and possibility of covering the costs of medical congresses with NMA fund money.

However, the NMA did not want to change its rules, and denied those other than physicians membership of a society like NFUD. The NFUD tried to come to a compromise with NMA so that paramedics could be qualified members with some restrictions (only physicians have the right to vote on "medical problems", physicians should always have at least 50 % of Board members etc) but even this suggestion was blocked by the NMA.

The annual NFUD meeting took place this year in the lovely city of Bergen on the western coast of Norway. On Friday 27th of April, in the late afternoon of the second day of the meeting, members gathered for the general assembly. The main interest was focused on the relation between NFUD and NMA. Arguments for and against were widely discussed, and both opinions had its supporters. Finally it was time for election. In order to leave the NMA at least 2/3 of the qualified members had to vote for that. In closed election voted 90 % for leaving the associated membership in the NMA, 5 % did not vote for or against whereas 5 % wanted continue as before.

After the historical decision a new board was elected, and for the first time midwives as well as engineers will be a part of the board.

Jouko Pirhonen NFUD



NFUD goes its own way