

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF INBORN ERRORS OF METABOLISM

EDUCATION AND TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ETAC)

1. Paediatric Metabolic Medicine (PMM) is now a recognised subsection of the Confederation of European Specialists of Paediatrics (CESP) which is section of Union of European Medical Specialists (UEMS). The application document is available to anyone who wishes to read it. The SSIEM is delegated to monitor training of paediatric metabolic medicine within the EU.
2. The long term goal is the harmonisation of training and assessment throughout the EU so that there is a uniform (high) standard.
3. A condition of this recognition of the sub-speciality is that the SSIEM has to set up a committee to monitor the education and training in PMM throughout the EU and EFTA . The work of this committee will gradually develop. The committee will have one members from each country that wish to be represented (including countries outside the EU and EFTA). Members will be encouraged to nominate a deputy if for any reason they cannot represent their country. The committee will be able to co-opt members as the need arises.
4. The committee will work with local (*see note below) committees. The status of these committees will need to be clarified. The important point is whether they are official and recognised by the authorities or are they unofficial with no statutory position.

* Note: In this document local committee means the local national committee or representative body.

5. This committee will ultimately be responsible for assessing all aspects of training and education within the speciality. This will include
 - Assessment of trainees
 - Assessment of training programmes
 - Recognition of teachers and training centres
 - Recognition of courses

These will need to be integrated with the local arrangements. It is recognised that these may differ widely and that complex negotiations may be necessary.

5. Initially the committee will be responsible for
 - a. The syllabus and ensuring it is up-to-date.
 - b. Collection information about local training programmes and training centres
 - c. The establishment and recognition of training centres.
 - d. The recognition of courses suitable for training

Syllabus.

The syllabus has already been published on the SSIEM website. It will need to be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is kept up to date. No -one can cover the whole syllabus. There are core elements that must be covered. Non-core elements are indicated .

Training Programmes

The committee will start to collect information about local training programmes and trainee assessment. Even at this stage training programmes should aim to ensure the syllabus is covered. This may be a problem in small countries as experience may be limited. The authorities have to recognise any limitations and be prepared to fund training elsewhere. If there is insufficient experience in one country the importance

of obtaining experience abroad will need to be emphasised. Such work needs to be properly funded and the experience in another country recognised for training.

Training Centres.

Training centres will need to be approved. If there is already a robust scheme in a country for the recognition of training centres this will normally be accepted to avoid unnecessary duplication. For details of the proposed criteria see attached document.

1. The process is not intended to be in any way punitive but is intended to ensure the centre can meet the needs of the training programme. It will aim to resolve difficulties and should help to obtain more resources. The criteria for the recognition of a training centre have already been outlined in the original application but it will be necessary to refine these. The criteria will have to take account of the local set-up. For example there are no dieticians in some countries. There is no reason why two smaller centres that are geographically close should not combine to offer a training programme with a rotation of trainees.

2. Process.

a. Application for recognition must come from an appropriate body (preferably national), not from the centres themselves. This is to stop frivolous or inappropriate applications.

b. If the application accepted, applicants will then be asked to complete a form (outline attached)

c. The plan would then be a visit. The composition of the team has to be determined. Based on other specialities it would usually consist of the chairman of the Training Committee, a local specialist from another centre and a local general paediatrician. The composition of the committee may vary according to local needs. Particular problems may arise in small countries so it may need to be a neighbouring one.

d. The visit would normally start one afternoon and finish the following day. The documentation would be discussed and interviews held with senior staff, trainees and administrators. This latter may seem surprising but those who have done this type of visit have all said it is very helpful as it draws attention to problems and can be a real help to get more resources.

e. Someone will have to pay for all this and I think it will have to be the centre applying for recognition. It will have to include accommodation and fares.

Trainees

The committee will ultimately be responsible for the assessment of trainees.

Courses

1. The committee will consider application for the recognition of courses suitable for trainees and Continuous Professional development (CPD, also called Continuous Medical education- CME)

2. Criteria for recognition

- Subject appropriate for those working in Paediatric Metabolic Medicine
- Organisers must determine subjects and speakers, not any sponsors
- Meeting must be open and not by invitation only

