Accreditation of Medical Microbiology in an European perspective

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What is Medical Microbiology in Belgium?

- A not recognized medical speciality
- Performed by medical specialists in polyvalent laboratory medicine
- In the majority of the large laboratories a medical specialist in polyvalent laboratory medicine with special interest in medical microbiology is in charge of the laboratory
Clinical microbiology recognized as a medical speciality
yes (green), no (red), subspeciality only (yellow)

ESCMID News 3.2002
Training in medical microbiology in Belgium

• Duration of the training in polyvalent laboratory medicine is 5 years.
• During the training in polyvalent laboratory medicine 0.5 to 4 years are training in medical microbiology
• Training is offered to medical doctors and pharmacists
• There is no final examination
Duration of training in clinical microbiology in years
3 (yellow), 4 (orange), 5 (red)
Is the training in clinical microbiology offered exclusively to medical doctors?
Yes (green), no (red)
Is there a final examination before registration as clinical microbiologist?
Yes (green), no (red)
Questionnair professional affairs
2008: new questions

• Continuing medical education (CME) ?
• Lack of clinical microbiologists ?
• Official training curriculum
• Clinical practice is mandatory part of the curriculum ?
• Postgraduate courses offered for clinical microbiology ?
• Model for regular inspection of training centres ?
• Need for re-certification ?
Arguments pro a recognized speciality “clinical microbiology”

• New possibilities to organise the training in clinical microbiology
  – Clinical practice as a mandatory part of the curriculum
  – Final attainment level can be defined
  – Curriculum is no longer 5 separate years but one unit with different subunits
  – …
Arguments pro a recognized speciality “clinical microbiology”

• A more attractive medical speciality for young medical doctors because:
  – Better scientific training
  – More recognized as a Consultant for other medical specialists
  – Oriented towards the future
  – Free movement to other European countries
  – …
Arguments pro a recognized speciality “clinical microbiology”

• Better organized laboratories because:
  – More and excellent trained new clinical microbiologists available
  – More possibilities to implement new techniques
  – Better networking between hospitals
  – …
Arguments **pro** a recognized speciality “clinical microbiology”

- Better care for the patient because better trained microbiologists are probably better armed to:
  - Improve diagnosis of infectious diseases
  - Optimize use of antibiotics
  - Prevent spread of multi-resistant micro-organisms
  - Manage a laboratory
  - …
Arguments contra a recognized speciality “clinical microbiology”

• Clinical microbiology will be too small to survive
• Polyvalent laboratory medicine is still necessary
• Collaboration with other specialists in polyvalent laboratory medicine will be more difficult
• Practical aspects:
  – Organizing a guard duty for clinical microbiology
  – Clinical microbiology in smaller laboratories
  – ...
• Clinical microbiologists are not smarter than other specialists in polyvalent laboratory medicine
CHANGE
WE CAN BELIEVE IN

OBAMA 08
Before we have a change …

• We will need to convince a lot of people of art. 3.2 of the statutes of SBICM-BVIKM
Art. 3. De vereniging heeft tot doel:
2. de belangstelling van elke persoon of elke instelling voor de infectiologie en de klinische microbiologie te steunen en te stimuleren, meer bepaald:
   a. de erkenning van de infectiologie en de microbiologie als autonome specialiteiten in het Belgische en Europese kader actief te steunen;

Art. 3. L'association a pour but :
2. d'encourager et de stimuler l'intérêt de toute personne ou de toute institution pour l'infectiologie et la microbiologie, plus particulièrement:
   a. encourager activement la reconnaissance de l'infectiologie et de la microbiologie en tant que spécialités autonomes dans les cadres belge et européen;
Parties concerned in professional affairs clinical microbiology in Belgium

• Training and education:
  – Commission for recognition of medical specialists in polyvalent laboratory medicine
  – Training centres
  – Universities and scientific institutes
  – Scientific societies, including SBIMC-BVIKM

• Pressure groups:
  – Unions
  – Belgian union of medical specialists in medical biopathology
  – SBIMC-BVIKM

• Recognition of medical specialities:
  – High Council for medical specialists and general practitioners

• Federal government
  – BAPCOP
Parties concerned in professional affairs Clinical Microbiology in Europe

- European Community
- UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists)
  - Section of Medical Biopathology
    - Division medical microbiology
  - Section of Medical Microbiology
    - since April 2008
    - Vote: in favour 22 countries, against 4 and 2 abstentions
Harmonizing the profile of the specialty in the EU

Define the elements of a modern training programme for residents to make them fit for specialist tasks
1st Stage: Themes in Microbiology

- Microbiology
  - Bacteriology
  - Virology
  - Mycology
  - Parasitology
    - Hospital Hygiene & Infection Control
    - Clinical Liaison & Consultancy
    - Laboratory Diagnosis
    - Public Health
    - Scientific Development & Education
    - Management
2nd stage: specialty specific competences (UEMS 2005)

- Scientific basis of clinical microbiology
- Laboratory safety
- Sterilisation and Disinfection
- Handling of specimens
- Microscopy
- Culture methods
- Further processing of cultures
- Antimicrobial investigations
- Molecular microbiology and emerging technologies
- Typing techniques
- Data handling
- Clinical experience
- Antimicrobial usage
- Results reporting
- Quality control
- Audit and clinical governance
- Accreditation

3rd stage: logbook

Knowledge Skills Attitude
Conclusion

• Belgium has had en still has a lot of world class medical microbiologists but …
• If we want to guarantee the future of medical microbiology we must have a change.
• The new section for Medical Microbiology of UEMS will activate in Europe harmonization of medical microbiology.
• It is the duty of SBIMC-BVIKM to actively participate in this process.
• A working party on professional affairs is the best way to realise this objective
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