

## Newsletter - June 2023

The European Section and Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (ESBGH) is celebrating the new Blue Book 2023 and the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of ESEGH

### ESBGH – Spring meeting 2023

The Section & Board meets twice a year, in the Spring meeting usually as guests of one of our member/associate countries and in the Autumn, before the UEGW. This year we met in Antalya, thanks to the generous hospitality of our Turkish colleagues Nurdan Tozun and Sedat Boyacioglu and of the Turkish Society of Gastroenterology. The location, the organization and the attention to details were excellent and we enjoyed the work as well as the opportunity to explore Antalya's old town and the Archeological Museum. A warm welcome indeed!

### Blue Book 2023

With the collaboration of our delegates and the representative of EJD (European Junior Doctors), the revised Blue Book was finished in Autumn 2022 and submitted to UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists) for approval. Consultation on the document was held with UEG (United European Gastroenterology) representing the Scientific Societies. Suggestions were made by several specialties and the UEMS' ETR committee, which were addressed in the final document before submitting at the UEMS Council, on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, with overwhelming approval!

The Blue Book – European Training Requirements in Gastroenterology and Hepatology – was recognized as a necessity more than 2 decades ago, as many European countries didn't have a National Training Program in Gastroenterology and among the others, there were very different Training Programs.

With the aim of harmonizing training in Gastroenterology, the first Blue Book was written in 2001 and contained criteria for Certification of Training (Fellowship), criteria for training centers and faculty, instruction on site-visits and criteria of training.

The revised Blue Book 2008 had a more professional editing, but much similar contents.

A landmark revision was made in 2012, under the leadership of Luke O'Donnell. Improved definitions, a complete training curriculum as well as advanced modules on hepatology, nutrition, oncology, and endoscopy were described.

Another landmark revision made under the leadership of Ian Barrison was presented at the UEMS Council in Tel Aviv, in 2017. This was considered one of the best ETRs ever presented and an example to be followed by other specialties. It contained requirements for trainer, trainee, and training center, definitions of organization of training, supervision of training as well as revised advanced modules for hepatology, endoscopy, nutrition, and oncology. There was also a recommendation to sit the knowledge European Exam, the ESEGH.

However, harmonization is difficult to achieve, as showed in our latest query about training in gastroenterology, which still showed differences in several aspects, such as overall years of training, years of training in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology, access, evaluation and so forth.

The Blue Book 2023 includes an overall update, clearer separation between advanced endoscopy and oncology and modern evaluation of competence, including DOPs, EPAs, evaluation of levels of competence and, of course, the ESEGH. It collects important news in areas such as gut-brain interactions, visceral hypersensitivity, the gut microbiome, GI dysmotility, inflammatory bowel disease, advanced hepatology, and advanced endoscopy. It strongly suggests that training should take place in training centers accredited by national authorities as well as by the ESBGH.

### ESEGH 2023 – 10<sup>th</sup> edition!

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the ESEGH (European Specialty Examination in Gastroenterology and Hepatology) took place on 6 April.

A total of 561 candidates, the largest number so far, completed both sessions, 149 of those sitting in European centers other than the UK.

Performance of candidates:

The group of 561 candidates had a mean score of 64.3%.

156 candidates declared that they were trained in the UK and their scores have a mean of 65.9%.

149 candidates sat in European centers other than the UK, their mean score was 66,7%.

We aim to expand the ESEGH to other countries and more trainees in the future!