



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



BETWEEN:

1. **UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists)**, an international non-for-profit organisation incorporated under the laws of Belgium, having its registered seat at 24 Rue de l'Industrie, Brussels 1040 Belgium, AISBL no 469067848, acting through its Specialist Section of ORL (Oto-Rhino-Laryngology), hereby validly represented by members of the Board Prof. John Fenton, Mr Adrian Agius, and Dr Joachim Wichmann;

Hereafter: "UEMS-ORL"

and

2. **UEP (Union of the European Phoniatricians)**, a non-governmental European scientific society incorporated under the laws of Finland, having its registered seat at The National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland, Sörnäisten ranta 13 C, 00091 PRH Helsinki, Finland, hereby validly represented by Prof. Tadeus Nawka;

Hereafter: "UEP"

The parties sub (1) and (2) shall hereafter be referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties".

RECITALS

The UEMS-ORL and the UEP are active in areas relevant to the quality of medical specialist practice in Phoniatrics in Europe and the quality of care for the benefit of European patients. The Parties are willing to create a partnership that will promote and facilitate their activities in this area.

The overall goal of collaboration and cooperation is to define joint actions, to achieve the best possible outcomes and to increase the visibility of both parties.

The parties seek through this Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") to define their partnership, to explore and to develop new opportunities following their objectives and competence. Through this MoU, the Parties also aim to establish efficient and transparent communication between them.

THE PARTIES DECLARE THAT

1. SCOPE

This MoU outlines the principles of cooperation and collaboration between the UEMS-ORL and the UEP.

2. INTENTION OF THE PARTIES

The Parties acknowledge that this MoU does not, and is not meant to, constitute a legally binding agreement between them. Whenever an activity undertaken by both Parties would require a formal legal framework, Parties will conclude a formal, legally binding agreement.

The non-binding relationship between the UEMS-ORL and the UEP governed by this MoU is that of independent contractors. Nothing contained in this document will be construed as constituting any other relationship between the Parties.

This MoU does not prevent or limit UEP or UEMS-ORL to enter agreements with other parties. Both Parties declare that they will not enter agreements that would jeopardise or invalidate this MoU, and whenever reasonable doubt would arise as to whether a new agreement is likely to conflict with this MoU, the Parties will communicate and strive to resolve outstanding issues.

3. INTERNAL POLICIES

Subject to the terms of this MoU, the implementation and pursuit of the goals, objectives, conditions and terms of this collaboration will be carried out following the internal policies and procedures of each Party.

4. SCOPE OF COMPETENCIES AND ROLES

a) UEP

According to its articles of association, the UEP mission is to exchange expert knowledge, clinical experience and scientific work in Phoniatrics, the medical (sub-)specialty dealing with the study, assessment and (surgical) treatment of voice, speech, language, hearing, and swallowing disorders.

To achieve this goal, the key activities of the UEP include:

- promoting the cooperation of phoniatricians in Europe, its neighbouring countries and those countries who have put the European model of Phoniatrics into practice
- Informing continuously about relevant congresses, meetings, and summer schools
- harmonising of the training programs in Europe
- developing of concerted training standards, to gain a high quality of phoniatric care for all European patients
- functioning as an umbrella for all European colleagues, giving information and advice in cases of professional problems
- realising these tasks in cooperation with the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS.)

b) UEMS-ORL

According to its articles of association, the UEMS-ORL objectives are to promote the harmonisation of training standards for ORL specialists within the European Union. The UEMS is independent of the medical industry to assure unbiased position in areas of medical politics and accreditation of CME.

The key activities of the UEMS include:

- Political lobbying (European Commission, Parliament, Support of NMAs);
- Standard setting for specialist training and practice;
- Accreditation of continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD).

The UEMS members are 37 National Medical Associations, Specialist Sections, their Divisions and Boards, and Multidisciplinary Joint Committees are UEMS bodies created to promote and defend the interests of medical specialists in their respective fields and to improve the quality of medical specialist training and practice at the European level.

5. MUTUAL RECOGNITION

Each Party acknowledges the competencies of the other, according to its articles of association.

Each Party acknowledges that the other is an essential partner in the development and improvement of the quality of the medical specialist practice of ORL and Phoniatrics in Europe. Parties recognise that their continued collaboration should be a crucial and integral element to the future success of both organisations and their members.

6. AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UEMS-ORL AND THE UEP

Parties undertake to collaborate to achieve the objectives of mutual interest.

The areas of collaboration between the UEMS-ORL and the UEP can include, but shall not be limited to:

- Elaboration of European phoniatic training curriculum
- Organisation of European phoniatic examinations
- Organisation of visitation programs
- Development and promotion of high-quality, unbiased CME/CPD
- Setting European standards of phoniatic practice
- Monitoring status of ORL and Phoniatrics and developments in the specialist practice of ORL and Phoniatrics in European and other countries
- Lobbying efforts
- Provision of joint opinion and statements to the EU institutions
- Networking between specialities
- Engagement with:
 - trainee representatives
 - patients organisations

The UEMS-ORL and the UEP commit to working in close cooperation and actively exchanging information that is either of common interest or might be of significance to both organisations and their members or both.

Parties recognise that:

- each Party is a key partner in areas of collaboration described in this document;
 - UEP expertise concentrates on the organisation of CME/CPD, scientific research, development of practice guidelines and standards, and the organisation of the European Examinations
 - UEMS-ORL expertise focuses on accreditation of CME/CPD, elaboration of Training Requirements and curricula and organisation of European Examinations.

Parties agree to involve the other Party when elaborating major policy documents at the earliest possible stage of the process to receive its input.

7. EUROPEAN BOARD

The UEMS-ORL and the UEP acknowledge that the European Board is the framework for cooperation and the forum for discussion between representatives of both Parties. The UEP recognises that the European Board in ORL is a UEMS body and should follow the rules of the UEMS described in its Statutes and Rules of Procedures.

The Parties will closely cooperate to establish an adequate representation of each Party in European Boards.

8. COMMUNICATION

The UEMS-ORL will be in charge of contact with the UEP in all matters regarding areas of cooperation defined in this MoU, including notifications to the UEMS Executive, other UEMS bodies and the UEMS constituency. This MoU does not change the UEMS representation rules described in statutory documents or waive information and approval duties of the UEMS-ORL Section.

The UEP will communicate with UEMS-ORL in all matters regarding areas of cooperation defined in this MoU.

The UEP and the UEMS-ORL will each appoint a person for all contacts with the other party. Should there be a change in each Party's contact person, the partner shall inform each other as soon as possible.

Both parties will provide a link on their website to the other's website.

Official announcement

An official announcement of the present agreement will be made on both Parties' websites as a joint statement by the UEMS and the UEP after the signature of the contract. The statement will also be circulated to both Parties' constituency.

9. REPRESENTATION

The President of the UEP or an appointed representative of the UEP is invited to take part in the UEMS-ORL Section and Board meetings.

Likewise, the President of the UEMS-ORL Section and Secretary or another representative of the UEMS-ORL Section is invited to take part in General Assemblies of the Union of European Phoniatricians.

10. FUNDING

This MoU does not include the exchange of funds between parties.

11. MODIFICATION

This MoU can be modified or amended only by writing signed by both parties.

12. TERM AND TERMINATION

This MoU is concluded for an indefinite period.

13. EFFECTIVITY

This MoU is effective immediately upon the signature of all parties hereto.

Date: 8. October 2022



UEMS-ORL Section
Prof. John Fenton (President)



Union of European Phoniatricians
Prof. Tadeus Nawka


Mr Adrian M Agius (General Secretary)
Dr Joachim Wichmann (Treasurer)