

Sophia Antipolis, 11 October 2016

To the attention of: Presidents and Chairpersons of the National Cardiac Societies, ESC Associations, ESC Councils and ESC Working Groups.

Subject: Accreditation of Educational Programmes in Cardiology

Dear Presidents and Chairpersons,

As we all know, Education is at the core of ESC's Mission. In an effort to pursue excellence and provide the best learning experience to the highest possible standards, all ESC Educational Programmes are submitted for evaluation and accreditation.

Until now, the ESC was seeking accreditation through the European Board for Accreditation in Cardiology (EBAC), as they were working in accordance with UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists) standards. We were informed, in July this year, that the UEMS did not recognise EBAC accreditation activities anymore. This decision is directly impacting the value of the Continuing Medical Education (CME) points delivered.

Subsequently, the creation of an ESC Council on Standards of Education and Accreditation was validated during the ESC General Assembly on 30 August 2016. In addition, ESC has reached an agreement with UEMS for the accreditation of educational programmes in Cardiology.

Decision: All ESC Educational Programmes (including ESC Associations, ESC Working Groups and ESC Councils) will therefore be submitted for accreditation to the UEMS directly, as of today.

This change is an opportunity for the ESC:

- The UEMS European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) provide accreditation services in the field of specialist medical education, for Live Educational Events as well as for E-Learning Modules, and delivers ECMECs (European CME Credits)
- CME Points delivered can be converted to American Credits (AMA Pra 1)
- UEMS-EACCME have recognition agreements with National Accreditation Authorities which should facilitate recognition of CME points nationally.

The ESC recommends that National Cardiac Societies make the most of this forward looking initiative and its opportunities.

Do not hesitate to contact your respective teams at the ESC, should you have any question on the above. In the meantime, we rely on your cooperation and collaboration, in the transition phase.

Best regards,

Jeroen Bax
ESC President

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ESC CEO

To reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in Europe

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