



## EUROPEAN BOARD OF PAEDIATRICS

### MINUTES

WINTER MEETING 2021

VIRTUAL DEC 4, 2021

10.00 – 11.30 CET

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*List of attendees that signed the register attached*

*Presentation [can be viewed here.](#)*

**1. Welcome and apologies by EBP Chair, Rob Ross Russell**

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The chairman of the European board of Pediatrics announced that this is officially his last report as chair of the EBP, and therefore requested to break the meeting into two parts with the permission of the audience:

Part I: the agenda as distributed before,

Part 2: EBP Exam update: reflecting on the success of the exam and to reminding the audience what an enormous piece of work this has been for EAP. Going forward, the exam component is being taken over by Peter Hoyer (who was voted in at the last meeting to be examination officer for the EBP Exam)

**3. Approval of Minutes of the previous EBP meeting (July 2021)**

No comments received, the minutes were approved

**4. Matters Arising**

No matters arose from the minutes.

**5. European Exam Update**

The most recent European exam: the third EBP exam took place on the 18th of November.

First round of exams in October 2020 had 107 applicants (79 European) representing some 18 different countries.

The second Exam in May 2021 had 98 applicants for the exam, 42 of whom were European with 22 countries represented in total.

In the last exam on 18<sup>th</sup> of November, there were 203 candidates, with 120 European trainees sitting the exam and applicants from thirty-two different countries, so we were delighted with those numbers, and I was also particularly delighted that it included countries from the Middle East, India from East Asia & Canada).

The numbers have not only held steady, but positively increased.

The chair expressed a word of thanks to the examiners (Examiners: Rob Ross Russell and Peter Hoyer).

The exam had 110 questions for exam three (in comparison to eighty questions for the first and around one hundred questions for the second exam). The aim is to have an average of 120 questions per exam.

There is quite complicated process for choosing exam questions to ensure that the breadth of questions is proportionate to the topics covered.

The team works with a blueprint that stipulates a proportion of questions that should come from each theme: general Pediatrics; specialist Pediatrics; on non-clinical issues; epidemiology; diagnosis or on treatment.

Exam duration: 2 hours (which may be insufficient, and a longer duration will be considered in future).

The exam was entirely online with remote proctoring: CYIM (who look after our question bank) contracted ProctorU to undertake the online invigilation.

Results were not yet finalized at the time of this meeting; the results are first sent through to Bern university who run a statistical analysis on the questions and send back a report recommending changes or commenting on those questions that are statistically concerning (8 questions were identified).

Final Marks and the pass mark will be determined early the following week.

There were two technical issues this time (vs. 18 during the first exam), both candidates had not successfully tested their equipment before the exam.

After discussion with CESMA, we agreed that applicants who experienced technical difficulties could retake the exam immediately and reset the account for both.

Some candidates were concerned that the proctoring process involved the use of software within private computers (to allow them to allow them to monitor the candidates and the taking a video film of candidates during the exam).

These concerns are taken seriously, although the plan for candidates to take the exam remotely continues.

We are planning a single, annual exam going forward.

## **6. EBP Learning Update**

This year the exam was preceded by an online learning course called Core Knowledge in Paediatrics and the chair thanked the organizers and the Scientific Committee: Francesca Seregini, Valentina Ferraro, and Kathy Gallagher.

There were 79 participants from 32 different countries, and it was a great course.

## **7. EACCME**

The chair thanked Anna Neves, who has been extremely supportive and helpful in working with EACCME, which includes the tedious work of reading numerous meetings and verifying materials (for example, looking for bias, assessing the speakers) and finally deciding whether it is a good activity.

## **8. UEMS Activities**

Another EBP Activity is course is training requirements: the section of Pediatrics must submit 14 different ETR's that they have to review frequently.

The chair thanked Berthold Koletzko and the Secondary-Tertiary Council for the enormous support .

## **9. Multidisciplinary joint committees**

The chair invited Pierre Andre Michaud to share a presentation on MJC's.

The multidisciplinary joint committee in Adolescent Medicine was created in 2019. In 2021 there were four Zoom meetings to facilitate the work of this committee.

The importance of really standing up for Paediatrics, especially in the UEMS, was emphasised, and the need to have an inclusive approach with new projects that allow paediatricians worldwide and in remote countries (like on the African Continent) to participate when undertaking joint ventures was mentioned.

## **10. Finance**

EBP Finances: when we set out, the EBP Exam team was given a project with a budget of €40,000. In 2020 the exam had profit of approximately €20,000, the two exams in 2021 brought in around €76,000 which is extremely encouraging.

EAP Learning (which is the app where case studies can be purchased) brought in €123 in 2020 and ~€1000 in 2021. The CKP course made approximately €4,500.

A large portion of the EBP exam cost is for secretariat services (approximately €22,000) and more funds are dedicated towards marketing, printing and sending of certificates (and resending certificates via courier, if they don't arrive).

The chair acknowledged the people who have been involved: Ana Neves (EACCME Accreditation), Pierre-Andre Michaud and Risto Lapatto (MJC participation), Liviana da Dalt, Valentina Ferraro, Karoly Illy, Alfred Tenore and Martin White. The enormous support from this group was invaluable.

## **11. Elections: Chair of the European Board of Paediatrics**

The chair invited Liviana da Dalt (nominee) to address the audience. Liviana introduced herself, thanked the EAP for the opportunity to submit her candidature for this challenging position and thanked the Italian Society for their support.

24 eligible voting delegates were present and cast a vote. The voting for EBP Chair is governed by UEMS regulations, meaning that only delegates from EU countries as per the rules of the UEMS are allowed to participate in the voting. Instructions were reiterated in the chat box.

Liviana da Dalt received 100% support for the position of chair of the EBP.

Liviana expressed her thanks to Rob Ross Russell, who will be supporting her and preparing her for the role.

## **12. Any other business:**

### **Part 2 of the agenda: EBP Exam update - reflecting on the success of the exam**

The Chair thanked the people who have made the exam possible and reiterated that he is enormously proud of what the exam has achieved.

The discussion was started with the famous quote from Isaac Newton (1675): " If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants" " before diving into the history of the exam, which goes back almost a decade.

In 2014, there was a critical vote approved by the General Assembly to establish the exam, but the preparation started many years prior to that already. Involved with the early development of the training requirements was the late Dr Elke Jaeger-Roman and there was a prominent involvement of primary care paediatricians in the initial development of the exam.

Martin White was also involved from the start and there were many members from Germany and Austria, including Peter Hoyer and Jean Christophe Mercier, who helped with the initial establishment of the exam.

The chair expressed a sincere thank you to all the above-mentioned parties. .

The EBP Exam has also resulted in new initiatives, like the Core Knowledge in Pediatrics (CKP) course.

Francesca Seregini, Valentina Ferraro (Italy) and Kathy Gallagher (Ireland) put together a scientific, virtual meeting. Each session was chaired by a senior clinician, but presentations were generally made by trainees that presented and discussed case studies. It was focused on the exam and the exam content. There were 79 participants, 13 experts and 23 speakers. The course will hopefully attract more participants in the following year. The course received good feedback and 80% said it was either useful or extremely useful.

The chair thanked the EAP Executive Committee members who were always supporting the Exams: Stefano del Torso and Adamos Hadjipanayis. Their support which led to the initial investment and the start of the project, was key to the successful establishment of the exam.

The chair thanked all the CESMA members that were involved and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in the UK and Dublin, that constantly supported and contributed to the exam by sharing their expertise and experience.

The chair then continued to elaborate on the contributors to the question bank and the complex question-setting process.

Every question that written is reviewed by a committee: it goes onto the platform for a first review with changes. There is then a second review and at each stage the question may be revised and sent back to the author. Reviews are performed by an international group to ensure

that the language is understandable, and that the options that are reflected within the question are universally acceptable.

The chair thanked Ann Garrot (LOW) for her invaluable administrative support and explained the time-consuming administrative processes, like collecting medical qualifications and letters from applicants' institutions and is sending out the certificates. Paragon's team was thanked for their contribution to the administration and the support that they offer Ann.

Charlotte Dennis (marketing and promotion on social media) was thanked for her help in promoting the exam and Tina (Bern University) for undertaking statistical analysis.

Martin White, Alfred Tenore and Peter Hoyer (examiners with Rob Ross Russell) were thanked for their contributions.

The chair elaborated on EAP Learning, the brainchild of Lenneke Schrier. About 50 case studies that were put together and published on the EAP learning application. Francesca Seregini (Italy) has gathered a further 29 cases for the application, and we hope to use case presentations from the CKP course as additional material. EAP Learning is a valuable and important tool.

Improvements to be made in the exam application process include automation and developing a more effective process of gathering data.

Question writing workshops could be considered in future to improve the quality of questions received, perhaps a smaller group of actual question writers could be appointed to filter thought the larger pool of questions received.

Reference material needs improving: the textbook that Alfred Tenore was involved with the European master class is no longer in print. There is an ongoing discussion with Elsevier (Publisher) on this matter, i.e., a European textbook to go hand in hand with the European exam (based on our core pediatric training) would be a really great addition to the EBP Exam. Promotion within Europe will continue, and broader promotion, in remote countries/ continents could slowly be introduced.

Liesbeth Siderius (participant) mentioned the importance of making the exam accessible and financially viable for participants in less developed parts of the world (especially since it is an online exam, and it will extend the EAP's reach to paediatricians and children that need it most). The chair expressed that he is in favour of trying to ensure that this exam is accessible at the lowest possible, reasonable price.

The chair expressed confidence in Liviana da Dalt and Peter Hoyer to continue the legacy and take the exam to new heights under their leadership.

Rob Ross Russell was thanked (and commended in the comment box) for the tremendous work that he had done for the EAP and the many years of service. The EAP president commented on his inclusive leadership style which inspired teamwork and his positive demeanour. He mentioned that Rob will be remembered as the person who managed to launch the EBP Exam. His continued involvement in EAP initiatives was welcomed.

National Delegates thanked Rob and all those involved for the enormous work accomplished. A special thanks was extended to Rob as EBP chair, thanking him for his unfailing commitment to the service of the child. Rob received a standing ovation, many expressions of gratitude. Rob was thanked for his extraordinary contribution in the EAP Executive Committee (where he was willing to conduct hard discussions on difficult topics) and for the time and resources and initiative which he put into the exam.

**Actions:**

- Request for questions: the chair requested that the 51 participants present each consider submitting three questions, it would be a great addition to the question repository already. The [guide on question writing](#) would be circulated after the meeting.
- Pierre Andre Andre's document " [Adolescent medicine health training objectives for European Paediatricians, October 2021](#)" will be circulated for comment (It is an extremely helpful We need clear instructions as how to design the questions you mentioned that you got to report on the quality of the question of the exam)

**List of Attendees that signed the online attendance register:**

Timestamp	Name	Surname	European Board of Paediatrics Session, 4 December from 10.00 to 11.30 CET (Chair: Dr. Robert Ross Russell)
2021/12/04 10:55:23 AM GMT+2	Rob	Ross Russell	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 10:57:23 AM GMT+2	Geitmann	Karin	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 10:58:50 AM GMT+2	Lars	Gelander	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:01:36 AM GMT+2	Mark	BUTTIGIEG	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:01:46 AM GMT+2	Risto	Lapatto	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:01:53 AM GMT+2	Arunas	Valiulis	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:01:58 AM GMT+2	Marina	Mamenko	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:02:58 AM GMT+2	Åłukasz	DembiÅłski	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:04:54 AM GMT+2	SÅłeyman	YÅłldÅłz	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:05:07 AM GMT+2	Karoly	Illy	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:05:41 AM GMT+2	Isabelle	Kieffer	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:19:35 AM GMT+2	FranÅłois	Angoulvant	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:19:51 AM GMT+2	Berthold	Koletzko	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:20:00 AM GMT+2	Chris	Pruunsild	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:20:02 AM GMT+2	Kaulfersch	Wilhelm	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:20:08 AM GMT+2	Mateja	Vintar Spreitzer	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:20:14 AM GMT+2	Liesbeth	Siderius	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:20:14 AM GMT+2	Natasa	Toplak	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:24:11 AM GMT+2	Joana	Rios	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:25:54 AM GMT+2	De guchtenaere	Ann	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:26:08 AM GMT+2	RUBEL	FRANCIS	I confirm my attendance
2021/12/04 11:27:43 AM GMT+2	Hoyer	Peter	I confirm my attendance

<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>11:27:52 AM</b>	Luis	Sanchez Santos	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>11:30:55 AM</b>	ANDREAS	KONSTANTOPOULOS	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>11:31:37 AM</b>	Ana	Neves	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>11:32:12 AM</b>	Artur	Mazur	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>11:38:11 AM</b>	Martin J	White	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>11:39:06 AM</b>	Aida	MujkiÄ†	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>11:40:09 AM</b>	Zeman	Jiri	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>11:52:25 AM</b>	Pilossoff	Vladimir	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>11:55:03 AM</b>	Leena	Patel	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>12:43:57 PM</b>	Mohamed	Mohamed	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>12:47:44 PM</b>	Mateja	Vintar Spreitzer	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>1:12:22 PM</b>	Ellen	Crushell	I confirm my attendance
<b>2021/12/04 GMT+2</b>	<b>1:13:22 PM</b>	Joe	Brierley	I confirm my attendance