



## The European Internal Medicine Curriculum

11<sup>th</sup> December 2015, Brussels



# Duration of Training and the Common Trunk

Runolfur Palsson, M.D., FACP, FASN  
EFIM President-Elect  
European Board of Internal Medicine

# Duration of training: Comments

## **Cyprus:**

- The proposition of the Cyprus Society of internal medicine is that a 5 year training should be required to become an internist, and a 4 year training of common trunk plus a 3 year training of a sub-specialty to become a dual specialist.

## **Czech Republic:**

- After careful consideration, we suggest to change the duration of training from 6 years (as currently proposed) to 5 years.
- Prolonging the duration of training may discourage junior physicians from choosing internal medicine.

## **Italy:**

- As SIMI, we agree with the 5 years training (not 6), and 2 years "common trunk".

# Duration of training: Comments

## **Portugal:**

- It is clear to us that the minimum required time of training in internal medicine should be 5 years.

## **Spain:**

- The document supports the core curriculum of 2 years and proposes a duration of 6 years (2+4) to complete the training in internal medicine. In Spain and Portugal, no specialty has this duration, and it seems infeasible to extend the training from 5 years to 6 years. So, we propose to maintain, in agreement with the current EU Directive 2005/36/EC, a training period of 5 years and the possibility to perform a subsequent training of 1-2 years of "expertise" in a specific area, thereby avoiding the risk that new specialties emerge (for instance, palliative care, geriatrics, emergency medicine, etc).

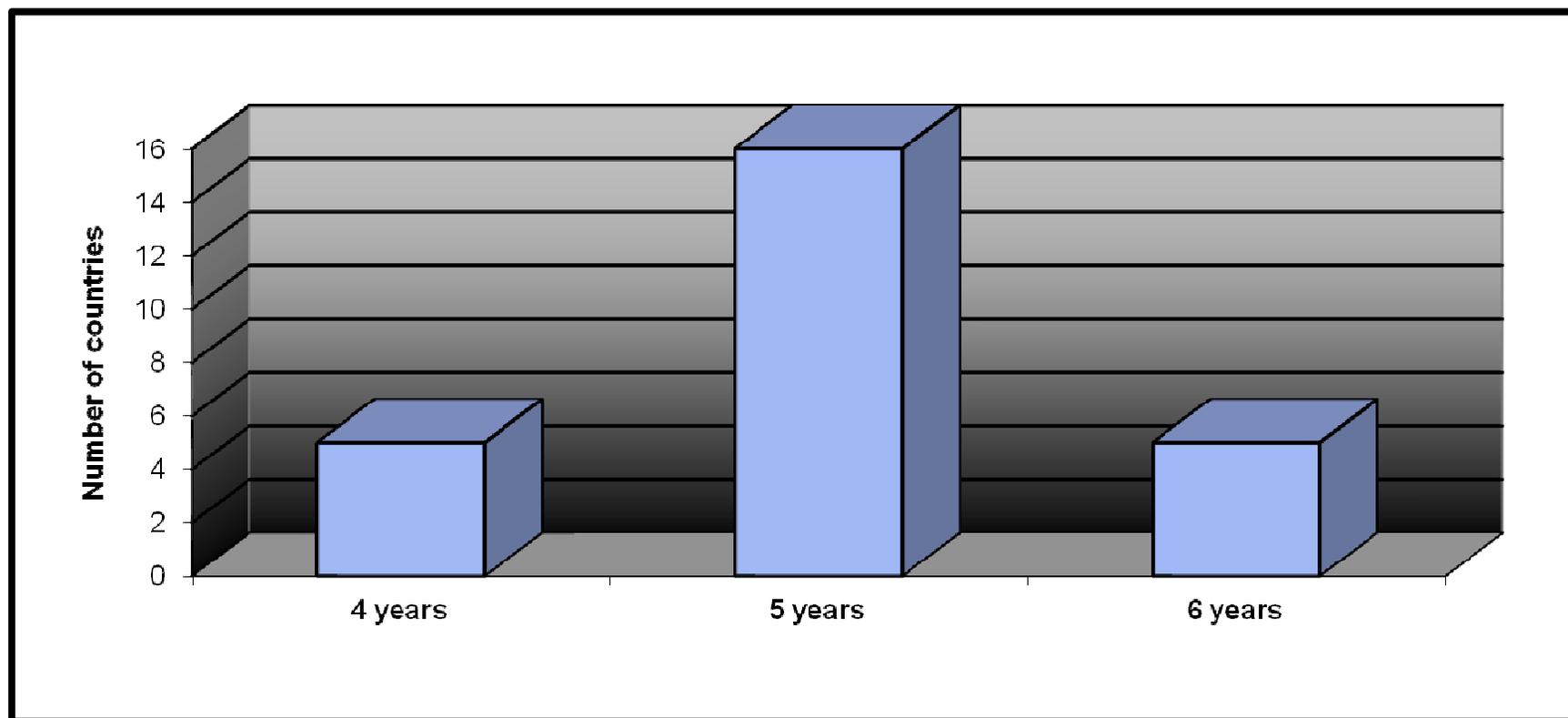
## **Turkey**

- We believe that a 6-year education will be too long for our country.

# Duration of training: Response to comments

- While the current minimum requirement for internal medicine certification is 5 years, the EBIM Curriculum Working Group has proposed to extend this to 6 years.
- The 7-year (minimum of 4 years of internal medicine) requirement is a proposal from the EBIM Curriculum Working Group which is in line with current practice in many countries that offer dual certification in internal medicine and a related specialty.
- The final verdict regarding minimum duration of training will depend on whether the European Commission decides to amend this item in Directive 2005/36/EC.

# Duration of training in internal medicine required for specialist certification



**DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**  
**of 7 September 2005**  
**on the recognition of professional qualifications**  
(Text with EEA relevance)

ANNEX V

Recognition on the basis of coordination of the **minimum** training conditions

V.1. DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Country	General (internal) medicine Minimum period of training: 5 years	Ophthalmology Minimum period of training: 3 years
---------	--	--



UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MÉDECINS SPÉCIALISTES  
EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Association internationale sans but lucratif

International non-profit organisation

RUE DE L'INDUSTRIE, 24  
BE- 1040 BRUSSELS  
[www.uems.eu](http://www.uems.eu)

T +32 2 649 51 64  
F +32 2 640 37 30  
info@uems.eu

Brussels, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015

To UEMS Specialist Sections and European Boards

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to you regarding the revision of Annex V of the Directive 2005/36/CE on the recognition of professional qualifications.

At the European level, specialist medical training was defined in terms of duration on the basis of the Annex 5.1.3 of Directive 2005/36. For some specialties, this regulation entered into force with the first sectorial “Doctors’ Directive” in 1975 and was never adapted since then.

We would like to kindly invite each UEMS Specialist Section to consider if amendments to the **title of specialty** and **duration of training** are needed. If so, please provide us with the proposal and the evidence to support it (survey on length of training in each country etc.). We would be very grateful if you could fill in the attached table and send it to the UEMS office ([lise@uems.eu](mailto:lise@uems.eu)) at your earliest convenience but not later than 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

Dr Romuald Krajewski  
*President*

Dr Edwin Borman  
*Secretary General*

PRESIDENT: DR ROMUALD KRAJEWSKI  
TREASURER: DR GIORGIO BERCHICCI

SECRETARY-GENERAL: DR EDWIN BORMAN  
LIAISON OFFICER: DR ZLATKO FRAS

# The common trunk: Comments

## **Portugal:**

- As it is depicted in the document, the Portuguese College of Internal Medicine Physicians is completely against this concept. The proposed common trunk (with a 2 year programme length) would allow internal medicine residents to spend 8 months (at best... in an internal medicine ward ... he/she should spend more time in the ward

## **UK:**

- Clarification is needed as to when the clock starts. It is assumed it could be from qualification. However, in the UK trainees do a 2 year Foundation Programme which, it is assumed, for the purposes of the European document, is not counted as training in GIM...

# The common trunk: Response to comments

- The common trunk consists of a combination of rotations in internal medicine wards, emergency medicine wards, ambulatory care clinics and medical specialties. The goal is to provide a broad experience in internal medicine. The UEMS endorses a common trunk for medical specialties.
- The number of years are counted from the onset of specialty training, so from the start of Core Medical Training in the UK. Each national authority needs to decide when specialty training begins, whether this occurs immediately after graduation from medical school or after an obligatory foundation training.