Secretary’s Report: The European Breast Exam

We are committed to delivering a European Breast Examination for 2021 after the disruption caused by COVID in 2020. We are planning for scenarios where things are either returning to normal in terms of international travel for both the MCQ and oral exams. However, we have robust contingency plans if travel restrictions are still in place. We have set up the standard exam sites for the MCQ for June in the hope that candidates are able to travel within their own country of origin and gather in socially distanced computer rooms in each national centre. However if such travel is not possible we will allow candidates to nominate their local hospital or university as exam centre and will monitor the exam remotely.

For the orals, we have made arrangements for a face to face exam following the ESSO Advanced Breast Course in Athens, Greece in September. If it is not possible for any candidates to travel due to COVID the entire exam will be run virtually. A hybrid approach will also be possible if some candidates are able to travel and some are not.

Kind regards

Lynda Wyld, PhD, FRCS, FEBS
Professor of Surgical Oncology
University of Sheffield - UK
Secretary of the Exam Board
EBSQ Examination in Breast Surgery 2021

Web based MCQs / Written Examination

The written exam will take place on the 25th of June 2021
Applications open on the 1st of January 2021 through the DBS web-pages
The deadline for receipt of applications for the written exam is the 30th April 2021

Venue of the written exam:
The written exam will be held at a number of locations globally to increase accessibility.

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Important notice

It seems most likely that travel will be limited until the end of 2021 and there will be some ongoing restrictions about social distancing in place.

The MCQ exam will be hosted remotely and we will try to expand the number of exam venues so to keep safe social distancing in sites with smaller numbers of candidates and also to remove the need to travel.

Details will be announced in DBS web-pages on the exams by January 2021.
Remote options will also be examined for the Oral exam, if by September will not be possible to hold an in person exam in Athens - Greece.

The Oral Examination

The oral exam will take place in Athens (GR), on 25th & 26th of September, 2021.
Candidates will be notified if they have passed the written exam and are eligible to take the oral exam within 1 week of sitting the written exam and MUST register and pay to sit the oral exam before 10th of July 2021. There is a limit of the number of candidates who can be accepted for the oral exam; preference will be given according to date of application for the exam, so late applicants will be passed on to the exam of the following year.

Applications must be submitted via the online application tool on:
http://www.uemssurg.org/divisions/breast-surgery/ebsq-examination
Aim of the course
The course offers delegates preparing for the UEMS - European Board of Surgery Qualification (EBSQ) in Breast Surgery a unique opportunity to discover the European Breast Surgery curriculum.

Main topics
- De-escalation and personalization of breast surgery: trends and evidence
- Management of familial gene carriers and risk assessment
- Current axillary management paradigms
- Oncoplastic conservation surgery: technique selection and outcomes
- Post mastectomy reconstruction: decision making in the context of techniques and oncology interactions
- Multi gene assays - MGAs in clinical decision making on systemic therapy
- Update on the recent results of Breast Oncology Trials
- MDT - Clinical and Academic Practice Session
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- Update on the recent results of Breast Oncology Trials
- MDT - Clinical and Academic Practice Session

Multiple Choice Quiz
- At the end of the course, participants will be asked to participate in an MCQ quiz which will lead to a waiver of the EBSQ in Breast surgery exam fees for the best scored participants.
- A 15% reduction on the “Breast Cancer Management for Surgeons” Textbook (Springer 2018), official book of the exam, will be offered to all participants.

Target audience
- This one-day course is aimed at delegates preparing for their final certification exam including the Intercollegiate FRCS Exam in General Surgery and the UEMS - European Board of Surgery Qualification (EBSQ) in Breast Surgery.
- This is an ESSO endorsed educational event, granted auspices by the ESSO (The European Society of Surgical Oncology) educational and training committee.

The BRESO Project
The UEMS Breast Exam Board has joined forces with a number of other European bodies linked to high quality breast cancer care (ESSO, EUSOMA, ESO and others) to establish BRESO: European Breast Surgical Oncology Certification.

We are committed to ensuring that standards of breast surgery are harmonised at the highest level across Europe and established BRESO to be a single certification of training and competence that will ultimately be a marker of quality across Europe.

The UEMS - European Breast Exam is a recognised examination to qualify for BRESO certification, which also reviews training time and quality. BRESO certification is not only aimed at surgeons who have not yet completed training but at experienced surgeons who are looking to have some objective certification of their expertise and specialisation in breast care.

Please visit the website for more information: https://breastsurgeoncertification.com/
ESSO Advanced Course on Breast Cancer - 2021

23-25 September, 2021
Athens, Greece

Aim of the course
This highly interactive workshop is at the cutting edge of current concepts of surgical treatment of breast cancer. It will focus on the evidence-based clinical practice and technical aspects of breast cancer surgery within a multidisciplinary approach.

Main topics
- Familial gene carriers - Risk assessment and management of healthy carriers and initial cancer management
- Oncoplastic techniques in breast preservation - planning and marking
- MRM, SSM, SRM, NSM - Technical considerations and pre-operative marking
- New methods in imaging
- Management of sentinel nodes positive patients
- Neoadjuvant treatment in breast cancer (Symposium)
- Conventional breast pathology or gene profiles
- Young breast cancer patients - surgery, radiotherapy, systemic treatment
- Breast reconstruction (Symposium)
- Tailored treatment of high risk lesions (Symposium)
- Surgical treatment of local recurrences

Educational methods
- Video-based discussion sessions
- Case-based workshops
- Case studies
- Mock MDT with cases
- Plenary lectures

Target audience
- Senior residents (last two years of specialization with clinical interest in breast cancer)
- Surgical oncologists
- Breast surgeons within 5 years after ending specialization residency
- Medical and radiation oncologists with 3-5 years of experience in the treatment of breast cancer patients

Mission
- SENATURK's institutional missions are to develop teaching materials and programs for horizontal and perpendicular integrated education for breast health at every environment and step, to maintain infrastructure for learning, to give pre-service and in-training education to medical professionals, nurses, technicians and society, to determine regional quality indicators for training, research and breast health care service, to maintain, audit and benchmark the terms and performances for providing qualified health care, to design and conduct clinical and translational research, to give face-to-face or distant consultations to individuals or institutions as well as to develop software on all these services.
Provides an evidence-based discussion, citing the most recent literature
Closely linked to European practice guidelines (EUSOMA, St. Gallen, ESMO)
Contains clinical algorithms for case management in each section
Includes a selection of top European opinion leaders as section authors
Published with the official approval of ESSO and EUSOMA
Contains a selection of self-test MCQs
Ideal reference book for the preparation of the EBSQ exam in Breast Surgery

This textbook provides a comprehensive overview of the state of the art knowledge of breast cancer management for the modern breast surgeon. It covers all aspects of multidisciplinary care including primary breast and axillary surgery, reconstruction and oncoplastic techniques, external beam radiotherapy and newer techniques such as tomotherapy, intraoperative radiotherapy and brachytherapy. In addition, systemic therapies including chemotherapy, the latest biological targeted therapies and endocrine therapies are covered. Readers can find out about other important aspects of breast cancer such as genetics, screening, imaging and long-term health among others. Chapters take the reader through the basics up to the highest levels of knowledge in an easy to understand format with management algorithms to aid clinical care, generous referencing of the best literature and figures and photographs to illustrate each section.

* Candidates who have applied and paid the fee for the exam are eligible for a 15% discount on the book and will be issued with a discount code which may be used to purchase the book from the publisher’s (Springer) website
* Editor’s remuneration payments and royalties are granted to the Division of Breast Surgery