Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the Division of Breast Surgery of the UEMS I welcome you to our winter 2023 Newsletter.

The European Breast Examination is designed to test whether a candidate has the appropriate level of skills and knowledge to practice as a newly appointed specialist breast surgeon in a European Country (at the completion of specialist training). A candidate successfully passing the Eligibility and Examination is qualified as "Fellow of the European Board of Surgery (FEBS) in Breast Surgery". The Fellowship of the UEMS is a significant high-level indication of professional competence and excellence. The FEBS in Breast Surgery reflects the ongoing important European standardization, harmonization and quality assurance process in medicine.

This year we organised an on line written exam on 2nd of June and a face-to-face oral exam on 30/9 and 1/10 in Madrid - Spain. The success rate was 90% and I welcome the 46 successful candidates of the 2023 exams in our FEBS-Breast Surgery family.

The experience we gained during the pandemic years with virtual exams showed us that the on line written exam with MCQs works perfectly. The platform we use runs smoothly and the candidates can take the exam in the comfort of their office or home, as long as they have a strong internet connection; this saves them from traveling to exam centers and extra cost of flights and accommodation. Therefore, our decision is to continue holding the “written exam” virtually but, the “oral exam” will be organised face-to-face only.

The Division of Breast Surgery will continue working towards the highest standard of care in Breast Surgery across Europe. In this respect, we announce the UEMS - EBSQ in Breast Surgery 2024 exams and we will work hard to deliver the same as always high quality examination.

With my best wishes to each one of you and your families to stay safe and healthy, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Kindest regards,

Christos Markopoulos, MD, PhD, FEBs
Professor of Surgery - Medical School
National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
Head of the Exam Board

Welcome to the Secretary’s report for 2023.

I would just like to answer a few of the many questions we get about the exam for those thinking about taking it next year.

- Please start the application early as there may be errors in the application that need to be addressed which may require submission of further evidence.
- Application portal will be closed on the 31st of March; this is a hard deadline and any applications that are not complete on this date will be disqualified and passed to 2025.
- You should get notification of the result of the written exam within 10 days of the exam (so by the 27th of May). If you have not heard from us by then, please contact us.
- Similarly, after receiving notification that you have passed the written exam, there is a deadline to apply for the oral exam. This is usually 1 month after the date of notification; this is again a hard deadline. If you have not applied by this date, you will be disqualified and passed onto the 2025 exam.
- The MCQ will take place on the 17th of May (note this is several weeks earlier than our usual date in June) and there will be a practice session on the 10th of May to ensure that you are able to access the exam online. Please note both dates in your diaries. There will only be one practice session.
- Please check the eligibility criteria before you apply. We have a little bit of flexibility, for example if you are a plastic surgeon, you may not have done as many axillary clearances but many more reconstructions than general or gynaecology surgeons. We will review this on a case-by-case basis. If in doubt, contact us and we will review any discrepancies and see if they are acceptable.
- There is an expectation that you will be familiar with current European best practice in terms of oncoplastic surgery, axillary management and systemic and radiotherapy (including the latest new drugs such as PARP inhibitors, immunotherapy etc.). There is a detailed syllabus on the website, which is being updated in time for the 2024 exam, so please refer to this to guide your preparations.

In 2022 we took the decision that the oral exam was going to remain a face-to-face exam except for reasons of inability to travel due to health issues, pregnancy or personal emergency. We are also very aware of the current destabilising influence of recent events in the Middle East, which, if they escalate, may be a further barrier to travel from some regions. We will review the situation nearer the time and do our utmost to support people affected by these tragic events.

We hope to see some of you next year for the exam. Best wishes

Lynda Wyld, PhD, FRCS, FEBs
Professor of Surgical Oncology - University of Sheffield - UK
Secretary of the Exam Board
All candidates – including new candidates and those who postponed or failed previously – must apply through the QuizOne dedicated web-platform accessible through our web-pages:

https://uemssurg.org/surgicalspecialties/breast-surgery/ebsq-examinations/

Applications by any other means are not accepted.

Please note that once the deadline date to apply is passed, no application will then be possible and acceptable by any means.

Before clicking the “Apply” button, please carefully read the EBSQ policies and Eligibility criteria and ensure that you are ready to submit all required documents.

We do not accept any document as support to applications by any other means than uploaded on the dedicated web-platform. Any document sent by any other means including by email will not be considered as part of an application.

Please also ensure that you pay the registration fee before the deadline. Payment of the examination fee can be made after the deadline, within two weeks of notification of your eligibility (sent by e-mail).

We kindly encourage applicants to submit their documents and payment as early as possible. Candidates are responsible for their own application and its follow-up. Please check your emails regularly, including your junk email folder to ensure you do not miss our communications – the UEMS Section of Surgery will not be responsible for any missed information sent via email.

Please note: the EBSQ Examination in Breast Surgery takes place only in the English language.
**Part A: MCQs / web-based Written examination**

The written exam will take place on Friday, the **17th of May 2024**. Applications **are now open** through the DBS web-pages. The deadline for receipt of applications for the written exam is the **30th March 2024**.

What will you need?

- A room where you can be alone for about 3 hours
- A PC or laptop with a camera and audio and good internet speed
- Recent version of Google Chrome or Safari (mac users)
- A photographic ID

**Part B: the Oral examination**

The oral exam is scheduled to be **F2F** in **Budapest - Hungary**, on **26-27/10/2024**. 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 2024**. 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
**EBSQ EXAM OF 2023 - MADRID, SPAIN**

**Successful Candidates**

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<th>Best scored</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st        Pantiora Eirini</td>
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<td>2nd        Soliman Mahmoud</td>
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<td>3rd        Naqvi Syeda Rifaat Qamar</td>
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<th>Passed with distinction</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andre Camilla</td>
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<td>Latif Ahmed</td>
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<td>Rehman Bushra</td>
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<td>Vorburger Denise</td>
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<td>Denariyakoon Sikrit</td>
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<td>Elayyan Rasheed</td>
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<td>Eltatawy Ahmed</td>
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<td>Garg Nidhi</td>
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<td>Gentile Damiano</td>
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<td>Giacchino Maria</td>
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<td>Ilgun Ahmet Serkan</td>
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<td>Johri Goonj</td>
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<td>Khanfar Heba O. Mohammad</td>
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<td>Malik Mariam</td>
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<td>Malterling Rebecka</td>
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<td>Matiatou Maria</td>
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<td>Merh Radhika</td>
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<td>Muntean Brindusa</td>
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<td>Niaz Rabia</td>
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<td>Olander Susanne</td>
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<th>Papadopoulos Lazaros</th>
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<td>Rao Smitha</td>
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<td>Rizwan Sabiha</td>
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<td>Saleem Saira</td>
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<td>Scornersi Serena</td>
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<td>Shakhtour Laila</td>
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<td>Solakis Evangelos</td>
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<td>Telkar Kanmani</td>
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<td>Thongvitkomarn Sarun</td>
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<td>Tukenmez Mustafa</td>
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<td>Zaidi Ambreen</td>
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2023 EBSQ IN BREAST SURGERY EXAM AWARDS

Dr. Eirini Pantiora - 1st prize of the 2023 EBSQ exams, and
Dr. Syeda Rifaat Qamar Naqvi - 3rd prize of the 2023 EBSQ exams
receive their award and diploma from Prof. Markopoulos, head of the EBSQ exams and President
of the UEMS - EBS Division of Breast Surgery
Dr. Mahmoud Soliman - 2nd prize was examined on-line

Successful candidates of the 2023 EBSQ in Breast Surgery exams in Madrid
with their examiners and members of the UEMS - EBS - Division of Breast Surgery EC
We thank you all for your help; we couldn’t run this project without you! Each one of you accepted as always with pleasure to participate. We very much appreciate it!

Christos Markopoulos, Head of the Exam Board
Lynda Wyld, Secretary of the Exam Board
ESSO Advanced Course on Breast Cancer - 2024

24-26 of October, 2024
Budapest, Hungary

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
- Neo-adjuvant 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

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

More Information
Coming soon on ESSO web-pages
ESSO Advanced Course on Breast Cancer Surgery

Breast Cancer Management for Surgeons
An Examination Guide
Christos Markopoulos
Andreas Karakatsanis
Editors

Given that breast surgeons play a leading role in the management of patients with breast cancer, having a good command of all current knowledge for evidence-based breast cancer management is necessary.

The chapters of this book include such knowledge and this is why it can serve as a helpful reference tool in everyday practice for anyone involved in the care of breast cancer patients.

Especially for the exam candidates, detailed information on the EBSQ exam level, format and scoring, as well as examples of multiple-choice questions of the “written” exam and type of discussion during the “oral” exam are presented in the last chapter of the book.
Aim of the course
This course is organised annually and offers delegates preparing for the UEMS - European Board of Surgery Qualification (EBSQ) in Breast Surgery exam 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

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.

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

UEMS Division of Breast Surgery - Abu Dhabi, UAE 2025

The DBS course 2025 will be organised in Abu Dhabi and is aiming to offer delegates from United Arab Emirates and neighboring countries preparing for the UEMS - European Board of Surgery Qualification (EBSQ) in Breast Surgery exam a unique opportunity to discover the European Breast Surgery curriculum.