

Prof. Allan Rasmussen
Chairman of the UEMS Division of Transplant Surgery

Rotterdam, October 25, 2025

Re: Application for a Chairman-Elect position

Dear Professor Rasmussen,

I am writing to you to express my interest in the position as Chairman-Elect. I hope that you will find my experience and skills useful to contribute to our society.

I am a transplant and HPB surgeon actively working in the field of liver transplantation since 1998. I completed my surgical training in Wroclaw, Poland. As transplant surgery and HPB surgery has always been my ambition, I continued my training in Groningen, the Netherlands where I have finished my transplant and HPB fellowship in 2003. I moved to Erasmus MC University Medical Center in Rotterdam in 2009 and since then I have been working as a staff surgeon. From 2014 I am Surgical Director of the Liver Transplant Program in my institution. My training and current position have helped me understand institutional and cultural differences, that present unique challenges in practicing liver transplantation, and can help me serve ILTS members.

My academic background is anchored in two PhD degrees. In parallel to my clinical activity, I am involved in clinical research in my institution. Having a broad clinical and research network I have been conducting and participating in several national and international projects. Both clinical and research activity would help me contributing to the activities of UEMS Division of Transplant Surgery.

My application for Chairman-Elect is grounded in my strong organizational skills, which have enabled me to hold leadership roles in several transplant and HPB societies including the UEMS Section of Transplant Surgery. I have a strong organizational skills that lead me to active participation in several transplant and HPB societies. In 2009 I was invited to join the Education Committee of the European Society For Organ Transplantation where I was a Vice-Chair until 2013. The same year I was elected to the Board of European Liver and Intestine Transplant Association where I had a privilege to serve as ELITA Secretary and recently as ELITA Chair until 2021. This gave me opportunity not only to develop a new educational activities such as Basic Course in Liver Transplantation. Between 2019 and 2023 I was the Chair of the Education Committee in the European-African Hepato-pancreato-biliary Association. Since 2023 I am serving as the Councilor of the International Liver Transplantation Society and recently I was elected as President-Elect of the ILTS. My term as President of ILTS will be over in 2027.

Since many years I have been actively working in the UEMS Division of Transplant Surgery. First as the National Delegate and from 2021 as the Junior Secretary of the Board of UEMS Section of Transplant Surgery. As the National Delegate I was organizing the Preparatory Course in 2018 in Rotterdam and I was participating as the examiner in EBSQ Examinations in Transplant Surgery. Erasmus MC, a center where I am currently working, has been accredited by the UEMS as a training center both transplant surgery and in HPB surgery, and I was

involved in preparation process for accreditation and re-accreditation and later I was also taking part in accreditation visits as a member of the accrediting committee. In my current position as the Junior Secretary I was responsible for the preparation of the Preparatory Course and day-to-day operational activities of the UEMS Division of Transplant Surgery.

I strongly believe that the UEMS Division of Transplant Surgery proved its leading role in guaranteeing the best standards in organ transplantation in Europe, as well as in setting the high standards for training next generation of transplant surgeons in Europe and beyond.

Serving as Chairman-Elect, and later as Chairman of our Division, would provide a unique opportunity to apply my experience and skills to achieve the following goals:

1. **Support, continue, and finalize existing plans**

Uphold the initiatives set by the current Chairman and the Board such as, increasing number accredited transplant training centers both on national and international level in Europe and beyond, continuing collaborations with the ESOT and other transplant societies on the partnership rules as well as the UEMS Division of Transplant Medicine, maintaining a high level of the EBSQ examinations with a new FEBS examiners and preparation of an updated curriculum for the EBSQ Exams.

2. **Provide high-quality, affordable education for transplant surgeons as the preparation for the EBSQ exams**

Introducing a new format of the interactive Preparatory Course combined with webinars prepared by a Vanguard Committee.

3. **Improve the visibility of the Division of Transplant Surgery and engagement of the National delegates**

Strengthen the Section's reputation as a leading European authority in accreditation of transplant centers and liver transplantation by expanding educational initiatives and collaborating with national and regional transplant societies. My previous activities in transplant societies will help me to foster collaboration between them and our division.

Having observed the dedication and efforts of past and current Chairman, I understand the challenges that lie ahead. Before applying for Chairman-Elect, I consulted with colleagues from my team, who strongly supported my decision, as did my family.

I hope you will find my application worthy of your support, and I remain at your disposal should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,



Wojtek Polak