

**EUSOMA** (the European Society of Breast Cancer Specialists) published a Position Paper in European Journal of Cancer - *EJC* 43:660–675, 2007 - on “*Guidelines on the Standards for the training of specialized health professionals dealing with breast cancer*”. Considering Breast Surgeons, the theoretical as well as the practical requirements for training were described in detail and finally, an assessment strategy - specialist exams - on how a candidate could be qualified as a “**Specialist in Breast Surgery**” was proposed (page 668:5.6).

The Section of Surgery of **UEMS** (European Union of Medical Specialists) expressed appreciation for the position contents of that chapter paper and as a result, the **Breast Surgery Working group** was established in the UEMS Section of Surgery and the European Board of Surgery (**EBS**).

The Breast Surgery Working group, in close collaboration with EUSOMA and the European Society of Surgical Oncology (**ESSO**), offered the first **EBSQ examination** (European Board of Surgery Qualification) in **Breast Surgery** exam in 2010. By 2014, 82 surgeons/gynecologists have passed the exams.

The exams consist of a written part with MCQs and an oral examination focused on clinical case scenarios and analysis and critical review of a recently published related paper. Respected and recognized breast surgeons from Europe are invited to act as examiners. Details can be found in our web pages: [www.uemssurg.org](http://www.uemssurg.org).

In our common effort to improve the quality of health services for breast cancer patients across Europe, we strongly believe the EBSQ exams play an important role. A breast surgeon holding an EBSQ diploma has official recognition they met the EBSQ application requirements with regards to specialist education, training and experience and have up to date knowledge of breast cancer management. The **EBSQ in Breast Surgery** has already gained wide recognition by National and International societies of breast surgeons such as **ABS (UK)**, **BASO (UK)**, **EUSOMA**, **ESSO** and **BSI ((Breast Surgery International)** and our aim is to establish it in the near future as a requirement for breast surgeons working in every European country.

Considering the recognized success of the project, UEMS proceeded recently to the official upgrade of the working group to “**Division of Breast Surgery**” of the UEMS Section of Surgery and the European Board of Surgery.

Marjut Leidenius  
President of Breast Surgery Division  
UEMS Section of Surgery