



## **The European Academy of Clinical Leadership (EACL)**

### ***Doctors' Leadership: From an Idea to a Project for the European Doctors***

All studies carried out in the area of clinical leadership conclude that healthcare institutions managed by physicians can achieve better clinical outcomes and better financial results. Physicians in leading positions also bring to the system the core value of ethics and ethics must be at the center of healthcare systems.

**The European Academy of Clinical Leadership (EACL)** is an academic body established by the European Association for Senior Hospital Physicians (AEMH) in partnership with (UEMS) and in close collaboration with universities and other European Medical Organisations (EMOs). The Academy is focused on the achievement of the physicians' continuous development and competency in the field of Clinical Leadership as clinical doctors are, naturally, at the core of clinical leadership activities.

#### **Scope:**

Clinical Leadership is shown through a shared sense of responsibility for the success of the medical organisation and its services; it is not restricted to people who hold designated medical leadership roles. Acts of leadership can come from anyone in the organisation, as appropriate. Nevertheless, we believe physicians are crucial in the Clinical Leadership activities and we place them at the centre of our learning and training activities.

#### **Structure:**

The main body of the EACL is the EACL Board which consists of 9 (nine) members, with an equal representation of Academic Staff and European Medical Organisations. A representative of the Academic Staff may be a professor, associate professor or any other distinguished representative of the disciplines in which the Academy carries out its activities, or representatives of other significant scientific, research and other institutions and practitioners. The members of the EACL Board are as follows: two members of AEMH, two members of UEMS, one academic (university) expert, two external experts and two representatives of EMOs. The Board may invite non-members to participate, to a specified extent, as observers in the board meetings.

The EACL Board performs the examinations and grants the certifications to the clinical leaders. It equally provides the curriculum and organises the training activities for young doctors. Function of the training needs, it may punctually appoint external trainers to deliver parts of the curriculum. It also decides on the EACL budget, mainly on the establishment and modification of the examination fees for clinical leaders as well as the fees of the training programs for young doctors. Since the EACL is currently funded by AEMH, the EACL board must eventually submit its budget for approval to the AEMH board.



## History

AEMH has been concerned with the issue of Clinical Leadership for many years.

In AEMH's Conference 2006 in Bratislava "Hospital Management based on Quality and Safety" one of the main topics discussed was "Implication of Doctors in Management" and the 2007 AEMH statement clearly highlighted its relevance in the chapter "Larger involvement of Doctors in Hospital Management".

The AEMH Conferences of Lisbon (2010) - *"Doctors Involvement in Hospital Management"*, Vienna (2015) - *"Clinical Leadership"* and Oslo (2019) - *"Clinical Leadership – a European Project"* demonstrates AEMH's commitment in developing Clinical Leadership in European countries over the years.

In 2016 the Board of AEMH (João de Deus, Vlad Tică, Pierre-François Cuénoud, Theo Merholz, Hrvoje Sobat) proposed to the General Assembly the creation of a Working Group on Clinical Leadership and this was really the first step to implement EAEL project.

EAEL development since that day has gone through several steps.

To implement European Training Requirements (ETR) several meetings, since 2017, took place between AEMH Board and UEMS Executive Committee, which culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations.

The working group was expanded to include representatives from European Medical Organizations, universities and external experts and will further turn into the board of EAEL. This WG established the ETRs (European Training Requirements), regulations, assessment, and rules of procedure of the Academy providing the ways of physicians to become Fellows and Masters. Senior doctors with experience in Clinical Leadership can become Fellows of the Academy and Junior doctors can become Masters. These two different pathways to be member of EAEL are well established in the ETRs.

After the work was completed, the project was launched on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, in a webinar with more than 100 participants. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the first assessments will only take place in May 2022. But this pandemic situation has, in turn, unequivocally demonstrated the importance of clinical leadership in all European countries.

## More information

For more information and updates on the training and assessment sessions, please check the website of the Academy regularly [www.aemh-eacl.org](http://www.aemh-eacl.org) or contact us to [secretariat@aemh-eacl.org](mailto:secretariat@aemh-eacl.org).