

Our speciality: Let's get started!

Nuestra especialidad: comenzamos

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The emergency physicians of Spain are facing one of the most significant events in our profession: the implementation of the Specialty in Emergency and Urgency Medicine in the civilian sphere,¹ in line with the rest of European countries.² In the coming months, thousands of physicians will obtain their long-awaited and well-deserved specialty, after passing an extraordinary access process to the specialist title in Emergency and Urgency Medicine (MUE) as established by Decree 610/2024, of July 2nd, which establishes the title of Specialist Physician in Emergency Medicine and updates various aspects in the training for the title of Specialist Physician in Family and Community Medicine.³

This is one of the most immediate events, since the application process has already begun, establishing specific deadlines based on the month of birth. This system has been designed in anticipation of a high number of applicants, which demonstrates our widespread presence in the Spanish health-care system. Simultaneously, the training program will be developed along with the accreditation criteria for the teaching units as provided in Chapter II of Royal Decree 183/2008, of February 8th, which determines and classifies the specialties in Health Sciences and develops certain aspects of the specialized health training system,⁴ all with the aim of, respecting the established deadlines, reaching the first MIR (Resident Medical Intern) call for positions in the MUE specialty. All these simultaneous processes are being overseen by the Spanish Ministry of Health, along with the work and advice of the first *Comisión Nacional* for the specialty, whose composition and functions are provided for in Article 28 of Law 44/2003, of November 21st, on the regulation of health professions.⁵ According to the provisions of this law, the *Comisión Nacional de la Especialidad en Medicina de Urgencias y Emergencias* (CNEMUE) (National Board of Emergency Medicine) is composed of:

- Two members proposed by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.
- Four members from among specialists

of recognized prestige proposed by the *Comisión de Recursos Humanos del Sistema Nacional de Salud*.

- Two members representing legally constituted state-level entities and scientific societies in the field of the specialty.

- Two members representing specialists in training, elected by them in the manner determined by regulations.

- One member representing the corresponding professional association. If the specialty can be pursued by different graduates, the designation of the representative will be made by common agreement by the corresponding corporations.

In recent months, the process of electing the members of the CNEMUE has been conducted. To be part of it, some essential requirements were demanded: 1) To be in possession of a specialist title in Health Sciences or the qualification to practice General Medicine, in accordance with Royal Decree 853/1993, of June 4th, on the exercise of the functions of General Practitioner in the National Healthcare System; 2) Accreditation of 7 years of full-time professional practice within the public health system in the field of the new specialty in the period immediately preceding the entry into force of this royal decree; 3) Accreditation of three publications in national and/or international journals in the area of the new specialty in the 3 years prior to the entry into force of the above-mentioned Royal Decree; 4) To be in possession of a university doctorate degree; and 5) Having participated in a competitively funded public research project in the area of the new specialty in the 5 years prior to the entry into force of this Royal Decree.

The members of this first CNEMUE are:

- The 2 members proposed by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities are Mireia Puig Campmany and Rafael Castro Delgado.

- The 4 members proposed by the *Comisión de Recursos Humanos del Sistema Nacional de Salud* are Carmen del Arco Galán, Pere Llorens Soriano, Javier Jacob Rodríguez and Rafael Calvo Rodríguez.

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Figure 1. Members of the first National Board of Emergency Medicine: Pere Llorens Soriano, Rosa Iban Ochoa, Rafael Calvo Rodríguez, Carmen del Arco Galán, Rafael Castro Delgado, Iria Miguéns Blanco, Agustín Julián Jiménez, Mireia Puig Campmany and Javier Jacob Rodríguez.

– The 2 members representing SEMES (Spanish Society of Emergency Medicine) are Agustín Julián Jiménez and Iria Miguéns Blanco.

– The member representing the *Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Médicos* is Rosa Iban Ochoa.

The first meeting of the CNEMUE was held on October 7th, 2024, and in it, the positions of president and vice-president were voted on, falling to Dr. Agustín Julián Jiménez and Dr. Carmen del Arco Galán, respectively.

In addition, the *Comisión Delegada de Atención Inmediata* (CDAI) was also established as an advisory body, composed of four members, two of them from the *Comisión Nacional de la Especialidad de Medicina de Urgencias y Emergencias* and the other two from the *Comisión Nacional de la Especialidad de Medicina Familiar y Comunitaria*. The decree creating the specialty establishes that, since the specialties of Emergency and Urgency Medicine and Family and Community Medicine will share a common training period within the first two years, the competencies to be acquired within these first two years will be developed by the *Comisión Delegada de Atención Inmediata* CDAI. The members elected by the CNEMUE as members of this CDAI are Dr. Pere Llorens Soriano and Dr. Rosa Iban Ochoa.

The process is unstoppable and is meeting its deadlines: within a maximum period of 3 months from the entry into force of the royal decree, the CNEMUE was established; after that, within one month, the CDAI was formed; and from the constitution of these bodies, there is a period of 6 months to develop and publish the training program for the specialty.

All the members of this first *Comisión Nacional* of our

Specialty (Figure 1) have broad recognition among our colleagues and a remarkable curriculum in the field of emergency and urgency medicine:

– Agustín Julián Jiménez. Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from the *Universidad Complutense de Madrid* (1993). Specialist in Internal Medicine and specialist in Family and Community Medicine. PhD from *Universidad Complutense de Madrid* in 2014. Physician in the Emergency Department since January 1, 2000, Head of Studies since 2009 and Coordinator of Teaching, Training, Research and Quality since 2017 at *Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Toledo*. Associate Professor and Coordinator of the 6th year clinical rotation of Medicine at UCLM since 2017. Associate Editor of EMERGENCIAS since 2009. Deputy National Coordinator of INFURG-SEMES (Working Group on Infections at the Emergency Department), International Coordinator of GT-LATINFURG (Latin American Working Group to improve the management of patients with infections at the emergency department SEMES-FLAME). Coordinator of the URGEN-LABQMIC group of *Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria de Castilla La Mancha* (IDISCAM). Secretary of Teaching and Research of SEMES Castilla La Mancha.

– Carmen del Arco Galán. Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery UAM in 1986. Doctor of Medicine in 1992. Specialist in Internal Medicine, dedicated to Emergency Medicine since 1996. Associate Professor of *Universidad Autónoma de Madrid* since 2003. Emergency Coordinator of *Hospital Universitario de la Princesa* since 2007. President of SEMES Madrid from 2013 through 2022. Scientific Secretary of SEMES and member of different working groups with special interest in arrhythmias, hypertension and the frail elderly.



Figure 2. Anonymized official title of Specialist in Emergency and Urgency Medicine issued by the Spanish Ministry of Health.

– Rosa Iban Ochoa. Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from *Universidad de Valladolid* (1993). Specialist in Family and Community Medicine (1997). PhD from *Universidad de Valladolid* “Cum Laude” in 2003. Physician in the Emergency Department of *Hospital Universitario Rio Hortega* since June 1998. Head of Studies Valladolid Oeste (*Hospital Universitario Rio Hortega* and *Gerencia de Atención Primaria*). Head of the secretariat of Unidades Docentes of SEMES. Member of Semes Dolor Working Group and of MUEjeres. Training Secretary of SEMESCyL. Member of Tutor-Teacher and 2nd Vice-President of Colegio de Médicos de Valladolid.

– Mireia Puig Campmany. Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 1989, specialist in Internal Medicine in 1994, Doctor of Medicine in 1998. Emergency Physician with more than 25 years of experience. Head of the Emergency Department at *Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau de Barcelona* since 2017. Associate Professor of *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* for more than 20 years and adjunct professor of the same university since 2021 on Emergency and Urgency Medicine. Head of a research group at the IIB Sant Pau since 2017. Member of *Colegio de Médicos de Barcelona*. President of SoCMUE since 2023.

– Javier Jacob Rodríguez. Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 1995 and Doctor of Medicine in 2012. Emergency Physician with 20 years of experience. Section Head of the Emergency Department at *Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge*, associate professor of *Universitat de Barcelona*, associate professor of *Universidad Internacional de Catalunya*, researcher accredited by AQU in 2019.

– Iria Miguéns Blanco. Bachelor of Medicine in 2009 from *Universidad de Santiago de Compostela*. Doctor from *Universidad Autónoma de Madrid*. Specialist in Family and Community Medicine. Specialist in Emergency and Urgency Medicine since October 4th, 2024. Emergency Physician since 2015, works at *Hospital Clínico Universitario de Santiago de Compostela*. Coordinator of the Comisión de MUEjeres in SEMES.

– Pere Llorens Soriano. Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (1993). Doctor of Medicine from *Universidad de Miguel Hernández* (2010). Specialist in Internal Medicine. Emergency Physician with 25 years of experience. Head of the General Emergency Department, Short Stay Unit and Home Hospitalization at *Hospital General Universitario Dr. Balmis de Alicante*. Associate Professor of *Universidad Miguel Hernández*. National Coordinator of the SEMES acute heart failure research group (ICA-SEMES). Associate Editor of the journal *Emergencias*.

– Rafael Calvo Rodríguez. Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (1994). Specialist in Family and Community Medicine (2002). Doctor of Medicine from *Universidad de Córdoba* (2016). Section Head of the Emergency Department, *Hospital Universitario Reina Sofía de Córdoba*. Associate Professor of *Departamento de Ciencias médicas y quirúrgicas de Universidad de Córdoba* since 2024. Member of the Comité Regional del *Plan Andaluz de Urgencias y Emergencias*, and coordinator of the hospital emergency group since 2023. Member of the SEMES ischemic heart disease working group.

– Rafael Castro Delgado. Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (1996). Specialist in Family and Community Medi-

cine (2001). Doctor from *Universidad de Oviedo* (2002). Emergency physician with more than 20 years of experience in pre-hospital care, currently part of the body of tenured university professors as a full professor linked to SAMU-Asturias at *Universidad de Oviedo*. Accredited as a university professor by ANECA. He runs the Grupo de Investigación en Asistencia Prehospitalaria y Desastres (GIAPREDE) of *Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria del Principado de Asturias* (ISPA), as well as the Red de Investigación en Emergencias Prehospitalarias of SEMES (RINVER-SEMES). He is an associate editor of *Revista Española de Urgencias y Emergencias* and a member of the editorial board of *Emergencias*.

At the time of writing this editorial, the Spanish Supreme Court has agreed to provisionally suspend the application of a part of the Royal Decree that affects general practitioners after 1995. According to the Spanish Ministry of Health, this suspension only affects the final phase of the process, while the previous phases, such as the collection of certificates, the submission of applications and the

issuance of reports, continue normally. Therefore, the National Board of Emergency Medicine will continue to evaluate the applications submitted in due time and form and issue the corresponding report-proposals. According to the Spanish Ministry of Health, "the extraordinary access process for the specialty remains active, with the exception of the final resolution and the inspection of titles, which are suspended until a new judicial resolution".⁶

Finally, our specialty is a reality. And following what is established in the Royal Decree that created it, the first 9 titles of Specialist in Emergency and Urgency Medicine have already been issued (Figure 2); the first of the thousands that will be issued through the extraordinary access process to the title meaning that this is not the end of a process, but the beginning of a bright future for our more than deserved Specialty in Urgency and Emergency Medicine, the only one that will contain within its teaching plan a specific part related to disaster relief, something that unfortunately has had an unsought relevance in our country in recent weeks.⁷

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