

Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Paolisso, Principal of School of Medicine, Second University of Naples (SUN)

Dear Colleagues,

Prof. Dr. Paolisso expressed his pleasure at participating in today's meeting and brings with him the greetings of the Rector of the Second University of Naples and the School of Medicine.

I believe his very interesting presentation can be summed-up as follows..

One of the most important acquisitions in the field of European university education has been the creation of uniform parameters and standards, which all European Faculties of Medicine have agreed to adopt. The ensuing automatic recognition of qualifications achieved in all Western Europe countries facilitates demographic mobility and, at the same time, generates cultural osmosis.

Unfortunately, revision of core curriculum has not extended into the discipline of Military Medicine. We are all aware that, over and above the confines of Legal Medicine, Military Medicine relates to most common diseases in communities, and places where military operations are performed, to surgical and traumatic pathologies as well as psychological distress resulting from the comrade obligation to perform an action and the danger associated with it or from the requirement to deploy to far-away corners of the world.

Military Medicine needs to catch up with, and keep up with, the times. An adequately trained military doctor needs to be competent in at least 5/6 specializations: Forensic Medicine, Hygiene, Infectious Diseases, General Surgery / Orthopedics and Psychiatry.

Governments should be encouraged to explore the possibility of establishing a specialization in Military Medicine to train military doctors across the broad spectrum of the required specializations. Faculties of Medicine have the know-how but until legislation is updated, training will remain 'post hoc' or in the work-field.