

Welcome to issue 6

Dear friends and colleagues.

Very soon we will have the opportunity to meet again, this time in Helsinki.

In this issue of the newsletter you will find information regarding our upcoming annual meeting. This year's president, Raimo Voutilainen and the local organizing committee have put together a very interesting programme. In addition to the plenary lectures, symposia, free communications and posters, there is a new format of discussion entitled 'Clinical Controversies'. These sessions will give participants the opportunity to express different points of view on topics of great importance to all of us. In addition to the intense scientific programme, the social programme and taking advantage of the beautiful long summer days, we will be able once again to enjoy the company of our fellow colleagues. If you haven't registered, please do so as soon as possible as you will not want to miss this meeting!

The large number of applications received for the ESPE Summer School 2007 indicates the great success of these annual sessions. On page 2 of this newsletter you will find a short note from a former participant of the ESPE Summer School and how this moulded their career. The editorial board would like to receive letters from past participants in the summer or winter schools, as well as recipients of ESPE research fellowships, in order to present how these experiences have helped to shape their clinical and scientific careers. Sharing this information may help younger paediatric endocrinologists.

This newsletter also includes information on new upcoming ESPE events - this includes reports on the Nobel Conference on Systems Biology and Child Health and the first ESPE Advanced Seminar in Developmental Endocrinology. Both of these initiatives will help to bring together basic and clinical researchers in specific areas of investigation.

Once again, we ask all ESPE members to feel free to send information to the editorial board on any topic that is of interest to our society.

PROFESSOR JESÚS ARGENTE
Editor, ESPE Newsletter

Editorial Board

Jean-Claude Carel Leo Dunkel
Julie Chowen Ken Ong

ESPE 2007

27-30 June 2007
Helsinki, Finland

ESPE 2007 will be arranged in the Helsinki Fair Centre, which can occupy congresses with up to 10 000 participants.

A quarter of a century has elapsed since ESPE had its previous annual meeting in Finland. The theme "Prevention of endocrine disorders and their long-term sequelae" was chosen

for the meeting. Plenary lectures, symposia, free communications, poster presentations, research methodology, 'meet the expert' sessions and exhibitions will allow both clinicians and basic researchers to hear the most recent developments of the field and to communicate with colleagues and friends during the meeting. New 'clinical controversies' sessions are included in the programme. In these sessions, opposing views on the treatment of idiopathic short stature and subclinical hypothyroidism will be presented and discussed.

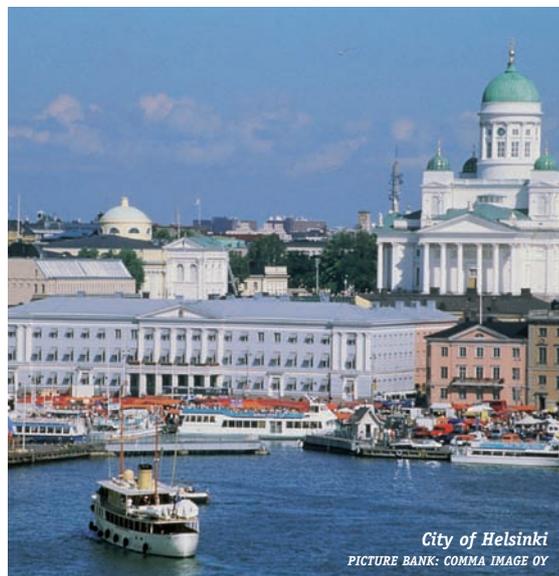
A record 788 abstract submissions from 59 different countries have been submitted for free communication and poster presentations. The posters will hang throughout the meeting allowing ample time to view them. As a new initiative, special poster awards will be granted for the best five posters.

The ESPE working groups and clubs will start the meeting with their parallel sessions on Wednesday, June 27. A special workshop - 'Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes in Africa' - will also be arranged in the afternoon of Wednesday June 27, which will cover the recent ESPE activity in Africa. You are all welcome to these sessions.

In spite of a tight scientific programme you may have the opportunity to see the city of Helsinki and take part in the social programme. The end of June is when Helsinki is at its best - a short, light night in a city by the Baltic Sea is an amazing experience by itself. The social programme includes the welcome reception at the Helsinki City Hall (Wednesday June 27 at 19:30), 'ESPE evening' in the historical Hotel Kalastajatorppa (Friday June 29 at 20:15) and at the end of the meeting an opportunity to participate in a 3-5 km Nordic Walk (Saturday June 30 at 18:00), please note that tickets are limited, so advance registration is highly recommended. During the ESPE 'midsummer evening' you can enjoy a top class musical event by the seafront, followed by a table-seated dinner. Then dance through the soft twilight in the dusk of the Finnish summer night.

Welcome to Helsinki

RAIMO VOUTILAINEN
President, ESPE 2007



City of Helsinki
PICTURE BANK: COMMA IMAGE OY

IMPORTANT DATES

46th ESPE Annual Meeting

Helsinki, 27 - 30 June 2007

Please visit the website for further information: www.espe2007.org

47th ESPE Annual Meeting

Istanbul, 20 - 23 September 2008

Please visit the website for further information: www.espe2008.org

Please visit the ESPE website for details about future meetings: www.eurospe.org

Society for Endocrinology BES Meeting 2008

Harrogate, 7 - 10 April 2008

Email: conferences@endocrinology.org
www.endocrinology.org/meetings/

ESPE Announcements

First ESPE Advanced Seminar in Developmental Endocrinology 2007

10-11 May 2007, Necker Hospital Enfants Malades, Paris, France

The European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) held its first advanced seminar in developmental endocrinology in Paris May 10-11, 2007. The free, 2-day seminar addressed pancreatic developmental biology and physiology with special reference to neonatal diabetes and was focused on young doctors studying the pancreatic development. Below you will find the programme that was presented.

Clinical doctors were given the opportunity to present interesting case reports with reference to glucose homeostasis in early life.

First ESPE Advanced Seminar in Developmental Endocrinology 2007

Day 1	Day 2
Session I	Session III
2.00-2.45 Overview of pancreatic development <i>Raphael Scharfmann (Paris)</i>	9.00-9.45 Beta cell function, recognition of glucose and release of insulin <i>Guy Rutter (London)</i>
2.45-3.30 Overview of neonatal diabetes <i>Julian Shield (Bristol)</i>	9.45-10.30 Channelopathies in neonatal diabetes <i>Michel Polak (Paris)</i>
3.30-4.00 2 student presentations	10.30-11.00 2 Student presentations
4.00-4.30 Coffee break	11.00-11.30 Coffee break
Session II	11.30-12.15 Genomic Imprinting in developmental biology <i>Gavin Kelsey (Cambridge)</i>
4.30-5.15 Transcription factors in pancreatic development (Animal models) <i>Gerard Gradwohl (Strasbourg)</i>	12.15-13.00 Imprinting in human disease with special reference to neonatal diabetes and Beckwith Weidemann Syndrome <i>I Karen Temple (Southampton)</i>
5.15-6.00 Transcription factors in pancreatic development (Human Disease) <i>Jorge Ferrer (Barcelona)</i>	13.00-14.30 Lunch
6.00-6.30 2 Student presentations	14.30-15.00 2 Student presentations
6.30-7.30 (a) One 30-minute session - In vivo & vitro techniques to study pancreas development and islet cell function <i>Bertrand Duvillié (Paris)</i>	15.00-15.45 The physiology and clinical management of glucose metabolism in neonates <i>Kathy Beardsall (Cambridge)</i>
(b) 15 minute session: Imaging the pancreas <i>P de Lonlay (Paris)</i>	15.45 -16.15 Summaries
(c) 15 minute session: Pump therapy in neonatal diabetes <i>N Tubiana (Paris)</i>	Close
8.30 Dinner	

Information regarding application for the next seminar in this series will be announced on the ESPE webpage and in future ESPE Newsletters.

The ESPE Summer School and your paediatric endocrine career

Step-by-step each of us is trying to build an interesting professional life. From my point of view, the ESPE Summer School can be considered as the trigger of my paediatric endocrine career. In fact, I left Paris for Segovia (ESPE 2002 in Madrid) as a clinical fellow in a paediatric endocrine unit looking for the best opportunity to pursue a paediatric endocrine career. I returned as a future research fellow in Dr H Jueppner's laboratory (Boston, USA) with the project of deciphering the hidden secrets of the GNAS locus.

What was the trigger? An informal dinner gathering teachers with students, in a convivial place, probably after a few Beatle's songs played for the entire community of paediatric endocrinologists present in Segovia.

My point is that by favouring the direct interaction of confirmed researchers and motivated students, the ESPE Summer School provides European or even world-wide opportunities to both teachers (to share their experience and find dedicated students) and students (to learn from the experience of others and identify training possibilities).

Of course, other ingredients are also necessary for this recipe to work, such as finding funds to realize this post-doc project (thanks to the ESPE Research Fellowship Grant), recognition of your effort and work by your peers when you return from the US, and chance!

My own advice would be, go to the ESPE Summer School and just be aware that you may be lured to move overseas the following year!

DR AGNÈS LINGLART

Hôpital St Vincent de Paul, Paris, France

Nobel Conference on Systems Biology and Child Health

The Medical Nobel Council convenes in Sweden May 16-18 2008, for a conference with the aim of bringing together top scientists in systems biology with top clinical scientists in the field of paediatric endocrinology, in order to contemplate how we can best implement the recent findings in systems biology in the clinical approach to child health.

The scientific committee selected three important areas of child health: obesity, diabetes and child growth. Clinical scientists will start each session by presenting the

challenges to child health, and basic scientists with profound knowledge in systems biology will present their views on how their methods can be used for solving clinical problems.

Although Nobel conferences are closed meetings with only speakers and invited discussants attending, the organizing committee will invite about 20 young paediatric endocrinologists with ongoing research in systems biology to present an abstract/poster at this Nobel Conference. The call for competitive abstracts will be distributed to ESPE members in the autumn of 2007.

Organizing committee:

Kerstin Albertsson-Wikland
Per-Olof Berggren
Franco Chiarelli
Ze'ev Hochberg
Martin Ritzén



ESPE Summer School 2007

23-27 June 2007, Helsinki, Finland

The 2007 Summer School will cover type 1 diabetes, polygenic heritability, calcium disorders and ovarian function. The Summer School committee includes John Achermann (London), Malcolm Donaldson (Glasgow), Lucia Ghizzoni (Parma), Moshe Phillip (Petah Tikva) and Tiina Laine (Helsinki) - who is the local organizer. We are very thankful to all of them for their dedication to the organization of the program and to the course itself.

The program hosts 26 fellows including two selected by the Winter School and one selected by the SLEP (Sociedad Latino Americana de Endocrinología Pediátrica). This year, we received 58 applications for the remaining 23 available seats, i.e. an acceptance rate of 40%. These applications came from 21 countries, from fellows with a mean age of 35 years. All applications were independently rated by five committee members based on age (bonus for applicants younger than 40 years), peer-

reviewed publications and experience in paediatric endocrinology. It was a difficult and heart breaking task to select delegates and we sincerely apologize to those who were not selected who are encouraged to apply again.

The Summer School committee wish to thank the faculty members who will join during the Summer School and share their knowledge with fellows and Ferring Pharmaceuticals who has continuously supported the Summer School since its foundation in 1987, through an educational grant.



Deadlines

Please note these fast approaching deadline dates and submit your applications as soon as possible.

Awards, grants and fellowships - deadline dates for application

Deadline for nominating candidate city - ESPE 2013 1 Oct 2007

Deadline date for applications for 2008 membership 15 Jan 2008

Clinical Fellowship 31 May 2007

Visiting Scholarship 31 July 2007

Visiting Scholarship 31 Oct 2007

Young Investigator Award 15 Jan 2008

Outstanding Clinician (nominations from members) 15 Jan 2008

Visiting Scholarship 31 Jan 2008

Summer School 1 March 2008

Research Fellowship 1 March 2008

Research Unit (preliminary applications) 15 April 2008

Research Unit (final applications) 15 June 2008

Winter School To be confirmed

Sabbatical Leave Programme No deadline

See the ESPE website www.eurospe.org for further details & application forms

Clinical Practice Committee Update

One of the aims of the Clinical Practice Committee is to improve the daily management of children with endocrine diseases. To achieve this goal we have organized a series of consensus conferences that have undoubtedly contributed to the worldwide dissemination of knowledge and good practice in the controversial issues of Paediatric Endocrinology.

More recently, we asked whether we could provide another type of clinical practice package to meet the requirements for better management of children with endocrine diseases. In this context, the initiative of the 'Daily Issues in Paediatric Endocrinology' was conceived and implemented.

We have two main objectives. Firstly, to offer free access to electronic documents on the most common clinical issues encountered in the daily management of

children with endocrine problems; secondly, to offer an opportunity for open debate among all ESPE members on the thorny subjects of our discipline.

We have chosen a Wikipedia-like style, which means that papers will be made available for community-based open peer review involving online annotation and discussion. Therefore, each ESPE member will be able to insert annotations in the original text, thus contributing to the permanent update and refinement of the chapters. Furthermore, each section will be open to discussion: a sort of forum set to clarify, criticize, rebut or simply exchange viewpoints. Each chapter is based on personal clinical experience and offered to share practical conducts and viewpoints. Of course, the statements and opinions expressed in the published articles will be

solely those of the individual authors and contributors and not necessarily those of the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE).

The first experimental series (now on-line) is devised to represent a prototype of the long-term and wide range initiative. Each ESPE member is kindly invited to contribute by submitting an issue that they consider important. Contributions and proposals can be e-mailed to stefano.cianfarani@uniroma2.it

Finally, to provide wide accessibility to the contents delivered in the 'meet the expert' sessions of our annual Congresses, résumés from 'meet the expert' sessions will be published on the same webpage http://www.eurospe.org/clinical/clinical_daily1.html.



ESPE2008

The 47th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE), 20-23 September 2008 will take place in Istanbul, Turkey. The theme of the meeting will be 'Paediatric Endocrinology and Public Health' and the meeting venue is located in the city centre within walking distance from all official meeting hotels.

To read about the latest news, please enter the meeting web site at: www.espe2008.org

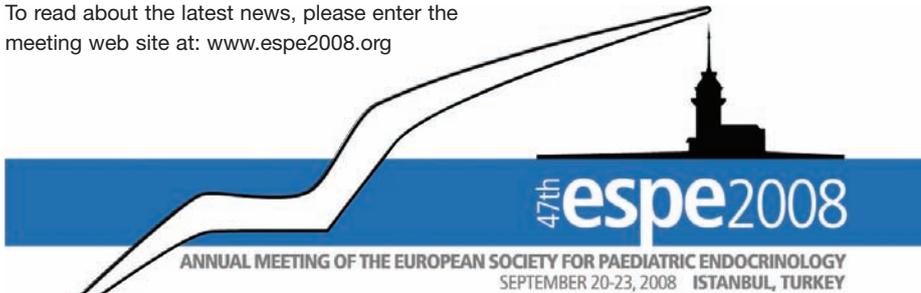


Photo courtesy of Aras Demiray

IMPORTANT

We request that you kindly notify the ESPE Secretariat if your contact details change.

Please email the ESPE Secretariat at espe@europspe.org to confirm your latest email address. Thank you!

The next Annual Business Meeting will take place on Thursday 28th June 2007, 16.30-18.00 hrs at the Helsinki Fair Centre.

ESPE Secretariat

The ESPE Secretariat is managed by BioScientifica Limited. BioScientifica is headed by Managing Director Sue Thorn and Events and Secretariats Director Helen Gregson.

Pauline Bertrand, BioScientifica's Secretariats Manager, oversees the day-to-day relationship with ESPE, liaising with the ESPE council and committee members as well as being the main point of contact for ESPE enquiries. She undertakes projects requested by the General Secretary, providing him with assistance and attending ESPE council and committee meetings.

Helena Marciano handles membership renewals, payments and banking and deals with subscriptions to *Hormone Research*.

Tom Parkhill holds a seat on the Corporate Liaison Board and deals with industry sponsors, Andrew Lowe sub-edits and co-ordinates publication of the ESPE Newsletter.

ESPE Secretariat, BioScientifica Ltd
Euro House, 22 Apex Court, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 4JT, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1454 642 246
Fax: +44 (0) 1454 642 222
Email: espe@europspe.org



EXPLORING THE WORLD OF
ENDOCRINOLOGY TOGETHER

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The views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of ESPE.



Secretary General

Francesco Chiarelli, MD, PhD
Professor of Paediatrics and Paediatric Endocrinology, University Department of Paediatrics, Via dei Vestini, 5, I-66013 Chieti, Italy
Tel: +39 0871 358015 - 574538; Fax +39 0871 574831; Email: chiarelli@unich.it

Editor

Professor Jesús Argente
Hospital Universitario Infantil del Niño Jesús
Department of Endocrinology, Universidad Autonoma, Avda Menendez Pelayo, 65, MADRID, ES-28009, Spain. Email: argentefen@terra.es

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