

## Welcome to issue 7

Dear friends and colleagues.

Welcome to our 7th ESPE Newsletter. This newsletter highlights the annual ESPE meeting that was held in Helsinki, Finland, 27 - 30 June 2007. On behalf of the entire editorial board, I would first like to congratulate Raimo Voutilainen and the local organizing committee for their time and effort in putting together such a successful meeting. This meeting, with the theme of "Prevention of endocrine disorders and their long-term sequelae" helped to bring us all up-to-date. We have included extensive information regarding the annual ESPE Awards, as this is a very important part of our society. These awards recognize outstanding achievement in both clinical and basic research, as well as in patient care and teaching of our future paediatric endocrinologists. This year's meeting incorporated a new award, the President's Poster Awards. These awards were presented to the first author, which also had to be the presenting author, of the 5 posters selected on their scientific content and presentation style. Congratulations to all of the winners!

In this Newsletter we also include information on the first Nobel Conference on Systems Biology and Child Health.

I would like to welcome Dr Carlo Acerini, Dr Feyza Darendeliler and Dr Simonetta Bellone who have accepted to join the editorial board of the ESPE Newsletter. Due to his new commitments in ESPE, Jean-Claude Carel has stepped down as a member of the editorial board.

Once again, if you would like to contribute to the ESPE Newsletter, please feel free to contact any member of the editorial board.

Yours sincerely,

PROFESSOR JESÚS ARGENTE  
*Editor, ESPE Newsletter*

### Editorial Board

Leo Dunkel	Julie Chowen
Ken Ong	Carlo Acerini
Feyza Darendeliler	Simonetta Bellone

## CALL FOR PAPERS - 1ST ASIA PACIFIC PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME CONFERENCE

1-2 March 2008, Wellington, New Zealand  
Abstract deadline - 12 October 2007

For more information,  
[www.pws.org.au/conf08.html](http://www.pws.org.au/conf08.html)

# ESPE 2007

27-30 June 2007  
Helsinki, Finland

The 46th ESPE annual meeting was the largest annual meeting to date with over 2200 delegates. The

Finnish Minister of Health warmly welcomed delegates; this was followed by greetings from Professor Raimo Voutilainen (Kuopio, Finland) 2007 ESPE President. We were reminded that the last time the ESPE annual meeting was held in Helsinki was in 1982. During the past 25 years there have been enormous changes in Europe, not least the easing of Cold War tensions, a process precipitated in part by the Helsinki Accords. It is under this climate of free trade and free exchange of ideas that delegates from 87 different countries came to ESPE 2007.

The social activity of the Nordic Walk was inspired by the conference theme of 'Prevention of endocrine disorders and their long-term sequelae'. The delegate bag was also avidly discussed - a black and white spotted bag designed by Marimekko, and (possibly) inspired by the film '101 Dalmatians'.

For the duration of ESPE 2007 the scientific discourse of the meeting showed no sign of abating. Even after a long day concentrating at session after session, large numbers of participants attended the social events to engage in recreation, which met with universal approval. Our focus on science was, in part, helped by rainy and cold weather, which ensured

that distractions were kept to minimum and that large numbers of delegates attended all sessions. The 'Meet the Experts' sessions proved very popular and were well attended. The Helsinki Fair Centre proved to be an excellent conference venue with the delegates enjoying the spacious layout to move between sessions, ensuring a very successful conference.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### 47th ESPE Annual Meeting

Istanbul, 20 - 23 September 2008

Please visit the website for further information: [www.espe2008.org](http://www.espe2008.org)

### 8th Joint ESPE/LWPES Meeting

New York, USA, 9 - 12 September 2009

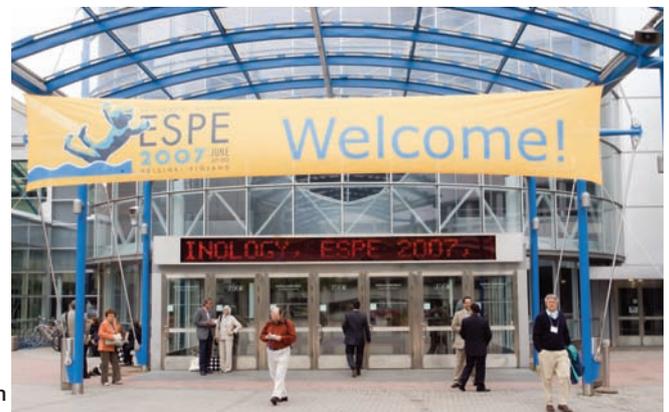
Please visit the website for further information: [www.lwpes-espe2009.org](http://www.lwpes-espe2009.org)

Please visit the ESPE website for details about future meetings: [www.eurospe.org](http://www.eurospe.org)

### Society for Endocrinology BES Meeting 2008

Harrogate, 7 - 10 April 2008

Email: [conferences@endocrinology.org](mailto:conferences@endocrinology.org)  
[www.endocrinology.org/meetings/](http://www.endocrinology.org/meetings/)



# ESPE Awards at the 46th Annual Meeting

The most important ESPE awards and prizes are the Andrea Prader Prize, the Research Award, the Outstanding Clinician Award and the Young Investigator Award. These awards and prizes are kindly supported by Pfizer through an unrestricted educational grant.

## Andrea Prader Prize



The Andrea Prader Prize was first awarded 19 years ago and is named after the founder of paediatric endocrinology in Europe. The Prize recognises and rewards outstanding leadership and scientific contributions through the course of a career. The prize also draws attention to contributions to training in paediatric endocrinology.

The 2007 Andrea Prader Prize has been awarded to Martin Savage. Professor Martin Savage began his studies in medicine in 1962 at Magdalene College in Cambridge and obtained his degree in 1968. From September 1975 to June 1977 he was Clinical Research Fellow in Paediatric Endocrinology at Hôpital Saint Vincent-de-Paul in Paris, France. His first papers were published in the early 1970s and were devoted to endocrine disorders in children. During the following 25 years Professor Savage's scientific interests focused particularly on disorders of growth and puberty.

At present Martin Savage is both Professor of Paediatric Endocrinology and Head of Paediatric Endocrinology Section at Queen Mary's, University of London, UK.

Martin Savage has been an ESPE member for almost 30 years. He has served the Society as Chair of several committees and as Secretary General from 1997 to 2004. More recently he has chaired the ESPE Corporate Liaison Board for more than 2 years.

## Young Investigator Award

The Young Investigator Award was established in recognition of scientific publications produced by an investigator working in Europe, who is not older than 40 years of age by the end of the year in which the award is presented.

The 2007 Young Investigator Award has been awarded to Dr Antje Körner, from Leipzig, Germany.

Dr Körner is an extremely talented young paediatric endocrinologist and has already published several papers in internationally ranked journals. She has investigated and demonstrated the interaction of adipose tissue in obesity related disease starting from the differentiation dependent expression of adipocytokines in vitro, to the development or growth related adipocytokine serum levels in children in vivo, the early derangement of adipocytokine levels in obese children, their clinical associations and consequences, and, finally, biological actions of adipocytokines at the cellular level.



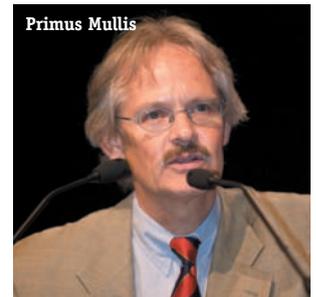
## Research Award

The Research Award is given to an ESPE member in recognition of clinical and/or basic scientific achievements that have made an important contribution to paediatric endocrinology

The 2007 winner of the Research Award is Professor Primus Mullis from Bern, Switzerland. Primus Mullis is Professor of Paediatric Endocrinology, Diabetology and Metabolism at the University of Bern and Head of the Division of Paediatric Endocrinology, Diabetology and Metabolism at the University Children's Hospital in Bern.

He graduated in medicine in 1981. From 1988 to 1990 he was a Research Fellow for Medical Molecular Biology and Paediatric Endocrinology at University College and Middlesex Medical School of Medicine, London. Honorary Senior Registrar and Honorary Research Fellow in Endocrinology and Metabolism at the John Radcliffe Hospital, University of Oxford, UK.

Professor Mullis has been an ESPE officer for the past 5 years and chairperson of ESPE Research Unit since 2005.



## Outstanding Clinician Award

This award is given each year to an ESPE member who has made an outstanding contribution as a clinical paediatric endocrinologist and has shown particular dedication and commitment throughout their career to the care of children with endocrine disorders.

The winner of the Outstanding Clinician Award in 2007 was Catherine Dacou-Voutetakis. Professor Dacou-Voutetakis graduated from the University Medical School in Athens, Greece. She then trained in Paediatrics and Paediatric Endocrinology in the United States. Her paediatric endocrine training involved working with A M DiGeorge on a project investigating congenital absence of the thymus and its immunologic consequences (DiGeorge Syndrome). Back in Greece, Catherine Dacou-Voutetakis was appointed to the University School of Medicine in Athens.

She became an ESPE member in 1973, was an ESPE council member from 1977 to 1980 and in 1978, as ESPE President, organized the Annual ESPE Meeting in Athens.

She was appointed President of the Hellenic Endocrine Society in 1984 and is a founding member of the Hellenic Diabetes Association. In 1995 Professor Dacou-Voutetakis founded the Hellenic Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Endocrinology and was the Society's President for 3 years.

In 1985 she organized the support group 'Galen' for children and adolescents with endocrine disorders and diabetes, which holds yearly seminars for patients and their parents.



## Henning Andersen Prizes

Generously supported by Novo Nordisk, these two awards are given to the most highly rated clinical and experimental abstracts submitted to the Society's Annual Meeting. The prizes in basic and clinical science are awarded to abstracts on the basis of the reviewer ranking.

The prize for the best basic science abstract submitted for the 2007 ESPE meeting went to the abstract entitled 'SF1 mutations are a frequent cause in 46,XY patients with ambiguous genitalia due to impaired testicular androgen synthesis without adrenal insufficiency', by Dr Birgit Köhler et al. from Charite, Children's Hospital, Pediatric Endocrinology, Berlin, Germany. Other authors include Lin Lin, Vanessa Schröder, Heike Biebermann, Peter Heidemann, Peter Wieacker, Olaf Hiort, Annette Grüters and John Achermann.



The prize for the best clinical science abstract submitted for the 2007 ESPE meeting went to the abstract entitled 'Generalized glucocorticoid insensitivity: clinical phenotype and molecular mechanisms', by Dr Evangelia Charmandari et al. from the Section on Pediatric Endocrinology at the NIH in Bethesda, USA. Other authors include Tomoshige Kino, Takamasa Ichijo and George Chrousos.

## Hormone Research Prizes

The Hormone Research Prizes are sponsored by Karger and are awarded to the best original paper published and the best paper published in the 'Novel Insights from Clinical Experience' section.

The prize for the best original paper has been awarded to the manuscript 'Insulin Resistance Is an Intrinsic Defect Independent of Fat Mass in Women with Turner's Syndrome', 2006, B Salgin, R Amin, K Yuen, RM Williams, P Murgatroyd & DB Dunger (Hormone Research 65 69-75).

The prize for the best paper published in the 'Novel Insights from Clinical Experience' section has been awarded to the manuscript 'Importance of Genetic Diagnosis of DAX-1 Deficiency: Example from a Large, Multigenerational Family', 2006, S Ostermann, R Salvi, M Lang-Muritano, M-J Voirol, R Puttinger, RC Gaillard, E Schoenle & FP Pralong (Hormone Research 65 163-168).

FRANCO CHIARELLI *ESPE Secretary General*



## ESPE Elections 2007

Elections for a number of positions were held at the annual business meeting in Helsinki. Franco Chiarelli was re-elected as Secretary General. Stefano Cianfarani was re-elected as chair of the CPC, Moshe Phillip elected as chair of the ETC and Jean-Claude Carel as chair of the POC. Congratulations to all!



Stefano Cianfarani



Franco Chiarelli



Moshe Phillip



Jean-Claude Carel

## ESPE Africa calls for volunteers

Tertiary facilities and trained personnel for paediatric diabetes and other endocrine diseases are virtually non-existent in Africa. Responding to the need to put in place programs that address the care for children with endocrine diseases in Africa, a joint project of ESPE and three paediatric departments in Nairobi, Kenya aims at training African paediatricians to recognize and treat these diseases. The University of Nairobi, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Kenyatta National Referral Hospital, Aga Khan University Hospital and Gertrude's Children's Hospital in partnership with ESPE has initiated a fellowship program for paediatricians in Africa to enhance access to care and treatment.

During the project period of 3 years, ESPE tutors will live in for 1-2 months at a time and fellows will have a training period of 12 months, including 9 months on site. The volunteering ESPE members will train the fellows to become accomplished experts in paediatric endocrinology and diabetes. During the 3-year project period, 3 Kenyan fellows will train to become the permanent faculty of an ongoing fellowship program after we leave. The programme has been granted €297 000 from the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF).

ESPE members who wish to take part in this programme between January 2008 to December 2010 are asked to make contact with Ze'ev Hochberg at [z\\_hochberg@rambam.health.gov.il](mailto:z_hochberg@rambam.health.gov.il) and indicate their preference of time and length of stay.

ZE'EV HOCHBERG

*Coordinator, ESPE Programme for Developing Countries*

## 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**

Winter School 1 Oct 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 Feb 2008

Research Fellowship 1 Mar 2008

Research Unit (preliminary applications) 15 Apr 2008

Visiting Scholarship 30 Apr 2008

Clinical Fellowship 31 May 2008

Research Unit (final applications) 15 Jun 2008

Sabbatical Leave Programme No deadline

See the ESPE website [www.eurospe.org](http://www.eurospe.org) for further details & application forms



# Nobel Conference on Systems Biology and Child Health: Call for abstracts

As previously announced, the Medical Nobel Council convenes a Nobel Conference close to Stockholm on 16-18 May, 2008, with the aim at bringing together top scientists in systems biology with top clinical scientists in the field of child health, 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 out each session by presenting the challenges to child health, and the basic scientists with profound knowledge in systems biology will present their views on how their methods can be used for solving the clinical problems.

Although Nobel Conferences are closed meetings with only speakers and invited discussants attending, the organizing committee will invite about 10 paediatric endocrinologists with ongoing research in systems biology to present an abstract at this Nobel Conference.

This is an invitation to young researchers in childhood obesity, childhood diabetes and child growth to submit an abstract that will compete for one of the 10 slots for poster presentation and travel grant at this closed conference. Priority will be given to abstracts of high quality that utilizes systems biology to solve questions on these three topics.

Abstract submission deadline specially extended to 15 November 2007.

ZE'EV HOCHBERG, Z\_HOCHBERG@RAMBAM.HEALTH.GOV.IL

## ESPE 2007 President's Poster Award Winners

A new award was presented to the best 5 posters during the last session of the meeting in Helsinki. This award is selected based on the scientific content and presentation style. The winners received a certificate, a Presidential gift and will be listed amongst the ESPE's annual award winners.

The ESPE 2007 President's Poster Award Winners were:

P02-185 Glucocorticoid receptor expression is decreased in granulocytes of sepsis patients.

*Erica van den Akker, The Netherlands*

P01-365 Developmental programming of hypothalamic regulation of energy balance by early postnatal food restriction in rats. *Floor Remmers, The Netherlands*

P02-342 Extended endocrine phenotype of NKX2.1 deficiency. *Sarah Schnittert, Germany*

P01-526 Nutrition induced catch-up growth increases hypoxia inducible factor 1aRNA levels.

*Naomi Even-Zohar, Israel*

P01-529 Tamoxifen induces growth retardation in young intact male rats.

*Elham Karimian, Sweden*

### Are you interested in organizing a future ESPE meeting?

Guidelines and application forms will be available by the end of June 2007 at <http://www.eurospe.org/meetings/index.html>. The deadline for nominating a candidate city is 1 October 2007.

#### IMPORTANT

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

Please email the ESPE Secretariat at [espe@eurospe.org](mailto:espe@eurospe.org) to confirm your latest email address. Thank you!

## 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.

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## ESPE Newsletter

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



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