

## Welcome to issue 15

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the 15th issue of the ESPE Newsletter. This edition highlights the annual meeting that took place in Prague on 22–25 September 2010. I would first like to congratulate Jan Lebl for the wonderful job that he did in preparing a fantastic meeting in his beautiful city. I am sure that everyone who attended would agree that the science was great and the atmosphere stimulating, in addition to being held in a most beautiful setting. In this issue you will find a synopsis of the meeting written by Dr Lebl, as well as some of the highlights such as a list of the annual ESPE prize winners and a report on the Summer School that was held immediately before the annual meeting.

We also include a report on the progress at the Nairobi Training Centre. This initiative is progressing wonderfully due to the generous work and support of some of our ESPE members. I am sure that they would be more than happy to have volunteers for teaching in future courses.

Unfortunately we must also report the passing of Dr James Tanner, an important figure in paediatric endocrinology. We have included tributes to Dr Tanner written by Dr Maria New, Dr Charles Brook and Dr Mike Preece. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

Once again we look forward to hearing from anyone who would like to contribute to the next ESPE Newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

PROFESSOR JESÚS ARGENTE  
*Editor, ESPE Newsletter*

### EDITORIAL BOARD

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## IMPORTANT DATES

**The 50th ESPE Annual Meeting**  
Glasgow, Scotland,  
25–28 September 2011  
<http://www.eurospe.org/meetings/>

**The 51st ESPE Annual Meeting**  
Leipzig, Germany,  
20–23 September 2012  
<http://www.eurospe.org/meetings/>

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

## ESPE 2010 Theme: Bridging Clinical Care and Basic Research

PRAGUE, 22–25 SEPTEMBER 2010

Dear friends and colleagues,

It was our great pleasure to host you at the 49th ESPE Annual Meeting in Prague. The final numbers show that more than 3100 participants from 92 countries attended the meeting – making the 2010 ESPE meeting the largest paediatric endocrine event ever held in Europe.

Our aim was to merge a really global meeting with the spirit of Central Europe. Following the welcome addresses of Václav Hampl, Rector of the Charles University in Prague, and me as the ESPE president, the opening Plenary Lecture was given by Ondřej Cinek from Prague. The topic of his talk was “Type 1 diabetes epidemiology and genetics in Central Europe”, but he opened with a quotation of Milan Kundera: “What is Central Europe? An uncertain zone of small nations between Russia and Germany.” I would like to point out that these “small nations” have undergone a substantial social-economic development within the past two decades. This has in turn also influenced the disease epidemiology – as clearly documented as a steadily increasing incidence of Type 1 diabetes in childhood.

Another Central-European reflection was given by John Parks from Atlanta, USA, in the last Plenary Lecture of the meeting. He presented his research on “little people” inhabiting two villages at the Croatian island Krk in the Adriatic Sea. These individuals were found to suffer from combined pituitary hormone deficiency due to a homozygous *PROP1* gene mutation and, despite not having been treated in the past, were experiencing a quite surprising longevity.

A series of four Symposia devoted to the main theme of the meeting were based on patients' case histories which have led to novel discoveries of genes and disease mechanisms, including a symposium on adrenals, ovaries,  $\beta$ -cell and thyroid.

This year's Andrea Prader Prize was awarded to Ze'ev Hochberg. Ze'ev Hochberg is well known among the paediatric endocrine community – not only as a brilliant researcher – but also as an inventor and founder of numerous educational programmes. These include the ESPE Winter School, originally designed in the 1990s to support medical training of paediatric endocrinologists from the “new countries” of Central and Eastern Europe. After having fulfilled its aims with great success in this area, it later moved its focus to the Mediterranean area. Ze'ev Hochberg's additional achievement is the ambitious Nairobi project which allows for the establishment of paediatric endocrinology in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Herwig Frisch from Vienna, Austria, received the “Outstanding Clinician Award”. He is recognised as an excellent clinician, researcher and teacher and has personally greatly contributed to overcoming the gap between the former “Western” and “Eastern” Europe.

Dear colleagues, thank you for coming and for personally contributing to the scientific and social success – as well as the friendly atmosphere of the meeting. We, as members of the Local Organising Committee, are very grateful for the many emails received from all over the world, expressing your gratitude and satisfaction.

JAN LEBL

on behalf of the Local Organising Committee and the Programme Organising Committee



# ESPE Award Recipients 2010

49TH ANNUAL MEETING, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC



Ze'ev Hochberg receiving the Andrea Prader Prize from Franco Chiarelli

## Andrea Prader Prize

Created to honour lifetime achievement in teaching and research, as well as to recognise outstanding leadership and overall contribution to the field of paediatric endocrinology. Awarded annually to a senior member of the Society.

AWARDED TO:

**Dr Ze'ev Hochberg**  
(Haifa, Israel)

## Research Award

Given to an ESPE member in recognition of research achievements of outstanding quality in the fields of basic endocrine science or clinical paediatric endocrinology.

AWARDED TO:

**Professor Peter Clayton**  
(University of Manchester, UK)

ESPE LECTURE TITLE:

"Disordered human growth: from the GH axis to ubiquitisation"

## Young Investigator Award

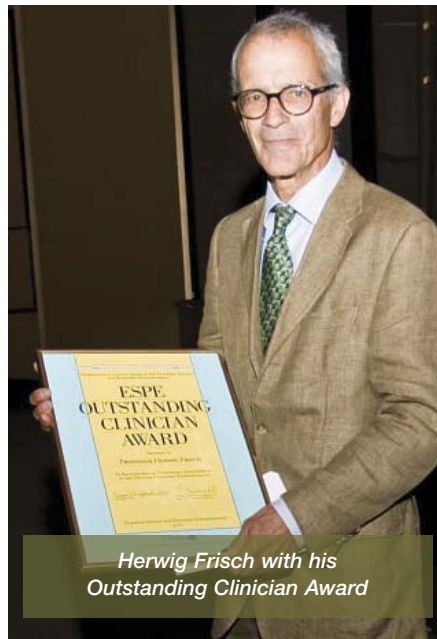
Conferred on a young European paediatrician (aged 40 years or less by the end of the year in which the award is given) in recognition of his or her scientific publications.

AWARDED TO:

**Dr Martine Cools**  
(Ghent, Belgium)

ESPE LECTURE TITLE:

"Exploring the landscape at the crossroads of male and female sexual development"



Herwig Frisch with his Outstanding Clinician Award

## Outstanding Clinician Award

In recognition for outstanding clinical contribution to the practice of clinical paediatric endocrinology.

AWARDED TO:

**Dr Herwig Frisch**  
(Vienna, Austria)



Martine Cools receiving the Young Investigator Award

## Hormone Research in Paediatrics Prize

Generously supported by the publisher S. Karger, this prize rewards young clinical or experimental scientists for the best papers published in *Hormone Research in Paediatrics* in 2009. One prize is awarded under each of the categories 'Original Paper' and 'Novel Insights from Clinical Practice'

### Original Paper

AWARDED TO:

**Talia Eldar-Geva,**  
**Harry J Hirsch,**  
**Ron Rabinowitz,**  
**Fortu Benarroch,**  
**Orit Rubinstein,**  
**Varda Gross-Tsur**

Primary ovarian dysfunction contributes to the hypogonadism in women with Prader-Willi syndrome.

*Hormone Research in Paediatrics* 72 153–159.

DOI: 10.1159/000232489.

### Novel Insights from Clinical Practice

AWARDED TO:

**Jerzy Starzyk,**  
**Małgorzata Wójcik,**  
**Joanna Wojtyś,**  
**Przemysław Tomasiak,**  
**Zofia Mitkowska,**  
**Jacek J Pietrzyk**

Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome in newborns – a case presentation and literature review.

*Hormone Research in Paediatrics* 71 60–64.

DOI: 10.1159/000173743.



ESPE 2010  
Poster Exhibition

## ESPE Award Recipients 2010 – continued

### Henning Andersen Prizes

Two awards, generously supported by Novo Nordisk, for the most highly rated clinical and experimental abstracts submitted to the Society's Annual Meeting.

#### Clinical award

AWARDED TO:

**Michael Whyte & colleagues**  
(St Louis, USA)

Hypophosphatasia: enzyme replacement therapy for affected children using bone-targeted, tissue-nonspecific alkaline phosphatase

#### Basic science award

AWARDED TO:

**Carles Gaston-Masseur & colleagues** (London, UK)

Enhancement of canonical Wnt pathway in Rathke's pouch results in pituitary tumours reminiscent of human adamantinomatous craniopharyngioma



Michael Whyte with the Henning Andersen Clinical Award

### ESPE Sabbatical Leave Programme Awards

This award, supported by Eli Lilly, allows ESPE members to carry out research in another institution, providing the opportunity for scientific renewal, new research development and the establishment of collaborative links.

Successful applications for the academic year 2010–2011:

AWARDED TO:

**Associate Professor Serap Turan**  
(Istanbul, Turkey)

HOST INSTITUTION: Professor H Kronenberg and Dr M Bastepe at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

SABBATICAL TOPIC: "The temporal profile of Gsx imprinting and XLαs expression in the renal proximal tubule during the early postnatal period in mice"

**Professor Jorma Toppari**  
(Turku, Finland)

HOST INSTITUTION: Professor A Juul at the University Department of Growth and Reproduction, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark

SABBATICAL TOPIC: "Importance of normal testicular development for male reproductive health"

### ESPE President Poster Awards

Bestowed by the Programme Organising Committee members to the presenting and first author of five best posters on display at the annual meeting. Selection is based on the scientific content and on the quality of the poster presentation.

AWARDED TO:

**Casper Hagen & colleagues**  
(University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark)

Serum levels of Anti-Mullerian Hormone in 926 healthy infants, girls, adolescents and adult women, as well as in 67 Turner syndrome patients with different karyotypes

**Antje Koerner & colleagues**  
(University of Leipzig, Germany)

Renin as a tumor marker in a patient with congenital adrenal hyperplasia and neuroblastoma?

**Manuela Cerbone & colleagues**  
(University Federico II of Naples, Italy)

Linear growth and intellectual outcome in children with idiopathic subclinical hypothyroidism

**Stefan A Wudy & colleagues**  
(Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany)

Phenotypic, metabolic, and molecular genetic characterization of a girl with apparent cortisone reductase deficiency presenting with premature pubarche (PP)

**Taly Meas, Claire Lévy-Marchal & colleagues** (Inserm, U690, Paris, France)

Fertility is not altered in young adults born small for gestational age

### Results of the elections at the ESPE Annual Business Meeting 2010

The Annual Business Meeting took place on 23 September at 16:00–17:30 in Prague. Elections were held for several different Council vacancies and the results were:

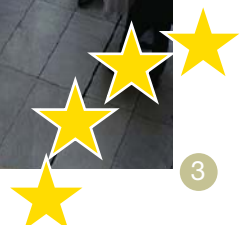
- Secretary General: Lars Sävendahl from Sweden.
- Chair of the Clinical Practice Committee (CPC): Gary Butler from the UK.
- Chair of the Education and Training Committee (ETC): Jan Lebl from the Czech Republic.
- Chair of the Programme Organising Committee (POC): Jean-Claude Carel from France.

We congratulate all our colleagues.

There was another ballot for the presidency and venue for the 2015 ESPE meeting. Barcelona was the city elected with Dr Laura Audi as the President of the 2015 congress. Congratulations!



View from the Exhibition Hall



# ESPE Summer School 2010

The 24th ESPE Summer School took place in Sychrov, Czech Republic, 19–21 September 2010, just before the 49th Annual ESPE Meeting in Prague. The ESPE Summer School has been organised every year since 1987 and brings together paediatric endocrinologists in training and academic clinicians and scientists.

The Summer School Organising Committee had developed the course around various themes, this year focusing on neuroendocrinology, puberty, nutritional effects on bone physiology, and type 1 diabetes mellitus. For each theme, there were state-of-the-art basic and clinical lectures. This year an interactive session had been introduced which was very much appreciated. Exchanges between students and teachers were active after the talks and during the breaks. An important feature of the Summer School is the presentation of cases, one by each student, that are discussed in small groups with a faculty member. Cases are then summarised and presented to the plenum, providing an extensive sample of challenging endocrine cases, ranging from management problems to rare molecular

diagnoses or example cases. The Summer School is also aimed at promoting interactions between students of various geographical origins and this closeness during 3 days was truly appreciated. All faculty members are to be thanked for contributing to the Summer School and staying throughout the course. Those who were not previously familiar with the ESPE Summer School concept were favourably impressed by the quality of the teaching and of the exchanges during the course. Dr Zdeněk Šumník deserves special thanks for doing an outstanding job in the local organization of the course. ESPE Summer School has since 1987 continuously been supported by Ferring Pharmaceuticals A/S which is greatly appreciated.

After seven years on the Summer School Steering Committee, Professor Lars



The happy group of professors and participants in ESPE Summer School 2011 in Sychrov, Czech Republic

Sävendahl has now resigned. Professor Faisal Ahmed has been appointed to replace him as the coordinator of the Steering Committee. In 2011, the 25th Summer School will take place in Auchen Castle, Scotland, 22–24 September, just before the 50th Annual ESPE Meeting in Glasgow. Application forms and further information can be found at the ESPE website. The application deadline is 1 February 2011. Please encourage your fellows to apply!

## New Inroads to Child Health (NICHe) Conference 2011

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a real pleasure to invite you to participate in the 2011 New Inroads to Child Health (NICHe) Conference (<http://www.eurospe.org/meetings/NiCHE.html>) BIOLOGICAL RHYTHMS: PERSPECTIVES FOR CHILD HEALTH on 27–29 May 2011, in Berlin.

This is the fourth in ESPE's series of high-profile conferences devoted to future research directions in child health. The series is based on our conviction that it is the responsibility of those of us involved in today's biomedical research enterprise to translate the remarkable scientific innovations we are witnessing into health gains for children.

The Scientific Committee is pleased to invite those interested to register with the Conference Organiser Mr Then (Then@endoscience.de) before 10 January 2011 and to submit an abstract to be presented as a poster at the meeting. There are 25 slots available for ESPE members on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference to those submitting an abstract.

For active participants (poster presenters) the conference will cover the cost of scientific sessions, registration, accommodation and provision. For non poster presenters, the cost of scientific sessions, registration and provision will be covered. Travel expenses are not covered by the conference organization.

We look forward to seeing you in Berlin.



Participants and Faculty at the inaugural ESPE Science School, in Varberg, Sweden in May 2010, which was held in conjunction with the NICHe conference on Signal Transduction and Child Health

## Deadlines

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

Awards, grants and fellowships – deadline dates for application

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Applications for ESPE NICHe Conference  | 10 Jan 2011 |
| ESPE Science School applications  | 10 Jan 2011 |
| ESPE Outstanding Clinician Award  | 15 Jan 2011 |
| ESPE Young Investigator Award   | 15 Jan 2011 |
| ESPE Visiting Scholarship   | 31 Jan 2011 |
| ESPE Summer School application deadline   | 1 Feb 2011  |
| ESPE Research Fellowship  | 1 Mar 2011  |
| Deadline for ESPE 2011 abstract submission  | March 2011  |
| ESPE travel grant applications  | March 2011  |
| ESPE Research Unit deadline for preliminary applications  | 25 Apr 2011 |
| ESPE Clinical Fellowship application deadline   | 31 May 2011 |
| Deadline for ESPE 2011 early registration fee   | May 2011    |
| ESPE Research Unit deadline for Complete Collaborative Grant application  | 5 Jun 2011  |
| Deadline for new ESPE membership applications   | 31 Jul 2011 |
| Sabbatical Leave Programme  | No deadline |
| See the ESPE website <a href="http://www.eurospe.org">www.eurospe.org</a> for further details & application forms |             |

# The Nairobi Training Centre

With Ze'ev Hochberg's guidance, ESPE and the World Diabetic Foundation (WDF) developed a training programme in Africa for paediatric endocrinology and diabetes and the training centre in Nairobi, with its administrative hub at Gertrude's Children's Hospital, took its first intake in May 2008. It relies on three clinical training sites in Nairobi (the Gertrude's Children's Hospital, Kenyatta National Hospital and the Aga Khan University Hospital). The programme has now developed a critical mass of local paediatric endocrinologists in Kenya and other countries, who continue to maintain links with ESPE.



*Graduation ceremony for the first group of fellows in Nairobi, May 2009*

## Clinical Training

The programme consists of a period of training by visiting tutors in Nairobi, a period at home and then another period at the training centre followed by an examination by a combination of local and ESPE faculty. The examination consists of a combination of multiple-choice questions, an oral case-based interview and an overall assessment by tutors. Prior to their graduation, the fellows also present a research project that they would have undertaken with advice from a visiting tutor. The first group of 8 fellows from Nigeria, Tanzania and Kenya were examined by ESPE faculty and Dr Nyakio from Nairobi and subsequently graduated in May 2009 and along with fellows-in-training and existing paediatric endocrinologists in Nairobi, founded the African Society of Paediatric & Adolescent Endocrinology (ASPAAE). The second batch of 5 fellows from Nigeria, Sudan and Tanzania were examined in May 2010 and graduated later that month. They were examined by ESPE faculty and local faculty including Drs Ngwiri and Laigong, a former fellow of the training programme. A third group of 9 fellows from Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Botswana are due to graduate in March 2011.

## The 1st 'Growth in Practice' Training Course

In April 2010, the 1st Growth in Practice (GIP) course was successfully held at Gertrude's Children's Hospital. There were 33 participants, including paediatricians from hospitals and private clinics, medical officers, dietitians and nurses. With the help of Dr Berit Kristrom, the ESPE tutor for April 2010 and Dr Kerstin Albertson-Wikland, ESPE Adviser for Nairobi, the fellows from the training programme acted as facilitators and lecturers. Lectures were given on normal and pathological growth according to both height and weight and the usefulness of growth charts. The growth training courses now continues in Nairobi with monthly 1 day training for staff members in the three hospitals that participate in the Training Programme. In October 2010, the 2nd GIP course will take place and will be run exclusively by the local faculty in Nairobi. In addition, similar courses are planned to be delivered by ex-fellows of the training programme in Sudan, Tanzania and Nigeria.



*The first GIP course in Nairobi, April 2010*

## The 1st Meeting of ASPAAE

The first ASPAAE meeting was successfully held at the Panafric Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2010 and was attended by approximately 60 delegates. The delegates and African speakers were primarily from Sub-Saharan Africa and mainly Kenya and Nigeria. There were five overseas speakers who were supported by ESPE, one by APPES and one by ISPAD. ASPAAE held its first business meeting and ESPE and ISPAD members were invited to attend.

## ESPE Tutors at the Training Centre

A big thank you is due to the following ESPE members who have acted as tutors, examiners and advisers at the Nairobi Training Centre – Ze'ev Hochberg, Lorenzo Iughetti, Dana Hardin, Violeta Iotova, Marc Maes, Marek Niedziela, Ursula Kuhnle, Martin Ritzen, Stefan Aronsson, Berit Kristrom, Kerstin Albertson-Wikland, Raffaele Virdis, Ágota Muzsnai, Ilkka Sippila, John Gregory, Orit Hamiel, Carla Bizzari, Faisal Ahmed, Annemieke Boot, Tim Cheetham, Stanislava Kolouskova, Eli Hershkovitz, Jean-Pierre Chanoine, Josep Meyerovich, Alan Rogol, Margaret Zacharin, Stephen Greene, Nick Shaw, Nella Augusta Greggio and Ieuan Hughes.

FAISAL AHMED, LORENZO IUGHETTI  
AND BERIT KRISTROM,  
PANAFRICAN TRAINING PROGRAMME



# Dr James Tanner, 1920–2010

## Personal recollections

*We regret the passing of Dr James M Tanner, an English paediatrician who developed standards for measuring a child's development during puberty and helped define what constitutes normal growth. Dr Tanner died of a stroke aged 90 on 11 August 2010 in Wellington, near Taunton, in southwestern England. Dr Tanner was equal parts meticulous researcher and creative thinker whose interests lay in the intersecting fields of biology, psychology and sociology.*

James Mourilyan Tanner was born on 1 August 1920, in Camberley, Surrey, southwest of London. His father was a soldier, and young James grew up in a family that travelled, living in Egypt, China and elsewhere. He was expected to follow his father into the military, but after his older brother was killed in World War II, he decided to become a doctor. A superb athlete as a young man, he was a standout hurdler and would likely have competed in the 1940 Olympics had they not been cancelled because of the war. He completed his medical studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where he met his first wife, Bernice Altire, also a doctor, and did his internship at Johns Hopkins. Dr Altire died in 1991.

Dr Tanner oversaw a study initiated by the British government at an orphanage in Harpenden. Starting in 1948, the study was originally designed to investigate the effects of malnutrition on children. Over a period of several years, Dr Tanner charted the growth of the children, giving rise to what came to be known as the Tanner stages, or the Tanner scale, a series of steps that define physical maturation during puberty. The stages are based on observable and measurable external characteristics such as genital size and amount and length of pubic hair. The data gathered led to the development of the modern growth chart, used by paediatricians around the world to monitor the pattern of growth in children through adolescence, with separate curves measuring the growth trajectory for boys and girls identified as maturing early, normal or late. Dr Tanner "brought an academic rigor to the measurement and charting of human growth, and with that a flexible understanding of what the term normal encompasses," said Stephen S Hall, the author of *Size Matters: How Height Affects the Health, Happiness, and Success of Boys – and the Men They Become*.

For much of his career Dr Tanner was associated with two London hospitals specialising in the care of children, the Institute for Child Health and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Though his research, early on, was focused on the children of 20th-century Britain, his data and his theories have been applied across the world.

Beginning in the late 1950s, Dr Tanner was among the first scientists to study how and when to use human growth hormone to treat children with growth retardation and other deficiencies. "If you are asking what determines the height of an individual, it's 90 percent genetics," Dr Tanner explained in Mr Hall's book. "But if you're asking what determines the mean height of 100,000 individuals, forget the genetics because that doesn't change. It's the environment."

Dr Tanner's influential books include *A History of the Study of Human Growth, Foetus Into Man: Physical Growth From Conception to Maturity* and, with Phyllis B Eveleth, *Worldwide Variation in Human Growth*.

An unusually crisp and accessible writer for a scientific scholar, he was also the author of *Growth*, an introduction to the field commissioned by Time-Life Books and published in 1965.

In addition to being a great scholar, Dr Tanner was a great sportsman. He was a skier who took great risks and engaged in other sports as well.

In addition to his second wife, a Swedish scholar with whom he first became acquainted through a long correspondence in the 1970s, Dr Tanner is survived by a daughter, Helen Phillips, who lives outside London; a stepson and a stepdaughter, who live in Sweden; and three granddaughters.

A selection of his publications are listed opposite.

Tanner JM 1962 *Growth at Adolescence*, 2nd edn. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific.

Tanner JM & Taylor GR 1965 *Growth* (Life Science Library). New York: Time-Life Books.

Tanner JM & Falkner F (Eds) 1979. *Human Growth: Neurobiology and Nutrition*, vol. 3. New York: Plenum Press.

Tanner JM 1981 *A History of the Study of Human Growth*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tanner JM 1988 Section III – Human Growth and Constitution. In *Human Biology: An Introduction to Human Evolution, Variation, Growth, and Adaptability*, 3rd edn, chapters 14–19. Eds GA Harrison, JM Tanner, DR Pilbeam & PT Baker. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tanner JM 1989 *Fetus into Man: Physical Growth from Conception to Maturity*, revised and enlarged edn. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Tanner JM & Preece MA (Eds) 1989 *The physiology of human growth. Society for the Study of Human Biology Symposium 29*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tanner JM & Eveleth PB 1990 *Worldwide variation in human growth*, 2nd edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tanner JM 1994 Human growth and development. In *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Human Evolution*, pp 98–105. Eds S Jones, RD Martin & DR Pilbeam. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tanner JM 2000 A brief history of the study of human growth. In *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Human Growth and Development*, pp 2–18. Eds SJ Ulijaszek, FE Johnston & MA Preece. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

MARIA NEW

## Dr James Tanner, 1920–2010

### Personal recollections - *continued*

The bones of Jim's career are well known: after attending Marlborough College, Jim went to St Mary's Hospital Medical School and thence on a Rockefeller scholarship to Philadelphia. That stay had two important consequences: the good one was that he married Bernice, known to all as Bunny, who was a successful west-London general practitioner and predeceased him; the bad one was that he delayed his return to England until after WWII had ended. I guess that this had probably to do with his interest in humanism.

After working at Oxford and St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, Jim was recruited by Sir Alan Moncrieff to be one of the foundation Nuffield professors at the Institute of Child Health, his chair in Growth and Development, the others in medicine and surgery. Jim had not been trained as a paediatrician and, in those days at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, that meant that his patients had nominally to be under the care of one of his card-carrying colleagues, all of whom had served in the war. I think that these two disadvantages sowed a division between his very successful basic science department and the clinical service he provided to the hospital which was not properly recognised.

I was fortunate not to get a clinical registrar appointment at Great Ormond Street when I completed my residency there in 1968 because I was recruited by Professor Otto Wolff (who was also born in 1920 and died in 2010) to study fat cell size and number in obese children. My presentation on what I thought was a critical nutrition-dependent phase of growth in infancy was heard by Jim who asked me to dine with him that evening. With me being rather brave and garrulous from his generous hospitality, we rehearsed why he was a prophet without sufficient recognition at home and he generously asked me to transfer to his department. There I learned auxology, which Jim considered the basic science of paediatric medicine in general and paediatric endocrinology in particular; he determined that I was to become the "first properly trained paediatric endocrinologist" in the UK and he sent me to the Kinderspital Zurich where I spent a year with Professor Prader (also born in 1920). There was a collapse of sterling in 1972/1973 and the value of my Wellcome Travelling Fellowship stipend fell to the point where I could not pay my children's school fees. Jim generously filled the gap either from his departmental 'slush' funds (from private patients) or from his own pocket. I do not know which. Thus was my training wholly thanks to him.

Fate again decided that I should not get a consultant job at Great Ormond Street in 1974 (David Grant was appointed) but I fell on my feet at The Middlesex Hospital to which Jim sent me a steady stream of referrals to 'get me going', another very generous and much appreciated gesture of support.

Jim was a very private man, quite happy to go off skiing (always in Val d'Isere) on his own, for example. To his eternal credit, he nursed Bunny devotedly during her protracted neurological illness. He subsequently married Gunilla and they spent happy retirement years together.

Jim's legacy as a scientist cannot be doubted. He, of course rightly in my view, put auxology on the map and one of the reasons for his success was his beautiful command of written English, much better in my opinion than his command of the spoken language. I found his lectures too long and often disjointed but his papers and books are models of clarity which deserve still to be read by paediatricians in training, teachers and all others concerned with the nurture of healthy children. He was not only conversant with statistical methods, he really understood them – and expected us in his department to do so too. He would have deplored the indiscriminate use of computer programs that do so many tests that one in twenty is bound to yield a statistically significant result at the 5% level. He was a very great man in many ways.

CHARLES BROOK

There have already been a number of obituaries published for Jim. At least two common themes emerge from these: the eclectic nature of the Department of Growth and Development under his leadership, and Jim's great loyalty to the members of the department.

When I joined the department at ICH in the summer of 1974, the disciplines represented amongst senior staff included auxology together with biometrics, endocrinology, biochemistry, and ethology: all directed at child development in one sense or another. This diversity in staff members was even more emphasised by the Research Fellows from all over the world. There were psychologists, educational psychologists, anthropologists, physical education scientists, paediatric endocrinologists, dysmorphologists, human biologists, biometricians and many others. Over the subsequent 35 years much has changed, including the name of the department, and now the emphasis has focused on the molecular genetics of childhood development and particularly on the developing endocrine system. But, Jim set the overall direction much earlier.

Charles Brook alluded to the help Jim gave him in his career development. I should recount another, personal to me. When I joined the department I already had an interest in statistics and mathematical modelling of biological processes. In Jim I was to meet a very willing ally. I was soon made aware of his interests and earlier important work in the statistics and modelling of human growth, which encouraged me to develop this side of my academic career. About a year later I wished to start a part-time MSc in statistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Jim encouraged me greatly in this and arranged for me to have appropriate leave of absence from ICH for the next two years. To enable this he personally covered many of my clinical duties to make it possible. The value of these two years was further enhanced in the second year when Professor Michael Healy became the new Head of Department at the School of Hygiene. He was, of course, already a major collaborator of Jim's and very familiar with all aspects of modelling human growth.

I have little doubt that these two aspects were essential in my own career development and therefore I remain deeply grateful to Jim.

MIKE PREECE



# 50th Annual ESPE Meeting

25–28 SEPTEMBER 2011, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND [www.espe2011.org](http://www.espe2011.org)



Much preparation is going on for the 50th ESPE Meeting to be held in Glasgow next September. I am working hard with my colleagues on the Programme and Local Organising Committees to mark this important stage in the development of our Society by delivering scientific and social programmes that will make the meeting a memorable experience for all delegates and accompanying persons.

The facilities at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), a city-centre site on the banks of the River Clyde, are the finest in the UK. The scientific theme – ‘Evidence-based Paediatric Endocrinology – its strengths and limitations’ – will give us the opportunity to look back at what we know scientifically, critically appraise the basis of that knowledge, showcase current research, and look to the future as ESPE becomes an increasingly international forum for the exchange of high quality basic scientific and clinical information.

Amongst the unique anniversary celebrations will be a concert given by the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Scottish dancing to a ceilidh band and a few surprises!



Why not combine the meeting with a holiday in Scotland? Glasgow is a vibrant and stylish former European City of Culture (“One of the Top Ten Cities in the World to Visit” – Lonely Planet Best in Travel 2009) and has some of the most exciting Art Nouveau and Victorian architecture – and best shopping – in the UK. It is also the gateway to some of Europe’s most unspoilt, majestic and breathtaking scenery and only 45 minutes from Scotland’s capital city,

Edinburgh. Many of the world’s most famous golf courses are just a short drive away and you can be assured of warm Scottish hospitality wherever you go.

Welcome to Scotland and to the ESPE 50th Meeting in Glasgow, 25–28 September 2011!

PROFESSOR CHRIS KELNAR  
on behalf of the Programme Organising and Local Organising Committee

## ESPE Secretariat

The ESPE Secretariat is managed by BioScientifica Limited. BioScientifica is headed by Acting Managing Director Pat Barter and Commercial Director Nigel Garland.

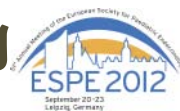
Joanne Fox-Evans, BioScientifica’s Secretariats Manager, oversees the day-to-day relationship with ESPE, liaising with the ESPE council and committee members as well as being the main point of contact for ESPE enquiries. She undertakes projects requested by the Secretary General, providing him with assistance and attending ESPE council and committee meetings. Kerry Lear handles membership renewals, payments and banking and deals with subscriptions to *Hormone Research in Paediatrics*.

Tom Parkhill manages the Corporate Liaison Board and deals with industry sponsors. Sarah Esberger sub-edits and co-ordinates publication of the ESPE Newsletter.

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# 51st Annual ESPE Meeting

20–23 SEPTEMBER 2012, LEIPZIG, GERMANY



Dear colleagues and friends,

On behalf of ESPE Council, the Programme Organising Committee, the Local Organising Committee and the German Working Group for Paediatric Endocrinology, I extend my warm invitation to you to come to Leipzig and actively participate in the 51st Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE).

The theme of the meeting will be “Translating science into clinical practice”. The Programme Organising Committee is preparing a state-of-the art and up-to-date programme with a strong emphasis on the newest in science without neglecting more practical and clinical aspects of paediatric endocrinology. Plenary Lectures and Symposia will cover all aspects of fetal, child and adolescent endocrinology. Meet-the-Expert sessions, Free Communications and Poster Sessions will add to the value of the meeting.

The City of Leipzig has a very long tradition of trade fairs, book printing, the arts, science and education. The city’s orchestras and choirs have acquired international fame and music has been the tradition of the city over many centuries, to name Johann Sebastian Bach and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy as two of the city’s musician citizens from former centuries. The University of Leipzig is the second oldest university in Germany, having been founded more than 600 years ago by scholars from Prague, Czech Republic. The citizens from Leipzig pioneered the movement that led to German reunification more than two decades ago. It is the true European dimension that has helped Leipzig to thrive again. It is its long university and trade fair tradition that makes the city particularly



hospitable, charming and inviting. The Leipzig Conference Centre is one of the most modern European meeting places of the highest standards.

Leipzig will welcome you warmly with its tradition of music, restaurants, pubs, museums and its charming inner city. On behalf of all of ESPE I cordially invite you to Leipzig and ESPE 2012.

Sincerely yours,

WIELAND KIESS  
ESPE 2012 President

## ESPE Newsletter

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



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