



Look back at Leipzig

More than 3200 ESPE members, colleagues and friends assembled at the congress centre in Leipzig, Germany, for the 51st Annual Meeting of ESPE in September.

Due to the many active contributions, the lively discussions and the friendly atmosphere, the meeting was both a great success and a real pleasure for all of us. The members of the Local Organising Committee, Programme Organising Committee and ESPE Council wish to thank all the colleagues and friends who came to Leipzig and made such an energetic contribution.

Both the city and the University of Leipzig were privileged to host the ESPE Annual Meeting 2012. The scientific presentations were of a very high quality, and there were many excellent posters. Friends young and old were reunited in the hallways of the Neue Messe at the congress centre.

It was a special and moving opportunity to be able to listen to the concert in St Thomas' Church, enjoy the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, and afterwards celebrate and party in the Moritzbastei. It was the special atmosphere of the evening that made the ESPE spirit come to life and be felt throughout the meeting.

The concert was also a great success for charity. ESPE members donated more than €8500 for the Foundation for the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy High School of Music and the Performing Arts in Leipzig and the Foundation for the Hospital for Children and Adolescents of the University of Leipzig. The money is much needed and will be spent in the interests of the international community and for the future of our children.

We all look forward to meeting again in Milan, Italy, in 2013, where Franco Chiarelli, ESPE President 2013 and Chairman of the Joint Programme Organising Committee, will host the joint meeting of all the paediatric endocrinology societies in the world!

With warm regards

Professor Wieland Kiess, President, ESPE 2012



READ MORE ABOUT THE MEETING ON PAGES 4-5

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Welcome to issue 20

DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,
Following our very successful ESPE Annual Meeting in Leipzig in September, Professor Wieland Kiess, President of ESPE 2012, shares the news from Leipzig in this issue. On pages 4 and 5 you will find the names and pictures of the recipients of the many awards that were presented at the ESPE meeting. We congratulate them all!

We also congratulate George Chrousos, who has recently been elected to the ESPE Council with responsibility for communications, and has joined us on the newsletter's Editorial Board, as well as Peter Clayton and Mehul Dattani, who are the new Chairman of the Corporate Liaison Board and Chairman Elect of the Programme Organising Committee respectively.

Recently we started a series to introduce the national societies of paediatric endocrinology to readers of this newsletter. This time, we have an update from the Italian Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetology (page 6). We thank our Italian colleagues for telling us about their activities.

You will also find news about other ESPE activities. On page 3, John Gregory discusses

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the Paediatric Endocrine Training Centres for Africa initiative, which is seeking volunteers. Meanwhile, on page 7, Zoran Gucev, a recent beneficiary of the ESPE Sabbatical Leave Programme, explains why the Programme has made such a difference to his career.

We are delighted to publish updates from three of ESPE's Working Groups. On page 6, you can read about the various collaborative projects encouraged by the Disorders of Sex Development Working Group, as well as the very successful sessions that were organised by the Working Groups on Paediatric & Adolescent Gynaecology and Obesity in Leipzig.

There is already news from the 9th Joint Meeting of Paediatric Endocrinology, which will take place in Milan, Italy, on 19–22 September 2013. Read the latest information from Professor Franco Chiarelli (ESPE President 2013, and Chairman of the Joint Programme Organising Committee) on page 8, and make sure to mark the dates in your diary.

We, as the Editorial Board, will do our best to maintain the quality of your newsletter, and try to enrich it with information and feedback from all members. Do make use of your newsletter to tell others what you are doing! You can contact us at espe@eurospe.org.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Feyza Darendeliler
Editor, ESPE Newsletter

EDITORIAL BOARD

Indi Banerjee, Manchester, UK
George P Chrousos, Athens, Greece
Gabriel Martos Moreno, Madrid, Spain

Lab investigations, rare diseases, research activities

DEAR COLLEAGUES

As your Editorial Board, we aim to reflect what is happening in different centres, and to highlight items that you would like to share with other colleagues, so that we increase awareness and/or find other people interested in your area.

The topics discussed can include research projects, or diagnostic tests in your lab, especially with respect to the diagnosis of rare disease. We would like the newsletter to improve comprehensive and widespread collaboration between colleagues and among centres. Please get in touch by writing to espe@eurospe.org.

Feyza Darendeliler, *Editor*

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

THIS YEAR THE NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE was awarded to Professor Sir John Gurdon, University of Cambridge, UK, and Professor Shinya Yamanaka, Kyoto University, Japan, for their discovery that mature cells can be reprogrammed to be pluripotent.

Professor Gurdon reshaped the prevailing notion that all cells are committed to their cell fate. His experiments demonstrated that the nucleus of a mature cell can be returned to a pluripotent state. Some of his techniques were used in the cloning of mammals, including 'Dolly the sheep'. In separate studies, Professor Yamanaka published a method to reprogramme skin cells to give cells which resemble embryonic stem cells.

These techniques have been applied to human cells to derive induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. The field of research in iPS cells has opened up the possibility of understanding disease mechanisms, especially for rare diseases, where access to affected human tissues is not possible and suitable animal models do not exist. Examples of relevance to paediatric endocrinology include differentiation of pancreatic beta-cells from patients with monogenic diabetes and congenital hyperinsulinism. Such differentiated cells provide opportunities for drug development and screening to improve treatment options.

For further details on this year's Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, please see www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/laureates/2012/press.html.

Have your say!

Members of ESPE, remember that this is your newsletter! What topics would you like us to address in subsequent issues? What would make the newsletter more interesting? Please write to us. We would be pleased to publish your letters or suggestions.

Please also let us know which topics you would like included in the e-Seminars that ESPE plans to launch shortly.

Any questions?

Do you have a burning question that you would like to ask the ESPE Council? Write to us and we will publish your questions on important issues in future editions of the newsletter, along with Council's response. (Please let us know if you wish to remain anonymous when we publish your question.)

Election results

Following the recent elections, we welcome the members pictured to their posts on the ESPE Council.

We thank the previous Chairman of the Corporate Liaison Board, **Professor Chris Kelnar** (Edinburgh, UK), and retiring Council member **Professor Feyza Darendeliler** (Istanbul, Turkey), for their commitment to ESPE.



Chairman of the Corporate Liaison Board 2012-2015
Professor Peter Clayton
(Manchester, UK)



Council member responsible for communications 2012-2015
Professor George P Chrousos
(Athens, Greece)



Chairman of the Programme Organising Committee 2013-2016
Professor Mehul Dattani
(London, UK)
currently serving as Chairman Elect

Paediatric Training Centres for Africa

MANY OF YOU WILL BE AWARE of the Paediatric Endocrine Training Centre for Africa (PETCA) based at Gertrude Children's Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya, funded by a grant from the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF) in 2008.

Trainees from throughout sub-Saharan Africa attend for 6 months of clinical training in outpatient clinics in three hospitals in Nairobi, followed by 6 months at their home base, when they undertake a clinical research project. Thereafter, the trainees return to Nairobi for a 3-month refresher course, culminating in an exam.

The programme has been supported by many members of ESPE and the Pediatric Endocrine Society (PES), who have acted as short-term tutors in residence. A measure of its success has been the subsequent establishment of paediatric endocrine centres in Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania and Kenya, and the launch of the African Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Endocrinology. Local paediatric endocrinologists have also successfully bid to the WDF for extended funding of the PETCA in Nairobi and the launch of a second PETCA in Lagos, Nigeria.

It has been a delight to see PETCA graduates presenting at the ESPE Annual Meeting.

From 2012, each centre will be supported for 2-week periods by visiting clinical tutors from the membership of ESPE, PES and the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes. These visits will take place approximately every other month, with local graduates from the first PETCA in Nairobi providing full time support between the tutor visits.

We therefore have 3-4 vacancies each year for ESPE tutors to visit the PETCAs in Nairobi and Lagos until 2014. These tutors will support the trainees through didactic tutorials and supervision of clinical training in local hospital outpatient departments, where patients with a full range of paediatric endocrine and diabetes disorders are encountered. The programme and ESPE will cover second class fares and a modest



honorarium with secure accommodation provided on the hospital campus where the training facility is based.

This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the development of services for children with endocrine disorders in sub-Saharan Africa. I warmly welcome expressions of interest from colleagues (including those who have retired). Feedback from previous tutors has suggested that visits provide many rewarding personal and clinical experiences.

John Gregory wchjwg@cardiff.ac.uk

MEET A MEMBER...

Rod Mitchell

This series asks ESPE members to share their thoughts on the Society. Here we meet new member Rod Mitchell, and find out what he hopes to enjoy about ESPE.



I JOINED ESPE BECAUSE, as a paediatric endocrinologist, it is important to keep up to date with new advances in the field. I wanted to be able to communicate with leaders in the specialty. Membership has allowed me to benefit from important education opportunities, including the ESPE Summer School, which was truly inspiring. I also attended the ESPE Annual Meeting and delivered my work as oral presentations. Already,

membership has been critical in developing collaborations with colleagues across Europe.

As a clinician scientist, I also intend to apply for research funding through the Society. The online education and e-learning modules will be very useful to me, including the excellent DSD resource, as this is a particular clinical and research interest of mine.

Anybody who is set on a career in paediatric endocrinology should join ESPE. The opportunities for networking, education, reduced rates for attendance at meetings and access to research funding are important reasons to become a member. In addition, membership can keep you abreast of the latest news and research related to your specialty.

Rod Mitchell, *Queen's Medical Research Institute and Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, UK*

Cultivating future research leaders: ESPE Science School

Human Evolution and Child Health

9-12 MAY 2013, HAIFA, ISRAEL

THE ESPE SCIENCE SCHOOL is a multi-faceted training programme for aspiring young investigators in paediatric endocrinology, including postdoctoral and clinical research fellows.

This unique opportunity to develop your research skills includes an international faculty of world-renowned scientists teaching core topics, such as scientific writing, grant applications and career development, as well as new research concepts. In-depth discussions, within and outside the programme, will bring younger and older scientists together.

You can find the detailed scientific programme on this year's topic, 'Human Evolution and Child Health', at www.eurospe.org/education/scienceschool/ESS_programme_2013.pdf.

It features an amazing list of experts and subjects, such as 'Life history and social behaviour of humans, bonobos and chimpanzees', 'Parent-offspring and mother-father conflicts', 'Family experience and pubertal development', 'Evolutionary biology of child health', 'Epigenetic mechanisms in human adaptation' and 'Trends in child growth, puberty, bone health, diabetes and obesity'.

You can register online at www.eurospe.org/education/education_scienceschool.html until **10 December 2012**. Reduced price places (to cover accommodation only) are available to a limited number of ESPE members on a first come-first served basis.

Fellows from our international sister paediatric endocrine societies will also be taking part. The programme is funded equally by Pfizer Endocrine Care and the ESPE Council.

Ze'ev Hochberg and **Dov Tiosano**, *ESS 2013 Hosts (Haifa)*
George Chrousos, *ESS Co-ordinator (Athens)*

Award-winning paediatric endocrinology

An important part of every ESPE meeting, ESPE award sessions took place throughout the Leipzig conference.

Andrea Prader Prize



Lars Sävendahl presents the Andrea Prader Prize to David Dunger

The most prestigious ESPE senior award, the Andrea Prader Prize, was awarded to **Professor David Dunger** (Cambridge, UK) in recognition of his lifetime achievement in teaching and research, as well as his leadership and overall contribution to the field of paediatric endocrinology.

ESPE Research Award



Michel Polak receives the ESPE Research Award from Anita Hokken-Koelega

Professor Michel Polak (Paris, France) received the ESPE Research Award, for research of outstanding quality in basic endocrine science or clinical paediatric endocrinology. He summarised his studies in the lecture, 'Awakening the beta cell: a sleeping beauty fairytale'.

Outstanding Clinician Award



Lars Sävendahl presents Chris Kelnar with the ESPE Outstanding Clinician Award

The Outstanding Clinician Award was presented to **Professor Chris Kelnar** (Edinburgh, UK) for his contribution to the practice of clinical paediatric endocrinology.

ESPE International Award

This year saw the first ever ESPE International Award, which is made to an outstanding paediatric endocrinologist from a country outside Europe and the Mediterranean basin. The award was presented to **Professor Walter Miller** (San Francisco, CA, USA).

Research Unit Grants

The ESPE Research Unit Grants were awarded to **Dr Henrik Christensen** (Odense, Denmark) for 'Congenital hyperinsulinism: genes, phenotypes and treatment', and **Dr Sabine Heger** (Hannover, Germany) for 'Effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals on GnRH neuronal function'. These grants aim to facilitate research networking among ESPE members in any field of paediatric endocrinology.



ESPE Young Investigator Awards

For those at the start of promising careers, the ESPE Young Investigator Awards are presented in recognition of excellent publications. This year's recipients were **Dr Leandro Soriano-Guillén** (Madrid, Spain) and **Dr Antonis Voutetakis** (Athens, Greece). Dr Soriano-Guillén's field of investigation has focused on the pathophysiology and clinical usefulness of ghrelin, the disturbance of puberty and implications of the kisspeptin/GnRH axis. In contrast, Dr Voutetakis' investigation has been mainly directed towards PYY and the eventual clinical applications of its salivary measurement and the suppressive effects of its oral administration on appetite and metabolism.

IFCAH-ESPE Awards

The IFCAH (International Fund for Research on Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia)-ESPE Awards are conferred upon scientists involved in research into congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), in order to improve its management in children and adults. This year's recipients were **Dr Nils Krone** (Birmingham, UK) for 'Discovery of pharmacological chaperones as novel treatment of CAH', **Dr Hedi Claahsen-van der Grinten** (Nijmegen, The Netherlands) for 'Aetiological features of testicular adrenal rest tumours (TART) in patients with CAH' and **Dr Svetlana Lajic** (Stockholm, Sweden) for 'Prenatal treatment of CAH – evaluation of treatment efficacy and long-term follow-up of treated children with emphasis on metabolic and neuropsychological outcome'.

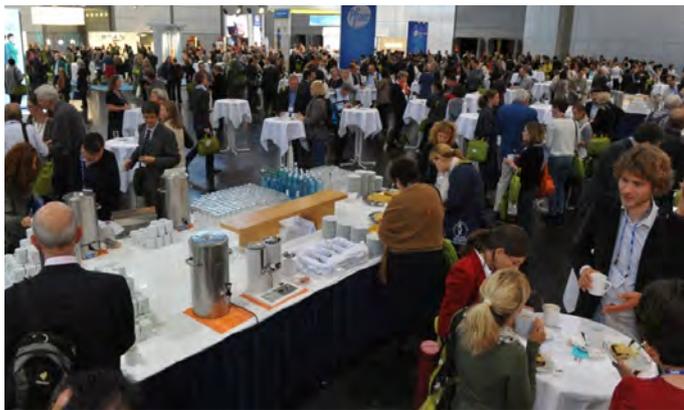
Award-winning paediatric endocrinology - continued from page 4

Hormone Research in Paediatrics Prizes

These prizes are awarded to the best original paper and the best paper in the section ‘Novel insights from clinical practice’ published in *Hormone Research in Paediatrics*. The 2012 award for the best original paper was won by **Rikke Beck Jensen** and colleagues for ‘Influence of fetal growth velocity and smallness at birth on adrenal function in adolescence’ (*Hormone Research in Paediatrics* 2011 **75** 2-7), and the award for the best paper in ‘Novel insights from clinical practice’ went to **Tohru Yorifuji** for ‘Lasting ¹⁸F-DOPA PET uptake after clinical emission of the focal form of congenital hyperinsulinism’ (*Hormone Research in Paediatrics* 2011 **76** 286-290).

Henning Andersen Prizes

The most highly rated clinical and basic science abstracts submitted to the annual meeting receive the two Henning Andersen Prizes. The Henning Andersen prize for basic science was awarded to **Dov Tiosano** and his colleagues as a result of the work ‘Co-adaptation of the vitamin D receptor and colour-determining genes to latitude during humans’ venture out of Africa’. **Johnny Deladoey** and coworkers were recognised with the Henning Andersen prize for clinical science for their work ‘Isolated glucocorticoid deficiency caused by immunoreactive but biologically inactive ACTH’.



Electronic posters

AN INCREDIBLE 85% OF POSTERS submitted to the 51st Annual Meeting of ESPE in Leipzig were uploaded electronically. That is 776 out of a total of 918!

This enables delegates to read them online for a year after the meeting, and to contact the authors and discuss their research via email.

That such a significant majority of the posters were loaded electronically is obviously great news, as well as being rather important for a lot of members who wish to look through posters in the comfort of their living room. We encourage the authors of abstracts at all future ESPE meetings to upload their abstracts in the same way, especially for the 9th Joint Meeting of Paediatric Endocrinology in Milan in 2013.

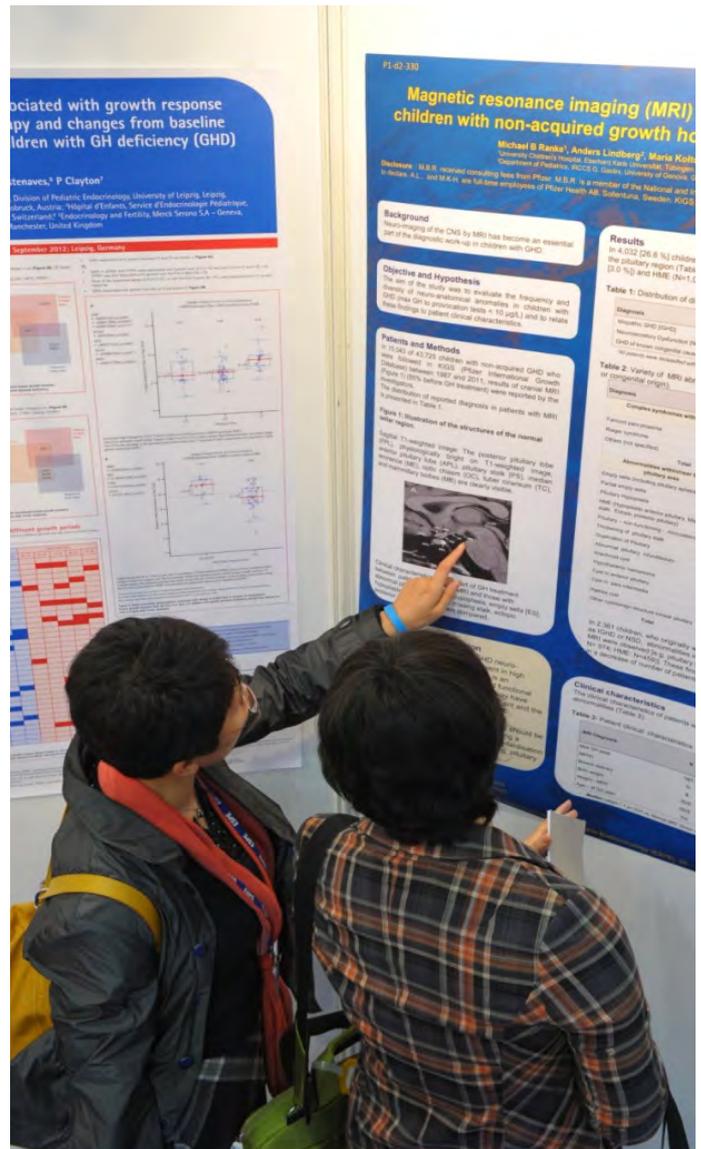
All posters and Electronic Poster Only submissions from ESPE 2012 are available for viewing at www.posters2view.com/espe2012. Login details were provided in Leipzig. If you have misplaced the information, please email espe2012.scientific@congrex.com.

Webcasting
 Relive ESPE 2013 and watch the plenary lectures again online!
 Visit <http://espe2012.eventresult.com>.

President’s Posters Awards

The five best posters on display at the annual meeting are awarded the President’s Poster Awards, which are given to the presenting and first author of each poster. Winners at ESPE 2012 were:

- Bone morphogenic protein 1 causes osteogenesis imperfecta with high bone mass in humans and zebrafish
Oliver Semler (Cologne, Germany) and colleagues (P1-d1-192)
- Circadian clock gene expression in leukocytes of obese and lean subjects
Tobias Drechsler (Leipzig, Germany) and colleagues (P1-d1-246)
- Deficient expression of genes involved in the endogenous defence system against transposons in cryptorchid boys
Faruk Hadziselimovic (Liestal, Switzerland) and colleagues (P1-d2-304)
- Elevated insulin concentrations at birth and at prepubescent age are associated with an altered BMI course during childhood – results of the Ulm birth cohort study (UBCS)
Stephanie Brandt (Ulm, Germany) and colleagues (P1-d3-366)
- Creating a European consortium to study GnRH deficiency (COST Action BM1105)
Nelly Pitteloud (Lausanne, Switzerland) and **Andrew Dwyer** (P1-d3-379)



ESPE Working Group updates

Disorders of Sex Development (DSD)

THE ESPE DSD WORKING GROUP IS NOW in its 5th year. It works to promote active research with special attention to cross-collaboration between basic scientists and clinicians. Other aims include developing a registry as a resource for research, promoting knowledge and education, and setting standards for holistic care of patients with DSD. The Working Group's Board comprises Faisal Ahmed (Co-ordinator), Laura Audi (Secretary), Sten Drop, Olaf Hiort, Paul-Martin Holterhus and Anna Nordenström.

Examples of our active collaborative projects include:

- the ESPE DSD Registry, which has now matured into the I-DSD Registry (<https://tethys.nesc.gla.ac.uk>)
- the DSD e-Learning Tool (www.espe-elearning.org)
- EuroDSD (www.eurodsd.eu)

The Working Group does not have a membership list. Its educational meetings at the ESPE Annual Meeting are open to everybody and usually attract about 500 people.

Faisal Ahmed (Co-ordinator) and **Anna Nordenström**, DSD Working Group, faisal.ahmed@glasgow.ac.uk

Paediatric & Adolescent Gynaecology (PAG)

THE LIVELY 2012 PAG WORKING GROUP SYMPOSIUM in Leipzig was attended by about 800 delegates. Entitled 'Sexual precocity in girls: a growing problem', it was chaired by Charles Sultan (Montpellier, France) and Lourdes Ibáñez (Barcelona, Spain).

Anders Juul (Copenhagen, Denmark) presented data on the changing trend in the timing of breast development in girls over the last decade. Lourdes Ibáñez discussed the pubertal course and gonadal function in adolescence in girls with precocious pubarche. Liat de Vries (Petah Tikva, Israel) focused on the early-normal and progressive variants of precocious pubertal development, while Jean-Pierre Bourguignon (Liège, Belgium) gave a lecture on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, pubertal timing and their early causal interaction with nutrition. Charles Sultan summarised the current evidence on the endocrine-metabolic and gynaecological outcomes in girls with precocious puberty. Finally, Michel Polak (Paris, France) discussed difficulties in the diagnosis and treatment of peripheral precocious puberty.

Laura Gaspari (Montpellier, France) presented a new ESPE collaborative clinical project, co-ordinated by Charles Sultan and entitled 'Prevalence of hyperandrogenism in adolescent girls previously treated for central precocious puberty and followed up for at least 2 years after menarche' (details will be available at www.eurospe.org). I would like to encourage all paediatric endocrinologists interested in this field to collaborate.

In 2013, the PAG Working Group Symposium is likely to focus on the genetics, development, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of hyperinsulinaemic androgen excess ('PCOS'). You are cordially invited to attend! Please also suggest topics that you would like to see covered in future symposia.

Lourdes Ibáñez (Chair), PAG Working Group, libanez@hsjdbcn.org

Obesity

IT WAS WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM THAT members took part in the very successful Obesity Working Group Meeting on the first day of the ESPE 2012 meeting in Leipzig, Germany.

The meeting was divided into two sessions. In the first, entitled 'The role of adipocyte inflammation in obesity', Bessie Spiliotis (Patras, Greece) spoke about obesity, adipocyte inflammation and vitamin D, presenting data to show that vitamin D has immunoregulatory effects on adipose tissue and that it may protect against adipose tissue inflammation by disrupting the deleterious cycle of inflammatory molecule and macrophage recruitment observed in obesity. Daniel Konrad (Zurich, Switzerland) discussed his very intriguing data showing the deletion of Fas in adipocytes as a potential therapeutic intervention for adipose tissue inflammation and hepatic manifestations of obesity. He discussed how activation of Fas by Fas ligand decreases insulin-stimulated glucose uptake in adipocytes and the mechanisms of improved glucose tolerance in adipocyte-specific Fas knockout mice.

In the second session, 'Obesity and diabetes mellitus type II', Matthias Tschöp (Munich, Germany) dazzled us with his fascinating research on gut-brain communication as a target for diabetes prevention and therapy. He presented his innovative work on the use of co-agonist peptides in combined medications for the treatment of obesity and non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM). Theodore Alexandrides (Patras, Greece) presented his very interesting data on the restoration of euglycaemia in morbidly obese patients with NIDDM following bariatric surgery. He discussed the mechanisms by which the incretins are involved in the improvement of glucose tolerance post-surgery.

The meeting concluded with the business and research meeting, where members decided to initiate a research protocol investigating glucose and insulin tolerance in obese and thin children during different Tanner stages in the diverse populations of the member countries.

Bessie E Spiliotis (Co-ordinator), Obesity Working Group, besspil@endo.gr

Italian Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetology (SIEDP/ISPED)



SIEDP, the Italian Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetology, was formed in 1977 and has 480 members, led by President Marco Cappa (President Elect Mohamad Maghnie).

Working groups cover specific endocrine areas of interest, such as diabetes, perinatal endocrinology, obesity, puberty and the transition between adolescence and the adult, focused towards the development of clinical guidelines, as well as contact with patient/parents' associations, and the production of diverse materials for parents and schools.

The SIEDP structure devotes attention to the training of young paediatric endocrinologists. There is a specific group for young members of the Society, and several training events, such as the Winter/Summer Schools. There are also grant programmes for young endocrinologists, awarded according to their scientific output or their contribution to the development of the Society.

SIEDP organises an annual meeting and co-ordinates local events, as well as refresher courses and several workshops for physicians and nurses, under the supervision of a steering committee for education. Additionally, there is a web educational programme, and a list of reference centres for special studies can be found on the Society's website.

For further information, visit the Society's website at www.siedp.it or contact marco.cappa@opbg.net.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: ESPE Sabbatical Leave Programme

Zoran Gucev recently benefited from ESPE's Sabbatical Leave Programme.

Feyza Darendeliler asked Zoran what difference the Programme had made to his career.

Why did you apply for the ESPE Sabbatical Leave Programme?

At home my duties are patients and clinical studies. Most research in paediatric endocrinology is now based on new techniques in molecular biology. In fact, most of my publications in the last 4-5 years have been based on molecular biology techniques, usually performed in a foreign laboratory. I have become acutely aware that to learn these techniques you must try them yourself! The Sabbatical Leave Programme was an ideal opportunity to realise my wishes. I prepared a project proposal with my host Walter L Miller from the University of California, San Francisco and was lucky enough to obtain funding.

How was your stay in the host centre, academically and otherwise?

Professor Miller's laboratory is a leading research centre in paediatric adrenal diseases. The Friday laboratory meetings were exceptional. The discussions about resolving specific research problems were absolutely brilliant (as well as often being rather amusing!). Tuesdays were reserved for clinical rounds with fellows and senior members of staff. The depth of knowledge, and the specific arguments (with quotations from important clinical articles), often completely unprepared beforehand, were really impressive.

San Francisco is beautifully situated in a bay opening onto the Pacific Ocean. There are many beautiful hiking trails. I enjoyed the Legion of

Honor, a nice museum with important works by the best artists. The musical scene is rich. Both my professional and my personal life were great.

How will your work in your host centre affect your academic career at home?

I am working on securing research projects to unite my clinical work and laboratory skills. Publishing is certainly going to be my main activity.

Would you recommend the Programme to other ESPE members? When is the best time in one's career to apply?

The ESPE Sabbatical Leave Programme is absolutely to be recommended. It is down to personal choice when to apply. It is for professionals with some clinical and laboratory experience, but don't leave it too late in your career.

I am very grateful to Walter Miller, Mel Grumbach, MK Tee, E Dumm and the staff at the laboratory and the hospital. I am sincerely indebted to ESPE and the Sabbatical Leave Committee for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

Zoran Gucev *Ss Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, FYR Macedonia*

Paul Malvaux

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that we announce that Professor Paul Malvaux passed away peacefully in August 2012, surrounded by his loving family, at the age of 77.

Paul completed his degrees and his paediatric internship at the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL), Belgium. He was among the first paediatricians to graduate from his university, and decided very early on to specialise in endocrinology.

He understood the need to go abroad to acquire more knowledge, and in 1961 joined Robert Blizzard and Claude Migeon at the Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH) in Baltimore, MD, USA, as a clinical and research fellow from the Belgian American Education Foundation. He kept tight links with the JHH, being invited to return as visiting professor.

Following his thesis on iodine metabolism in 1967, he remained interested in thyroid physiology, publishing several papers with F Delange. But, above all, Paul was a remarkable clinician and an astute observer, which in 1975 led him with colleagues to describe Miller-McKusik-Malvaux (or '3M') syndrome, a primordial dwarfism due to a disorder of disrupted ubiquitination.



As a teacher he emphasised the importance of taking medical histories carefully and performing clinical examinations thoroughly, to avoid unnecessary tests which might be painful to the children. His patients and their families were profoundly attached to him due to his warmth and enthusiasm. He never failed to defend the interests of children, as exemplified by his tenure as President of the Belgian Society of Pediatrics. Paul's young colleagues were impressed by his positive and profound interest in them, and his support and encouragement.

In 1972, as President of ESPE, he organised the Society's 11th Annual Meeting in Louvain. Many remember this meeting vividly, particularly the shared accommodation in an old convent building! He was also one of the founders of paediatric endocrinology in Belgium, resulting in the birth of the Belgian Study Group for Pediatric Endocrinology. His competence greatly contributed to many of the group's studies on puberty and growth - and his humour contributed to a relaxing atmosphere. From 1985 until he retired in 2000 he was Head of Pediatrics at the UCL.

Beyond the scientist and the endocrinologist, Paul was a humanist. He enjoyed life, and was great runner, participating in several marathons. Many of us will remember his conviviality, his respect for the people he met and his dedication to the care of children. We express our sincere condolences to his family.

Marc Maes and Jean-Pierre Bourguignon
on behalf of the Belgian Study Group for Pediatric Endocrinology

9th Joint Meeting of Paediatric Endocrinology

19-22 SEPTEMBER 2013, MILAN, ITALY



DEAR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS,

As 2013 approaches, I extend a warm invitation to you all to come to Milan, Italy, for the 9th Joint Meeting of Paediatric Endocrinology, on 19-22 September 2013.

This meeting continues a long tradition between the sister societies in paediatric endocrinology around the world: the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE), Pediatric Endocrine Society (PES), Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group (APEG), Asia Pacific Paediatric Endocrine Society (APPES), African Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Endocrinology (ASPAE), Japanese Society for Pediatric Endocrinology (JSPE), and Sociedad Latinoamericana de Endocrinología Pediátrica (SLEP). It will, once again, be a great occasion to exchange opinions and renew old friendships.

The theme of the meeting, 'Predictive medicine to improve the care of children', reflects the increasing importance of disease prevention through use of prediction models, which will be one of the cornerstones of future medicine.

The topic will be explored through a stimulating programme assembled by the Joint Programme Organising Committee, which will

allow both clinicians and basic researchers to hear the most recent developments and future perspectives on the field. The programme includes 8 plenary lectures, 2 'New Perspectives' sessions, 4 sessions focusing on controversies in paediatric endocrinology and 3 yearbook sessions. There will also be 16 themed symposia and 12 'Meet the Expert' sessions. We expect more than 2000 abstracts, and are staging 20 sessions of free oral communications.

The full programme will be available in January, and members will be sent further details regarding registration and abstract submission then.

The Joint Meeting will be held at the newly inaugurated MiCo Milano Congressi, one of the largest European congress centres, which has a capacity of 4000 for the plenary lectures. The congress centre is within easy reach of Milan's many attractions and hotels, by means of the local subway/underground system.

So, come to Milan, home of the internationally renowned La Scala opera house and Italy's largest cathedral, the Gothic Duomo di Milano. This charismatic city will offer you an unforgettable taste of Italian culture and food, as well as international paediatric endocrinology.

For further information about the meeting, contact jointmeeting2013@congrex.com.

Professor Franco Chiarelli chiarelli@unich.it

*President, European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE)
Chairman of the Joint Programme Organising Committee (JPOC)*



Approaching deadlines

ESPE Science School registration	10 Dec 2012
ESPE Young Investigator Award applications	10 Dec 2012
ESPE Outstanding Clinician Award nominations	10 Dec 2012
Andrea Prader Prize nominations	10 Dec 2012
ESPE International Award nominations	10 Dec 2012
ESPE Research Award nominations	10 Dec 2012
ESPE Visiting Scholarship applications	31 Jan 2013
ESPE Advanced Seminar in Developmental Endocrinology applications	31 Jan 2013
ESPE Summer School applications	1 Feb 2013
ESPE Research Fellowship applications	1 Mar 2013
ESPE Research Unit Grant preliminary applications	25 Mar 2013
IFCAH-ESPE Grant applications	25 Mar 2013
ESPE Research Unit Grant final applications	29 Apr 2013

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

Important dates

Register and submit abstracts online from	January 2013
Abstract submission deadline	12 March 2013
Early registration fee deadline	2 May 2013
Standard registration fee deadline	2 August 2013

FUTURE MEETINGS

See www.eurospe.org/meetings for details of all future meetings

9th Joint Meeting of Paediatric Endocrinology

19-22 September 2013
MILAN, ITALY

54th Annual ESPE Meeting

9-12 September 2015
BARCELONA, SPAIN

53rd Annual ESPE Meeting

18-21 September 2014
DUBLIN, IRELAND

55th Annual ESPE Meeting

10-13 September 2016
PARIS, FRANCE



European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology

Improving care of children with endocrine diseases by promoting knowledge and research

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ESPE Office

The ESPE Office is managed by BioScientifica Ltd, headed by Managing Director Leon Heward-Mills.

Joanne Fox-Evans, BioScientifica's Associations 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. The ESPE Office handles membership renewals and payments and deals with subscriptions to *Hormone Research in Paediatrics*.

BioScientifica also manages the Corporate Liaison Board which deals with industry sponsors, and is also responsible for publication of the ESPE newsletter.

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