

Welcome to issue 2

Dear friends and colleagues, I am sure you will all agree that the meeting in Lyon, France was a great success. It is always wonderful to see old friends and make new ones while enjoying the latest in our field.

Each year not only the number, but the quality of the presentations grows, speaking well of the effort of our society to improve paediatric endocrinology throughout the world. This newsletter highlights some of the most important events that took place in Lyon. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the award winners in my name and that of ESPE.

Please pay close attention to the upcoming deadlines for the next Winter School, Summer School and abstracts for our next meeting in Rotterdam. We also hope that more members decide to participate in the elections for upcoming council members. We need your input and help.

We are looking forward to receiving feedback on the newsletters and ideas that might improve them.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Jesús Argente

EDITOR, ESPE NEWSLETTER

Editorial Board

Jean-Claude Carel

Julie Chowen

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IMPORTANT DATES

45th ESPE Annual Meeting

Rotterdam, 30 June - 3 July 2006

Please visit the website for further information: www.espe2006.org

46th ESPE Annual Meeting

Helsinki, 27 - 30 June 2007

Please visit the website for further information: www.congrex.com/espe2007

8th European Congress of Endocrinology

Glasgow, 1 - 5 April 2006

Email: conferences@endocrinology.org
www.ece2006.com

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

ESPE/LWPES Joint Meeting

21-24 September 2005 • Lyon, France

The joint meeting in September was a tremendous success in bringing together paediatric endocrinologists, scientists and many other professionals from all over the world to discuss the latest developments in patient care and science, to stimulate future ideas in research and clinical practice, and to honour a number of outstanding achievements. The warm late-summer climate of Southern France, and the delicious regional gastronomy contributed to foster many amicable collaborations and international friendships.

Indeed international, or "Endocrinology Around the World" had been the theme for the 7th ESPE/LWPES Joint Paediatric Endocrinology Meeting, in collaboration with APEG, APPES, JSPE and SLEP. In keeping with this aim, 3164 participants attended the meeting from a record-breaking 87 different countries and from six continents.



Service with a smile at the 7th ESPE/LWPES Joint Meeting
(JOHAN WINTJE: CONGREG SWEDEN AB)

International Science

The presenting authors came from 69 different countries, and this is a testament to the truly international nature of our discipline. It is of course impossible to acknowledge all the important presentations, however personal highlights of the Newsletter editors include:

- Sergio Ojeda's summary of the remarkable recent advances in the neuronal regulation of mammalian puberty (LWPES Presidential Lecture)
- Walter Miller's wonderfully clear narration on steroid physiology and its relevance to human disease
- Yuji Matsuzawa's personal tour of the world of adipocytokines (JSPE Lecture)
- Ze'ev Hochberg's description of infant rickets in the sun-sufficient Middle East and Egypt

Hopefully much of the exciting novel research presented at this year's meeting will

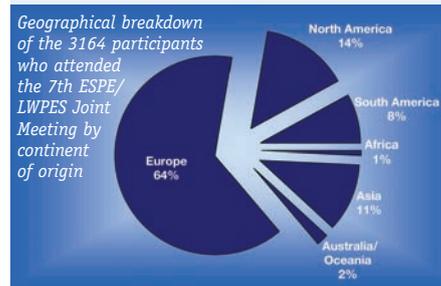


An enthusiastic supporter of the 7th ESPE/LWPES Joint Meeting
(JOHAN WINTJE: CONGREG SWEDEN AB)

be steadily making their way onto PubMed over the coming year. In next year's ESPE Yearbook of Paediatric Endocrinology, you will be able to enjoy again a brief review of these studies, plus expert commentaries on how they have progressed their respective research fields and clinical practice areas.

Global Inequalities in Paediatric Endocrine Care

Martin Savage and Fernando Cassorla composed and chaired a revealing series of talks on the striking global inequalities in the care of our young patients, including low birth weight, diabetes care, thyroid deficiency, iodine deficiency, nutrition and growth surveillance in India. Martin and Fernando are planning to publish their proposed "Statement of minimal acceptable care" in *Hormone Research* shortly. Meanwhile Martin Silink would be happy to hear from any supporters of international diabetes care (Email: martin@idf.org).



SESSIONS

15 Symposia 7 Plenary Sessions,
6 MTE Seminars 15 Oral Presentations
12 Mini-Poster Sessions
1213 Posters

ESPE Awards at the 7th ESPE/LWPES Joint Meeting

During the 7th Joint ESPE/LWPES Meeting in Lyon, an ESPE Session was held on Saturday 24 September dedicated to ESPE Prizes and Awards:

Andrea Prader Prize:

Wolfgang G Sippell, Kiel, Germany

Wolfgang Sippell is a popular and worthy recipient of this year's Andrea Prader prize. Many ESPE members across Europe, and clinicians from around the world, have sought his advice on the molecular defects of adrenal disorders for several years.

Research Award and Lecture:

Serge Amselem, Creteil, France

Serge Amselem received the ESPE Research Award for his long-standing achievements in studying pituitary hormone deficiencies and the molecular basis of childhood growth.

Outstanding Clinician Award:

Jean-Claude Job, Paris, France

Jean-Claude Job received the outstanding clinician award for his many years of dedication to promoting the advancement and teaching of paediatric endocrinology throughout Europe.

Young Investigator Award:

Christa Flück, Berne, Switzerland

Christa Flück received the ESPE Young Investigator Award. She has recently published a number of outstanding studies on the molecular basis of disordered steroidogenesis with Walter Miller in San Francisco, USA.

In addition to these outstanding personal achievements, the Henning Andersen prizes were awarded for the best abstracts submitted to this year's meeting. The prize for best basic research abstract went to Christina Hoei-Hansen and her team in Niels Skakkebaek's department in Copenhagen, Denmark for a study of the germ cell tumour factor NANOG.

The prize for best clinical research abstract was awarded to Daniele Di Marzio and her colleagues working with Francesco Chiarelli in Chieti, Italy for their study of rosiglitazone as a potential future therapy for early diabetic angiopathy.

Andrea Prader Prize

As the most prestigious ESPE Award, the prize recognises and rewards outstanding

leadership and scientific contributions through the course of a career. The prize also draws attention to contributions in the training of paediatric endocrinology. This year the Andrea Prader Prize was awarded to Professor Wolfgang G Sippell. Wolfgang Sippell was first a member of ESPE Council in the early 1980s and then again from 1991, before being ESPE Secretary from 1993 to 1997. He has also sat on many ESPE Committees. Professor Sippell has received numerous awards and research grants throughout his career. He has supervised the research and clinical training of many young clinicians, and has acted as mentor of over 20 paediatric endocrinologists who now have relevant positions in academia and the National Health System of Germany. His CV is outstanding with around 170 papers published in well-respected journals.

Research Award and Lecture

Professor Serge Amselem's ESPE Research Award Lecture was entitled "Deciphering the Molecular Basis of Short Stature of Endocrine Origin". After attending medical school with distinction, Serge Amselem spent his paediatric residency in Paris. He then had a two-year Fellowship at the Children's Hospital in Boston, Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School. Once back in France, Serge was appointed Professor of Human Genetics at Paris XII University in 1996. Professor Amselem is now Director of INSERM Research Unit 654. The scientific contributions of Professor Amselem have been of outstanding quality. The research field of his group focuses on the study of the molecular and cellular bases of human hereditary growth disorders characterised by developmental abnormalities of the hypothalamic-pituitary region or defects of peripheral receptive tissues. In each field, Professor Amselem's group has identified novel disease genes, and developed a functional profile to assess the consequences, at the cellular level, of the molecular defects identified in the patient.

Outstanding Clinician Award

Professor Jean-Claude Job was one of the founding members of ESPE and is an

honorary member of the Lawson Wilkins Society for Paediatric Endocrinology. He has published more than 200 articles in respected international journals and has edited the Textbook *Endocrinologie Pédiatrique et Croissance* (Paediatric Endocrinology and Growth) which has been translated into English, Italian, Spanish and Japanese. Professor Jean-Claude Job has long contributed to the development of paediatric endocrinology in Europe and to the discipline as a whole. ESPE recognises Professor Jean-Claude Job's exceptional contribution to clinical paediatric endocrinology. We therefore congratulate him again on this most deserved 2005 ESPE Outstanding Clinician Award.

Young Investigator Award

Dr Christa Flück gave a presentation entitled "Following the Steroidogenic Pathway". Her three outstanding publications presented were published in *Nature Genetics*, *Molecular Endocrinology* and *Epilepsia*. Dr Christa Flück trained in paediatric endocrinology in Berne under the mentorship of Professor Primus Mullis. In 2001 she moved to San Francisco to continue her research training under the supervision of Professor Walter Miller. Having recently moved back to Switzerland, Dr Flück continues to be involved in both clinical and basic research.

ESPE Lyon Programme Evaluation Prize Draw

Delegates in Lyon were asked to complete a programme evaluation form. This questionnaire was designed to evaluate the features present at the meeting and to help with decisions for future meetings. The winners of the Lyon Meeting Prize Draw are:

Veronika Gal, Hungary

Hans Peter Schwarz, Germany

Congratulations - they have won free registration to ESPE 2006!



A delighted Wolfgang Sippell receives the Andrea Prader prize from ESPE Secretary General Francesco Chiarelli
(JOHAN WINTÉ: CONGREX SWEDEN AB)



Serge Amselem receiving the ESPE Research Award from Francesco Chiarelli
(JOHAN WINTÉ: CONGREX SWEDEN AB)



Christa Flück received the ESPE Young Investigator Award from Cyril Krzisnik
(JOHAN WINTÉ: CONGREX SWEDEN AB)





ESPE Summer School 18-20 September 2005 • Annecy, France

The 19th ESPE Summer School took place in Annecy, from the 18–20 September, just before the joint meeting in Lyon. The ESPE Summer School has been organised each year since 1987 and brings together paediatric endocrinologists in training and academic clinicians and scientists. This year, the Summer School was 'special' since, as part of the joint meeting, 32 students from all over the world participated. Fifteen students from Europe were selected on their academic curriculum and publication records from 51 applicants. Similarly, 10 students were selected by LWPES, 3 by SLEP, 2 by JSPE and 2 by APPEs.

Annette Grütters and the Summer School committee organised the course around four themes including congenital hypothyroidism, adrenal disorders, insulin resistance and paediatric bone disorders. For each theme, there were state of the art basic and clinical lectures. Exchanges with 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 at length 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 meeting. Those of them not previously familiar with the ESPE Summer School concept were favorably impressed by the quality of the teaching and of the exchanges during the course. Marc Nicolino, from Lyon, deserves special thanks for doing an outstanding job of organizing the meeting at les Pensières, a household of the prestigious Fondation Mérieux overlooking the Annecy Lake. Ferring Pharmaceuticals A/S are thanked for their continuous support to the ESPE Summer School since 1987.

In 2006, the Summer School will take place in Nunspeet, Holland, 26-30 June. Application forms are already on the ESPE website for a 1 January 2006 deadline.



Students and teachers at Summer School 2005

Deadlines for awards and prizes

Please note these fast approaching important deadline dates and submit your applications as soon as possible. Please tell your friends and colleagues about ESPE and the benefits of membership!

Awards, grants and fellowships - deadline dates for application

Summer School	1 January 2006
Young Investigator Award	15 January 2006
Outstanding Clinician (nominations from members)	15 January 2006
Research Unit (preliminary applications)	23 January 2006
Visiting Scholarship	31 January 2006
Research Fellowship	1 March 2006
Research Unit (final applications)	31 March 2006

45th ESPE Annual Meeting 2006 (Rotterdam) - deadline dates

Deadline for abstract submissions	15 February 2006
Deadline for travel grant applications	15 February 2006
Deadline for early registrations	5 April 2006

New membership applications for 2006	15 Jan 2006
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Important Contributions of ESPE Members to the International Literature

Recently two articles of great relevance to the diagnosis of endocrine anomalies appeared in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*. The first, from Dr Mehul Dattani's group in London, on the involvement of the SOX3 gene in hypopituitarism and the other, a joint effort by groups in Madrid, Paris and Salisbury, show the association of a region upstream to the SHOX gene in Léri-Weill dyschondrosteosis and idiopathic short stature. Below are full references to these works:

Novel insights into X-linked hypopituitarism

Woods KS, Cundall M, Turton J, Rizotti K, Mehta A, Palmer R, Wong J, Chong WK, Al-Zyoud M, El-Ali M, Otonkoski T, Martinez-Barbera JP, Thomas PQ, Robinson ICAF, Lovell-Badge R, Woodward KJ & Dattani MT 2005 Over- and under-dosage of SOX3 is associated with infundibular hypoplasia and hypopituitarism. *American Journal of Human Genetics* 76 833-849. [Corresponding author: Mehul Dattani; BEM Unit, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH, UK; Email: m.dattani@ich.ucl.ac.uk]

Identification of deletions downstream to SHOX in patients with Léri-Weill dyschondrosteosis (LWD) and idiopathic short stature (ISS)

Benito-Sanz S, Simon Thomas N, Huber C, Gorbenko del Blanco D, Aza-Carmona M, Crolla JA, Maloney V, Argente J, Campos-Barros Á, Cormier-Daire V & Heath KE 2005 A Novel Class of Pseudoautosomal Region 1 Deletions Downstream of SHOX Is Associated with Léri-Weill Dyschondrosteosis. *American Journal of Human Genetics* 77 533-544. [If you require a molecular analysis for any patient with LWD or LMD, please contact Karen E Heath; Department of Endocrinology, Hospital Niño Jesús, Menéndez Pelayo 65, 28009 Madrid, Spain; Email: karen.heath@uam.es]



CALL FOR SELF NOMINATIONS FOR TWO POSITIONS AS AN ESPE COUNCIL MEMBER

Following Olle Söder's recent election as Chair of the Finance Committee and successful completion of Jean-Claude Carel's term of office, two vacancies are now available on the ESPE Council.

The Council invites applications for the two positions, to take effect from the ESPE Annual Meeting in Rotterdam, held from 30 June to 3 July 2006.

The two new Council Members will be appointed by election at the ESPE Annual Business Meeting on Saturday 1 July 2006. Election will be by a simple majority in a secret ballot of ESPE members present at the Annual Business Meeting. The new Council Members will be full voting members of the ESPE Council for a period of three years, and can be re-elected for a second term.

Details of Application

Applicants should send their CV including photo, together with a covering letter containing one to two paragraphs supporting their suitability for the position. All these documents must be submitted electronically to the ESPE Secretariat (espe@eurospe.org) by 31 December 2005.

The current Council will assess applications during the Council Meeting on 18 February 2006 and the applicants will be informed by 28 February 2006 if their candidacy will proceed for formal election at the Annual Business Meeting.

Refraining from canvassing is highly appreciated

Please note that the deadline for applications is 31 December 2005 and all applications must be submitted electronically to the ESPE Secretariat (espe@eurospe.org)

Information Regarding International Funding

EU's new Research Framework Programme (FP7) 2007-2013

On 6 April the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new EU programme for Research. Information can be found at the Europa website (<http://tinyurl.com/brdyl>).

ESPE Secretariat

The ESPE Secretariat is managed by BioScientifica Limited. BioScientifica is headed by Managing Director Sue Thorn and Events & 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 Secretary General, providing him with assistance and attending ESPE Council and Committee meetings.

Andrea Davis 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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EXPLORING THE WORLD OF
ENDOCRINOLOGY TOGETHER

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