

## Welcome to issue 8

Dear friends and colleagues.

Welcome to our 8th ESPE Newsletter where you will find information on numerous ESPE activities.

First, we have taken this opportunity to further introduce you to the new members of the ESPE Editorial Board, Drs Carlo Acerini, Simonetta Bellone and Feyza Darendeliler, by including a short biographical sketch of each. I would also like to express my thanks to them for their active participation from the very onset. We hope that you will feel free to contact the board members to share news of interest with your colleagues.

We have included a short article on the upcoming meeting in Istanbul in September 2008, which will be followed by more detailed information in the following issues. However, it is not too early to start making your plans to attend this meeting.

Here you will find information regarding the 2nd ESPE Advanced Seminar in Developmental Endocrinology, the Summer School that was held in Finland and the upcoming Winter School to be held in Ain Soukhna, Egypt in 2008. You will also find an important update from the Clinical Practice Committee, as well as important deadlines for upcoming events.

Ken Ong has written a brief synopsis of the Consensus Statement of the International Diabetes Federation regarding Metabolic Syndrome in Children and Adolescents that I think will be of interest to all of you.

We hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to hearing from members that would like to share something with their colleagues through this Newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

PROFESSOR JESÚS ARGENTE  
*Editor, ESPE Newsletter*

### Editorial Board

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



## ESPE 2008

20-23 September 2008, Istanbul, Turkey

It is a great pleasure to invite you to participate in the 47th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE), which will be held at the Istanbul Lutfi Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) and its new Rumeli Fair and Exhibition hall.

The ESPE Istanbul 2008 meeting will be the first to be organised in a country where East meets West - a city that has land both in Asia and in Europe, connected by the Istanbul bridge over the Bosphorus strait. The number of delegates attending ESPE annual meetings is increasing steadily and we expect more than 2000 delegates not only from Europe and USA, but also from Middle East and Asia who will share in the well-known ESPE values of friendship, collaboration and congeniality.

Istanbul is fast becoming one of the most popular international congress and exhibition destinations, as the former capital of three successive empires - Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman - the city is a fascinating mixture of the past and present, old and new, modern and traditional. A thriving metropolis of millions of people - exotic yet distinctly western - Istanbul offers many museums, churches, palaces, mosques, bazaars and sights of natural beauty which seem inexhaustible.

The ESPE POC is working hard to organize a scientific meeting that will meet the very high level that we have become accustomed to in previous meetings and I guarantee that the delegates will be very satisfied in the broad range of subjects from basic to clinical. The theme of the meeting is 'Paediatric Endocrinology and Public Health'. There will be 8 plenary lectures, 9 symposia, a workshop, 7 Meet the Expert sessions, 4 New Technologies sessions, as well as posters and interactive sessions. You can find the details in our website: [www.espe2008.org](http://www.espe2008.org).

We are looking forward to a very successful meeting, with high scientific value and a good social programme.

Hope to see you in Istanbul 2008.

ATILLA BÜYÜKGEBİZ  
*President ESPE 2008*

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### 47th ESPE Annual Meeting

Istanbul, 20 - 23 September 2008

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

#### 8th Joint ESPE/LWPES Meeting

New York, USA, 9 - 12 September 2009

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

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

#### Society for Endocrinology BES Meeting 2008

Harrogate, 7 - 10 April 2008

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

# New Editorial Board members



## Feyza Darendeliler

Dr Feyza Darendeliler is a professor of paediatric endocrinology at Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul University. Professor Darendeliler received her medical education in Istanbul Faculty of Medicine and graduated in 1980. She completed her training in paediatrics in the same Faculty. As part of her paediatric endocrinology training she worked in the Middlesex Hospital with Professor CGD Brook in London in the years 1988-1989. She received the title of professor in paediatrics in 1996 at the Istanbul Faculty of Medicine.

Feyza Darendeliler has been a member of ESPE since 1991. Her main interests are in the field of growth, growth disorders, puberty and adrenal disorders. She is actively involved in the Paediatric Endocrinology Board within the National Paediatric Endocrinology Association in Turkey.

She has participated in national and international multicenter collaborative studies. She has been engaged in the activities of the Turkish Scientific & Technological Research Institution and, as a consultant, in the Turkish Ministry of Health. She has been actively involved in medical education as the president of the Education and Research Unit of the Istanbul Faculty of Medicine and has been a member of KIGS strategic advisory board since 2004

## Carlo Acerini

Dr Carlo Acerini qualified in pharmacology (BSc Hons, 1984) and in medicine (MBChB, 1988) from the University of Dundee, Scotland. After postgraduate training in paediatric medicine in the West of Scotland, he received training in paediatric endocrinology & diabetes both as a clinical research fellow at the University of Oxford (1994-1997) and as a clinical lecturer in paediatrics at the University of Cambridge (1997-2000). Dr Acerini is currently a senior lecturer at the University of Cambridge and a consultant paediatrician at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. He is active in many clinical research areas, including: Type 1 diabetes (pathophysiology, development of new therapy strategies); the endocrine consequences of traumatic brain injury (in children and adolescents); the epidemiology of male reproductive disorders (particularly the association with endocrine disrupters). He is also associate director of the Addenbrooke's Clinical Research Centre, Cambridge and associate editor of the journal *Diabetic Medicine*.



## Simonetta Bellone

Dr Simonetta Bellone graduated in medicine at the University of Turin, Italy and received her postgraduate degree in Endocrinology and Metabolism at the same university. Since December 2000 she has worked as clinical researcher at the Department of Medical Sciences, University of Piemonte Orientale 'Amedeo Avogadro' and carries out clinical and scientific activity in the Paediatric Division, Maggiore della Carità Hospital of Novara. She became assistant professor at the University of the Piemonte Orientale 'Amedeo Avogadro' in December 2004. She has been a member of ESPE since 2001. She is also member of the Italian Society of Endocrinology and the Italian Society of Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetology.

Her research interests include neuro-endocrine control of GH secretion during life span, hormonal and metabolic regulation of ghrelin secretion in humans.

## News from the Clinical Practice Committee

One of the aims of the Clinical Practice Committee is to improve the daily management of children with endocrine diseases. To achieve this goal we have organized a series of consensus conferences, which have undoubtedly contributed to the worldwide dissemination of knowledge and good practice in the controversial issues of paediatric endocrinology. In collaboration with LWPES, we have recently celebrated two consensus meetings on idiopathic short stature and use of GnRH analogues.

We have also now launched the Daily Issues in Paediatric Endocrinology initiative, with two main objectives. Firstly, to offer free access to electronic documents on the most common clinical issues encountered in the daily management of children with endocrine problems. Secondly, to offer the opportunity for all ESPE members to openly debate the thorny subjects of our discipline.

The first series ([http://www.eurospe.org/clinical/clinical\\_daily1.html](http://www.eurospe.org/clinical/clinical_daily1.html)) is aimed to represent a prototype of a long-term and wide range initiative. Each ESPE member is kindly invited to contribute by submitting or proposing an issue. Contributions and proposals can be e-mailed to [stefano.cianfarani@uniroma2.it](mailto:stefano.cianfarani@uniroma2.it).

Finally, we are pleased to say that we have finalized the first series of endocrine booklets for young patients and their families dealing with the most common endocrine disorders (growth, puberty, glucose metabolism, thyroid and adrenal). The booklets (in English and Italian) are published on the ESPE CPC webpage (<http://www.eurospe.org/patient/>). Spanish and Turkish versions are being developed. We are indebted to Professor Gary Butler and Fernando Vera for their wonderful work. The two formats (one aimed at children with a reading age of 9-10 years, the other for adolescents with a reading age of 13-14 years or adults with below average literacy) were created to provide basic information about a specific condition including its diagnosis, treatment and possible side effects. They are primarily designed for situations where a diagnosis is newly made. They can be printed out for immediate use in the clinic or at home.

Let me finish with an invitation to all ESPE members to actively collaborate in our Committee initiatives. Our aim is to serve ESPE in the best possible way; any input able to direct our efforts and improve results is welcome!

STEFANO CIANFARANI  
Chairman CPC

2 GH secretion during life span, hormonal and metabolic regulation of ghrelin secretion in humans.



## Summer School 2007 Report

The 2007 ESPE summer school took place in Helsinki, just before the main ESPE meeting and was once again an exceptional experience for all those who participated. The teaching was organized around 4 main topics: type 1 diabetes, polygenic heritability, calcium disorders and ovarian function. In addition, clinical cases encompassing most fields of paediatric endocrinology were prepared by fellows, thoroughly discussed in small groups and presented.

The magic of summer school is the unique atmosphere it provides for young paediatric endocrinologists to share their experience, compare their daily life and professional perspectives. Faculties represented included members of the Summer School committee John Achermann (London), Malcolm

Donaldson (Glasgow), Lucia Ghizzoni (Parma) and Moshe Phillip (Petah Tikva). Special thanks to Ruth Loos (Cambridge), Ken Ong (Cambridge), Evantiha Diamanti-Kandarakis (Athens), Jeremy Allgrove (London), Agnès Linglart (Paris), Murat Bastepe (Boston) and Mikael Knip (Helsinki) for sharing their knowledge and experience during these 3 days. None of this would have been possible without the outstanding care and organization of Dr Tina Laine, from Helsinki and without the supervision of Raimo Voutilainen. Thanks to Ferring pharmaceutical for faithfully supporting the ESPE summer school since 2007.

The next summer school will take place near Istanbul before the ESPE 2008 meeting.



Deadline for applications is February 1st 2008 and instructions will be posted on the ESPE website. Please encourage fellows to apply on time, follow the instructions and realize that applications are competitive! Malcolm Donaldson and myself leave the summer school committee and wish good luck to the new committee.

JEAN-CLAUDE CAREL

## 13th ESPE Winter School

Ain Soukhna, Egypt, March 2008

The ESPE winter school is an educational programme that was conceived in the 1990's. Its purpose was to help young doctors in training from Eastern Europe. A small team of experienced clinicians was asked to cover all the main areas of paediatric endocrinology and to provide an introduction to clinical research and data analysis in a friendly, informal setting.

From the first school in Seregelyes, Hungary in 1996, ESPE winter school has been an outstanding success. Hundreds of young paediatricians from all over Eastern Europe have enjoyed the fellowship as well as the educational and research benefits of the winter school.

To date, the only ESPE winter school location outside Eastern Europe has been in Turkey (Izmir, 2002). Next year marks another exciting departure: the school is to be held from 1-7 March 2008 at the Red Sea resort of Ain Soukhna, Egypt. The winter school steering group has received applications from North Africa, the Middle East and the Mediterranean; the successful candidates will be notified in December.

The programme for Ain Soukhna will comprise, as always, the teaching of the main topics of paediatric endocrinology: problems affecting growth and puberty, thyroid and adrenal disorders, diabetes, obesity, disorders of sexual differentiation, and metabolic bone problems. In addition to the interactive lectures given by the teachers, students' cases and teachers' cases will be presented in small groups. There will also be an introductory lecture in clinical research

followed by the discussion and presentation of student research projects.

The Faculty Team for 2008 will consist of Angela Huebner, Dresden, Germany, Rasha Hamza, Cairo, Egypt, Jan Lebl, Prague, Czech Republic, Guy van Vliet, Montreal, Canada, Jerry Wales, Sheffield, UK, Gary Butler, Reading, UK and Malcolm Donaldson, Glasgow, UK. This will be the last winter school for Angela Huebner who has been with the winter school since 2000 and steering committee leader since 2003. We are greatly in Angela's debt - she is very friendly, an outstanding lecturer and a most efficient organiser!

This year we are delighted to invite Professor Isis Ghali from Cairo University to open the winter school with a lecture titled 'Normal growth and puberty in Egyptian children and adolescents'. Professor Mohammed El-Kholy from Ain Shams University in Cairo has kindly accepted an invitation to close proceedings with a lecture titled 'Growth hormone insensitivity: the Egyptian experience'.

As always, we are most grateful to Ferring Pharmaceuticals for their generous grant and continuing support of the winter school.

MALCOLM DONALDSON

## Deadlines

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

Awards, grants and fellowships - deadline dates for application

**Deadline date for applications for 2008 membership 15 Jan 2008**

Young Investigator Award	15 Jan 2008
Outstanding Clinician (nominations from members)	15 Jan 2008
Visiting Scholarship	31 Jan 2008
Summer School	1 Feb 2008
Advanced Seminar - Developmental Endocrinology	3 Feb 2008
Research Fellowship	1 Mar 2008
Research Unit (preliminary applications)	15 Apr 2008
Visiting Scholarship	30 Apr 2008
Clinical Fellowship	31 May 2008
Research Unit (final applications)	15 Jun 2008
Sabbatical Leave Programme	No deadline

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



## RESEARCH UPDATE

# 2007 IDF consensus on the metabolic syndrome in children and adolescents

## A unified starting point for future research

The International Diabetes Federation has recently published the first consensus on the definition of the metabolic syndrome in children. They recognise that existing adult-based definitions are not appropriate in children and individual groups have, to date, had to use a variety of definitions, with associated variations in percentile thresholds and different normative data.

A unified consensus is therefore welcome and will allow for the first time a global estimate of the prevalence of the condition and comparisons by country, ethnicity and other groupings.

There has been much debate regarding the utility and even existence of the metabolic syndrome in adults and other researchers will no doubt have their own views on which metabolic risk markers should be included. More importantly, unlike the adult definitions, we have as yet no information regarding how a diagnosis of the metabolic syndrome may help predict later disease outcomes.

Therefore the 'metabolic syndrome in children and adolescents' does not yet represent a clinical affliction or disease label. Rather it should be a useful tool to investigate the early development of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease risk. Towards this aim the IDF task force has made several research recommendations in their longer October 2007 report, and acknowledge that they 'look on these new criteria as a starting point'.

## REFERENCES

*The metabolic syndrome in children and adolescents*

Zimmet P, Alberti G, Kaufman F, Tajima N, Silink M, Arslanian S, Wong G, Bennett P, Shaw J & Caprio S  
2007 International Diabetes Federation Task Force on Epidemiology and Prevention of Diabetes. *Lancet* 369(9579) 2059-2061

*The metabolic syndrome in children and adolescents - an IDF consensus report*

Zimmet P, Alberti KG, Kaufman F, Tajima N, Silink M, Arslanian S, Wong G, Bennett P, Shaw J & Caprio S  
2007 IDF Consensus Group. *Paediatric Diabetes* 8(5) 299-306

### IDF definition of metabolic syndrome in children and adolescents

#### Age 6 to <10 years

Metabolic syndrome cannot be diagnosed, but further measurements should be made if family history of metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes mellitus, dyslipidaemia, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, or obesity exists. Patient should be given a strong message for weight reduction where waist circumference  $\geq 90$ th percentile.

#### Age 10 to <16 years

Waist circumference  $\geq 90$ th percentile for ethnic group (or adult cut-off if lower)

Including 2 or more of:

- Triglycerides  $\geq 1.7$  mmol/L (150 mg/dL)
- HDL-cholesterol  $< 1.03$  mmol/L (40 mg/dL)
- Systolic blood pressure  $\geq 130$  mm Hg or diastolic  $\geq 85$  mm Hg
- Fasting glucose  $\geq 5.6$  mmol/L (100 mg/dL) or known type 2 diabetes mellitus

#### Age 16+ years - use existing IDF criteria for adults

Waist circumference  $\geq 94$ cm for Europid males and  $\geq 80$ cm for Europid females (ethnic-specific values are available for other groups)

Including 2 or more of:

- Triglycerides  $\geq 1.7$  mmol/L (150 mg/dL) or on specific treatment
- Male HDL-cholesterol  $< 1.03$  mmol/L (40 mg/dL) or female  $< 1.29$  mmol/L (50 mg/dL) or on specific treatment
- Systolic blood pressure  $\geq 130$  mm Hg or diastolic  $\geq 85$  mm Hg or on specific treatment
- Fasting Glucose  $\geq 5.6$  mmol/L (100 mg/dL) or known type 2 diabetes mellitus

KEN ONG

MRC Epidemiology Unit, Cambridge, UK

Following the successful completion of Olle Söder's term of office in September 2008, the position of Chair of the ESPE Finance Committee will be vacant. The deadline for applications is 31 January 2008 and all applications must be submitted electronically to the ESPE Secretariat (espe@eurospe.org).

## 1ST ASIA PACIFIC PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME CONFERENCE

1-2 March 2008

Te Papa Museum,  
Wellington, New Zealand

CONFERENCE THEME:

### 'No Limits! Broadening Horizons and Making Connections'

The New Zealand and Australian Prader-Willi Syndrome Associations warmly invite

you to join us in Wellington at Te Papa, the Wellington Museum conference centre for our first combined Asia/Pacific region

Prader-Willi Syndrome conference for scientists, professionals, parents and caregivers. We have chosen the theme of

'No Limits! Broadening Horizons and Making Connections' so that as well as gaining knowledge, awareness, and training, there will be a wider, stronger,

network of support and comradeship among our Asia/Pacific friends and for all who work with Prader-Willi Syndrome in

everyday life. There will not be a separate programme for residential caregivers at this conference, but we expect that topics on offer will be of interest to carers. We

will also not be running a separate programme for children and young adults with Prader-Willi Syndrome, but we can make arrangements for parents to have their children cared for privately at their

own cost.

For more information:  
**Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (NZ) Inc**  
PO Box 143, Masterton, New Zealand  
[www.pws.org.au/conf08.html](http://www.pws.org.au/conf08.html)



# Time to apply for ESPE Summer School 2008!

The 2008 ESPE Summer School will take place September 16-19, 2008, just before the ESPE meeting in Istanbul. The venue is beautifully located by a lake in Sapanca, relatively close to Istanbul. The local organizer is Dr. Filiz Mine Cizmecioglu.

Selected topics include hyperthyroidism, thyroid nodules, abnormal pubertal development, skeletal dysplasias and rickets. The faculty will include members of the ESPE Summer School organizing committee; John Achermann (London), Lucia Ghizzoni (Parma), Juliane Léger (Paris), Moshe Phillip (Petah Tikva), Lars Sävendahl (Stockholm) and invited speakers who will share their knowledge and experience during these 3 days. Participants must prepare a case presentation on an assigned topic. Deadline for applications is February 1st and instructions are posted on the ESPE website. Please encourage fellows to apply on time, follow the instructions and realize that applications are competitive. Thanks to Ferring pharmaceutical for faithful continued support of the ESPE Summer School.

LARS SÄVENDAHL

Coordinator, ESPE Summer School

## ESPE Nairobi Initiative

Just a reminder to ESPE members that tutors in paediatric endocrinology and diabetes are needed for the ESPE initiative in Nairobi, Kenya. Volunteers are needed for 1-2 month periods throughout the 3 year project. Those members that are interested please contact Ze'ev Hochberg at [z\\_hochberg@rambam.health.gov.il](mailto:z_hochberg@rambam.health.gov.il).

**Deadline for 2008 membership  
applications 15 January 2008**

**The next Annual Business  
Meeting will take place on on  
Sunday 21 September 2008,  
16:30-18.00 hrs.**

## Second ESPE Advanced Seminar in Developmental Endocrinology 2008

### THYROID DEVELOPMENT AND ITS DISORDERS

Thursday 24 April and Friday 25 April 2008

Necker - Hopital Enfants Malades - 149 rue de Sèvres, Paris, France

Co-chairs: Roberto Di Lauro, Italy and Michel Polak, France

The European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) invites applications to attend the second advanced seminar in developmental endocrinology (30 places). This free 2-day seminar will address the mechanisms of thyroid development and the relevance of its disorders for the physician.

Deadline for applications is February 3 2008. Applicants will be notified of successful application by February 18 2008

Speakers include: Mario De Felice, Roberto Di Lauro (Naples), Anne Grapin-Botton (Lausanne), Heiko Krude (Berlin), Mikael Nilsson (Göteborg), Klaus Rohr (Köln), Gabor Szinnai (Basel), Gilbert Vassart (Brussels), Johnny Deladoëy, Guy Van Vliet (Montreal), Mireille Castanet, Juliane Léger, Stanislas Lyonnet, Michel Polak and Nicolas de Roux (Paris).

ESPE welcomes applications from house officers and registrars as well as recently qualified hospital doctors working in paediatric endocrinology, interested in experimental research.

The cost of the meeting and accommodation will be met by ESPE but travel will need to be paid by the applicants.

Applicants should email a one-page (12 point type) synopsis with their current position, training, research to date and their reasons behind wishing to attend the seminar. Applicants should also include full contact details, including postal address and email details. This should be accompanied with a letter of support from their head of department or laboratory principal.

Clinical doctors will have the opportunity to present interesting case reports with reference to thyroid development during the seminar. An outline of the proposed presentation should accompany the application synopsis. The synopsis will be used to allocate places in the event of over-demand.

### PROGRAMME

#### Day I - April 24

##### Session I

Patterning of the endoderm

*Anne Grapin-Botton, Lausanne*

Overview of thyroid development

*Roberto Di Lauro, Naples*

Overview of thyroid dysgenesis in Humans

*Michel Polak, Paris*

##### Session II

Control of thyroid size in development

*Gilbert Vassart, Brussels*

Thyroid growth, TSH receptor and signal transduction

*Nicolas de Roux, Paris*

2 student presentations

Use of zebrafish to understand thyroid development

*Klaus Rohr, Köln*

The vascular tree in thyroid development and dysgenesis

*Mikael Nilsson, Göteborg*

2 student presentations

The application or requests for further information should be emailed to: Anne-Marie Poupon at [ampdoc@tele2.fr](mailto:ampdoc@tele2.fr)

For more information:

[http://www.eurospe.org/education/DevEndoSeminar/DevEndoSeminary\\_ESPE2008Invitation.pdf](http://www.eurospe.org/education/DevEndoSeminar/DevEndoSeminary_ESPE2008Invitation.pdf)

For the meeting programme,

[http://www.eurospe.org/education/DevEndoSeminar/DevEndoSeminary\\_Programme.pdf](http://www.eurospe.org/education/DevEndoSeminar/DevEndoSeminary_Programme.pdf)

#### Day II - April 25

##### Session III

Genetics of thyroid dysgenesis including non mendelian models

*Guy Van Vliet, Johnny Deladoëy, Montreal*

Epidemiology of thyroid dysgenesis: the familial component

*Juliane Léger, Paris*

FOXE1, mutations and phenotypes

*Mireille Castanet, Paris*

PAX8, Nkx2.1 mutations and phenotypes

*Heiko Krude, Annette Grüters, Berlin*

3 student presentations

##### Session IV

Mouse models of thyroid dysgenesis

*Mario De Felice, Roberto Di Lauro, Naples*

Gene profiling in thyroid development

- In murine using SAGE

*Gilbert Vassart, Brussels*

- In murine using Affimetrix chips

*Roberto Di Lauro group*

- In Humans using microarrays

*Gabor Szinnai, Basel*

Applications to Humans; Prenatal diagnosis of thyroid dysgenesis: dream or reality ?

*Stanislas Lyonnet, Paris*

Fetal thyroid function in utero and treatment of fetal thyroid disorders

*Michel Polak, Paris*

Closing remarks

*Roberto Di Lauro and Michel Polak*

## Deadline for 2008 membership applications and renewals!

Current members will soon receive an email requesting that you renew your ESPE membership for 2008. If you have any queries regarding your membership renewal, please contact the ESPE Secretariat at [espe@eurospe.org](mailto:espe@eurospe.org). If your contact details change, please log in to the members' section of the ESPE website to update your contact details or email the ESPE Secretariat at [espe@eurospe.org](mailto:espe@eurospe.org).

The deadline date for new member applications is 15th January 2008. Please encourage your colleagues to join ESPE!

ESPE welcomes new members who have demonstrated an active interest in paediatric endocrinology. ESPE members are eligible for reduced rate registration at the ESPE Annual Meeting, which takes place in a different location every year. They can participate and enjoy the opportunity to meet and exchange

views and ideas with expert fellow professionals working in the field from around the world.

There are many other benefits of ESPE membership. For example, ESPE members have the chance to receive prizes for works of excellence and can apply for fellowships and scholarships. They also receive the ESPE journal *Hormone Research*, the ESPE Newsletter and receive regular email alerts regarding ESPE activities. They can access the password protected members' section of the ESPE website where they can view documents, contact other ESPE members, access the e-learning programme and update their own contact details.

By joining ESPE, the applicant will become a member of one of the most important paediatric societies in the world and will have access through the society to other international and national organisations

such as the Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society, the Latin American Society for Pediatric Endocrinology, the Japanese Pediatric Endocrine Society, the Australian Paediatric Endocrine Group and the Asia Pacific Pediatric Endocrine Society.

For further information or to access the application form, please visit the ESPE website <http://www.eurospe.org/membership/index.html>

We thank you in anticipation of your assistance!

### ESPE Secretariat

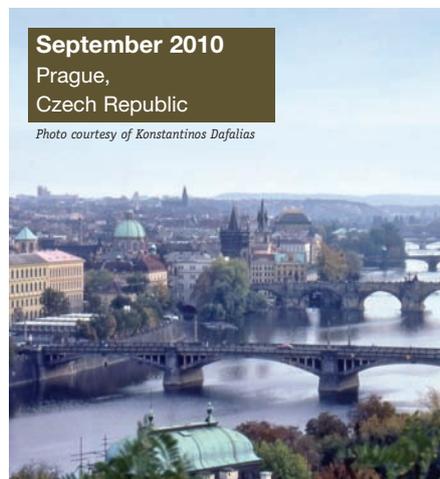
The ESPE Secretariat is managed by BioScientifica Limited. BioScientifica is headed by Managing Director Sue Thorn and Events and Secretariats Director Helen Gregson.

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

Rachael Kington handles membership renewals, payments and banking and deals with subscriptions to *Hormone Research*.

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

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### ESPE Newsletter

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