A message from the Secretary General

ESPE’s Council met earlier this month in Athens, the location of the 2018 annual ESPE meeting. We joined the Corporate Liaison Board for its site visit of the meeting venue, the opportunity for the sponsors to view the venue well ahead of the meeting. We then had two days of Council meetings, one of which was dedicated to discussions on ESPE’s future strategy and ensuring that we are focussing our activities in the right areas.

One of the areas we discussed was the need for collaboration with other societies, in particular our adult endocrine friends and colleagues in the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE). As you will know, we have been working together with ESE on all things related to the ERN-ENDO and we all agree that it is of benefit to continue to work closely together on this project. We are also endorsing a seminar that is being held during ESE’s annual European Congress of Endocrinology (ECE) in Lisbon in May. This 2nd Joint Global Symposium on Obesity, entitled ‘The Many Dimensions of the Childhood Globesity Problem’ is part of a series of symposia being jointly organised by ESE, the International Society of Endocrinology and the Endocrine Society and we are very pleased to be a part of this initiative.

Also in Lisbon as part of ECE, the Growth Hormone Research Society is celebrating its 25th anniversary and you are all invited to attend. It’s included in the cost of ECE registration but you will need to register separately to attend and can find all the details here.

In this issue of the news alert, we are pleased to announce the arrangements for ESPE’s travel grants for the 2017 International Meeting of Pediatric Endocrinology. This year we are offering €750 per travel grant, to recognise that travel costs will be higher. You will need to have submitted an abstract to the meeting to be eligible for a travel grant and the deadline for travel grant applications is 31 May 2017. For all the details of how to apply, visit the web page.

I was made aware this week of some really interesting online conversations that have been released by EDGE of Growth & Maturation (EGM), which is meant to provide communication between scientists, and between scientists and the curious public on issues related to child growth and maturation. There are three conversations on the website, on the topics “Does the Timing of Puberty Matter”, “What discovery impressed you most during your career?” and “Bar Mitzvah and puberty during ancient times”. Several well-known paediatric endocrinologists and ESPE members have contributed to the conversations and you can view them all here.
Finally, the deadline is coming up for applications for this year’s Mid-Career Scientific Development Award, which is a fantastic opportunity for physicians or scientists over 40 to spend some time in another centre. Up to €25,000 is available each year, supported by Lilly. Do take the opportunity to see if this would be something you would be interested in.

As ever, please do get in touch with me if you would like to discuss anything ESPE-related.

Best wishes
Peter

ESPE Secretary General