



Aim

The Clinical Fellowship of the European Society of Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) generously supported by Merck aims to promote the development of patient care, clinical management and clinical research in Paediatric Endocrinology through a training program in a European Clinical centre.

The training

Initially the ESPE Clinical Fellowship offered two options: Long-Term Clinical Fellowships for a training period of 6 to 12 months and Short-term Clinical Fellowships for 3 months. The long-term option was provided because at the beginning of the Program there were limited specialized training opportunities in many European countries. Doctors from those countries willing to develop a career in Paediatric Endocrinology had to stay at least 6 months at a recognized Host Center both to acquire clinical skills and to be introduced to clinical research. An important aim was to overcome existing significant disparities in the ability to provide high quality paediatric endocrine clinical care in different parts of Europe. The short-term (3 months) option was created to match the need of trainees with greater experience in Paediatric Endocrinology but lacking opportunities for training in specific skills or in specific sub-specialty areas in their home country. Both Fellowships were carried out at European Centres with a highly recognized reputation in clinical Paediatric Endocrinology.

With the globalization both of ESPE as a society, and of Paediatric Endocrinology as a recognized paediatric sub-specialty, the needs for specialized training are increasing and getting more sophisticated. Therefore, the ESPE Clinical Fellowship program welcomes applicants not only from Europe, but also from Africa, China, the Indian sub-continent, South America and the Middle East.

Since 2010, the ESPE Clinical Fellowship Committee has also adopted a more flexible approach to the organization of the Fellowship Program: the Candidate's Application Form has been unified and the exact duration of the Fellowship will be decided case by case, according to the Candidate's training needs, preferences and possibilities, the availability of an appropriate Host Centres, the Committee's evaluation of the application, and the financial resources available.

The Home Centre Form, confirming the Candidate's training needs, readiness to use newly acquired knowledge, skills and experience, and a declaration to support the Candidate's future career in Paediatric Endocrinology upon successful completion of the Clinical Fellowship, has also been updated.

The Selection Committee

The ESPE Clinical Fellowship Committee is a sub-committee of the ESPE Council and is appointed by the Council. The Committee is responsible for selecting the successful candidates from amongst the applicants, determining the length of the fellowship, selecting an appropriate host-centre and liaising with Fellows and Hosts during and immediately after the fellowship.

A Chair and a Secretary are elected by the Committee and approved by ESPE Council. A representative of Merck is present at the Committee meetings and participates in the discussions including regarding selection of the Fellows. However, they play no part in the final decision of the Committee regarding individual candidates and if voting is required, this is restricted to the ESPE Committee members only.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Fellow

Applicants for the Fellowship should be fully trained in Paediatrics and/or have started training in Paediatric Endocrinology.

All applicants should have the intention to pursue a career in Paediatric Endocrinology. They should present a Project for the intended Clinical Fellowship stating clearly their aims and expectations, as fully described in the Candidate Form.

Applicants should be supported by a Promoter coming from their current Department (Host Centre) and from the Head of the Department.

2. Home Centre

Commitment for a position in Paediatric Endocrinology following the completion of the Fellowship with, at least, preservation of the Candidate's working post/position and, preferably, support for the possibility of promotion subsequently locally or in another national centre on successful completion of the Fellowship.

3. Host Centre

Host Centres are located in Europe and selected by the Fellowship Committee. Applicants should be able both to understand and speak fluently the language of the population of the selected Host Centre country.

Information to Applicants as Candidate Fellows

- The deadline for submission of applications is **May 31st** each year unless specified differently at the ESPE Website. Please, send all the documents by e-mail in either ***.pdf** or ***.doc** format and name the files appropriately. Photographs should be sent as separate files in ***.jpg** format, as well as the last signed pages of both forms, if not included in the main files. There is no need of sending printed copies.
- It is the responsibility of the Applicant to complete and submit the Candidate Form.

All sections of the Candidate Form should be completed and inadequately completed applications will be rejected.

A Curriculum Vitae and, if applicable, a selection of **5 referenced publications** of the Applicant (which may include abstracts and/or posters preferably in English) must be provided with the Candidate Form.

- The Candidate can propose one or several countries where he/she would like to train (bearing in mind the language requirements).
- A pre-discussed preparation of a Fellowship Project with an Acceptance/Support letter from a potential Host Centre can be helpful, but is not in any way decisive or binding for the Committee's selection process.
- The **Home Centre Form** should be completed by the Candidate's Promoter and signed by both him/her, and the Head of the Paediatric Department where the Applicant is currently working. This form must accompany the Candidate Fellow's Application Form.
- The Committee meets at the Annual ESPE Scientific Meeting (normally in September each year) to decide who should be awarded Fellowships for the following year and for how long, and to nominate appropriate Host Centres. Both successful and unsuccessful candidates are notified following the decision-making process.
- The total budget for the Clinical Fellowship includes subsistence for the Fellow and reasonable expenses related to travel costs during the period of the Fellowship. The living costs of families are not included. The Financial Guidelines and Grant Accountability Report are available at the ESPE website. They are obligatory for Fellows and should be read **PRIOR** to application.
- The Committee requires a report to be provided by the Fellow and the Host Centre ***no later than 3 months*** after the Fellowship is completed. It is expected to be focusing on the benefits and any problems of the Fellowship both for the Fellow and for the Home institution.

The ESPE Clinical Fellowship is supported by an Educational Grant from Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

Further information can be obtained from the Office Holders of the ESPE Clinical Fellowship Committee:

Chairperson:

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