A message from the Secretary General

As we move into November, I would like to draw your attention to some approaching key dates for Society activities. As always, we welcome the active participation of ESPE members in our society and we provide opportunities to engage in a wide range of educational, clinical and scientific programmes that help members share knowledge, make connections and network as well as celebrate achievements.

Firstly, I am very pleased to announce that our Science Committee has launched a new initiative for clinicians and basic researchers: the ESPE Science Symposium. The event will have a scientific research focus and provide an opportunity for networking, learning and interactive discussion, with the aim of disseminating new knowledge and accelerating the pathway from research to patient care. The first of these 2-yearly events will be held in 2018 and applications to host the meeting are now open – the deadline for applications is 30 November 2017. If you would like to apply to host the ESPE Science Symposium, please visit our website for more details.

We currently have two other opportunities for you to be involved in the running of key ESPE educational activities: as a member of the Summer School Steering Committee or the Clinical Fellowship Committee. The deadline for applications for both positions is 30 November 2017 and I encourage you to apply to be part of these well-established activities.

With planning underway for ESPE 2018 in Athens next September, we will very shortly be inviting abstract submissions for the meeting. From 1 November, please do visit the meeting pages of the new ESPE website to submit your abstract and to apply for a travel grant. The topic of the 2018 meeting is ‘Narrative and Precision Medicine in Paediatric Endocrinology’ and we look forward to receiving your abstracts.

Meanwhile, you may have colleagues whose work and commitment to the field deserves high profile recognition. We welcome nominations for our prestigious ESPE Awards, which include prizes for researchers and clinicians at different stages of their careers, both within Europe and Internationally. The deadline for award nominations is 10 December 2017 and more details can be found on the Awards pages of our website, along with photos of this year’s winners.

Earlier this month, I was invited to attend the Endo-ERN Steering Committee meeting to represent ESPE. As you will know, both ESPE and ESE have provided some funding to support Endo-ERN, and the network is looking at the possibility of the two Societies being ‘corporate members’, as well as other relevant Societies. I did find it very useful to hear the progress being made in each of the Main Thematic Groups and reports from the Work Package leads. Olaf Hiort (our Paediatric Chair) and Alberto Pereira (the adult and lead Chair) are doing a great job. I think what will emerge from this initiative will be of great value to our patients with rare disease in Europe, and I hope the model may prove useful to other regions. I should add that
we will be having an Endo-Ern symposium in Athens, so do come along to that session to find out more about Endo-ERN.

Finally, I’d like to update you on a project that we will be taking forward in 2018. Following the launch of our new look website, a key focus for ESPE is to expand our online presence to include materials and resources that extend the life of our annual meeting and that are accessible to members year-round. **ESPE 365**, as we are naming the project, is very much in the initial stages currently, but we envisage it really adding value for ESPE members, capitalising on modern and useful technology to enable knowledge sharing and interaction.

Best wishes
Peter
ESPE Secretary General