



ESPE Clinical Fellowship – Information for Applicants and Selected Candidates

Aims

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

The Training

ESPE Clinical Fellowship offers two options: short-term Clinical Fellowships for 3 months and a limited number of long-term Clinical Fellowships for a training period of 6 months. In the beginning of the programme there were limited specialised training opportunities in many European countries, therefore the long-term fellowship (6 months) was developed. Doctors from these countries willing to develop a career in Paediatric Endocrinology had to stay for at least 6 months at a recognised Host Centre 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 fellowship (3 months) was developed to match the need of trainees with greater experience in Paediatric Endocrinology but lacking opportunities for training in specific skills or specific sub-specialty experience in their home country. Both Fellowships were carried out at European Centres with a highly recognised reputation in clinical Paediatric Endocrinology. More recently, the short term fellowship is more popular and offered in large numbers whilst the long term fellowships is offered to a limited number of candidates.

With the globalization both of ESPE as a society, and of Paediatric Endocrinology as a recognised paediatric sub-specialty, the need for specialised training is increasing and getting more sophisticated. Therefore, the ESPE Clinical Fellowship programme 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 organisation of the Fellowship programme: 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 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 is a vital part of this selection process. **It is expected that the fellows will return to their home country at the end of the fellowship to promote Paediatric Endocrinology in their Home Centre/Country.**

The Selection Committee

The ESPE Clinical Fellowship Committee is an appointed sub-committee of the ESPE Education and Training Committee. 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 the 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.

The Committee meets at the ESPE Annual 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.

All the committee members offer their service on a voluntary basis in addition to their routine clinical/research work and we do not have any admin support; so please do your best to co-operate with the committee by completing the forms appropriately as per instructions (both during the application and later during the fellowship if selected) and by sticking to all the deadlines. It is not good use of our time to constantly chase the applicants/fellows for the forms, reports etc.,

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. Trainees in adult medicine/adult endocrinology are not encouraged to apply for this programme. Applicants should be supported by a Promoter/Supervisor from their current Department (Home Centre) and from the Head of their current Department.

2. Home Centre

Applicant's current centre (home centre) should offer 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 in the home country 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 to both understand and fluently speak the language of the population of the selected Host Centre country.

Application Process

The following forms should be submitted to the ESPE Office (email details available on the ESPE website – link given below) by the candidates/applicants:

<https://www.eurospe.org/grants-awards/grants/clinical-fellowship/>

1. A **Curriculum Vitae** (in English) detailing relevant clinical and research experience, presentations/publications etc., (not more than 4 pages in total).

2. Completed **Candidate form**
 - a) All sections of the Candidate Form should be completed and inadequately completed applications will be rejected.
 - b) The Candidate can propose one or several countries where he/she would like to train (bearing in mind the language requirements).
 - c) A pre-discussed preparation of a Fellowship Project with an Acceptance/Support letter (optional) from a potential Host Centre can be helpful, but is not in any way decisive or binding for the Committee's selection process. **The decision of final allocation of the host for the successful applicant lies with the ESPE clinical fellowship committee based on various factors. Although the committee will do its best to send the fellow to their preferred host, this may not be always possible. If the fellows are unable to accept the allocated host centre, they will unfortunately lose the fellowship offer and have to reapply again the following year if they wish to do so.**
3. Completed **Home Centre Form** by the Candidate's current Promoter/Supervisor and signed by both by the Promoter/Supervisor, and the Head of the Paediatric Department where the Applicant is currently working.
4. Photographs as separate files in *jpg* format

Please send all the documents by e-mail in *pdf* format and name the files appropriately. Please **do not** post printed copies.

All the above forms (CV, candidate form, home centre form and photograph) should be fully completed, signed and emailed to the ESPE Office (espe@eurospe.org) before the deadline of 31 May each year unless specified differently on the ESPE website. Please note that forms without relevant signature of the candidate/home centre will be rejected.

Budget

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, the Initial Grant request form and the Final Grant Accountability Report are available on the ESPE website. They are mandatory for Fellows and should be read **PRIOR** to application.

Reports

The Committee requires a report to be provided by the Fellow **at the time of completion** of the Fellowship so that the final grant could be paid on time. The report is expected to focus on the benefits and any problems during 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 regarding the fellowship can be obtained from the ESPE Office or the Chair/Secretary of the ESPE Clinical Fellowship Committee:

ESPE Office
Email: espe@eurospe.org

Chair
Professor Violeta Iotova
Email: iotova_v@yahoo.com

Secretary

Dr Senthil Senniappan
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