A message from the Secretary General

As you will be aware, abstract submissions for ESPE 2018 in Athens have now closed. We were very pleased to receive over 1255 abstracts and the Programme Organising Committee is now busy reviewing them. Thank you to all of you who took the time to share your work with us. You should receive the results of the abstract marking and travel grant awarding in June.

Successful abstracts will be incorporated into what is shaping up to be a fascinating scientific programme, with the overall theme of ‘precision and narrative medicine in paediatric endocrinology’. Several of the sessions will therefore focus on personalised approaches to diagnosing and treating patients. The programme as it stands can be found on our website and look out for more details and session previews in the next two issues of our newsletter. Don’t forget the early bird deadline, for the best registration rates, is 22 June.

Meanwhile plans are afoot, not only for subsequent ESPE meetings in Vienna, Liverpool and Copenhagen, but also for the International Meeting of Paediatric Endocrinology taking place in Buenos Aires in 2021. The International POC is in regular communication and will soon begin to develop the scientific programme for the meeting. The host society, SLEP, is coordinating all aspects of the planning of the meeting and will be working with all stakeholders, including sponsors, to ensure its success.

The planning of the international meeting is being done alongside plans for our rather different ESPE meeting in 2021 in Copenhagen. The POC has been tasked with ensuring that this meeting has a very different format than that of a standard ESPE meeting, with more of an educational focus. Look out for more news on the detail of that soon.

We continue to collaborate with the European Society of Endocrinology to ensure the effective functioning of the Endo-ERN and to agree ESPE’s involvement in any future European registries, including the EuRRECa Registry which is being developed with Endo-ERN and funding from ESPE and ESE but is open to other centres in Europe that are not within the Endo-ERN. The Endo-ERN is considered a role model for other ERNs due to the strong support of the two professional societies and therefore our involvement is crucial to its success, but also needs clear definition.

I referred last month to the Council strategy meeting in Vienna and we are now taking steps to implement the agreed actions. We have developed a Risk Register
for the Society and a plan to mitigate the risks identified, with Council reviewing the register every six months. As part of our financial planning process we have been reviewing ESPE’s activities and agreeing priority areas for securing financial support from pharmaceutical companies and to ensure the longevity of those important relationships.

Some of you may be aware of new European data rules coming into force next month: the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR. The new regulation affects every organisation that communicates with or processes the data of EU citizens. As a result, when you next renew your membership, we will be asking you to confirm your mailing and membership directory preferences. We hope you enjoy receiving the ESPE news alert and newsletter and find them useful resources. Please do ensure you complete the Email Preferences tick boxes so that we can continue to send them to you. You can either do this now, by logging in to your secure members’ area, or when you renew your membership.

If you are inspired by our redesigned newsletter and would like to be part of the team that compiles the content, please do apply for the position of Newsletter Editorial Board member by 21 May. We are particularly keen to hear from you if you are a basic scientist. We also have vacancies on two of our school steering committees: for the Summer School Steering Committee Coordinator and a Caucasus & Central Asia School Steering Committee member. Our Schools provide dynamic, interactive educational opportunities and are rewarding to be a part of, either as faculty, or as a student.

On that note, if you would like to develop your paediatric endocrinology knowledge and understanding, don’t miss your opportunity to apply for a place on one of our schools. The deadline for applications to the Maghreb and Caucasus & central Asia Schools is today, 30 April and the deadline for Diabetes, Obesity & Metabolism School, taking place in Greece after the annual meeting, is 4 June.

Best wishes
Peter
ESPE Secretary General