A message from the Secretary General  December 2018

It’s difficult to believe that 2018 is already drawing to a close. As I look back on the year, it’s clear how busy we’ve been. Here are just a few of ESPE’s highlights:

**Digital ESPE**
We sought your opinions regarding the future of ESPE’s digital resources (current working title ‘ESPE Live’). The results of our survey have given us a clear steer on where we should focus our efforts, so thank you for taking part. The research revealed a high demand for a greater breadth of post-event materials on the ESPE website (including presentation slides), but a low level of support for developing online networking and live webcasts. There is also an appreciation of the content provided via ESPE’s e-learning module, but suggestions that the platform and delivery could be improved. We are extremely grateful for this feedback and are now looking at the planning and implementation of key projects to present valuable content online to the ESPE community.

This year, we published the 2018 Yearbook of Paediatric Endocrinology in an easily accessible online format for the first time. In addition to this, the International Consortium of Pediatric Endocrinology (ICPE) launched its own website to showcase the meetings, training events and clinical practice documents being delivered globally. Both of these initiatives are highly useful resources for paediatric endocrinologists everywhere.

**Newsletter**
With thanks to the hard work of our Newsletter Editorial Board and the supporting team, we launched our redesigned newsletter in March and have since sent you four extremely high quality and well-received issues. Each issue has included features from expert authors on a theme: Growth, Adrenal, the Athens Annual Meeting and Neonatal Endocrinology. I can thoroughly recommend the newsletter as an informative, interesting and relevant read, so please do look out for it in your inbox and ensure you have selected to receive ‘general updates on ESPE activities’ when you make your ESPE communication preferences so you can continue to receive it.

**Science Symposium**
Also launched this year was our first Science Symposium, which covered unmet scientific needs for evidence-based healthcare of transgender children and teenagers. A highly topical symposium, which brought together 100 participants from 22 countries, it was an excellent launch to this series of bi-annual events, which will disseminate up-to-date scientific knowledge to both clinicians and researchers. Thank you to ESPE’s Gender Dysphoria Working Group and the UK Gender Identity Development Service for hosting.

**Postgraduate Course**
Shortly after this, the first Joint EASD/ISPAD/ESPE Postgraduate Education Course on Type 1 Diabetes in Children Adolescents and Young Adults was held in Prague. Another big success, 150 participants benefited from focused lectures and...
workshops with experts in the field. With over 400 applications and excellent feedback, the popularity of this course is clear and we are very pleased to have been a part of it. Thank you to the ESPE team involved, including our ETC Chair Rasa Verkauskiene.

**ESPE 2018**

We of course met in Athens in September for the 57th **ESPE Annual Meeting**. Beyond the excellent scientific programme, poster tours and exhibition, we also somehow made time for a host of committee meetings, inspiring awards sessions, an opportunity to thank our committee members over lunch, collaborative meetings with international partners, a showcase of ESPE’s many activities, plenty of Greek dancing and much more besides. We also announced ESPE’s new Secretary General, Anita Hokken-Koelega, who will take office in September 2019, but who is already attending Council meetings as Secretary General Elect. Meanwhile, The Hague, Netherlands was agreed by our members as the location for ESPE 2023 (with Vienna, Liverpool and Rome to be enjoyed before that).

**ESPE 2021**

With the International Meeting of Pediatric Endocrinology taking place in Buenos Aires in September 2021, we have been busy discussing and planning for ESPE’s own annual meeting which will take place in Copenhagen in May the same year. This will give the opportunity for ESPE to organise a different kind of meeting in that year, with a focus on education and training within interactive and engaging session formats. If you have any exciting ideas of what you would like to see in this meeting, please do get in touch.

**ESPE activities**

As always, our committees worked extremely hard to deliver ESPE’s many activities: **schools**, **grants**, **awards**, **meetings** and **clinical guidelines** – ensuring that we continued to engage with and support paediatric endocrinologists at all stages of their careers, in order to advance excellence in paediatric endocrinology and diabetes. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all our chairs and committee members for all their hard work and contributions.

**Brexit**

Finally, it would seem odd to summarise the year without mentioning Brexit. While discussions and negotiations are ongoing and uncertainty over UK’s position in Europe remains, I would like to reassure you that ESPE remains an intrinsically European, global, collaborative and inclusive society. Our membership represents over 90 countries (with a large number of members from the UK) and our associations with bodies such as **Endo-ERN, ICPE, ESE** are as important to us as ever.

**Thank you**

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your membership of ESPE and all you do to make the Society run successfully, for the benefit of professionals in the field and the patients we are here to help. I wish you and your families a very happy festive season and look forward to 2019.

Best wishes

Peter

ESPE Secretary General