How you can join the European Society of Endocrinology

On 1 January 2006 the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE) was officially launched, following a consultation process with members of the European Federation of Endocrine Societies (EFES). Its mission is to promote research, education and clinical practice in endocrinology for the public benefit by the organization of conferences, training courses and publications, by raising public awareness, liaison with national and international legislators, and by any other appropriate means. It also aims to stimulate educational exchange and liaise closely with the European Union on an ongoing basis to ensure that endocrinology is firmly on the research agenda.

Categories of membership
Applications are now invited for membership of the European Society of Endocrinology. The ESE has a category for individual membership (Ordinary Members), an affiliated category of membership (Affiliated Societies), which includes all previous EFES full and affiliated members, and a corporate membership scheme.

Individual membership is open to researchers, clinicians and students in the field of endocrinology and hormonal systems. These members will have full voting rights and can attend general meetings. Benefits include reduced rate registration at the European Congress of Endocrinology (ECE) and any other ESE events, a bi-annual newsletter and email alerts advising of news and grants. Members will also receive a reduced rate subscription to the ESE official journals European Journal of Endocrinology (www.eje-online.org), Journal of Endocrinology (www.joe.endocrinology-journals.org), Endocrine-Related Cancer (www.erc.endocrinology-journals.org), and Journal of Molecular Endocrinology (www.jme.endocrinology-journals.org).

Affiliated Society membership is open to national endocrine societies and subspecialist endocrine societies in Europe. All previous Full and Affiliated Members of EFES automatically become Affiliated Societies of the ESE with one vote per society. Affiliated Societies can attend general meetings. Benefits include the ability to nominate ECE locations, voting rights, information on developments in Europe and access to representation in Brussels.

Corporate membership is open to companies working in the field of endocrinology. There are no voting rights associated with this category of membership, but representatives may attend general meetings. Benefits include priority booking and discounts when exhibiting at or sponsoring ECE congresses or other events, and access to Europe’s opinion leaders.

For full information on the application process, fees and an application form visit the new ESE website at www.euro-endo.org.

All attendees at ECE 2006 in Glasgow, UK, 1-5 April are invited to become members of the ESE for free for 2006 - see website for details and register now at www.ece2006.com.

EDITORIAL

Now is the time to become an individual member of the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE). If you plan to attend the ECE 2006 in Glasgow your membership for 2006 will be free.

This is also the time to consider why you should become a member. I would strongly suggest that you maintain your membership of your national society, where you regularly meet your fellow endocrinologists, colleagues and friends, discuss basic and clinical aspects of our specialty, discuss referrals, listen to scientific presentations by your fellows and hear about local developments concerning endocrinology in your country.

The ESE will become the platform that will launch our specialty at the European level with high-class state-of-the-art yearly scientific meetings, and with easily accessible postgraduate training courses in the new member states of the European Union and beyond. It will be an open democratic Society where your vote will count; it will put endocrinology more strongly on the European research agenda and will stimulate exchange, especially for the most gifted and promising young endocrinologists.

European endocrinology is very much alive. More than 13 000 endocrinologists are working on this continent. Let’s make endocrinology even stronger together.

STEVEN WJ LAMBERTS

EUROPEAN CONGRESSES OF ENDOCRINOLOGY
SAVE THE DATES

9th European Congress of Endocrinology
Budapest, Hungary, 28 April - 2 May 2007

10th European Congress of Endocrinology
Dresden, Germany, 3-7 May 2008

11th European Congress of Endocrinology
Istanbul, Turkey, 25-29 April 2009
Introducing your new ESE Executive Committee

Steven Lamberts (President)
Steven Willem Jan Lamberts is Professor of Medicine at Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He has broad interests in endocrinology and the application of new developments in basic endocrinology to general medicine - his main topics of research include neuroendocrinology, endocrine tumours, neuroendocrine-immunology and population epidemiology.

He has served on previous EFES Executive Committees, was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Endocrinology and has served on the editorial board of more than ten journals. Since December 2004 he has been Rector Magnificus of Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

Ezio Ghigo (Vice President)
Ezio Ghigo graduated in medicine from the University of Turin, Italy, in 1979 and received his postgraduate qualification in endocrinology and metabolism in 1982. He became Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism in 1999 and has been Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Turin since 2002.

His research interests include the neural control of anterior pituitary function, diagnosis and treatment of GH deficiency in childhood and in adulthood, synthetic GH secretagogues and ghrelin, control of the HPA axis, and the endocrinology of aging, of obesity and of anorexia nervosa.

Philippe Bouchard (Secretary)
Philippe Bouchard is Professor and Chair of the Service d’Endocrinologie and Director of the Laboratory of Reproductive Genetics at Hospital Saint Antoine and the University Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France. He is also President of the French Endocrine Society (2005-2007) and a Senior Consultant to the Population Council, New York, USA. In 2001 he was awarded the title Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur and also Doctor Honoris Causa, at the University of Liège, Belgium.

Jens Sandahl Christiansen (Treasurer)
Jens Sandahl Christiansen is Professor of Medicine and Consultant Endocrinologist at Aarhus University Hospital, Kommunehospitalet, Aarhus, Denmark. His research interests focus on endocrinology and diabetes, in particular diabetic nephropathy, glucose monitoring and the clinical and metabolic aspects of GH deficiency.

He is a founding member and the acting Secretary of the Growth Hormone Research Society (GRS), Editor-in-chief of GH & IGF Research and serves on the editorial board of Clinical Endocrinology.

Paolo Beck-Peccoz (Chief Editor, European Journal of Endocrinology)
Paolo Beck-Peccoz graduated in medicine at the University of Turin and is Professor of Endocrinology at the University of Milan, Italy. He is also Director of the Institute of Endocrine Sciences, Fondazione Policlinico IRCCS. His major research interest is the pathophysiology of the hypothalamic-pituitary-thyroid axis.

Michael Sheppard
Michael Sheppard is the William Withering Professor of Medicine and Vice Dean of the University of Birmingham Medical School, UK. His undergraduate training was at the University of Cape Town and he returned there to undertake a PhD on the physiology of hypothalamic somatostatin release. He was Chairman of the Program Organizing Committee for the European Congress of Endocrinology 2005, and is Clinical Committee Chair of the Society for Endocrinology UK and Board Chair of the European Journal of Endocrinology.

His clinical and research interests are in pituitary disease, in particular acromegaly, and in thyroid disease.

The remaining members of the ESE Executive Committee will be featured in the next issue of ESE News.
ECE 2006
1-5 April 2006, Glasgow, UK

Over 1100 abstracts have been received for the upcoming European Congress of Endocrinology in Glasgow and delegate participation is expected from all corners of Europe. The meeting is being hosted by the UK Society for Endocrinology at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre.

The scientific programme is varied and plentiful, including a series of prestigious plenary lectures by the winners of the Geoffrey Harris Prize and the European Journal of Endocrinology Medal that launch the meeting on Saturday 1 April.

The programme spans all disciplines from basic science to purely clinical. In addition to symposia, clinical management workshops and oral communications, there will be a series of expert sessions in which experts will present interesting cases for the audience to comment on. Each will run twice so that delegates may attend more than one concurrent session. Symposia topic highlights include the endocrinology of psychiatric disease, thyroid and the heart, steroid hormone receptors and many more.

Support from industry has been excellent. The organizers would particularly like to thank gold sponsors Ipsen, Novartis and Pfizer and bronze sponsors Lilly, Novo Nordisk and Roche, without whom this meeting would not be possible.

The congress also promises to be very active socially. There are a series of sporting events planned, including five-a-side football, tennis and a golf tournament on Saturday and Roche, without whom this meeting would not be possible.

There are a series of sporting events planned, including five-a-side football, tennis and a golf tournament on Saturday 1 April. In the evenings there will be both a formal and an informal event, as well as a welcome reception at the stunning Glasgow Science Centre on the Saturday. The Congress dinner will give all delegates a true flavour of Scotland! Get dressed up on Tuesday evening to be served a three course meal, followed by whisky tasting and a lively ceilidh band at the luxurious Hilton Hotel Glasgow. The informal evening will take place at Tiger Tiger, a city-centre bar where delegates will have a choice of three rooms in which to relax, socialize or dance the night away.

For information on the meeting content, registration, accommodation or travel please visit www.ece2006.com or contact Liz Brookes or Shirine Borbor at the UK Society for Endocrinology (Tel: +44-1454-642210; Email: conferences@endocrinology.org).

Programme Organizing Committee
Co-Chairs:
Professor Pierre Bouloux (London, UK)
Professor Josef Köhrle (Berlin, Germany)

Local Organising Chairman:
Professor John Connell

ESE AGM

The first ESE AGM will be held at ECE 2006 on Tuesday 4 April at 12.20 in the Clyde Auditorium at the SECC.

All delegates who have requested membership of the ESE when registering for the meeting or have completed a membership form on the web are invited to the AGM.

All new member applications will be voted in at this meeting.

ESE invites bids to host the European Congress of Endocrinology in 2010 and 2011

The European Congress of Endocrinology will be organized centrally by the ESE from 2010 onwards, in partnership with the host country. The host country will no longer be required to take on the financial responsibility of the meeting, but will still have a share in any surplus funds generated. The anticipated role of the host country and local organizing committee is:

- To propose the local details, including the scientific venue, hotels, transport and social venues
- To liaise with the venue on costs etc and to provide an outline budget for these items
- To assist with appointing a local agent to work with the ESE on local arrangements and staffing
- To assist in any liaison with local or national authorities, for example obtaining support from the city or state, VAT issues etc
- To work with the ESE to recruit exhibitors, sponsors and satellite bookings, especially with regard to national or regional contacts
- To work with the ESE on promotion of the meeting to potential delegates in the host country and region

Full details are available on the new ESE website at www.euro-endo.org

National societies wishing to bid for the 2010 and 2011 meetings should initially submit an expression of interest by 24 March 2006 to Dr Philippe Bouchard, Secretary of ESE, at info@euro-endo.org. The letter should be from the President of the host national society.

Applicants should note that they will need to establish that their chosen venue has availability in late April/early May, and that it has the capacity to hold a major meeting. Host national societies should also confirm that they will not hold their national meeting that year if their bid is successful.

Full applications should be received by 1 August 2006 using the format outlined on the website. See www.euro-endo.org/meetings/conferences_proposals.htm for details. The ESE Executive Committee may wish to make a site visit and they will be responsible for the final decision on the chosen venue.

ESE POSTGRADUATE COURSES

SAVE THE DATE

2nd ESE Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology
Košice, Slovakia
12-14 October 2006

Contact: Iva Lazarova, 1st Department of Internal Medicine, Medical Faculty, University Košice, Trieda SNP 1, 040 01 Košice, Slovakia (Tel: +421-55-4403516; Email: lazarovai@central.medic.upjs.sk; Web: www.ese-slovakia2006.sk).

ESE is offering a year’s free membership to the European Society of Endocrinology to those who register to attend ECE 2006.
Efficacy of 12-month treatment with the GH receptor antagonist pegvisomant in patients with acromegaly resistant to long-term, high-dose somatostatin analog treatment: effect on IGF-I levels, tumor mass, hypertension and glucose tolerance

A Colao, R Pivonello, RS Auriemma, MC de Martino, M Bidlingsmaier, F Briganti, F Tortora, P Burman, IA Kourides, CJ Strasburger and G Lombardi

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Treatment of acromegaly resulting from GH-secreting tumors is often successful, but commonly fails in larger, more invasive tumours. Alternative treatments include pharmacotherapy using somatostatin analogs and radiotherapy, both recommended only for those patients in whom both surgery and standard pharmacotherapy have failed. Somatostatin analogs have been found to normalize insulin-like growth factor (IGF)-I levels in only two-thirds of patients.

A new pharmacological approach is the use of the GH receptor blocker pegvisomant, which inhibits IGF-I production. Little data exists on the efficacy of this treatment in patients in whom surgery, radiotherapy and current drugs have previously been unsuccessful. Here, Colao and colleagues present the results of pegvisomant treatment in 16 such patients.

They report normalization of age- and sex-appropriate IGF-I levels in over three-quarters of patients after 12 months of treatment with pegvisomant. In the remaining patients IGF-I, although not normalized, was greatly reduced. Additionally, patients showed reduced total/high density lipoprotein cholesterol ratio and improved insulin sensitivity and blood pressure control.

This study by Colao and colleagues provides a valuable addition to the currently sparse pool of data regarding pegvisomant treatment, confirming its efficacy in normalizing IGF-I levels and controlling haemodynamic and metabolic disturbances in the majority of acromegaly patients for whom alternative treatments have failed.