The 11th European Congress of Endocrinology will be hosted by the by the Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism of Turkey at the Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Centre (ICEC), right in the heart of this historically and culturally attractive city. The ICEC congress venue can be easily reached on foot and is approximately 2-15 minutes from many nearby hotels; worldwide recognised 5* hotel chains and other hotels as well.

The Programme Organising Committee have prepared a balanced and interesting programme for both basic and clinical scientists in a variety of specialties in endocrinology. Plenary lectures give new insights into the vast role of clinical and basic endocrinology, in physiology and medicine. Topics such as ‘Epigenetics and early environmental exposure’, ‘Stress and the brain: from adaptation to disease’, ‘Genetics of diabetes and obesity’, ‘New therapies in diabetes: genetically engineered tissues to maintain normal glucose homeostasis’, ‘Thyroid hormone transporters’, ‘Current and novel treatment targets for bone disease’, ‘Implications of adrenal hormone pulsatility’ and ‘Common lessons from rare mutation: 11β HSD’ will give us an opportunity to weave our knowledge and methodologies into mainstream medicine. In addition to the plenary lectures, ECE 2009 will also offer Symposia, Pro and Cons, Debates, Hot Topics, Oral Communication and Poster Session: Talk to me. These will review in further detail the progress in endocrinology, with scientists defining the criteria for diagnosis of most endocrine disorders, clearly outlining the principles of effective therapy, whilst also debating the uncertainties. In addition, basic scientists will show the central role in the exciting new developments in cellular and molecular biology.

Endocrinology affects virtually every discipline in clinical medicine and biomedical science. We are sure that the 11th ECE will do its best to move forward and further expand the boundaries of endocrinology and always remain in the mainstream of medical science. Exciting scientific exchanges will be possible by your active participation.

One of our particular interests is in the Young Investigators Symposium organised by young European physicians and scientists who think that the best way to mentor young investigators is through open and free collaboration. ESE encourages basic research and clinical advances of our young investigators and a scientific jury will acclaim the best basic and clinical research in Highlight Sessions. The ESE poster prizes will also be awarded based on the highest marked abstracts.

ESE has the potential to become an enormous force in European science and medicine and key to this is the extension of its membership throughout Europe. We are glad to announce that our ESE President, Professor Eberhard Nieschlag, will give a presidential address during the Congress. He will also meet with the Presidents of the ESE Affiliated Societies and welcome new ESE members at an informal reception. For further information regarding the Congress please visit the website at www.ece2009.com.

EDITORIAL

I would like to start by wishing you all a happy and peaceful 2009. The start of 2009 brings with it the chance to play an important role in the decision-making process of the European Society of Endocrinology. As a member of ESE you are entitled to nominate and vote for candidates of the Executive Committee. In 2009, 6 members of the Executive Committee will retire and 3 new Executive Committee members and a new Vice President will be elected.

Recently, the call for nominations for Vice President, Executive Committee and Honorary Auditors has been sent to all members. I invite you to submit your nominations for these posts by the closing date of 23 January 2009. The election, which will take place by electronic voting, will open in March 2009. Details of all the candidates will be available on the ESE website and all voting members will be sent voting instructions when the vote opens. If you have any questions regarding the nomination procedure then please contact the ESE Secretariat.

The 11th European Congress of Endocrinology is fast approaching. ECE 2009 will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from 25–29 April 2009 and we are all looking forward to an exciting scientific programme.

Abstract submission has now closed and 764 abstracts were received. At the time of writing, the abstracts are being marked and all presenting authors will be notified by the end of January 2009. The ECE 2009 Opening Ceremony will be held on Saturday 25 April 2009 followed by the Geoffrey Harris and European Journal of Endocrinology prize lectures. The winners of these prestigious prizes will be announced in the coming months. New for 2009 will be the introduction of the President’s Address, which will be held on Sunday 26 April, and all congress delegates are invited to attend. The ESE Executive Committee would like to welcome all new ESE members during the Congress and there will be a welcome reception on Monday 27 April, invitations will be sent before the Congress and we hope that you will be able to join us. In addition to this, there will be a meeting of the ESE Affiliated Society Presidents on 26 April 2009.

The Annual General Meeting will be held during ECE 2009 on Monday 27 April at 18:15–19:30 and ESE members are invited to attend.

ESE Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the European Society of Endocrinology will be held on Monday 27 April 2009 at the congress venue from 18:15–19:30. All ESE Members are welcome.
**EXCURSIONS & TOURS**

**Istanbul Classic**
(HALF DAY MORNING)
Price per person: €45
Tour of the Sultan Ahmet Center, the heart of the ‘old city’ from where the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires were ruled.

**Ottoman Relics**
(HALF DAY AFTERNOON)
Price per person: €45
Tour of Rüstem Paşa Mosque and Topkapı Palace.

**Byzantine & Ottoman Relics**
FULL DAY, LUNCH INCLUDED
Price per person: €65
Visit to Hagia (St) Sophia - Blue Mosque; Hippodrome; Obelisk of Theodosius; Serpentine Column; German Fountain of Wilhelm II; Grand covered bazaar; Topkapı Palace and Rüstem Paşa Mosque. Please note that the Harem section is not included in the programme.

**Dolmabahçe Palace & Two Continents**
(HALF DAY AFTERNOON)
Price per person: €50
This is a chance to visit the Dolmabahçe Palace, the recent residence for Ottoman Sultans. The Bosphorus bridge allows you to cross from one continent to another in two minutes and the Çamlıca Hill give a fantastic panoramic view of Istanbul.

**Bosphorus Cruise on Private Boat**
(HALF DAY MORNING AND/OR AFTERNOON)
Price per person: €45
Morning tour consists of a visit to the Golden Horn, the arm of the Bosphorus and a natural harbour. Then a drive to view the historic Fener Orthodox Patriarchate, Metal Church of St Stephen the Bulgarian, Ahrida Synagogue and Eyüp Sultan Mosque and much, much more. Full details of the tour are available on the ECE 2009 website.

**Where to stay**
Hotel bookings can be made via the online registration form at www.ece2009.com. All hotel rooms will be allocated on a ‘first come, first served’ basis according to availability. The Congress organisers have reserved rooms at different hotels near to the congress venue at special rates. The ICEC is located in the heart of the city's business and cultural centre, allowing easy access to municipal, domestic and international transport networks.

**How to get there**
You may come to Istanbul by bus or train from Europe or neighbouring countries. However, flights are suggested since trains are slow and buses can be tiring.
There are two airports in Istanbul, one in the European side, Atatürk airport, and the other in the Asian side, Sabiha Gökçen.

**Istanbul Atatürk Airport** is the biggest airport in Turkey and is located 24 kilometres from the centre of the city. There are scheduled flights from all over the world. The biggest airline in Turkey is Turkish Airlines (THY). Istanbul Atatürk Airport receives two daily flights from all major European cities, two flights from New York, one flight from Far-East countries and one flight from all major Middle Eastern countries. Most of the new Republics in the ex-Soviet Union make their western world connections via Istanbul.

**Sabiha Gökçen Airport** is located 45 kilometres from the city centre. Pegasus offers some of its cheapest fares from Sabiha Gökçen.

**The Venue**

**Congress Venue:**
Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Centre (ICEC)
Harbiye 34267
Tel: +90 212 373 1100
Fax: +90 212 224 0878
Web: www.icec.org

The Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Centre (ICEC) has everything needed for a memorable and successful congress in Istanbul. The ICEC offers an outstanding combination of state-of-the-art facilities and superior service. The ICEC is located in the heart of the city's business and cultural centre, allowing easy access to municipal, domestic and international transport networks.

**IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

**CONGRESS WEBSITE**
www.ece2009.com

**PROFESSIONAL CONGRESS ORGANISER**
TeamCon Congress Services Worldwide
Halaskargazi Cad. Alp Palas No. 79/1
34371 Harbiye Istanbul, Turkey
Tel: +90 212 343 8023
Fax: +90 212 343 8023
Web: www.teamcon.com.tr

**SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITION SALES**
Email: sponsorship@ece2009.com

**REGISTRATION & ACCOMMODATION EXECUTIVE**
Ms Füsun Kaya, Teamcon Congress Services Worldwide
Tel: +90 212 343 80 03
Fax: +90 212 343 80 23
Email: registration@ece2009.com

**HOST SOCIETY**
The Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism of Turkey
c/o Turkiye Endokrinoloji ve Metabolizma Dernegi
Mesrutiyet Cad. Ali Bey Apt. 29/12
Kizilay Ankara, Turkey
Tel: +90 312 425 2072
Fax: +90 312 425 2098
Email: president@temd.org.tr
Web: www.temd.org.tr

**ESE SECRETARIAT**
Euro House, 22 Apex Court
Woodlands, Bradley Stoke
Bristol, BS32 4JT, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1454 642 247
Fax: +44 (0) 1454 642 222
Email: info@euro-endo.org
Web: www.euro-endo.org
Registration

The deadline for the early bird registration rate is 16 February 2009. Online registration is available at www.ece2009.com.

There is a reduced rate available to ESE members, saving €200 on the registration fee. To be eligible for the ESE member's rate you must ensure that your membership renewal payment for 2009 has been paid. Accommodation details are required in order to process your application.

### Registration rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Early registration before 16 February 2009</th>
<th>Advanced registration 16 Feb - 17 Apr 2009</th>
<th>On site registration 25-29 April 2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESE members</td>
<td>€500</td>
<td>€600</td>
<td>€650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-members</td>
<td>€700</td>
<td>€800</td>
<td>€850</td>
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<td>Fellow/Student</td>
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<td>€450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic package</td>
<td>€600</td>
<td>€600</td>
<td>€600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: Registration applications received after 17 April 2009 will not be processed. Delegates should apply on-site for registration after this date.

### Economic package

(For a limited number of participants and not available on-site)

The Economic package is available to delegates who fulfill both of the following criteria:

1. Their country of residence has a GDP - per capita of below $15,000 as defined by the CIA World Factbook.
   (For further details please visit https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html)

   and

2. They are non-clinically qualified research students or postdoctoral fellows, nurses who have no access to funding, or are retired.

### Travel Grants

The Journal of Endocrinology offers Travel Grants of €300 each to ten young scientists attending the European Congress of Endocrinology. Applicants must be a current member of ESE, under 35 years of age and be resident in a country that is not classified by the World Bank as a high-income country. The travel grants are available for attendance at the annual congress if the applicant has submitted an abstract.

Full details of the eligibility criteria can be found at http://www.euroendro.org/about/about_prizes.htm and the application form is available at http://www.ece2009.com/travelGrant.aspx.

### Group registration

Special registration procedures apply for group registrations. For registration of more than 10 participants please contact the Congress Organiser, Mr Ilkay Timsel, Project Manager, at TeamCon Congress Services Worldwide. Contact details can be found in the Important Contacts box on page 2.

### CME Credits

ECE 2009 will be credited with CME points from UEMS.
Glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) is a hormone produced in the gut by post-translational proteolytic processing of glucagon. It has a range of physiological actions in the control of energy intake, including stimulation of glucose-induced insulin secretion and increasing proliferation, neogenesis and mass of β-cells, and has been considered as a regulator of β-cell growth. Plasma concentrations of GLP-1 are known for adults but have not previously been measured in newborn infants. In this study by Padidela et al., the basal and post-feed levels of amidated GLP-1 in response to milk ingestion were investigated in newborns. The authors found that basal amidated GLP-1 concentrations in neonates are markedly higher than in adults and that concentrations were significantly increased at 20 and 60 min post-feed. Using reverse-phase fast protein liquid chromatography to determine the molecular nature of the circulating GLP-1, they showed that >75% of GLP-1 immunoreactivity represented the (7-36) amide and (9-36) amide forms. Such elevated GLP-1 concentrations in newborn infants may play a role in regulating pancreatic β-cell mass and regeneration and maturation of the enteroendocrine system.