

12th European Congress of Endocrinology



24-28 APRIL 2010, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

► The 12th European Congress of Endocrinology took place in Prague in late April. Despite the unprecedented global travel crisis caused by the volcano, more than 2700 attendees registered for the congress. It is a great tribute to the commitment of all attendees to this meeting that the full and exciting scientific



programme did not suffer any lost sessions. The meeting faculty and Programme Organising Committee worked tirelessly to ensure that all sessions were covered and any colleagues who could not attend (less than 10%), especially from the USA, were able to either present their lecture via video link or work with an alternative speaker to provide a quality lecture despite the programmed speaker's absence.

The congress' prestigious opening ceremony included prize lectures from the Geoffrey Harris prize winner Iain Robinson and the *European Journal of Endocrinology* prize winner Lorenz Hofbauer. The prize winners presented their fascinating research on GH and the RANK ligand respectively. A review of the active European Networks was among the first important sessions. The congress programme included the Young Investigator Awards, which were given to six young investigators based on the top scoring abstracts. A total of 824 posters were presented and the ESE Poster Prizes were also given to the four best posters, 2 clinical and 2 basic, judged by the POC as most outstanding in terms of scientific content, poster quality and presentation by the authors. We would like to thank Ipsen for sponsoring the Geoffrey Harris prize and Novartis for sponsoring the Young Investigator Awards and Poster Prizes.



Prof. Ebo Nieschlag presents Prof. Albert Burger with an ESE Honorary membership

ECE 2010 saw a departure from the traditional programme structure of lunchtime satellite sessions, ensuring that the congress hours were devoted to the educational learning of delegates and scientific elements including the poster sessions. ESE Corporate Members were invited to support satellite symposia before and after the core congress hours which were very well attended. The supporting industry, to which we are ever grateful, provided a fantastic, vibrant exhibition against a panoramic backdrop of the city of Prague.

The Local Organising Committee and BioScientifica ensured that in the face of adversity our congress was a great success. Once again our Society can be proud that the largest endocrine meeting in Europe attended by over 2500 endocrinologists from across the field is definitely ECE. The ECE 2011 Programme Organising Committee met



Reception for new ESE Members

one week after the congress in Prague to immediately start planning for next year's congress.

MARIA ALEVIZAKI,
POC CHAIR AND
JOSEF MAREK,
LOC CHAIR, ECE 2010

EDITORIAL

► I am delighted to say that the 12th European Congress of Endocrinology in Prague was a great success, despite the Icelandic ash cloud, which threatened to prevent us all from travelling to Prague. In the end, over 2700 delegates from over 90 countries managed to attend. I would like to thank the POC for all their hard work, the speakers for their outstanding contributions and the organisers, who worked together to ensure that the congress ran smoothly.

The ECE 2010 Opening Ceremony included the prestigious Geoffrey Harris prize, awarded to Professor Iain Robinson (UK), and the *European Journal of Endocrinology* prize awarded to Professor Lorenz Hofbauer (Germany). A web-cast of both these lectures is now available to view on the ESE website. ESE Honorary memberships were awarded to Professor Etienne Emile Baulieu for recognition of his outstanding achievements and significant contributions to European endocrinology and to Professor Albert Burger for recognition of his outstanding achievements as the first editor of the *European Journal of Endocrinology* and significant contributions to uniting European endocrinologists.

I would like to thank those who attended the Annual General Meeting for their participation. This meeting provides a valuable platform to update members on how the Society has performed during the last year and its plans for the future.

At the AGM we said farewell to our Secretary, Philippe Bouchard, as he retired from office after 5 years. I thank Professor Bouchard for all his hard work and commitment during his term of office. However, we also welcomed the newly elected Executive Committee members: Barbara Jarzab from Poland (taking over as Secretary) and Justo Castaño, from Spain, and look forward to our future collaborations. The minutes of the AGM are available in the members' section of the ESE website.

During ECE 2010, the Executive Committee held two meetings. There were 203 new membership applications approved and a full list of these new members can be viewed from the link on the ESE homepage. In addition to this, the application from The Endocrinology Association of Montenegro as an ESE Affiliated Society Member was approved. I extend a warm welcome to all these new members and encourage them to play an active role in the running of their Society.

The ESE Congress, Corporate Liaison and Education Sub-committees also held meetings and the Presidents of the ESE Affiliated Societies held their 3rd annual meeting.

The Executive Committee will next meet in Porto, Portugal, alongside the 1st ESE Clinical Update Course (22-24 October 2010). This course is designed not only to give a vigorous update on current clinical practice but also to encourage networking between trainees and established endocrinologists. Further information on this prestigious course is on page 4 and I encourage endocrinologists, both young and senior, to attend.

EBO NIESCHLAG, ESE PRESIDENT

Bulgarian health minister appointment

We are pleased to report that Professor Anna-Maria Borissova, President of the Bulgarian Society of Endocrinology (an ESE Affiliated Society Member), has recently been appointed as the new Bulgarian Health Minister. Professor Borissova specialises in internal medicine and endocrinology and we congratulate her on this important role.

ENS@T – awarded FP7 grant European Network for the Study of Adrenal Tumors–Adrenal Cancer Consortium

The European Network for the Study of Adrenal Tumors (ENS@T) has recently implemented a collection of adrenal tumour related databases and defined an associated network of Biological Resource Centres devoted to research on adrenal tumours. The concurrence of recent achievements of this evolving network, progress in the understanding of molecular mechanisms and the increasing availability of specific diagnostic and therapeutic tools for adrenal cancers provide a unique opportunity to achieve unmatched progress in the implementation of both translational and clinical research dedicated to ACC and MPH. Specifically, the newly formed ENS@T–CANCER consortium will address the following topics: 1) structuring European clinical and translational research by implementing a virtual research environment; 2) improving clinical outcome of patients with adrenal cancer by conducting interventional trials carried out by European centres of excellence; 3) improving differential diagnosis and risk stratification of adrenal cancer; 4) identifying and validating tools for follow-up of patients with adrenal cancer; and 5) identifying novel biomarkers for treatment response.

The ultimate aim of the ENS@T–CANCER Consortium is to develop research in the field of adrenal cancers to improve diagnosis and treatment abilities. The network will enable the recruitment of sufficient patients in all relevant European centres, the harmonisation of diagnosis criteria and the use of various technological approaches of a number of laboratories.

News from the Journals

Impact Factors

We are pleased to announce the new impact factors for our journals. The *European Journal of Endocrinology* remains extremely strong at 3.539. This is not far short of its record-breaking figure for the previous year, despite a significant increase in the number of papers it published. The *Journal of Endocrinology's* impact factor has risen slightly to 2.860; the *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology* has held firm at 3.221, and *Endocrine-Related Cancer* continues to give the strongest showing of ESE's four journals at 4.282.

ESE On-line Reviews Collection

The ESE Publications Sub-committee and BioScientifica, our publishing partner, have developed the ESE On-line Reviews Collection. ESE members can now view all reviews, commentaries and hypothesis articles published in the ESE's official journals since the beginning of 2008. These full text files are freely available to all and available from the Journal page of the ESE website.

Young Active Research

Evaluation of the questionnaire at the 2009 Meeting in Munich

How to activate young European endocrinologists?

► Like most countries, national and European endocrine organisations face the problem of population ageing. To date only about 10% of ESE members are below 35 years of age, a trend which needs urgent reversal. The success of this mission is predominantly dependent on attracting young active endocrinologists. But how to get them into the boat?

The most important task is to make young scientists feel welcome at endocrine conferences. The first step could be a visit to a smaller endocrine meeting such as our annual Young Active Research (YAR) meeting, which allows young endocrinologists to present their data, particularly work in progress, in a friendly environment of other young researchers. No professors allowed!

The YAR initiative (www.young-active-research.eu) started over 10 years ago in Germany, but in recent years we have aimed to become more European. In fact, more than a third of the participants at our recent meeting came from abroad, representing eight different European countries. This was indeed the first endocrine meeting for 12% of the participants, and another 25% had attended only YAR meetings. Remarkably, the majority of the participants were recruited by word-of-mouth, or following a direct invitation by YAR members through flyers or advertising at the German Endocrine Society (DGE), ECE or the Bregenz Summer School on Endocrinology. As our conference has no participation fees, provides free accommodation and takes place over a weekend (so no “valuable” working time is lost), we can only continue to encourage all European group leaders to forward our invitation to their students and to give them a little motivational kick. Networking on the student level is sometimes more efficient and helpful than the “old” channels.

So what do young endocrinologists expect from our meeting? Forty-six percent of participants want to meet other young researchers, clearly underlining the need for networking opportunities. Another 26% aim to improve their (English) presentation skills, and 22% want to hear talks on new topics. Although these expectations mainly parallel those for big conferences, ours is probably more suited to fulfil these criteria: all participants are young, almost all of the applicants for talks received a presentation slot in past years, and, more importantly, there is always a great variety of topics. The latter is also certainly true of, for example, ECEs; but unfortunately many speakers at international congresses don't include a few general introduction slides for non-experts or students, but instead begin *in medias res*.

What is the biggest hurdle for people visiting our conference? For two-thirds of participants money is the main issue, followed by lack of time. The vast majority are supported by their supervisors when they decide to attend a conference, but active encouragement occurs very rarely. And this is where national and European endocrine societies can actively support young researchers.

First, they can use their distribution channels to advertise YAR meetings or directly address group leaders to bring their students to the next meeting. YAR frequently organises young symposia at ECE (and the DGE meeting): this is a great opportunity to contact us. Moreover, as young researchers seek the opportunity to present their own work, increasing the number of young symposia seems a promising strategy. Alternatively, one could aim for an “old and young” or “PI and student” session, where an experienced researcher presents work together with her/his student. The first half can be a more general introduction into the field and the recent contributions of the lab by the PI, with the second half being a specific project presented by the student. The questions can then be answered by both student and supervisor. This format was successfully introduced at the Endocrinology and Metabolism conference of the Karolinska Institute in 2009 and was highly appreciated by all participants.

Secondly, the endocrine societies could support young endocrinologists financially, e.g. through travel grants. ESE provided ten travel grants of €200 for the previous YAR meeting. Similarly, the DGE offers travel grants to young endocrinologists through a simple web application form. This is certainly a good way to convince students to join the respective societies, but there is room for improvement. For our 2011 YAR meeting, which will be the first outside Germany, we have started to contact national endocrine societies in other European countries to ask for financial support in the form of travel grants; however, to date only one of nine societies has indicated interest.

If we want to get European endocrinologists of all ages together, an initiative is needed from young and old. The rising number of foreign participants at the annual YAR meetings demonstrates the need for a European YAR community. We have now made the first step across German borders to become European, but there is still a long way to go. We must establish and strengthen European interactions and encourage young active endocrinologists and their supervisors to participate. We can all only benefit from the resulting collaborations and friendships.

ESE co-signs Amsterdam Declaration to tackle Graves' orbitopathy: improving outcomes for thyroid eye disease

► Graves' orbitopathy affects hundreds of thousands of people in the world every year. It causes pain, discomfort, double vision, disfigurement and sometimes blindness. People suffering with Graves' orbitopathy have a poor quality of life and long-term psychosocial morbidity. The quality of care received by the majority of people affected by this condition can be improved. Conventional treatments are effective when used appropriately and by centres with expertise but not all patients are offered effective treatments, either because most are not referred early or not at all. People at high risk of developing Graves' orbitopathy can be identified and effective risk management can potentially lessen the severity of the disease.

The care of people with Graves' orbitopathy can be vastly improved by making centres of excellence more accessible to them. On 30 October 2009, during the 10th International Symposium on Graves'



orbitopathy, international experts on Graves' orbitopathy, representatives of professional organisations and patient representatives met in Amsterdam to join forces and unanimously agreed that Health care providers and professional organisations should recognise the need to improve the care of people with Graves' orbitopathy and support plans for implementing better care and prevention.

The Amsterdam Declaration is about improving care for people with thyroid eye disease focusing on early diagnosis and intervention, collaborative research and education.

The general objectives are to minimise the morbidity associated with Graves' orbitopathy and improve the patients' experience and quality of life and prevent the development of Graves' orbitopathy in people at high risk.

The 5-year targets are to raise awareness of this condition among health care professionals and managers; establish pathways of referral and care; support existing centres of excellence in management of this condition; create new centres of excellence in localities where they are lacking; establish audit and monitoring mechanisms of quality assurance of provision of care to people with Graves' orbitopathy; improve the existing research networks and develop further international collaborative research and implement measures to reduce the incidence and morbidity of the disease by halving the time from presentation to diagnosis, halving the time from diagnosis to referral to a centre of excellence, appropriate management of thyroid dysfunction including use of radioiodine and vigorous anti-smoking measures in patients at risk of or with Graves' orbitopathy

In total 68 co-signatories (14 international professional societies, 43 national professional societies and 11 patient-led organisations) have so far supported the Amsterdam Declaration.

Other signatories include many national endocrine Societies across Europe, the European Thyroid Association, the European Society of Ophthalmic Plastic Reconstructive Surgery, the European Group on Graves' Orbitopathy (EUGOGO), the International Thyroid Eye Disease Study Group American Thyroid Association and The Endocrine Society. A full list of signatories is available.

For further information on the Amsterdam Declaration please contact Dr Petros Perros at petros.perros@nuth.nhs.uk.

Welcome to our two new ExCo members

BARBARA JARZAB, Poland

Barbara Jarzab is an endocrinologist and nuclear medicine specialist. She is Head of Nuclear Medicine and Endocrine Oncology Department at Maria Skłodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Center and Institute of Oncology in Gliwice, Poland. Professor Jarzab's areas of research involvement are functional genomics of endocrine tumours with a focus on gene expression profiling of thyroid cancer and genetic predisposition to endocrine disease (thyroid cancer, pheochromocytomas, Graves' disease). She has published over 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals and serves as a reviewer for international journals including *European Journal of Endocrinology*, *Endocrine-Related Cancer*, *Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology*, and *Experimental and Clinical Endocrinology and Diabetes*. She is Co-Editor-in-Chief of a new thyroid-related journal, *Thyroid Research*. She has been an Executive Committee member of the European Thyroid Association and is Secretary of the European Thyroid Association Cancer Network. She is also the President of the Polish Group of Endocrine Tumours.

JUSTO CASTAÑO, Spain

Justo Castaño is Professor of Cell Biology and Head of the Hormones and Cancer Research Group of the Department of Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology at the University of Cordoba, Spain. His research has been focused on the regulation of pituitary cell types. Recently these studies have been directed toward elucidating the presence and functional relevance of different types of neuropeptides and their receptors on human pituitary adenomas and in cancer. He has published over 75 scientific articles and 30 book chapters and has contributed over 190 congress communications. He serves as Scientific Editor for the *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology* and on the editorial board of the *Journal of Endocrinology*, *Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology*, and *Journal of Alzheimer Disease*. He is President of the Iberian Society for Comparative Endocrinology.

13th European Congress of Endocrinology – 25th Anniversary

► Following the unprecedented success of the 12th European Congress of Endocrinology in Prague this year, the 13th European Congress of Endocrinology will take place in Rotterdam on 30 April – 4 May 2011.

News from the Programme Organising Committee

The ECE 2011 Programme Organising Committee met in early May 2010 to discuss the lessons learned from ECE 2010 and to finalise the preliminary decisions in the congress planning schedule. The POC is made up of 19 esteemed and respected scientists, chaired by Professor Peter Trainer from the UK. The POC will be working very closely, as ever, with a Local Organising Committee (LOC) in The Netherlands, chaired by Professor Wouter de Herder.

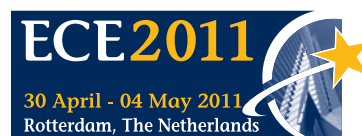
At the first POC meeting in Amsterdam, the programme structure, abstract categories and deadlines were decided. The POC have agreed an abstract deadline of 7 January 2011 to ensure the latest data and

'Hot Topics' can be included at the congress. Speakers from across the world have been invited to make up a faculty of over one hundred and fifty members covering a variety of Plenary Lectures, Symposia, Debates and Meet-the-Expert Sessions.

Further information about the congress can be found at www.ece2011.com along with abstract submission and on-line registration (available in due course).

ECE 2011 will mark the 25th anniversary of the first ESE annual meeting and promises to continue the reputation of this wonderful annual event as the leading European meeting for endocrinologists and you are cordially invited to take part.

We look forward to welcoming you in Rotterdam next spring.



What's hot in EJE?

ANE syndrome caused by mutated *RBM28* gene: a novel etiology of combined pituitary hormone deficiency

RONEN SPIEGEL, STAVIT A SHALEV,
AMIN ADAWI, ELI SPRECHER AND
YARDENA TENENBAUM-RAKOVER

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ANE syndrome is caused by decreased expression of the nucleolar protein *RBM28* known to be associated with ribosome biogenesis. A homozygous loss-of-function mutation in the gene *RBM28* has been reported to underlie the ANE syndrome. Spiegel *et al.* conducted this study to characterise the endocrine phenotype of ANE syndrome and to delineate its pathogenesis.

For this purpose they carried out a detailed neuroendocrine assessment of five affected male siblings harbouring the homozygous p.L351P mutation in *RBM28*. Their investigations show that the endocrine defects characteristic of ANE syndrome were compatible with variable combined anterior pituitary hormone deficiency. They also propose that defects in cellular Wnt/ β -catenin signalling underlie this endocrinopathy.

ESE would like to thank their Corporate Members for their continued support: **Amgen, CMM Global, DuoCort AB, Eli Lilly, Ipsen, Merck Serono, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Otsuka Pharmaceuticals Europe, Pfizer, Roche**

ESE News

This document is available on the ESE website at www.euro-endo.org/news/news.htm.

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1st ESE Clinical Update Course

► The ESE Clinical Update Course is the first in an annual programme of international residential events providing essential training for all trainees and an update for established endocrinologists.

The event is designed not only to give a vigorous update on current clinical practice but also to encourage networking between trainees and established endocrinologists. The ESE Education Sub-committee has put together an excellent three-day programme with internationally respected speakers.

The 1st ESE CU will be held at the Porto Palácio Congress Hotel in Portugal on 22–24 October 2010 and registration is now open. Further information, including the programme and on-line registration, can be found via the Education page of the ESE website. Don't delay – register today!



Report on the ESE 8th PG Course

The 8th ESE Post Graduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology was held in Dubrovnik on 8–10 October 2009. The Education Sub-committee representative, Professor Wilmar Wiersinga, worked closely with Professor Metelko, President of the Croatian Society for Endocrinology, and Professor Seitz on the programme. In fact Professor Seitz had been a great help by organising a mini-van from Albania and Kosovo to bring delegates to Dubrovnik to attend the course!

There were 134 registrants from 18 countries, including neighbouring countries and others such as Qatar, Denmark and Spain.

In addition to the scientific programme, the social programme included a get-together party on the first evening and a farewell dinner on the last evening.

Save the Dates!

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND COURSES

<http://www.euro-endo.org/meetings>

ESE COURSES

ESE Clinical Update 2010
Porto, Portugal,
22–24 October 2010

Basic Post Graduate Course in Endocrinology Summer School on Endocrinology
Bregenz, Austria,
18–22 July 2010

This is a joint project between the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE), the German Society of Endocrinology (DGE) and the DGE Young Active Research (YAR).

13th European Congress of Endocrinology – ECE 2011

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 30 April–4 May 2011

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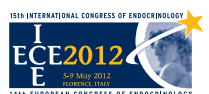
Web: <http://www.euro-endo.org/>



ICE/ECE 2012

15th International Congress of Endocrinology jointly with the 14th European Congress of Endocrinology

Florence, Italy, 5–9 May 2012



15th European Congress of Endocrinology – ECE 2013

Copenhagen, Denmark, 27 April–1 May 2013

