

## Meeting between the European Society of Endocrinology and European Parliament representatives **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Brussels, 7 March 2018** - Most of the most common non-communicable diseases revolve around the complex balance of hormones - including obesity, metabolic diseases, diabetes, osteoporosis, hormone-sensitive tumors, fertility and endocrine rare diseases. Endocrinology is central in the management of these conditions; its importance has been further recognized as a result of the inspiring research and clinical excellence that has characterized the last few years.

Over the last few decades, the more central place of the patient in health care provision has come with a broader range of specialist involvement and interdisciplinary networks between different specialist functions. The care of endocrine patients in Europe has been further improved in recent years by the development of specialised schools that places European endocrinologists amongst the best in the world.

The European Society of Endocrinology is presenting itself for the first time to the European Parliament in this meeting with representatives of the European Parliament. The main purpose of this meeting is to strengthen the understanding within the European Parliament of the role of hormones on people's health, and the influence of the endocrine system on a wide range of both common and rare conditions.

In order to truly represent endocrinologists throughout Europe, ESE aims to have a greater presence within Brussels, directly influencing policy discussions specific to endocrinology and also more broadly on issues affecting the biomedical community. Raising standards is a key priority for ESE, and ESE works closely with young endocrinologists to facilitate their careers and their mobility in Europe. To this end, ESE has also created a pan-European core curriculum that overcomes the historical disparities between the different nations.

AJ van der Lely, current President of ESE commented:

"We are delighted to have been invited to present ourselves at the European Parliament today. It is our role to represent all European endocrinologists at the level of the European Parliament, and to provide expert input into policy discussions, consultancies and debates. We are working to ensure the role of hormones on health is much more widely understood, and that endocrinologists have a seat at the table within relevant discussions. Our final aim is of course to improve the lives of the millions of patients affected by an endocrine disorder through both more research and increasing the standard of care".

### Notes about the impact of endocrinology in Europe

Endocrine disorders are very common and it is likely that over half of the population will suffer from one at some point in their lives. For example, about a third of women and almost twenty per cent of men over the age of 50 will have an osteoporotic fracture at some point in their lifetime. One in ten women of reproductive age have polycystic ovary syndrome and a similar proportion of women over 65 have mild hypothyroidism. Diabetes is a public health issue estimated to affect 7.7% (438 million) of people in 2030. Type-2 accounts for more than 90% of patients with diabetes. People

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with diabetes have an up to five-fold increased risk of cardiovascular disease compared to those without diabetes. In addition, there are a large number of rarer endocrine conditions, including for example Cushing's disease, acromegaly, multiple endocrine neoplasia and congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

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## Notes for Editors

For press enquiries please contact the European Society of Endocrinology press office at [media@bioscientifica.com](mailto:media@bioscientifica.com)

### Notes about the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE)

The [European Society of Endocrinology](#) (ESE) is at the centre of Europe's endocrine community. It is ESE's vision to shape the future of endocrinology to improve science, knowledge and health. ESE's mission is to advance endocrinology.

ESE aims to unite, support and represent the specialty, promoting collaboration and best practice, and enabling its community to develop and share the best knowledge in endocrine science and medicine.

The main activities of ESE include: the organization of the annual [European Congress of Endocrinology](#), now a point of reference and essential meeting for European endocrinologists; a comprehensive educational programme, including face to face courses and a pan-European examination; production of clinical guidelines to support practice. In addition ESE has five official journals: *European Journal of Endocrinology*, *Journal of Endocrinology*, *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology*, *Endocrine-related Cancer* and an interdisciplinary Open Access Journal, *Endocrine Connections*. These journals cover the full spectrum of endocrinology and help to increase the profile of European endocrinology.

The European Society of Endocrinology was registered with the Charity Commission on 7 April 2008.