MINIMISING THE IMPACT OF ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

A scientific update following the Joint Congress of ESPE and ESE 2025

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPCOMING ESE/ESPE EVENT TO CALL FOR STRONGER NATIONAL AND EU ACTION ON ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

Taking place on 14 May 2025, in Copenhagen and online, the event will bring together leading European scientists, policymakers and civil society to address the urgent health and environmental threat from endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs).

The European Society of Endocrinology (ESE), the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) and the Danish endocrine community will host a high-level event titled: **"Minimising the impact of endocrine disrupting chemicals on health and environment: A scientific update following the joint congress of ESPE and ESE 2025."**

The half-day event is organised with the support of Copenhagen Legacy Lab and aims to create a positive long-term scientific and policy legacy from the Congress in Denmark, Europe and internationally.

Urgent action needed to tackle proven dangers of EDCs

EDCs are found in everyday products such as plastics, cosmetics, food packaging and pesticides. These substances interfere with hormone function and are linked to infertility, obesity, diabetes, and certain cancers and neurodevelopmental disorders. Research shows over 23,000 contamination sites in Europe, with many "forever chemical" hotspots in Denmark. Despite clear scientific evidence, regulation of these persistent substances remains insufficient across Europe. According to the European Environment Agency, approximately 100,000 chemicals are available on the market and 70% of these have not been tested for their effects on human health.

With Denmark set to take over the EU Council Presidency on 1 July 2025, the timing of this event offers a valuable opportunity to strengthen the dialogue between science and policy.

Jérôme Bertherat, ESE President, says:
“We need to change the conversation around endocrine disruptors in Europe and ensure the necessary research and policy measures are implemented now. The ‘Minimising the impact of endocrine disrupting chemicals on health and environment’ scientific update we are hosting in Copenhagen on 14 May following the Joint Congress is a significant step towards that.”

Anita Hokken-Koelega, ESPE President, says:
“Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of exposure to endocrine disruptors. Policymakers across Europe must uphold their responsibility to provide a toxic-free environment for them to grow and develop. We are looking forward to bringing together experts from across Europe in Copenhagen for this important Legacy Event on the latest research and policy challenges in this area.”

Event programme

Aimed at policymakers, NGOs, the Danish and European scientific community and media, the event will take place from 09:00-13:00 CEST at the Bella Sky Hotel in Copenhagen and online. Speakers and participants will include leading European experts in endocrine disruption and chemicals, national and European policymakers, and representatives of local communities that have been directly affected by EDC exposure.

A scientific session will focus on key research presented at the Joint Congress and future priorities from the upcoming *EndoCompass Research Roadmap*. A public health and policy session will look at how to reduce EDC exposure and protect populations more sensitive to exposure including expecting mothers and children.

Highlights in the programme include:

- Insights from Members of the Danish and European Parliaments on the current policy debate
- A tandem talk on fertility and EDCs from both adult and paediatric perspectives
- A focus on New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) and their role in better and faster EDC assessment
- A testimonial on how perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) affect local communities in Denmark

A networking lunch and press Q+A session will follow the main programme.

More information about attending the event, including the full programme, can be found here: https://espe-ese-congress2025.org/legacy-event-14-may/

ENDS

Event press kit

The press kit for this event is here. This includes background briefings on key topics, speaker biographies and photographs and additional quotes.

Relevant sessions and papers at ESE-ESPE Joint Congress

There will be several sessions relating to EDCs at the Joint Congress, which may be of interest:

- Symposium 4: Panel discussion: how to reduce exposure to EDCs, Sunday, 11 May, 10:30 - 12:00 CEST
- Plenary 4 - Adverse effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals through life course, Monday, 12 May, 12:20 - 12:50 CEST
- Symposium 34: Overcoming thyroid turbulence: uncovering the impact of environmental threats on hormonal harmony, Tuesday, 13 May, 15:35 - 17:05 CEST
- Oral communication: Exposure to phthalates at the masculinization programming window is associated with longer anogenital distance and reduced birth weight in healthy children: A COPANA cohort study of 589 infants, Tuesday, 13 May, 14:35 - 14:45 CEST

Two poster abstracts published at the Joint Congress are also relevant:

- *Higher PFAS exposure associated with lower 24h urine aldosterone in pregnant women (Odense Child Cohort)* – Richard Christian Jensen, Denmark.
- *Impact of early-life exposure to phthalates on anogenital distances in a cohort of healthy children and their mothers, from birth to three years of age* – Laura Lucaccioni, Italy.

The full programme for the ESE-ESPE Joint Congress is here. Searchable abstracts will be available on the Endocrine Abstracts platform from 9 May. Press may access abstracts from 5 May if they are registered for the Joint Congress. Registration information is here.

Additional press resources for Joint Congress can be found here.

About ESE

The European Society of Endocrinology (ESE) provides a platform to develop and share leading research and best knowledge in endocrine science and medicine. Through the 50 National Societies involved with the ESE Council of Affiliated Societies (ECAS) and partnership with specialist endocrine societies, ESE and its partners jointly represent a community of over 20,000 European endocrinologists.

ESE and its partner societies work to promote knowledge and education in the field of endocrinology for healthcare professionals, researchers, patients and the public. ESE informs policymakers on health decisions at the highest level through advocacy efforts across Europe.

Find out more: www.ese-hormones.org.

About ESPE

The European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) is an international society registered in Europe that promotes the highest levels of clinical care for infants, children and adolescents with endocrine problems throughout the world, including in less advantaged areas. At the EU level, it works with the EU and partner organisations to create a healthier environment for children and adults.

To find out more about ESPE, please visit www.eurospe.org.

About the Danish Endocrine Society

The Danish Endocrine Society (DES), founded in 1947, is a leading professional medical organization for individuals dedicated to endocrinology and diabetology in Denmark. DES has approximately 700 members, predominantly specialists in endocrinology or medical doctors training to become specialists. DES is also the parent organization of the Danish Society of Younger Endocrinologists.

DES has three core functions. First, it advises Danish health authorities, primarily the Danish Health Authority, on issues related to endocrinology. Second, it leads the development of endocrine clinical practice guidelines to ensure high evidence-based standards in endocrinology across Denmark. Third, it hosts an annual scientific meeting where members meet to share and discuss new research conducted by the society's members within endocrinology and diabetology.

Unlike many countries where endocrinology and diabetology are separate fields, Denmark maintains a unified approach, which has been key to the effective management of internal medicine in Danish hospitals and has fostered a vibrant research community.

Danish endocrinology has several notable achievements. One outstanding example includes the development of insulin treatment in the early 1920s after the Danish Nobel laureate August Krogh brought the "recipe" for insulin from Canada. Two other highlights are Denmark's contributions to introducing growth hormone therapy and developing Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists, which have become important treatments in modern endocrinology.

In the future, DES is committed to continuing its contribution to advancements in both clinical practice and research in endocrinology, both within Denmark and internationally.

You can find further information on www.endocrinology.dk.

About Wonderful Copenhagen

This event is funded by Wonderful Copenhagen's Legacy Lab. Wonderful Copenhagen is the official tourism organisation of the Capital Region of Denmark, working to promote and develop both business and leisure tourism. Copenhagen Legacy Lab is an award-winning, innovative and free-of-charge initiative designed to amplify the societal value creation from

congresses and events. Wonderful Copenhagen's Copenhagen Convention Bureau is the official convention bureau of the greater Copenhagen area. It cooperates closely with an extensive network of partners and offers a free one-stop shop for conferences, meetings and events in Copenhagen.

Find out more: www.wonderfulcopenhagen.com

About the Danish Society of Paediatric Endocrinology (DSPE)

DSPE focuses on paediatric endocrinology, which is the study of hormone disorders in children and adolescents. DSPE is a professional organisation that promotes research, education and patient care in this field, sharing knowledge through regular national meetings. Invited speakers may come from other countries and some meetings may be held in collaboration with other societies, such as the Danish Society of Paediatric Diabetes and with paediatric endocrinologists of Southern Sweden.

Find out more: https://d-s-p-e.dk/english