

# ESPN Newsletter - January 2000

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

## 34th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Nephrology

**Helsinki, Finland 18-20th June 2000**

This is to remind you that our annual scientific meeting is much earlier than usual this year, to take advantage of the daylight hours and summer weather in Helsinki in June. The summer season is quite short and Helsinki is very busy at that time of year so please book your accommodation as early as possible. Important deadlines are:

10th January Typed abstracts

17th January Emailed abstracts

15th March Early registration (FIM 1800)

Late registration (FIM 2400)

Full details are available from <[www.congcreator.com/espn2000](http://www.congcreator.com/espn2000)>

Emailed abstracts can be sent to <[espn2000@congcreator.com](mailto:espn2000@congcreator.com)>

### *Congress secretariat*

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**Election of Officers** In response to the discussion at the General Assembly the call for nominations for secretary general, assistant secretary and 2 council members is detailed on a [separate sheet of paper](#). I will be standing down as secretary general in the autumn of 2000. Jochen Ehrich the assistant secretary may wish to be considered as a candidate for the position of secretary general or to continue as assistant secretary for up to two more years.

**EDTA Registry** In September 99 at the meeting in Madrid the EDTA formally disbanded the EDTA registry. The registry had had a series of problems in the last 10 years and was not functioning as well as it had done at the beginning. They are setting up a new system using data collected from only those countries with established national registries. There will be a new office in Amsterdam based in a university department with access to advice on computing and epidemiology. The importance of a good registry is greater for paediatric nephrologists than for adult nephrologists because our patients represent only about 5% of the total number of patients receiving renal replacement therapy. No country in Europe has a large enough database for carrying out good analyses on children and the need to collaborate is therefore much greater than the need in adult nephrology. The ESPN council will discuss proposals

for future data collection at the meeting on 18-19th February 2000. There are several possible options:

**1 To set up an ESPN Paediatric registry** This will be hard work, expensive and time consuming. It could run into the same problems that the EDTA registry developed.

**2 To collaborate with the EDTA** This would have the advantage of a good infrastructure and expertise, but we do not know if they would accept data from countries that do not have a national register. In any case we must work with the EDTA to ensure that their new registry can accept important paediatric information such as height.

**3 To collaborate with NAPRTCS** Amir Tejani has approached some individuals but has not approached the society formally.

**4 To abandon attempts to collect these data on a European basis.**

I believe that the EDTA will set up a robust system that has an excellent chance of working well and suspect that the best chance of getting a system that works well for children would be to link up with the EDTA again. They are clearly determined to avoid the problems that led to the downfall of the old registry. For those countries without a national registry it might be possible for ESPN members to establish a paediatric renal registry using national or European funding. I think it may be better to go down this route with the ESPN supporting the development of national paediatric registries rather than trying to do the whole thing ourselves. *It is important that you send back your ideas and suggestions as soon as possible.*

**IPNA secretary general and treasurer** Professor Cyril Chantler has been appointed to chair a nominating committee for replacements for Professor Ira Greiffer (secretary general) and Matt Brandis (treasurer) in 2004. An advertisement was placed in Paediatric Nephrology, calling for nominations. *The names of prospective candidates should be forwarded to professor Chantler by 1.2.00.*

**Web site** <<http://www.uwcm.ac.uk/uwcm/ch/espn>> The home page has continued to grow and develop thanks to the work of Graham Smith. We may need to consider developing a private section for the home page. In 2000 I hope to start the outline of a section on guidelines and evidence based medicine following on from the poster presented by Rosanna Coppo in Prague. The European Paediatric Peritoneal Working Group is now working on guidelines on catheter insertion, PD associated infections, nutritional status, dialysis adequacy, choice of solutions, iron supplementation, erythropoietin and psychosocial support. Anybody interested in the guidelines should contact Dr Alan Watson (fax + 44 115 962 7759) or email <[watpaed@aol.com](mailto:watpaed@aol.com)> We hope to maintain a register of multicentre trials and establish a network of units experienced in this type of work. *Contributions and comments on further developments would be welcome.*

**Training grants** In October 99 Dr Marina Aksenova from Moscow visited Professor Gianfranco Rizzoni in Rome. Dr Milos Ognjanovic from Belgrade will spend two months in Newcastle with Dr Malcolm Coulthard in January 2000.

**Teaching courses** Plans are proceeding for a course in Vladvostok organised by Professor Valentina Luchaninova. IPNA has agreed to fund two speakers. Consideration will be given to applications from Georgia, Kiev and Sofia at the next council meeting in February.

**Union of European Medical Specialists (UEMS)** Since the UEMS recognised the need for paediatric specialities the ESPN has requested full representation on the Confederation of Specialists in Paediatrics (CESP). At present the ESPN attends by invitation and our representatives have no voting rights. Bert van der Heijden represented the ESPN at the recent meeting of the European Board of Paediatrics (EBP) a subcommittee of CESP.

**Training in paediatric nephrology** A Training committee has been planned under the chairmanship of Peter Hoyer with assistance from Pierre Cochat. Representatives from each country will be essential to share information on training in paediatric nephrology. The training programme has changed little since it was first drafted in 1993, but should be revised or reviewed every 4 or 5 years to ensure that it is up to date. The training programme should be reviewed in 2000 following recognition by CESP and the UEMS in 1999.

**Future meetings (see home page for details)**

First Congress of the African Society for Paediatric Nephrology,	Cairo, Egypt	1-3rd March 2000
4th European Peritoneal Dialysis Meeting, with a paediatric PD symposium on Monday 17th April including talks on adequacy, Fischbach, nutrition and growth, Edefonte, Peritonitis, Klaus, new PD solutions, Schroder, Adolescents, Watson.	Madrid, Spain	15th-18th April 2000
American Society for Paediatric Nephrology	Boston, Massachusetts	10th-13th May 2000
31st Annual Conference of the European Working Group on Psychosocial Aspects of Children with Chronic Renal Failure	Budapest, Hungary	24th-27th May 2000
Joint meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Urology and the American Academy of Paediatrics- Section of Urology	Tours, France	7-10 June 2000
ESPN	Helsinki, Finland	18-20th June 2000
1st International Conference on Paediatric Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy	Orlando, Florida	22-24 June 2000

1st International meeting on Paediatric Transplantation	Venice, Italy	23-25th August 2000
IPNA 2001	Seattle, USA	1-6 September 2001
ESPN 2002	Bilbao, Spain	To be decided

Finally, I would like to wish you a very happy new year and good health and prosperity in the millennium.

Yours sincerely

Kate Verrier Jones

Secretary General