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To all ESPN members

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In this newsletter the ESPN Council would like to take the opportunity to inform you about the last Council Meeting in Berlin and the forthcoming ESPN Congress in Berlin 2003.

ESPN/EDTA Registry

Bert van der Heijden reported on the ESPN/EDTA Registry, and that the Amsterdam office is working very well and performing all the tasks given by the ESPN Registry Members. It had been agreed by the ESPN General Assembly that European paediatric nephrologists should report to this Registry, however, the registry can only accept reports from national registers. Thus, the ESPN council has met with the Presidents of National Paediatric Nephrology Societies at the last congresses in Bilbao 2002 to speed up this process. Unfortunately, up to now, only 12 countries are reporting, and data from these countries is available from 1993 onwards. Regional data can also be accepted from countries if they are compatible with the EDTA Registry; Belgium and Scotland are proceeding this way and Spain and Italy are in the process of sending regional data.

The main problems of the Registry is the **non-reporting of the three of the largest European countries: U.K., France and Germany**. In the discussion it was suggested by the ESPN Council Members, that if these 3 countries did not join the Registry the ESPN Council will recommend that the countries now reporting might choose to join the NAPRTCS so that enough patient information is received in order to enable paediatric nephrologists us to draw demographic conclusions and to perform therapeutic studies. In this case the ESPN would no longer have a purely European paediatric data base.

Gisela Offner and Hans-Jörg Schober-Halstenberg, who are responsible for the **German Registry "QuaSi Niere"** reported on the German data. Gisela Offner said that she had transferred the paediatric data to Amsterdam, but this had not been included in the Bilbao presentation as QuaSi Niere has refused to give data on patients over 18 years of age to the Amsterdam office. The reason for this is that the German adult nephrologists have 60,000 adult patients on file which would be enough for them to do their own analyses. By contrast, European paediatric nephrologists see far less patients, which makes a European Registry necessary. Thus, the German report will only include data on children less than 18 years of age. It was agreed by the

ESPN council that this paediatric data will be included in the next Berlin 2003 report, and Hans-Jörg Schober-Halstenberg will transfer pre-analysed data on patients under 18 years of age to Bert van der Heijden. Accordingly the problem of German paediatric data non-reporting will be resolved.

Concerning the non-reporting of France and the UK, as yet no solution has been found. Bert van der Heijden will contact Dr. Bensman, who will be responsible for the French data and who will start to include regional data from France. Sue Rigden and Bert van der Heijden will check if the British data can finally be included in the next presentation in Berlin.

Bert van der Heijden will also investigate the situation regarding the missing data from East Europe. George Reusz said that data from Hungary should be available. Turkey has a complicated system with national, state and university hospitals, all of which have their own registers. This matter has to be dealt with separately.

It was agreed, that if the major countries refuse to report, the whole ESPN Registry matter has to be discussed in detail during the General Assembly in June 2003 in Berlin.

Kate Verrier Jones informed the Secretary General that she will end her term as a member of the EDTA Registry in 2003. Bert van der Heijden will continue for a second term of three more years. Therefore a second paediatric member of the Registry will have to be nominated. A call for nominations will be included in these documents. As the ESPN Constitution does not have any regulations on the election process of paediatric Registry members this topic will have to be discussed in the next council meeting in June 2003 in Berlin.

World Congress of Nephrology in Berlin June 8-12, 2003

Uwe Querfeld reported on the progress of the arrangements of the Berlin Congress 2003. More than 4.000 abstracts have been received, and more than 10.000 participants are expected. The paediatric sessions will be held in their own area and there will also be an ESPN hospitality desk. The scientific programme has been finalised and all chairpersons have accepted. There will be 11 invited participants from the U.K. and USA, 10 from Germany, 9 from France, 3 from Italy and The Netherlands and 1-2 each from most of the smaller European countries. The chairpersons of the abstract committee will meet in Aachen on March 19th, 2003 and the travel grants will be chosen by Uwe Querfeld, Jochen Ehrich and Christer Holmberg.

It was agreed that members will be charged 40 € for the ESPN dinner and sponsorship will cover the rest.

The ESPN council meeting will be on Sunday June 8th 2003 from 11-14.00 hrs before the General ESPN Opening and again on Thursday June 12th 2003 from 13-16.00 hrs 2003 at the Congress Center (location to be announced later).

ESPN Congress in Istanbul 2005

Aysin Bakkaloglu suggested that the ESPN congress 2005 should take place from September 10-20th, 2005. The council would prefer from 10-13th of September, 2003.

Other Meetings and Teaching Courses

The **European psychosocial meeting** will be held in Zurich 21-24th of May, 2003 and the French-German one in Strasbourg 14-17th May, 2003.

The Europaediatric Congress 2003 will be held in Prague 19-22th October 2003 (www.kenes.com/europaediatrics2003).

Teaching course on fundamentals of end stage renal failure management in children in Prague 26th September 2003 (contact: eva.simkova@lfmotol.cuni.cz).

The **dialysis group** is planning a pre-transplant half-day course prior to the Istanbul meeting in 2005.

No new applications for teaching courses had come in, and the one in Ukraine is still taking shape. One proposal came just after the council meeting from St. Petersburg to be held in 2004. The ESPN council had already given its consent to this idea at a previous meeting.

7th **IPNA Symposium on Growth & Development** 01-03th April 2004, location to be announced later.

Elections:

- **Call for nominations of new Council members to be elected in Berlin.**

Nominations should be sent to the ESPN Secretariat before the 8th of April 2003.

We have to elect a new ESPN secretary general (replacing Jochen Ehrich), assistant secretary (replacing Christer Holmberg), 3 council members (replacing Sue Rigden, Hilal Mocan and Michel Fischbach) and treasurer (annual re-election for a maximum of 5 more years or replacement of Peter Hoyer). The candidates will be elected after they have introduced themselves to the floor. So far ESPN Council has received the following nominations from a few of ESPN members including Tommy Linné, Anita Aperia, Ulf Jodal, Jonathan Evans, Mary McGraw

Christer Holmberg	for Sec Gen	
Pierre Cochat and Rosanna Coppo	for Ass Sec	
Peter Hoyer	for Treasurer	
Necla Buyan	for member	(Mediterranean Europe)
Nick Webb	for member	(Northern Europe)
Alan Watson	for member	(Northern Europe)
Jacob van de Walle	for member	(Central Europe)

A call for nominations form is included in these documents.

Training Grants

The council has received an application to support Helena Nazaryan from Armenia to train with Chris Reed at Guy's Hospital in London. It was decided to request a formal application and budget. The council decided that the maximum grant will be 2000 €

Next General Assembly

The next General Assembly will be held in Berlin on 10th June 2003 from 16.30–18.30 hrs in Hall 15.2 of the ICC.

Next National Presidents Meeting

The next National Presidents Meeting will also be held in June 2003 in Berlin. The exact date, time and venue can be found in the final Congress Programme. All Presidents are cordially invited to join this meeting. The topics will be 1. Registry matters, 2. Collaborative studies, 3. Demography of RRT in Europe, 4. Analysis of ESPN Congresses, 5. CESP activities concerning the training of paediatric nephrologists and the accreditation of specialised paediatric nephrology centres. The Presidents are kindly asked to prepare a report on their national activities in paediatric nephrology which should be sent to the ESPN Secretariat at least two weeks prior to the General assembly.

A call for abstracts on national activities in paediatric nephrology is included in this document.

ESPN Handbook

Several members of ESPN were concerned that some important chapters in the ESPN handbook were missing. ESPN Council is considering publishing a supplement to the ESPN Handbook. Please send us your suggestions to this topic including the proposals for chapters and for authors.

Please send us your e-mail address if you have not already done so. All you have to do is send an e-mail with your name to ESPN@mh-hannover.de and we will do the rest. It is planned that you will then receive all future communications by e-mail.

Jochen Ehrich
Secretary General

Christer Holmberg
Assistant Secretary

Call for Nominations for ESPN officers

Secretary General

The secretary general, Jochen Ehrich, will retire in 6/2003. He does not wish to be considered for re-election.

Assistant Secretary

The term of office of the assistant secretary, Christer Holmberg, will end in 6/2003 but may be renewed annually for a further 2 years.

Treasurer

The treasurer, Peter Hoyer, will end his term in June 2003. He may be annually re-elected for a total of 5 more years.

Councillors

Three councillors will end their 3 year terms of office in 6/2003 Sue Rigdon, (UK), Hilal Mocan (Turkey) and Michel Fischbach (France).

Paediatric member of the EDTA Registry

The paediatric member of the EDTA Registry, Kate Verrier-Jones, will end her term in 2003.

A candidate for the post may (with his written consent) be proposed in writing by any three members to the Secretary General not less than two months before the AGM (except from the constitution).

Deadline 8th April 2003 ([see attached proposal form](#))

To the Presidents and Secretary-Generals of National Paediatric Societies in Europe

Call for abstracts on national activities in paediatric nephrology.

To download form for National Report click [here](#).