

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for attending the meeting of the presidents of the National Societies of Pediatric Nephrology, and apologies for those, who tried to connect, but failed due to technical reasons.

We are summarizing herein the content of the discussion, and we can anticipate that one of the important suggestions of the discussion was that we may hold such zoom meetings more frequently, and before we should define in advance the topics, that are the most important for this community.

The two main points of our discussion were

- 1) the ESPN board examination and the
- 2) FESPN program.

Please find below a short summary of the content of the presentations by the council:

1. ESPN board examination

Aim

- Evaluation of theoretical knowledge and clinical thinking in Pediatric Nephrology aiming at harmonizing minimal requirements for practicing Pediatric Nephrology in tertiary centers of Pediatric Nephrology in Europe.

Eligibility criteria

- A medical doctor who has successfully completed training according to the recommendations defined by 'European Training Requirements for Training in Paediatric Nephrology' of
- at least 3 years in general Paediatrics and
- has been trained in Pediatric Nephrology during a period of at least 24 months (preferably 36 months), or
- the equivalent part-time employment, are considered eligible.

Documents to be submitted to assess eligibility

- Copy of passport
- Copy of MD certificate
- Copy of certificate in General Paediatrics
- Letter of Paediatric Nephrology Training Director confirming start and end dates of training in Paediatric Nephrology

The ESPN educational committee evaluates the eligibility of candidates. Eligible candidates can register for examination using a registration link.

Content of the exam:

- The blueprint of examination content shown on the website. Examination content covers all fields of Pediatric Nephrology. The number of questions per field are pre-defined by Educational Committee depending on importance of the field for practicing general Pediatric Nephrology.
- Questions are written by members of Educational Committee. Each question is validated by another member of Educational Committee, and by an independent Pediatric Nephrologist.

- *All members of Educational Committee got one full-day training by an educational expert on how to write clinical case based MCQs for board examinations.*

Exam procedure

- Online format.
- 100 MCQs (all clinical case based) with five possible answer options, from which one answer is correct (BO5 format).
- Duration of examination: 3 hours.
- Each candidate who has successfully registered for the examination gets a link to the examination platform that can be activated on the date and hour of examination.
- After 3 hours the link expires.
- The candidates can immediately see their scores. No guess correction is applied.

Pass mark

- Pass mark was pre-defined by the Educational Committee and was set at ~70% of correct answers. Based on the results of the examination Pass Mark was set at score above Mean – SEM.

Reporting to candidates

- The Educational Committee meets after the examination to discuss the results and to agree on the final pass mark.
- After the meeting ESPN secretariat sended 'pass or fail' email to candidates. Candidates who passed the examination received ESPN Board certificate.

Examination statistics

- 129 applications
- 17 non-eligible (mostly due to too short training period)
- 112 eligible candidates
 - Belgium 4, Canada 1, Croatia 2, Denmark 1, Germany 6, Finland 1, France 2, Greece 2, Hong Kong 2, India 2, Iraq 1, Italy 8, Jordan 1, Kuwait 1, Lebanon 1, Malaysia 5, The Netherlands 3, Oman 1, Palestine 2, Poland 2, Portugal 1, Qatar 3, Russia 1, Saudi Arabia 4, Serbia 1, Singapore 1, Spain 18, USA 3, Tunisia 2, Turkey 26, UA 1, UK 1
- 112 candidates registered for online examination, 111 participated, 92 submitted the examination
- 79 candidates passed

2. ESPN Education Committee: FELLOW OF EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR PAEDIATRIC NEPHROLOGY (FESPN)

ESPN recognition for established pediatric nephrologists called as "Fellow of ESPN": FESPN
Start of the program 2021

ESPN reviewing Committee George Reusz, Dorota Drozd Augustina Jankauskiene and Rezan Topaloglu

Four of six achievements had to be fulfilled, all based on the work in the past years for the national and international pediatric nephrology community, the teaching and scientific achievements. The conditions were published at the website in detail.

- **The first announcement was published on the 24 November 2020**

- **Deadline for the applications : End of February 2021**

- **Requirements**

ESPN membership for last 5 years MUST

ESPN or National Activity

Board Certification (or equivalent) in Ped. Nephrology

Continuing Medical Education (CME) Credits

Grant Support/Funding

Publications

Teaching

- **There were 96 applications**

- **77 colleagues reached the FESPN title**

Discussion with the audience at the meeting room and online

First topic:

There was interest in the board exam, however, it will be important, to get the UEMS approval of the exam.

Further there are countries that have a very robust central (state or university based) exam system, while in other countries the number of pediatric nephrologists is small, and they are formed abroad.

There is a need to harmonize the content of the national exam and the ESPN BOARD exam.

The need for constant renewal of the questions was also stated.

In several countries the exam in English is not an option, as the nephrologists are not good enough in English. The question of translating the questions and their use at the national level was also abandoned. IN that case it is important to have the exam on the same day to avoid eventual fraud with the questions.

In summary the Council should do all the measures to get the UEMS approval. This is the first step to install an universal exam (at least on the theoretical part) across Europe, but this may still last for years.

Until then this exam is a measure, that shows that the formation of the applicant corresponds European to the standard of Pediatric Nephrology, but it is not a licence.

2. As for the FESPN the national societies presidents are asked to promote knowledge about this opportunity.

During the meeting we have realized that there were a number of participants who could not enter the meeting, that was held by 5 presidents in place and 10 others online and as the total 15 national presidents were with us.

We have concluded that there is a need for more frequent discussions in this community.

Sincerely yours

Rezan Topaloğlu, ESPN President

George Reusz, Liaison with National Presidents

Aysun Karabay Bayazit, Liaison with National Presidents