

# The European Society for Paediatric Nephrology

## NEWSLETTER



January 2011

ESPN Website  
<http://espn.cardiff.ac.uk>

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Pierre Cochat (France)

##### Assistant Secretary

Elena Levchenko (Belgium)

##### Treasurer

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Tim Ulinski (France)

Tomas Seeman (Czech Republic)

Sverker Hansson (Sweden)

Empar Lurbe (Spain)

Velibor Tasic (Macedonia)

Rezan Topaloglu (Turkey)

Dear ESPN Members,

**First of all, I would like to wish you, your families and your patients a very Happy New Year 2011!**

The time of our last General Assembly meeting in New York City is now over, and this Newsletter just aims at reminding some important points for 2011.

1. The IPNA Secretary General, Isidro Salusky, is willing to increase **connections between IPNA and Regional Societies**. In the past IPNA focused on developing countries; in the future collaborations with Regional Societies -like ESPN- have to be reinforced. Any suggestion would be appreciated.

2. Dieter Haffner (ESPN Treasurer) has brought a **favourable balance** for 2009 allowing our Society to deliver more funding for the fellowship programme (500 € for 10 fellowships delivered to paediatric nephrologists younger than 35). However, only one third of members have paid their membership fee; just remember that after 3 years of non payment, members will be deleted from our list.

3. A **professional congress organizer** (Flap Tour from Turkey) has been selected by the Council after carefully considering of 8 applications. This company will run for two years ESPN membership, website and annual meetings.

4. The **ESPN-ERA registry** now includes a large series of projects which is going to produce several scientific papers, most of them in an advanced state of preparation. This relevant scientific production will be favoured by Internet data collection and on the expansion of the number of EU countries providing data. In addition, a course of epidemiology held by the AMC staff has been planned before the congress in Dubrovnik.

5. **Replacement of ESPN council members**. Rosanna Coppo has finished her mandate, and Elena Levchenko has been elected ESPN Assistant Secretary. In addition, 6 Council members will finish their mandate by August 2011 (Tatjana Nastausheva from Russia, Empar Lurbe from Spain, Tomas Seeman from Czech Republic, Sverker Hansson from Sweden, Tim Ulinski from France, and Pierre Cochat from France). **Therefore, 8 new council members will have to be elected in Dubrovnik.** Candidates may be proposed (with their written consent) in writing to the Secretary General ([pierre.cochat@chu-lyon.fr](mailto:pierre.cochat@chu-lyon.fr)) by any three paying ESPN members not less than two months before the Dubrovnik AGM, i.e. by June 30 2011.

6. **Regarding IPNA council ESPN representatives**, Alberto Edefonti and Aleksandra Zurowska will end their mandate and we will also have to vote in Dubrovnik for new European candidates. Applications should also be sent to the ESPN Secretary General ([pierre.cochat@chu-lyon.fr](mailto:pierre.cochat@chu-lyon.fr)) by June 30 2011.

7. **Pierre Cochat has been elected as the next IPNA Secretary General** and will start his IPNA mandate in 2013, at the time of the next IPNA meeting in Shanghai (August 31 – September 4, 2013).

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8. **Honorary members:** the Assembly honoured Chantal Loirat (France) and Jan Janda (Czech Republic). A golden kidney was given to Peter Hoyer (Germany) for his major involvement in ESPN business, for leading ESPN to its new status as Charity and for his work at the European Academy of Paediatrics.

9. **New members:** A Yilmaz (Turkey), A Bouts (The Netherlands), A Boueva (Bulgaria), K van Stralen (the Netherlands), N Ristoska-Bojkovska (Macedonia), A Waters (United Kingdom), F Yalçinkaya (Turkey), ZB Özçakar (Turkey), T Jahnukainen (Finland), C Bergmann (Germany), L Bessenay (France).

10. **Future ESPN annual meetings.**

2011: Dubrovnik, September 14-17 ([www.espn2011.com](http://www.espn2011.com))

2012: Krakow, September 13-15

2013: Shangai (IPNA), August 31-September 4

2014: **Should be voted in Dubrovnik** – [Applications should be sent to the ESPN Secretary General by June 30 2011.](#)

11. **ESPN Teaching Courses.** A very good teaching course was organized in collaboration with IPNA in Orenburg (Russia) in 2010. Another course will be organized in 2011 in Turkey in collaboration with IPNA, ERA-EDTA, and ISN.

In conclusion, don't forget there will be many votes in Dubrovnik (ESPN council members, IPNA council members, congress venue for 2014, and of course new ESPN members!) with only one deadline for applications: **June 30 2011!**

Best wishes,

Pierre Cochat  
ESPN Secretary General

## Information

The ESPN is now registered in the Yearbook of International Organizations (edited by UIA, in formal associate relations with UNESCO) – [www.uia.org](http://www.uia.org)

*In memoriam***Juan Rodríguez Soriano (1933-2010)**

Juan Rodríguez Soriano, renowned Spanish pediatric nephrologist and educator of generations of pediatricians and pediatric nephrologists, passed recently away in Bilbao. He was internationally considered as one of the pioneers of pediatric nephrology, one of the most internationally recognized Spanish doctors in the last third of the last century and acknowledged as one of the greatest pediatric nephrologists in history. A large number of pediatric nephrologists in Spain as well as in other European and Latin American countries were trained at his Department of Pediatrics in Hospital de Cruces, Bilbao. The biography of Dr. Rodríguez Soriano conforms in fact the history of pediatric nephrology.

Juan Rodríguez Soriano was born in Barcelona on March 5, 1933. He studied medicine at the University of Barcelona, achieving his degree in 1956. After several years of general training at the Pediatric Department of the *Hospital Clínic* in Barcelona, he was awarded a grant in 1959 to continue his training with the prestigious French doctor Pierre Royer at his Department of the *Hôpital des Enfants Malades* in Paris. There he learned about the new histopathological pictures from Renée Habib and became familiar with the techniques of acid-base balance study together with Henri Lestradet.

He moved later to the United States, where he continued his teaching and research career at the *Albert Einstein College of Medicine* in New York. The clinical research that he developed with Chester Edelmann and the rest of his team, along these years was undoubtedly fruitful, as evidenced by several successful studies: the description of the proximal renal tubular acidosis as an independent pathophysiological entity, the standardization of several tests of renal function, and the study of the mechanisms of urinary acidification and concentration in the newborn, among others.

In September 1967 he travelled to Glasgow where the European Society of Pediatric Nephrology was founded and chaired by Gavin Arneil. He also joined the foundational meeting of the International Society of Pediatric Nephrology in Guadalajara, Mexico. In 1967 he returned to Barcelona to become Head Clinic at *Vall d'Hebron Children's Hospital*, holding this position until 1970. There he met María Jesús Vita, pediatric radiologist, who became his beloved wife. They had three children.

In 1970, he moved to Bilbao as Head of the Department of Pediatrics at Cruces University Hospital, where he remained until his retirement in 2003. He carried out there his clinical work, teaching and research, leading a group of young pediatricians, trained in the U.S. as well, and promoting in Spain the specialized pediatric care and the training of pediatricians in the different subspecialties. He founded in 1973, along with other 18 pediatricians, the Spanish Association of Pediatric Nephrology, which he chaired from 1976 to 1981.

Along the 70s and 80s he continued his research and publishing, mainly on various tubulopathies, in collaboration with his closest colleague Alfredo Vallo Boado.

Since the 90s he enthusiastically witnessed the contribution of molecular biology, working with several groups in the understanding of the molecular causes of many tubulopathies. He even led the constitution of a molecular biology laboratory with Dr. Luis Castaño at the Research Unit of Cruces Hospital. As a result of this collaboration many works on tubulopathies and other genetic disorders were published. He wrote some noteworthy review papers for the Pediatric Nephrology about some tubulopathies, Bartter's syndrome and tubular acidosis, in which he masterfully explained the clinical aspects and the molecular biology new findings.

His endless curiosity was the driving force of his research. He was curious about everything and was aware of all developments, not only in nephrology, but also in pediatrics. He authored numerous articles on general pediatrics in collaboration with many of his colleagues, especially with Pablo Sanjurjo, an expert in metabolic diseases.

He obtained the Grand Cross of the Civil Order of Health. He was Professor of Pediatrics at the University of the Basque Country and honorary member of the Spanish Association of Pediatrics. He was the editor of the journal *Anales Españoles de Pediatría* for several years. He was an outstanding member of ESPN and IPNA and he used to attend their meetings frequently. In 2002, he organized the 36th ESPN Annual Meeting in Bilbao. After his retirement in 2003, he remained intellectually active, and enjoyed the privilege of seeing his two grandchildren growing with him. There is no doubt that Juan was a unique pediatrician. We, his disciples, remember him with emotion and believe that his work and his example will survive. He will remain in our hearts. We'll never forget him.

Victor M. García Nieto  
President of the Spanish Society of Pediatric Nephrology

*In memoriam***Lothar Bernd Zimmerhackl (1952-2010)**

LB Zimmerhackl studied Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry at the University of Heidelberg.

He changed to Medicine afterwards for the basic studies in Berlin, later on until 1982 in Heidelberg.

During his medical Dissertation he did research about the regulation of the glomerular microcirculation, in the Department of Physiology with Michael Steinhausen.

He continued his research with R. Jamison at the Stanford University from 1982 -1984

He got his pediatric training in the department of Pediatrics at Marburg University from 1984 to 1988, and moved to the University of Freiburg 1988. He got his pediatric license 1991, his habilitation 1992 and was appointed senior resident 1992 and 1996 as vice chairman of the department of pediatrics. He was appointed Associate Professor 1998. 2002 he moved to the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the University of Innsbruck, Austria as full professor and Chairman of the department of General Pediatrics.

His scientific as well clinical specialty was pediatric nephrology. He gained international reputation by his long lasting studies on Hemolytic uremic syndrome. Just recently he was able to demonstrate new aspects of the role of complement in the pathogenesis of this disease. Further studies were presented in international well known journals about Lupus erythematosus, nephrotoxicity and renal transplantation.

He managed to organize well received symposia on renal transplantation in Hinterzarten in the Black Forest, which helped to give new standards for the continuous care of transplanted children.

The International congress about Hemolytic uremic syndrome 2009 in Innsbruck has been an outstanding example of his achievements. At The 2010 congress about HUS he only could participate shortly, already suffering from his serious disease.

Bernd Zimmerhackl was member of various national and international scientific societies. He was a well known and accepted reviewer for international journals, like New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Society of Nephrology and Kidney International.

His research projects were supported in Germany by the German Research foundation, the German Cancer Aid, and the Biomed II program by the EU. Consecutively he was supported by Austrian foundations after his move to Innsbruck.

More than 150 original publications were published in international journals by him and his associates. He was a motivated teacher, who liked work with students and he was able to attract young residents to get interested in their own research projects.

He worked extremely hard as Clinician and researcher, always committed to the care of his patients, in particular the most severe sick ones. He was always prepared to be on call, whenever he was needed. His energy and hard working attitude was not always understood, but he was oriented to the needs of his clinical responsibility and his research projects.

During his work as the chief resident at the Freiburg children's hospital he directed his engagement to the rational and economic aspects of the structure of the department.

His capability to organize meetings was demonstrated perfectly in various instances.

He was chairman of the German Pediatric Nephrology congress 1999 in Freiburg; he acted as Congress secretary for the German Pediatric congress 2001 and was cochairman of the 3rd World congress for Pediatric Transplantation in Innsbruck 2005.

Lothar Bernd Zimmerhackl was one of the leading research oriented pediatricians in Germany and Europe. His visions and his energy to develop his department of Pediatrics to international standards as well as to optimize the patient care were characteristics of his work.

He had to compensate with quite a few sad circumstances, one particular with the accidental death of his son.

Besides his professional life he was engaged in musical activities with his violin, which he played regularly in the University orchestra.

For the International congress of Ped. Nephrology from August 29th to September 2nd 2010 he was invited for several state of the art presentations.

We commemorate Lothar Bernd Zimmerhackl as a pediatrician, who was highly engaged in the care for his patients and simultaneously a clinical scientist, who leaves a serious vacancy in the German nephrologic and pediatric scientific community.

Matthias Brandis

Professor emeritus of Pediatrics

Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine

Albert-Ludwigs University Freiburg, Germany

## KIDS KIDNEY RESEARCH

Kids Kidney Research is an entirely voluntary organization raising funds for vital research into prevention and cure of kidney disease in babies and children. The research funded to date has been based at the Institute of Child Health and the renal department of Great Ormond Street Hospital, however we have recently funded renal projects nationwide, both directly and under the guidance of the BAPN (British Association for Paediatric Nephrology).

Kids Kidney Research focuses on paediatric research into the prevention and cure of renal illness and associated areas. In particular we primarily support research that falls into the following areas:

- Defining the best treatment for those children who suffer from vesicoureteric reflux
- Exploring new therapies which can potentially heal damaged kidneys
- Finding the faulty genes which can run in families and cause kidney diseases

To maximise the benefit of our funding, we agree grants at an early stage of research, often providing pump-priming to initiate research that will be carried forward by larger grant-providing bodies if successful. An example of this is a recent grant to develop a DNA bank developed from babies with kidney disease. This early stage research tests the validity of such an approach. We are, therefore, key in ensuring the initiation of new research.

To mitigate the potential additional risk of such a policy, close scrutiny of every research application is undertaken by our Medical Advisory Panel and several applications have been either modified or rejected as a result. We believe this strategy to be sound, and of critical use to research bodies. The Medical Advisory Panel is made up of six highly regarded renal paediatric consultants.

In addition, the charity is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), an independent membership organization of the leading medical research charities in the UK. This ensures we run the charity properly, use best practice to select projects to fund as well as helping avoid funding full economic costs resulting in the funds being used efficiently.

Following acceptance to the AMRC, Kids Kidney Research adopted a research strategy and code of conduct for the Medical Advisory Panel (MAP) and refreshed their review practices as follows:

- All research projects are reviewed by our independent MAP
- The MAP is made up of six eminent renal and urological specialists, all of whom have had years of experience in the field and practice. Each appointment to the MAP lasts for a maximum of five years
- All reviews are sent to the Grants Administrator, who collates them, in unattributed format, for distribution to both the Trustees and Applicants. This ensures that reviewers are rigorous in their comments
- Any research project that lasts for more than one year in length is also reviewed by an External Reviewer, in accordance with AMRC guidelines. The External Reviewer is chosen on a case by case basis

All details of our projects and terms and conditions can be found on our website [www.kidskidneyresearch.org](http://www.kidskidneyresearch.org)