

To all ESPN Members

August 1998

Dear Friends and Colleagues

ESPN Newsletter

It is six months since I last wrote to you, and a lot has happened in that time. I have summarised events in this newsletter, which will be included in our new Home Page within the next week or two.

Dr Hayim Boichis and Dr Antonio Torrado

It is with great sadness that I have to report the deaths of Hayim Boichis and Antonio Torrado, both senior and much respected members of this society. Our sympathy and best wishes go to their families.

The Union of European Medical Specialists (UEMS)

The UEMS is the organisation within the European Union that deals with doctors and medical specialists. For countries within the European Economic Community it is important that Paediatric Nephrology is recognised by the UEMS as this has important implications for provision of services and for training.

The Confederation of European Specialists in Paediatrics (CESP) is the subsection of UEMS dealing with paediatrics. Our congratulations go to Professor Denis Gill, who took over as President of CESP at the end of the recent meeting in Helsinki. Historically, this group was dominated by primary and ambulatory care paediatricians for many years, but recently secondary and tertiary care paediatrics have been better represented. CESP is made up of national representatives from each of the member countries. We are fortunate that there are a number of paediatric nephrologists who attend as national representatives, including Johannes Brodehl, Robert Dumas, Eirik Monn, Kjell Tullus and Denis Gill. In addition, recently, representatives of tertiary care societies such as the ESPN have been invited to attend as observers.

The European Board of Paediatrics (EBP) was set up as a subcommittee of CESP to establish standards for training in paediatrics. The EBP has recognised the need for a 3 year common core programme for all paediatric specialists, followed by two or more years of higher training in general paediatrics, or tertiary care. There is a Paediatric Tertiary Care Subcommittee, and this group has acknowledged that paediatric nephrology should be recognised by CESP and the UEMS as a specialty within paediatrics, and has also supported our training programme.

Paediatric nephrology and the training programme were recognised by the EBP and CESP at the meeting in Helsinki in June 98. Professor Denis Gill, will attend the next meeting of UEMS in October, as the new CESP President, and ask for these recommendations to be minuted and formally recognised. As a paediatric nephrologist he is ideally qualified to see this through and I am confident that he will achieve this

at the next meeting. I hope to include confirmation of this development in the next newsletter.

Training Programme for specialist paediatric nephrologists I anticipate that the training programme developed by Mike Winterbourne and the ESPN council in 1993/4 and modified last year will be accepted by the UEMS in its present form. The training programme is available on the Home Page. Once the programme has been approved by the UEMS, we will need to develop ways of identifying and approving doctors and training centres where training can take place. Where countries have existing programmes for training and accreditation which are of a comparable standard and compatible with the ESPN training programme it may be possible to link up with them in order to avoid duplication. Countries that do not have training programmes can encourage their governments and medical organisations to adopt these standards.

The training programme will be submitted to Pediatric Nephrology (journal of IPNA) for publication once the formalities have been completed with the UEMS.

Links with other Societies

I have had several communications from other paediatric and nephrological societies asking about joint meetings and other activities of mutual benefit. One way of achieving this is to have references on our Home Page.

EDTA/ERA (European Dialysis and Transplant Association/European Renal Association) I have had regular correspondence with Professor Berthoux about the possibility of a joint meeting. They seem to remain keen on this proposal in spite of the practical difficulties we have in finding a suitable date and venue. Our representatives on the Registry are Sue Rigden and Otto Mehls. I understand that the Registry continues to have difficulty in gathering data.

ISN (International Society of Nephrologists) I have discussed the possibility of having our meetings listed on the ISN Home Page. This can be arranged if this is the wish of ESPN members.

ESPR (European Society for Paediatric Research) The President Elect, Prof Bakoula has invited representatives from the ESPN to participate in a round table discussion related to the latest developments in research in paediatric nephrology. Proposals for speakers and topics will be welcome. ESPN members will be welcomed at the meeting to be held in the Island of Rhodes, Greece 24-27th September 2000.

UNEPSA (Union of National European Paediatric Societies and Associations).
Congratulations to Jochen Ehrich who has just been elected President.

EPA (The European Paediatric Association) The EPA is an emerging organisation.
Jochen Ehrich will speak about this at the General Assembly.

EWG (European Working Group on Psychosocial Aspects of Paediatric Nephrology) This group is undergoing re-organisation. Joint meetings with the ESPN are not practical but the ESPN will continue to support and encourage the work of the group. For further information contact Evelyn Reichwald-Klugger. evelyn@ukl.uni-heidelberg.de

IPNA London

The arrangements for this meeting have been progressing smoothly and I look forward to meeting everyone there.

ESPN Help Desk I have arranged a stand at the IPNA meeting. There will be somewhere to sit, a notice board for messages, and room to display information about the meeting in Athens and the teaching courses. Council members will take it in turn to attend the help desk during coffee and lunch breaks. If the desk proves useful, we can arrange something similar at future meetings. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Future meetings

Prague 1999 Jan Janda is the President Elect and is preparing the meeting which will be held in Prague 3-5 September 1999. Otto Mehls is Chairman of the Scientific Committee and Mario Bianchetti is Vice-Chairman. They have started work on the programme and I have every confidence in their skills in this area.

ESPN 2000 To be decided

IPNA 2001 Seattle USA

ESPN 2002 To be decided

Meeting with EDTA Berlin 2003 In 1997, members of the ESPN voted to support a joint meeting with the EDTA at some time in the future. Professor Berthoux has written to me asking whether the ESPN would like to prepare a joint meeting in Berlin in 2003. This is the first opportunity for a joint meeting because of existing commitments of both societies. This proposal will be discussed further at the General Assembly.

ESPR The ESPR has expressed an interest in having a combined meeting, however the dates they suggested were not compatible with our existing commitments.

Training Courses

Two very successful courses were held in Russia and Lithuania. The first was arranged by Tatiana Nastausheva in Voronezh with help from Elana Panchenko, 18-20 May, for over 100 delegates from all over Russia and neighbouring countries. Speakers included Laszlo Kovacs, Patrick Niaudet, Mat Brandis, Gianfranco Rizzoni and myself. The second course was arranged by Vytautas Baciulis in Vilnius with help from Christer Holmberg, 28-30 May, for a similar number of delegates from the Baltic States, speakers Mark Taylor, Willem Proesmans and Franz Schaefer. I have received excellent reports from those who attended. Posters will be on display at the ESPN help desk. Many thanks to all those who organised the courses and to all those who gave up their time to participate.

Future Training Courses The ESPN remains committed to supporting one or two courses on a regular basis every year. There has been agreement to pay for the travelling expenses of the speakers and other essential costs such as slide translation or publication of abstracts and manuscripts. Anyone wishing to apply to hold a course should use the application form which is available on the Home Page or by contacting me directly.

The Ukraine Professor Bagdasarova is preparing for a course in Lviv in May 1999, with help from Jan Janda and Ernst Leumann. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and wish them success. The position in the Ukraine is very difficult at present and the local organisers may need additional financial support. Possible sources of funding will be discussed at the General Assembly.

Training grants for young paediatric nephrologists Training grants for young paediatric nephrologists from Eastern Europe will continue to be offered by the ESPN. The grants will cover the cost of travel to an established paediatric nephrology centre in Europe and provide basic living expenses for a two month period.

Application forms are available from the Secretary General or from the Home Page (see below for address) and will be considered by the council in March and September each year. Please ensure that your trainees are aware of these grants. The first grant recipient, Dr Iryna Derkatch from Lviv in the Ukraine, recently spent two months at Guy's Hospital, London.

Home Page <http://www.uwcm.ac.uk/uwcm/ch/espn> The home page has been visited approximately 150 times each month. It has improved the distribution of application forms and mailing list update forms. Please let me know if there are any other topics that you would like to include.

General Assembly**

The General Assembly will be held in London on 15th September 1998 at 1730 hrs.

*** Please bring the enclosed news letter, the agenda, and the minutes of the meeting in Athens which were sent to you in January, to the meeting in London.*

I look forward to seeing you soon in London.

Yours sincerely

Kate Verrier Jones

Secretary General