

To all ESPN members

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

ESPN News Letter January 1998

I hope you had a happy Christmas. Please accept my very best wishes for 1998.

First I would like to thank you for the tremendous support shown at the General Assembly in Athens for the ESPN Council, and particularly to Jochen Ehrich and myself as your new Assistant Secretary and Secretary General. We are both fully committed to the work of the Society and hope to fulfil these roles to the very best of our abilities. It will be a hard task to follow Patrick Niaudet, who has been an outstanding Secretary General for the past five years, showing a skilful combination of efficiency and diplomacy. We aim to follow his example and to build on the foundations that Patrick and his predecessors have prepared.

Courses in Eastern Europe

Voronezh, Russia This course has been planned for 18-20th May 1998 and the principal local organiser is Tatyana Nastausheva. Anyone who wishes to enrol on this course should contact her directly: Tatyana Nastausheva MD, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Studencheskaya str.10, 394622 Voronezh, Russia. Tel 0732 560767

Vilnius, Lithuania Course organiser Vytautas Baciulis. For further information contact him directly: Dr Vytautas Baciulis, Associate Professor of Paediatrics, Vilnius University, Santariskiu 7, Vilnius 2600, Lithuania. Fax 3702 720 283

Subscriptions SF75 per annum (reduced rate for Eastern European countries: SF25). See enclosed form for details of how to pay by credit card preferably. (For UK and German members with standing orders, your subscription will automatically be deducted from your bank each year).

Confederation of European Specialists in Paediatrics (CESP)

This organisation is a subgroup of the Union of European Medical Specialists (UEMS) and is the mechanism by which specialist medical services are recognised within the EEC. CESP has now set up the European Board of Paediatrics (EBP) which has the responsibility of developing guidelines for common standards of training for paediatricians within the EEC. The EBP has set up a subgroup, the Paediatric Tertiary Specialists Group (PTSG) to look at standards of training for paediatric tertiary care specialists. Training recommendations are based on a general or common core of three years in general paediatrics, followed by two or more years in specialist training. The recommendations for training of paediatric nephrologists were sent to CESP in 1994, but at that time CESP did not have any mechanism to consider the training document. Since the development of the PTSG and the EBP there is now an opportunity to have formal support for the training programme drafted

by Mike Winterbourne. In addition, there is now an opportunity to have Paediatric Nephrology formally recognised as a subsection of CESP. I will be making a formal proposal to CESP at a meeting in Helsinki 5-6 June 1998. I hope that this will be accepted and that this will help the development of paediatric nephrology services both within and outside the EEC. Professor Denis Gill is the President Elect of CESP, and I look forward to a fruitful meeting with CESP and the EBP in the summer.

National Societies

As the ESPN continues to grow, it is becoming increasingly difficult to know everyone. In order to improve communications, I would like to keep a record of the president and secretary of the national paediatric nephrology societies. In countries where there is no national society, a national contact who can keep in touch with paediatric nephrologists within their own country would be useful. I have enclosed a form for completion by representatives of national societies. This should be returned to me as soon as possible.

Web Page

My colleague Dr Graham Smith has started to prepare a Web Page. I hope to continue to work with Janusz Feber on this, as he has been so active in stimulating this development. The address will be <http://www.uwcm.ac.uk/uwcm/ch/espn/>. The page will give the names of the officers, addresses of Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Constitution, membership application forms, news letters, training recommendations and future meetings.

Council meeting

The next council meeting will be in Prague 7th March 1998. If you have items for the agenda, please ensure that correspondence reaches me well before that date.

Future meetings

Developmental Nephrology satellite meeting, Stockholm, 9-11th September 1998 (see enclosed programme).

IPNA London 12-16th September 1998. The deadline for abstracts is 27th February 1998. Early registrations must be made before 19.6.98 to be eligible for the reduced fee. There may be a large number of registrations because London is an attractive and accessible venue, so please register early.

Prague 1999 Dates to be agreed. President elect Professor Jan Janda.

Meeting 2000 Please send outline proposals to host the Millennium meeting to me as soon as possible so that proposals can be considered by the council in March if possible.

IPNA Seattle 2001

Meeting with the ERA/EDTA Following the vote at the General Assembly, I have contacted Professor Berthoux, President of the ERA/EDTA and he has raised the possibility of a joint meeting in 2002 or 2004. I hope that it will be possible to come to a satisfactory arrangement for a joint meeting at a mutually acceptable venue.

Mailing list Please check your entry on the mailing list and ensure that your fax and e-mail address are included, so that we can contact you urgently, if necessary. If there are any additions or alterations, please complete the mailing list form and return it to me.

Next General Assembly

This will be in London on 15th September 1998 at 1730 hrs. Items for the agenda will be circulated with the next mailing in July. Please ensure that any important items for discussion reach me in June or earlier.

Grants for Young Nephrologists

Dr Iryna Derkatch Pantchenko has been awarded the first ESPN Training Grant and will visit Guy's Hospital, London. Young nephrologists in training from developing countries can apply for training grants, which will enable the trainee to visit an established centre in another country for 4-8 weeks. Anyone interested should contact me for further details. There will also be some grants for IPNA London 1998, which can be applied for through the Congress organisers.

Yours sincerely

Dr Kate Verrier Jones
Secretary General