

To all ESPN members

July 1999

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

ESPN Prague 2nd to 5th September 99

Announcement about change of venue

The venue for this meeting has changed from the Holiday Inn to the Zofin Palace, which is located in the centre of Prague near the National Theatre. The Zofin Palace has recently become available and has better facilities for a meeting of 400 people than the Holiday Inn, which was chosen when the original venue was withdrawn. The new venue is within walking distance of the centre of town. The nearest underground station is Narodni Trida on line B. Further information can be obtained from the home page <http://www.lf2.cuni/info/espn99.htm>. If you have already booked your accommodation at the Holiday Inn, buses will be provided to take you directly to the congress.

Change of address. Please note that my address has changed. Unfortunately the phone numbers we were allocated originally were incorrect. In addition, the postcode has changed and the telephone code for Cardiff has changed since the last newsletter. The correct information is shown at the top of this letter.

Obituary. With great sadness I have to report that Dr Elana Panchenko, an esteemed member of our society, died on 15th May 1999 in Memphis after an illness of a few months. Our sincere best wishes go to her family, particularly her husband Vladimir Orechova, her two children Katherine and Dacha and her father Leonid Panchenko. Elana was known to members of the society because of her personal charm and the active role she played over the past decade. Following the award of an IPNA scholarship, she studied in Memphis USA where she established strong links and lasting friendships. She was an active member of the IPNA council. In recent years she played a major role in setting up and organising ESPN training courses in Russia, which were extremely popular and successful. I have written to her husband and two daughters to express the respect and sympathy of our society.

Specialty recognition. In March this year the Union of European Medical Specialists (UEMS) changed its statutes to enable recognition of paediatric tertiary specialties. This change was made in response to representations made by the Confederation of European Specialists in Paediatrics (CESP). I would like to thank Professor Denis Gill, President of CESP, for his role in establishing this important precedent, along with the other ESPN members who attend CESP as national paediatric representatives. I would also like to thank Professor Max Zach, who, as chairman of the Paediatric Tertiary Specialists Group (PTSG), demonstrated to CESP the importance of this formal process of approval. Thanks also go to Professor José Ramet, who, as chairman of the European Board of Paediatrics (EBP) and later as Secretary General of CESP, was also a key player in this process over the past three years. Jochen Ehrich represented the society at the recent meeting in Freiberg.

Training and accreditation. CESP has already approved the ESPN training programme and this will form the basis for training in paediatric nephrology in the European Union. Clearly the training programme will need to be updated from time to time to take in new clinical developments and new training methods. The ESPN is recognised by CESP as the representative organisation in Europe for paediatric nephrology, and has been given the task of implementing the training programme and establishing a method of accreditation or graduation. This is a large and difficult task that will require a significant input from society members, with no source of funding. This is a major, new responsibility for our society and advice from members experienced in this area will be welcomed. Bert van der Heijden represented the society at the meeting in Brussels in December 1998.

Academic and research database. Rosanna Coppo has recently taken on the task of collating a database of national registries and controlled trials to start this important new scientific development. I believe that collaboration between ESPN members in different countries, to establish the best clinical and scientific practice, is the way forward in the next millennium. In particular, when dealing with rare diseases, collaboration is essential. She will prepare a poster for the meeting in Prague, which will be the focal point for discussion on development of this facility.

Text book. This huge task is progressing slowly. I hope to have more information for the meeting in Prague in September.

Home page. The home page <http://www.uwcm.ac.uk/uwcm/ch/espn/> is now well established thanks to the work of Graham Smith and Tim Ferguson in Cardiff. The site is used regularly by people from Europe and the rest of the world. Over the next year we hope to extend it to increase awareness of our academic database and eventually the textbook.

Training grants. Svetlana Paunova and Fatima Tsalicova were both awarded training grants in 1998 and visited Nottingham and Cardiff in March and April 1999. One application was received before the council meeting and this has been awarded to Dr Marina Aksenova who will visit Gianfranco Rizzoni in Rome.

Training courses. The council received one application to hold a training course in Vladivostok. The council has recommended that the ESPN should support two speakers and that the course organisers should try to get additional funding from IPNA or another organisation, as Vladivostok is a long way from Europe and travel will be expensive.

First African congress of paediatric nephrology. The ESPN council has agreed to fund two speakers to travel to the first African congress of paediatric nephrology as a gesture of support for this important new development.

Future meetings

33rd ESPN Meeting

Prague, Czech Republic

2nd to 5th September 1999

34 th ESPN Meeting	Helsinki, Finland	18 th to 20 th June 2000
IPNA Congress	Seattle, USA	1 st to 6 th September 2001
*ESPU and AAP Tours	France	7 th to 10 th June 2000

* This is a joint meeting between the European Society for Paediatric Urology and the American Academy of Paediatrics Section of Urology who are planning a special session on the surgical/nephrological interface. The organisers welcome participation from ESPN members.

Bids for the meeting of 2002 will be presented at the General Assembly in Prague.

Change to the constitution. Increase of council members from 6 to 7. There has been no correspondence on this point, which will be voted at the General Assembly.

I look forward to seeing you again soon.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Kate Verrier Jones

Secretary General