

To all ESPN members

March 2001

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In this newsletter the newly elected Board of our Society would like to take the opportunity to introduce itself and to inform you about our past and future plans. First of all, we would like to send our special thanks to Kate Verrier Jones for her tremendous achievements as Secretary General during 1998-2000 and we would also like to thank those council members who stood down in 2000 for their contributions.

In the coming years, the ESPN council plans to give priority to some ambitious aims including 1. the reestablishment of the European Paediatric Registry for children on renal replacement therapy, 2. stimulating ESPN collaborative studies on some major diseases like HUS and FSGS, 3. installing an ESPN Archive and Agency, and 4. publishing the ESPN Handbook.

With the increasing number of ESPN members we strongly feel that we should use our excellent current connections – which are based on personal friendships as well as professional links - to further intensify the bonds among European paediatric nephrologists from the East, West, North and South of Europe by means of joint ventures.

Honorary membership: Honorary membership was awarded to Michel Broyer, Ernst Leumann, Karel van Acker and Maria Seniawska.

New ordinary members: We cordially welcome our new ESPN members: Alessandro Amore, Koleilat Aziz, Radovan Bogdanovic, Iryna Derkatch, Jiri Dusek, Mar Espino Hernandez, Jameela Kari, Tatiana Kernova, Malcolm Lewis, Elena Levtschenko, Rudolf Mallmann, Heather Maxwell ,

Tatiana Nastauscheva. Velibor Tasic, Peter Toth-Heyn, Ramon Vilalta and Udo Vester

Election of ESPN officers: Kate Verrier Jones stood down after three years as Secretary General. Jochen Ehrich was elected as the new Secretary General and Christer Holmberg was elected as the new Assistant Secretary. Michel Fischbach, Sue Rigden and Hilal Mocan were elected by secret ballot as new council members, thus replacing Pierre Cochat, Rosanna Coppo and Fernando Santos.

Membership fees 2001: Please transfer the annual membership fee via Eurocard/Visa (see attached forms).

Applications for membership: If you should know of colleagues wishing to join the ESPN and who fulfil the entry criteria , please contact the Secretary General for application forms.

General Communication via e-mail

As of June 2000 the ESPN has 398 registered members. Of these, approximately 50% are email users. In future the ESPN council intends to communicate with you mainly by email, thus dispensing with the high costs of the postal service. We need your help to achieve our aim in increasing the proportion of ESPN email/internet users to 100%. If you are listed as one of the email users, please **make sure that your email address is correctly documented** in our address list. If you are not yet personally online, please try to **supply us with an alternative e-mail address** to which you have easy access. Should you have colleagues in your institution who are also ESPN members who do not use email or the internet, we would be grateful if you would please pass a copy of this letter and the list on to them.

National Presidents/ Secretaries of National Paediatric Nephrology Associations or Working Groups

We are currently compiling a database of the primary addresses of the National Presidents/ Secretaries of National Paediatric Nephrology Associations or Working Groups. A short email with the contact persons details, i.e. name, name of the Association or Group, address, telephone number (and countries represented, should you have this) would be very much appreciated by my secretary at:
bainemslie.angela@mh-hannover.de

ESPN Publications

The recommendations for training in Pediatric Nephrology were published in our journal Pediatric Nephrology, pages 192-195, Vol.16, Number 2 of Februar 2001.

ESPN Handbook

There have been advances in the progress of the Handbook and this is almost ready for publication.

ESPN Registry

The first report on children with renal replacement therapy will be given by Kate Verrier Jones and Bert von der Heijden at the EDTA Congress this year.

National Presidents/Secretaries are more than welcome to contact the ESPN Secretary General for consultation or reports on their patients. As of yet no definite structure has been developed for reporting procedures, but this will be discussed and decided upon during our next council meeting.

Collaborative Studies

The setting up of the European HUS Research Group was an initiative of the ESPN members, stemming from an open meeting during the ESPN Congress in Helsinki 2000. At the first meeting of the group it was felt that the membership of the research group should be guided primarily by the enthusiasm of its members. We are looking forward to a close, functional and harmonious interaction between this research group and all ESPN members. If you want to have more details please contact Mark Taylor at cm.taylor@bhamchildrens.wmids.nhs.uk.

Yet another group of ESPN members has chosen to study peritoneal dialysis and there are more initiatives to come. For those of you who want to take part in the PD collaborative study, please contact Alan Watson at watpaed@aol.com.

The ESPN encourages all its members to create a forum for collaborative studies supported by the ESPN (please have a look at the attached questionnaire).

Teaching courses

The last teaching course which was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, has been reported on. From the discussions which the ESPN Council had, it became evident that the ESPN Training Course is a step in the right direction, but that much more is needed and that much more can be done, for example, by building up partnerships and 'twinning' eastern and western institutions, performing joint studies and organizing regular visits. This year's teaching course will be held **from June 6th –8th in Vladivostok.**

Further courses are planned for 2002.

Training grants

At present we have had 10 applications for training grants, and decisions will be made during the forthcoming Council Meeting. For those who want to apply for 2002 please get your application forms from the ESPN secretariat.

Future meetings

The **IPNA International Congress 2001 will be held in Seattle**, Washington, USA from 1st to 5th September, 2001. Further information is available from www.ipna2001.com.

The next General Assembly of the ESPN will be held in Seattle in 2001. The precise date and location will be announced in the forthcoming IPNA programme.

ESPN Bilbao 20-23 September 2002.

More information can be obtained through the internet website <http://www.espn2002.com>

ESPN Berlin 2003

We are planning a joint meeting of ESPN with ISN and EDTA/ERA. The preparations for the joint meeting are proceeding well, and this congress will be especially attractive to our colleagues from Eastern Europe because of its geographical location, moderate registration fees and a multitude of stimulating lectures covering the entire field of nephrology.

With best wishes

Yours

Jochen H.H. Ehrich Christer Holmberg

Secretary General Assistant Secretary

Enclosure/attachments

You can download a WORD 97 version of the following documents by right-clicking on the WORD icon and then left-clicking on **Save Link As...** or **Save Target As...** .

[Mini Questionnaire](#)

ESPN Membership- Fees: form for money transfer

- [for Eastern European members](#)

- [for Western European members](#)

Member's Address list to be updated (*only sent by e-mail*)

Address list of National Presidents to be updated (*only sent by e-mail*)

[Fond memories of the past of ESPN: Strebske Pleso 1973](#)