



## A historic vote to form a European Society of Endocrinology

**A**t a historic meeting in Brussels last November, the national endocrine societies of Europe came together and voted to form a European Society of Endocrinology and to hold an annual congress in April/May of each year. The UK and Germany agreed to hold European Congresses in 2006 and 2008 to allow this to come into effect without delay. Read on for more detail.

An Extraordinary General Council meeting was held in Brussels on 13 November to debate two motions:

**That a European Society of Endocrinology should be formed to replace EFES,**

and

**That the European Congress of Endocrinology should become an annual meeting**

- either in April/May or September/October

- with the UK and Germany filling in for 2006 and 2008

Twenty-four of the 35 full members of EFES were represented at the meeting and they held 46 of the possible 60 votes. This meant that the two-thirds attendance needed to change the statutes was achieved.

### EUROPEAN CONGRESSES OF ENDOCRINOLOGY

#### SAVE THE DATES

**7th European Congress of Endocrinology**  
Göteborg, Sweden, 3-7 September 2005  
Abstract deadline 1 April

**8th European Congress of Endocrinology**  
Glasgow, UK, 1-5 April 2006

**9th European Congress of Endocrinology**  
Budapest, Hungary, 28 April - 2 May 2007

**10th European Congress of Endocrinology**  
Dresden, Germany, 3-7 May 2008

**11th European Congress of Endocrinology**  
Istanbul, Turkey, 25-29 April 2009

See inside for more details.

Steven Lamberts, as President of EFES, opened the meeting by summarizing all the current EFES activities and highlighting where the Executive Committee have identified weaknesses that need to be taken forward by a stronger organization. This includes lobbying at a European level, for instance in Brussels, with decision-making structures and organizations involved in European health care, and on medical issues, science and policy. The fields of diabetes, cardiology and others are already able to do this because they have strong European societies. The European Union will be making grants of €17bn available from 2007 for research throughout Europe. Endocrinology has traditionally missed out on such grants. A better organization, with stronger lobbying, would attract more grant money toward endocrinology. A strong European society would also help to counteract a potential brain drain from emerging European countries to the USA by allowing better circulation within Europe.

This introduction was followed by a very constructive and positive discussion, with all delegates taking an active part. At the end of this discussion a vote was held on the motion:

**Is your national society in favour of establishing a European Society of Endocrinology?**

Professor Marek (Czech Republic) chaired a group of tellers that also comprised Professors Coculescu (Romania) and Kelestimur (Turkey). They

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## EDITORIAL

**A**t this Extraordinary General Council of EFES in November 2004, it was unanimously decided that a European Society of Endocrinology should be formed to replace the Federation of National Societies, which has represented endocrinology in Europe so far. A European Society of Endocrinology, with individual membership, is expected to further strengthen the role, status and impact of endocrinology in an expanding and integrating Europe.

Endocrinology can be considered as the intellectual heart of the science and clinical practice of medicine. However, there is a general consensus that the current position of endocrinology amongst other related specialties, such as diabetes, oncology and cardiology, could be improved. A European Society of Endocrinology will create a platform for young aspiring endocrinologists, creating conditions for communication and exchange. Thus, instead of a 'brain drain', 'brain circulation' within Europe becomes the aim. A European Society will coordinate and improve the quality of endocrine care more effectively throughout Europe, and increase our visibility and influence in Brussels by putting endocrinology more centrally on the research agenda. It will also further improve the quality of the European endocrine journals.

The Executive Committee is currently working hard to prepare statutes that will be presented to the General Council for approval in September. This will pave the way to effectively start the European Society of Endocrinology with personal membership towards the end of 2005. These are exciting times for European endocrinology, which promise to have a long-lasting and positive effect on our specialism.

STEVEN WJ LAMBERTS

## A historic vote to form a European Society of Endocrinology

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announced that the 46 votes cast had all been in favour.

The meeting then went on to discuss the motion to hold an annual European Congress of Endocrinology and, if so, whether it should take place in spring or autumn.

There was little debate about whether to hold the meeting annually. Most delegates clearly favoured this. For instance, Dr Luger (Austria) pointed out that, so far, the shortening interval had coincided with raised scientific standards. There was much more debate about timing, with delegates split between those who thought that the June ENDO meeting was the main one to avoid clashing with, and those who thought the September EASD was the main one. After lively discussion, the delegates voted on the motions:

**Is your national society in favour of holding an annual European Congress of Endocrinology?**

and

**Which dates are preferred by your society for an annual meeting? April/May or September/October?**

Forty-one of the 46 votes were cast in favour of an annual meeting. On the second question, the vote was much closer. Twenty-six votes were cast for April/May, 18 for September/October and two had requested a winter meeting.

As congresses had currently been planned by election for 2005, 2007 and 2009, there were two gaps that were too late to fill by election. The delegates present voted unanimously to invite the UK to host a congress in Glasgow on 1–5 April 2006 and Germany to host one in Dresden on 3–7 May 2008.

The meeting then closed and these historic decisions were later celebrated fittingly with a glass of champagne.

EFES thanks the following organizations for providing unrestricted grants to support this initiative: **Aventis, Eli Lilly, Ferring, GSK, Ipsen, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Roche, Sero**

This document is available on the EFES web site at [www.euro-endo.org/news/news.htm](http://www.euro-endo.org/news/news.htm).

## A word of thanks to our sponsors

EFES is fortunate to benefit from substantial industry support. This allows us to put on a much wider programme of activities than we could contemplate without such input. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our commercial supporters and to acknowledge their various kinds of support.

### AstraZeneca

- ▶ Gold sponsor of ECE 2005, Göteborg

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- ▶ Support for setting up the European Society of Endocrinology and the standing office

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- ▶ Bronze sponsor of ECE 2005, Göteborg

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- ▶ Support for setting up the European Society of Endocrinology and the standing office

### Novartis

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- ▶ EFES web site
- ▶ EFES regional postgraduate courses
- ▶ Support for setting up the European Society of Endocrinology and the standing office

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- ▶ Support for setting up the European Society of Endocrinology and the standing office
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# 8th European Congress of Endocrinology

incorporating the **BES**

## 1-5 April 2006

**Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow, UK**

Programme Organising Committee Chairs: Pierre Bouloux & Josef Köhrle

Further information will be available at [www.ece2006.com](http://www.ece2006.com) in due course, or by email from [conferences@endocrinology.org](mailto:conferences@endocrinology.org)



[www.ece2006.com](http://www.ece2006.com)



# ECE 2005

3-7 September 2005, Göteborg, Sweden

The preliminary programme for the Göteborg conference is now on the web site ([www.ece2005.com](http://www.ece2005.com)) and the abstract deadline is 1 April. The Programme Organizing Committee, headed by Professor Michael Sheppard (UK), has put together a very exciting and varied programme, starting with the Geoffrey Harris Prize Lecture on the Saturday afternoon and ending with the presentation of the EFES Young Investigator Awards and the *European Journal of Endocrinology* lecture. Highlights of the programme were given in the last issue of *EFES News* ([www.euro-endo.org/news/newsletter/Issue12.pdf](http://www.euro-endo.org/news/newsletter/Issue12.pdf)).



THE FISH CHURCH, GÖTEBORG

Social events include a welcome reception and a Harbour Party. Register early to ensure you get your ticket. Göteborg promises to be a lively and attractive city to visit. With half a million inhabitants it is Sweden's second largest city. As well as being home to a number of well-known industries, it also has a lively city centre based around the Avenue, and a good arts programme centred on the Museum of Arts and the concert hall on the Avenue and the Opera House by the harbour bay shore.

# ECE 2006

1-5 April 2006, Glasgow, UK

The Scottish Exhibition and Congress Centre on the banks of the River Clyde is one of the UK's largest conference centres. It is only a five-minute drive from the centre of Glasgow and has several hotels on site (from luxury to budget priced) as well as easy access to all the city centre hotels.

Glasgow has been greatly developed in recent years and has gained a reputation as a vibrant city. Many retailers (including Versace) now choose to be located in Glasgow in preference to Edinburgh. It has many art galleries and museums – don't miss the Charles Rennie Mackintosh House and many of his exquisite designs in other galleries too – and some of the UK's best shopping outside London!

The preliminary programme will be available shortly at [www.ece2006.com](http://www.ece2006.com)



THE SCOTTISH EXHIBITION AND CONGRESS CENTRE, GLASGOW

## EFES postgraduate courses

### LATEST NEWS

#### 13th EFES Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Ankara, Turkey, 8-9 April 2005

The programme for this course is now available on the course web site (see box for address). There is an exciting line-up of speakers, including among many other illustrious names: F Casanueva (Spain), A-M Colao (Italy), R Gaillard (Switzerland) and J A H Wass (UK). Register via the web site.

#### EFES Regional Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Jurmala, Latvia, 19-21 May 2005

The web site for this course is now available (see box for address). The registration deadline is 31 March. The deadline for submission of case abstracts is 31 March. Speakers include among many others: J I Botella-Carretero (Spain), J S Christiansen (Denmark), A Toft (UK) and M Tonachera (Italy).

#### 14th EFES Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Naples, Italy, 17-19 November 2005

The web site for this course is now available (see box for address). The registration deadline is 10 September. Speakers include among many others: A Beckers (Belgium), P Beck-Peccoz (Italy), E Ghigo (Italy), F Mantero (Italy), and C Strasburger (Germany).

### SAVE THE DATES

#### 13th EFES Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Ankara, Turkey, 8-9 April 2005

Contact: Society of Endocrinology  
and Metabolism of Turkey  
(Email: [ccosanoz@serenas.com.tr](mailto:ccosanoz@serenas.com.tr);  
Web: [www.pcce2005.org](http://www.pcce2005.org)).

#### EFES Regional Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Jurmala, Latvia, 19-21 May 2005  
Contact: Professor Valdis Pirags, Riga  
(Email: [vita.jostina@latviatours.lv](mailto:vita.jostina@latviatours.lv);  
Web: [www.latviatours.lv](http://www.latviatours.lv)).

#### 14th EFES Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Naples, Italy, 17-19 November 2005  
Contact: Anna-Maria Colao, Naples  
(Email: [colao@unina.it](mailto:colao@unina.it);  
Web: [www.efes.pcce2005napoli.it](http://www.efes.pcce2005napoli.it)).

## HORMONE CENTENARY

'Hormones' are 100 years old. On 20 June 1905, during his Croonian lecture at the Royal College of Physicians in London, the physiologist Ernest Henry Starling named those 'chemical messengers [that] have to be carried from the organ where they are produced to the organ which they affect by means of the blood stream and the continually recurring physiological needs of the organism must determine their repeated production and circulation throughout the body'. He called these messengers 'hormones' – derived from the Greek verb meaning 'to excite' – and the word was thus introduced into the English language.

## What's hot in EJE?

### The natural history of post-traumatic neurohypophysial dysfunction

A AGHA, M SHERLOCK, J PHILLIPS, W TORMEY AND CJ THOMPSON

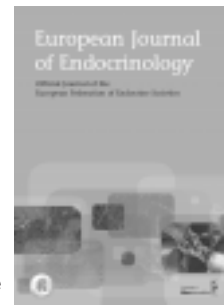
**European Journal of Endocrinology 152(3) pp 371-377**

Following traumatic brain injury (TBI), diabetes insipidus (DI) and the syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion (SIADH) are common complications.

Agha and co-workers had previously reported the prevalence of neuroendocrine dysfunction in 50 patients in the acute post-TBI phase. This article reports the results of a 1-year prospective follow-up of posterior pituitary function in these 50 patients. The patients were studied during the acute phase, and at 6 and 12 months following TBI, and assessed for DI by the presence of hypernatremia (acute phase) or by the water-deprivation test. Their results were compared with healthy matched controls.

Of the 50 patients, 13 had DI in the acute phase; nine of these recovered by 6 months and one by 12 months. Of the three patients with permanent DI, two had slight vasopressin deficiency. SIADH was recorded in seven patients during the acute phase of TBI, all of whom recovered by 6 months. No new cases of DI or SIADH were recorded after the acute phase.

The study gives clear indications that posterior pituitary dysfunction is common following TBI. By using standard and reliable methodology to assess posterior pituitary function in the year following TBI, this study provides useful data for the development of appropriate guidelines for the follow-up of patients with TBI.



## Forthcoming Meetings and Courses

### 1st International Congress on "Prediabetes" and the Metabolic Syndrome - Epidemiology, Management and Prevention of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease

Berlin, Germany, 13-16 April 2005  
 Contact: Kenes International.  
 (Tel: +41 22 908 0488; Fax: +41 22 732 2850;  
 Email: prediabetes@kenes.com;  
 Web: <http://www.kenes.com/prediabetes>).

### 31st Congress of the Italian Society of Endocrinology

Genova, Italy, 4-7 May 2005  
 Contact: FASI s.r.l., Viale Gorizia 24c, 00198  
 Roma, Italy. (Tel: +39 06 97605610; Fax: +39  
 06 8414495; Email: [info@fasiweb.com](mailto:info@fasiweb.com);  
 Web: [www.fasiweb.com](http://www.fasiweb.com)).

### 16th IFCC-FESCC European Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

Glasgow, UK, 8-12 May 2005  
 Contact: EuroMedLab Glasgow 2005. (Tel: +44  
 141 4341500; Fax: +44 141 4341500;  
 Email: [euromedlab2005@meetingmakers.co.uk](mailto:euromedlab2005@meetingmakers.co.uk);  
 Web: <http://www.glasgow2005.org>).

### 3rd International Conference on Bone and Mineral Research & 5th International Osteoporosis Symposium, 2nd WHO-Collaborating Center Asian Regional Conference on Osteoporosis

Xi'an, China, 23-27 May 2005  
 Contact: Ma Xiaoji, Office of 3rd ICBMR -2005,  
 Box 9910, Beijing, 100102.  
 (Tel: +86 10n 64705247; Fax: +86 10  
 64743744; Email: [info@china-osteofound.org](mailto:info@china-osteofound.org);  
 Web: <http://www.china-osteofound.org/en>).

### 6th Puberty Conference

Evian, France, 26-28 May 2005  
 Contact: Catherine Hellstedt, Congrex Sweden  
 AB, Karlavägen 108, PO Box 5619, SE-114 86  
 Stockholm.  
 (Tel: +46 8 4596637; Fax: +46 8 6619125;  
 Email: [catherine.hellstedt@congrx.se](mailto:catherine.hellstedt@congrx.se);  
 Web: <http://www.congrx.com/puberty2005>).

### First Educational EUGOGO course on Graves' orbitopathy

Thessaloniki, Greece, 26-27 May 2005  
 Contact: Gerasimos Krassas.  
 (Tel: +30 2310 479633; Fax: +30 2310  
 282476; Email: [krassas@the.forthnet.gr](mailto:krassas@the.forthnet.gr); Web:  
[http://www.ghsociety.com/index\\_eugogo.html](http://www.ghsociety.com/index_eugogo.html)).

### ENDO 2005

San Diego, USA, 4-7 June 2005  
 Contact: The Endocrine Society, 8401  
 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 900, Chevy Chase,  
 Maryland 20815-5817.  
 (Tel: +1 301 9410200; Fax: +1 301 9410259;  
 Email: [endostaff@endo-society.org](mailto:endostaff@endo-society.org);  
 Web: <http://www.endo-society.org/scimeetings>).

### 7th European Congress of Endocrinology

Göteborg, Sweden, 3-7 September 2005  
 Contact: Congrex Göteborg, PO Box 5078,  
 SE-402 22, Göteborg Sweden.  
 (Tel: +46 31 708 60 00; Fax: +46 31 708 60 25;  
 Email: [ece2005@gbg.congrx.se](mailto:ece2005@gbg.congrx.se);  
 Web: [www.ece2005.com](http://www.ece2005.com)).

### 41st Annual Meeting of the EASD

Athens, Greece, 10-15 September 2005  
 Contact: PO Box 17151, GR-10024 Athens,  
 Greece. (Tel: +30 210 7297565, 7230680,  
 7201730; Fax: +30 210 7246797;  
 Email: [secretariat@easd2005athens.gr](mailto:secretariat@easd2005athens.gr);  
 Web: [www.easd2005athens.gr](http://www.easd2005athens.gr)).

### 7th Joint ESPE/LWPES Meeting

Lyon, France, 21-24 September 2005  
 Contact Congrex Sweden AB, ESPE 2005,  
 PO Box 5619, 114 86 Stockholm, Sweden.  
 (Tel: +46 8 4596600; Fax: +46 8 6619125;  
 Web: [www.congrx.se/espe2005](http://www.congrx.se/espe2005)).

## EFES News



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[www.euro-endo.org](http://www.euro-endo.org)

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