



Message from the President

On behalf of the EFES Executive Committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of *EFES News*.

The brainchild of a group of outstanding European endocrinologists, the EFES enterprise started nearly 15 years ago and held the first European Congress of Endocrinology (ECE) in Denmark in 1986. The Federation was born from the very active and productive core of scientific endocrinologists that formerly comprised the Acta Endocrinologica countries, and incorporated most of the national endocrine societies of Europe. After this seminal congress, following ECEs were held in Lubljiana 1990, Amsterdam 1994 and recently in Seville 1998 with 3000 participants from all points of Europe. In Seville, a revolutionary change was unanimously approved by the General Council, i.e. to move from one congress every four years to one every two years. Following that mandate, the next ECE will be held in Turin, Italy on 9-13 June 2001, and the one after that in Lyon, France in 2003. After that, the ECE will be a biannual event. This change in pace is a very important decision in the history of European endocrinology, as it creates a platform for very active and lively forums of discussion, training and exchange of scientific information.

In addition to the congress, EFES regularly organizes joint meetings with many national endocrine societies of Europe, as

well as EFES symposia within society meetings. The next joint meeting, with the British Endocrine Society, will be held in Birmingham, UK on 13-16 March 2000. Furthermore, EFES sponsors high level endocrinological meetings organized by either societies or formal groups. A third group of activities that EFES is putting a lot of effort into is the development of Postgraduate Endocrinological Courses, either basic or clinically orientated. This initiative began in 1994 with the first clinical course in Aiguablava, Spain. Similar events followed in Geneva, Switzerland in 1995; Turin, Italy in 1996; Pultusk,

Poland in 1997 and Hillerød, Denmark in 1998. The first Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology Courses started in Carcassone, France in 1997 and the second in Turku, Finland in 1998. A new format of regional courses orientated towards endocrinologists in a given country started in Rumania in 1996 and was followed by similar sessions in Tartu, Estonia in 1998. Currently, EFES is running four courses each year, one clinical, one basic and two regional courses, and these activities have been the place for continuous medical education, exchange of ideas and, more

Editorial

***E*EFES News is a new start for facilitating communication among European endocrinologists. There is evidence to suggest a slow but steady trend of collaboration between the specialists of our discipline in Europe where national/language barriers are no longer an obstacle. This should not be a surprise since most of us consider that our regional obligations should not prevent us from contributing to European endocrinology.**

EFES News is really in its infancy, but it is intended to become a forum for discussion and information. It therefore fulfills a function complementary to the *European Journal of Endocrinology*, since its role is communication and not science. We are certain that you have many ideas on very different topics in education, laboratory analysis and clinical practice and you should not hesitate to use this opportunity to contact me or members of the EFES Executive Committee (see page 3 for contact details) with any proposal.

We do hope that in the near future *EFES News* will express the opinion of different categories in our profession, including students, fellows, young researchers, senior endocrinologists and endocrine nurses. We also believe that European endocrinologists should be proud of their history and present achievements and that *EFES News* will contribute to maintaining the high standard of European endocrinology.

ALBERT BURGER, EDITOR

What is EFES?

The principal objectives of EFES are to:

- **create strong scientific and social links between European endocrinologists;**
- **create a structure for the greater exchange of research and clinical experience within Europe;**
- **develop regular teaching programmes for clinical and experimental endocrinologists, complementary to the existing regional courses.**

The statutes of EFES can be consulted on our web site: www.unige.ch/efes.

EFES Executive Committee

This is the governing body of EFES and consists of nine members elected by the General Assembly (plus two non-voting representatives from the *European Journal of Endocrinology*, its official journal). Each of these members has been assigned a specific task, with the president acting as the central organizing figure. See the list opposite for contact details and a brief description to show how each of these members serves as a contact person between individual endocrinologists, the endocrine societies and EFES.

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What is EFES?

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Meetings

So far, EFES has centred its activity on the following four types of scientific meetings, which are all held in English. The courses and their history are discussed in the president's introduction to this issue of *EFES News* (see page 1). At present we hold the following events:

Postgraduate teaching courses

These are either clinical or introductory courses in basic experimental medicine with a strong emphasis on the applications of molecular endocrinology in clinical medicine. They are intended to be complementary to the regional ones organized by national societies since the speakers are chosen from all over Europe. EFES is also making substantial efforts to attract sponsorship for the funding of travel grants to these meetings.

European Congress of Endocrinology

This is the main congress of EFES and is to be held every two years. Next meetings: Turin, Italy, 9-13 June, 2001 and Lyon, France, 2003.

Joint symposia with national societies

To date these have been a very successful innovation and usually last for a day or half a day. They are organized by EFES and the national society, and held within the framework of the annual national meeting.

Regional teaching courses

These are organized by the local society and sponsored by EFES.

For all these educational activities, your input is invaluable. Societies, or groups of endocrinologists, interested in organizing one of these types of meetings should contact Professor Ilpo Huhtaniemi to obtain guidelines for the submission of their candidature (see page 3 for Prof Huhtaniemi's contact details).

Funding

As mentioned, EFES is making every effort to raise additional financial support to facilitate participation at meetings. For each event, information about financial support can be obtained from the local organizer and/or from Professor Rolf Gaillard (see page 3 for Prof Gaillard's contact details).

The list opposite cites the events for 1999 and gives a provisional list for 2000. Please do not hesitate to contact the organizers or any member of the Executive Committee for more details.

The address lists used to mail this issue of EFES News were supplied by the member societies of EFES and are stored on BioScientifica's computer for future use. If you do not wish to receive further mailings, please advise editorial@endocrinology.org.

Forthcoming Meetings

3rd Postgraduate Course in Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology
Münster, Germany, 7-11 July 1999

Contact: Maluela Simoni, MD, PhD, Institute of Reproductive Medicine, Domagkstrasse 11, D-48129 Münster, Germany (Fax: +49 251 835 6093; Email: simoni@uni.muenster.de)

Regional Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Kiev, Ukraine, October 1999

Contact: Prof A Reznikov, Dept. of Endocrinology and Reproduction, Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism, 69 Vyshgorodskaya St, Kiev 254114, Ukraine (Fax: +380 44 4303718; Email: reznikov@dccie.kiev.ua)

19th Joint Meeting of British Endocrine Societies jointly with EFES

Birmingham, UK, 13-16 March 2000

Contact: Helen Gregson, British Endocrine Societies, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44 1454 619347; Fax: +44 1454 616071; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: <http://www.endocrinology.org>).

4th Postgraduate Course in Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology
Italy 2000

Contact: Dr Anna Spada, Institute of Endocrine Sciences, Via F. Sforza 35, University of Milan, 20122 Milan, Italy (Fax: +39 02 5519 5438; Email: endosci@imiucca.csi.unimi.it)

7th Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Delphi, Greece, September/October 2000

Prof G Koukoulis, Hellenic Endocrine Society, 36 Sinopsis Str. Athens 610, Greece (Fax: +30 1 7701552)

EFES News



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