



EFES: Present and Future

As we approach 26-29 April 2003 and the 6th European Congress of Endocrinology in Lyon, it is time to reflect on what EFES is doing for endocrinology in Europe and what its plans for the future are.

We continue to run highly successful annual courses in both clinical and basic endocrinology, the next clinical ones being in Riga, Latvia in May and in Oxford, UK at the end of September (see box advert below for further details). In addition, a young investigator meeting was recently held in Barcelona. This unique meeting, organised by Steven Lamberts and myself and kindly sponsored by Novartis, was hugely successful, largely due to the enormous care taken by Steven Lamberts to pick good young speakers. The quality of presentations was very high and we hope that this meeting will be the first of a series of young investigator meetings. Our thanks to Susanne Schaffert of Novartis whose inspired idea it was.

Wilmar Wiersinga has been in charge of developing the EFES web pages which have also seen a number of innovations. These include an email news alert (www.euro-endo.org/alert.htm) and a jobs and grants forum (www.euro-endo.org/jobs.htm). We very much hope that the website will become a useful medium for discussion, training and research.

In the future, we plan to discuss the possibility of turning EFES into a European Endocrine Society. In addition to clinical training, there is a strong feeling amongst European countries that such a society would also enhance scientific and training collaborations between the individual members and their laboratories. It would hugely increase the ease of communication and would improve the spirit of endocrinology in Europe. A European Endocrine Society would be the largest such society of endocrinologists in the world. We intend to discuss this at the next European Congress in Lyon.

We also want to develop the finances of EFES. A concerted effort has been made in this direction over the last year and things are moving in the right direction although further improvement is necessary.

Lastly, we want to encourage young endocrinologists in Europe (see letter from Susan Webb on this page). In particular we are keen to ensure that there are adequate training opportunities in all parts of Europe.

The EFES executive committee is always grateful for your feedback and ideas – please contact us via the following web page: www.euro-endo.org/executiv.htm. Thank you.

JAH WASS, PRESIDENT OF EFES

Dear Young Endocrinologists

EFES reaches 13000 specialists throughout Europe via this, its biannual newsletter, and a European Congress every 2 years.

However, the EFES Executive Committee is well aware that information which reaches European endocrinologists via various routes can be incomplete. As a result the committee is keen to broaden the scope of EFES. In the case of young endocrinologists, this is especially important, since it is clear that the future of European endocrinology is in your hands. Conscious of this, EFES organizes several postgraduate clinical, basic and regional courses every year and has devoted considerable efforts to developing the EFES website. Apart from all the scientific and meetings information the website also includes a jobs and grants forum for European endocrinologists (www.euro-endo.org/jobs.htm) and has a discussion facility for topics which may interest the users (www.euro-endo.org/discuss.htm).

Please add the EFES home page (www.euro-endo.org) to your favourites. Navigate through the pages and give us your feedback. The EFES Executive Committee sincerely appreciate your time and look forward to your suggestions.

On behalf of the EFES Executive Committee, many thanks.

SUSAN WEBB
EFES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
RESPONSIBLE FOR POSTGRADUATE CLINICAL
AND BASIC COURSES

11th EFES Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

29 September – 1 October 2003

ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD, UK

This course will emphasise the practical aspects of diagnosis and management within all major areas of clinical endocrinology and is aimed at endocrinologists and clinicians in internal medicine, paediatrics and obs/gyn, throughout Europe. It will consist of five half-day sessions made up of state-of-the-art lectures and parallel interactive workshops given by recognised experts in their field. The proposed topics are: diabetes and lipids; adrenals and reproduction; thyroid; calcium and bone; pituitary.

See back page for contact information



Lyon - the final countdown

By the time you read this, the 9th issue of *EFES News*, the 6th ECE will be less than 3 months away. Check out www.endocrinology2003.com to see the topics covered by the 7 plenary lectures, 15 meet-the-experts sessions and 25 symposia. You will be amazed to see how much progress has been made in the fields of basic and clinical endocrinology and metabolism since our last congress in Turin only two years ago. Note also the new names among the invited speakers - a deliberate policy by the POC to give priority to young and upcoming researchers.

The number of submitted abstracts is up by 30% as compared with the Turin meeting and has allowed the POC to put together very attractive, high quality, oral presentations and smaller poster discussion groups. A special symposium, 'The Future of Endocrinology in Europe', has been organized by and for young endocrinologists. Questions for discussion will include:

Would it be better to have one European Endocrine Society with individual membership instead of a Federation?

What about training possibilities and cooperative projects across Europe?

In addition to the academic attractions of the conference, you will find that Lyon itself has much to offer. Don't miss the Gallo-Roman and printing museums, St Jean's Cathedral and Old Lyon. The city also boasts a national opera house, theatre, numerous pubs and casinos. Lyon's 1500 traditional restaurants, known as 'Bouchons', mean that gastronomic delights are available at all prices and for

all tastes and the streets are also full of bars and brasseries. Nearby are the jewels of the French Alps, and the châteaux of the Beaujolais and Burgundy regions. Finally, Lyon's airport, TGV facilities and position on the motorway network mean that it is just 2 hours away from most European capitals.

I hope you are convinced by now that there is much to learn and enjoy in Lyon from 26-30 April 2003. So register now (we still have some advantageous economic package deals for young endocrinologists under 35 in training, which include registration fees, lodging and meals for €520). See you there!

WILMAR M WIERSINGA
CHAIRMAN OF THE PROGRAMME ORGANISING
COMMITTEE


European Journal of Endocrinology

Official Journal of the European Federation of Endocrine Societies

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Contact BioScientifica for further information: Euro House, 22 Apex Court, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke BS32 4JT, UK (Tel: +44 1454 642241; Fax: +44 1454 642201; Email: eje@endocrinology.org; Web: www.eje.org)

Launch Of The Bulgarian Thyroid Association

The Bulgarian Thyroid Association (BTA) is a new non-governmental organization dedicated to prevention and prophylactics of thyroid gland diseases, and to patient support and education.

In Bulgaria there has been a definite need for such an association, since one-third of the country's territory is considered an endemic area, and one in every eight Bulgarians is affected by thyroid disorders.

At present the BTA is working on the development of three projects. They are willing to collaborate and are happy to provide the details of their work to interested parties. You can also find information about the BTA, goals, mission, structure and planned activities on their website at: www.thyroidea.org

Endocrinology in Lyon: A brief history

The 'Hospices Civils de Lyon' represents a group of hospitals with 5000 beds and is the second largest medical centre in France. 'L'Hôtel Dieu', the first institution, was founded in the 12th century and was situated on the banks of the Rhône. It served as a shelter for the poor prior to becoming a hospital in 1541. Its third chief of medicine was François Rabelais who is more famous for his immortal stories vividly describing the adventures of his two giant heroes, Gargantua and his son Pantagruel.

During the following centuries, a large number of doctors and surgeons enriched Lyon with their original contributions to all areas of medicine. Endocrinology made its first appearance in Lyon at the end of the 19th century, courtesy of Claude Bernard's revolutionary use of the experimental approach to complement clinical studies. Bernard was born in Saint-Julien-en-Beaujolais, only a few kilometres away from Lyon, and was influential in encouraging many doctors in the area to adopt this new approach.

Under the influence of this new generation of doctors, the first laboratories for animal experimentation were installed in 'L'Hôtel Dieu'. In the first laboratory, directed by Léopold Ollier, long bone growth was intensively studied and treatment of tuberculous osteo-arthritis was improved. Raphaël Lépine developed, in parallel with his clinical activities, an experimental laboratory where he studied the pathophysiology of diabetes. On 29 December 1889 he declared, "under normal conditions the pancreas participates in the destruction of glucose" and he postulated, "this gland not only discharges its secretions into the intestinal lumen but is also a gland belonging to the vascular system". Lépine came fairly close to discovering insulin.

In the early part of the 20th century, it was the surgeons who initially contributed to our knowledge of thyroid pathology. Thyroid disease was common among the people from the Savoie mountain area near Lyon, due to endemic iodine deficiency, and Léon Berard treated a large number of such patients, following the examples of Théodore Kocher in Bern and Jacques et Auguste Reverdin in Geneva. He was not satisfied by surgical skills, but developed the nosology and pathophysiology of these diseases. Joseph Martin and his team of pathologists were able to add substantial proof to Berard's concepts.

Special mention should be made of one of Joseph Martin's young collaborators, Paul Guinet. By using a clinico-anatomical approach, Guinet was able to move thyroid disease research in a new direction. Once he had become chief of the school of endocrinology, he continued to produce original articles on the genetic basis of gonadal and hypophyseal pathologies, and the adrenal cortex.

Guinet's pupils widened the field by choosing biochemical and physiological approaches to study thyroid immunology, chromaffin tumours and hypophyseal adenomas. Raphaël Lépine's legacy ensured that research in diabetology continued and molecular biology techniques were used to study glucose metabolism diseases; lipid disorders, responsible for the vascular complications of diabetes, were also studied.

In paediatric endocrinology, Jean Bertrand developed both a clinical and experimental research group, culminating in the discovery of new diseases, in particular, genetic enzyme defects of the adrenal glands.

The international reputation of the school of Lyon continues to benefit from members of its community who moved on but who maintained strong links to it.

Alexis Carrel, a former resident of the 'Hôpitaux de Lyon', was the innovator of vascular suturing techniques



Claude Bernard

which gave the basis for the development of organ transplantations. He received the Nobel Prize in 1912 and, because of his Lyon connections, was instrumental in developing a new faculty of medicine and pharmacy in Lyon in the 1930s.

Roger Guillermin, another Nobel prize laureate, graduated in Lyon. Thanks to his strong links with the Rhône Valley, he was able to analyse an extra-hypophyseal tumour responsible for acromegaly discovered in a patient from Lyon. There was sufficient material to extract the growth hormone-releasing factor and identify its chemical structure.

Because of the scientific recognition of the school of Lyon and the support of so many friends throughout the world I had the opportunity and honour to actively participate in many international committees and play an active role in the foundation of the European Federation of Endocrine Societies which I chaired in 1988-1994.

RENÉ MORNEX
MEMBRE DE L'ACADÉMIE NATIONALE DE MÉDECINE
HOSPICES CIVILS DE LYON, FRANCE



Claude Bernard and colleagues in the laboratory

Forthcoming Meetings and Courses

EFES meetings and courses

6th European Congress of Endocrinology

Lyon, France, 26-30 April 2003
 Contact: Congress Agency Scientific Secretariat, Transit Communications, 18 Place Tolozan, F-69001 Lyon, France (Tel: +33-4-72985858; Fax: +33-4-72985898; Email: info@endocrinology2003.com; Website: www.endocrinology2003.com).

10th EFES Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Riga, Latvia, 29-31 May 2003
 Contact: V Pirags, P Stradins University Hospital, Pilsonu Iela 13, Riga LV-1002, Latvia (Fax: +371 706 9955; Email: pirags@latnet.lv).

11th EFES Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Oxford, UK, 26-28 September 2003
 Organiser: J Wass, Oxford. Secretariat: Donna Price, BioScientifica Ltd, Euro House, 22 Apex Court, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4JT, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642240; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: conferences@endocrinology.org).

EFES Regional Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Wroclaw, Poland, 7-9 May 2004
 Contact: A Milewicz, Department of Endocrinology and Diabetology, Wroclaw University of Medicine, Pasteura 4, PL-56-367 Wroclaw, Poland (Tel: +48-71-3209603; Fax: +48-71-3282349; Email: milewicz@endo.am.wroc.pl).

7th European Congress of Endocrinology

Göteborg, Sweden, 3-7 September 2005

8th European Congress of Endocrinology

Budapest, Hungary, 2007

Other meetings

BES 2003: 22nd Joint Meeting of the British Endocrine Societies

Glasgow, UK, 24-26 March 2003
 Contact: British Endocrine Societies, 22 Apex Court, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4JT (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: www.endocrinology.org/SFE/confs.htm).

13th International Meeting of the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO)

Brussels, Belgium, 6-10 April 2003
 Contact: ESGO Secretariat, 17 Rue du Cendrier, PO Box 1726, CH-1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland (Tel: +41-22-9080488; Fax: +41-22-7322850; Email: esgo13@esgo.org; Web: www.esgo.org/esgo13/).

46th Journées Internationales d'Endocrinologie Clinique: Endocrinology of menopause and 'andropause'

Paris, France, 24-25 April 2003
 Contact: Dr G Copinschi, Laboratory of Experimental Medicine, Brussels Free University CP 618, 808 Route de Lennik, B-1070 Brussels, Belgium (Fax: +32-2-5556239; Email: klotz@ulb.ac.be).

2nd European Consensus Conference. Menopause: State of the Art Toward Consensus

Athens, Greece, 1-4 May 2003
 Contact: CFEF/FEMS executive organization, 12 rue du Quatre-Septembre 75002 Paris, France (Tel: +33-42-865592; Fax: +33-42-604535; Email: eska@club-internet.fr; Web: www.eska.fr).

30th European Symposium on Calcified Tissues

Rome, Italy, 8-12 May 2003
 Contact: Janet Crompton, The Old White Hart, North Nibley, Dursley GL11 6DS, UK (Tel: +44-1453-549929; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: admin@ectsoc.org; Web: www.ectsoc.org).

12th Balkan Congress of Endocrinology and 30th Panhellenic Congress of Endocrinology and Metabolism

Thessaloniki, Greece, 21-25 May 2003
 Contact: Air Maritime-Erasmus Conferences Ltd., 10 Th. Sofouli Street, 546 46 Thessaloniki, Greece (Tel: +30-31-0426962; Fax: +30-31-0426967; Email: info@airmarit-erasmus.gr; Web: www.airmarit-erasmus.gr).

ENDO 2003: 85th Annual Meeting

Philadelphia, PA, USA, 19-22 June 2003
 Contact: Beverly Glover, Administrative Assistant, Meetings, The Endocrine Society, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 500, Bethesda, MD 20814-4410, USA (Tel: +1-301-9410220; Fax: +1-301-9410259; Email: bglover@endo-society.org; Web: www.endo-society.org).

4th International Symposium on Hormonal Carcinogenesis

Valencia, Spain, 21-25 June 2003
 Contact: Tandria Price/Dr Jonathan J Li, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics, Mail Stop 1018, University of Kansas Medical Center, 3901 Rainbow Blvd, Kansas City, KS, 66160-7417, USA (Tel: +1-913-5884744; Fax: +1-913-5884740; Email: tprice@kumc.edu; Web: www.kumc.edu/hormonecancers).

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Serono Foundation for the Advancement of Medical Science Workshop on Inhibins, Activins and Follistatins

Siena, Italy, 3-4 July 2003
 Contact: Pasquale Florio, Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Siena, Viale Bracci, 53100 Siena, Italy (Tel/Fax: +39-05-77233454; Email: obgyn@unisi.it; Web: www.unisi.it/eventi/inhibin2003).

FEBS 2003 Meeting on Signal Transduction. Signal transduction: from membrane to gene expression, from structure to disease

Brussels, Belgium, 4-8 July 2003
 Contact: V Wouters, ICEO (Tel: +32-2-7795959; Fax: +32-2-7795960; Email: febs@iceo.be; Web: www.febs-signal.be).

12th Vitamin D Workshop

Maastricht, The Netherlands, 6-10 July 2003
 Contact: Dr R Bouillon, LEGENDO, Onderwijs en Navorsing (9e Verd), Gasthuisberg, B-3000, Leuven, Belgium (Tel: +32-16-345971; Fax: +32-16-345934; Email: roger.bouillon@medkuleuven.ac.be).

Seminars in Clinical Endocrinology

Crans-Montana, Valais, Switzerland, 6-12 July 2003
 Contact: Dr JM Benichou, 4 villa Eugène Manuel, F-75116 Paris, France (Tel: 00-33-1-45-04-72-74; Fax: 00-33-1-40-72-68-64; Email: jean-michel.benichou@imm.fr).

Joint International Symposium on Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide, Amylin and Calcitonin, 4th Symposium on Adrenomedullin and Proadrenomedullin N-20 Peptide

Zurich, Switzerland, 18-20 March 2004
 Contact: JA Fischer, Research Laboratory for Calcium Metabolism, University of Zurich, Klinik Balgrist, Forchstr. 340, CH-8008 Zürich (Tel: +41-(0)1-386-16-51; Fax: +41-(0)1-386-16-52; Email: fischerj@balgrist.unizh.ch; Web: www.symposium2004.ch).

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