

ESC NEWSLETTER - Volume 6 - Number 3 - 2009

Newsletter from The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health

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Johannes Bitzer



Sarah Randall

Editorial

2009 has been a busy and interesting year for the ESC. We held our first workshop in Budapest in April for 20 young central Europeans which was a great success. We thank Medard Lech for overseeing this venture, which will be repeated in the autumn of 2010. Last month we held the 10th Seminar in Belgrade, with nearly 400 participants. The organising committee reports on this event later in the newsletter. The membership of the society is at an all time high at 1458, with the highest number of new members (485) to date. We had an important Board meeting in Belgrade when we discussed and voted on changes to our Rules. There is more on this below. Our Journal has gone from strength to strength, thanks to the dedicated work of our Editor-in-Chief, Jean-Jacques Amy. Finally, for the first two periods of 2009, we have had record entries for our two grants. With 24 applications for article 14 (assistance with a project) and 5 for article 18 (aid towards running a course).

So what for 2010 and beyond?

We have the 11th Congress to look forward to in The Hague in May. The General Assembly at this congress will be an important event as we need to discuss and vote on changes to our Statutes.

It is planned to hold the 2011 Seminar in Lithuania and the 12th Congress will be in Athens in June 2012. A new venture is to organise a Global meeting in Copenhagen in 2013; and soon, we will be asking for bids for the 14th Congress in 2014. All in all a busy and exciting time ahead.

The other exciting venture for 2010 is that we are to have a new website, fit for the 21st century. This will be based on the excellent work undertaken by our first website developer, Hennie Willemsen, whilst we are pleased that Rob Beerthuizen will continue as webmaster, supported by a new web committee.

We take this opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas and our best wishes for 2010. Our final piece of good news is that the membership fee remains the same for 2010 at 50 euro.

Johannes Bitzer, President and Sarah Randall, Secretary General

Rules, Statutes and Procedures

Rules, Statutes and Procedures

Although this may appear to be a dull subject, it is an important one for our Society and periodically we have to update and amend these documents; and now is the time.

The Statutes lay down the major tenets of our society and changes to these must be decided by the General Assembly. The Rules describe how we manage our affairs and can be changed and agreed by the Board. We also have Procedures, which are agreed by the Executive Committee and deal with day to day issues.

It is easiest to start with the Rules. The revised version will be available on the website in early 2010. The main changes involved formalising, updating and developing policies and procedures for all the committees and expert groups. This means that all vacancies will be advertised on our website, with members submitting an application form that will be circulated to the Board prior to their voting, which will be by secret ballot. Each committee has a detailed proforma listing among other things the duties and responsibilities and mandate of the members. In this way we hope that people who stand for the Board or a committee understand the commitment that is expected of them.

The Statutes have also been reviewed. In light of what is planned for the committees, the Executive and the Board recommend that members wishing to stand for the Board should also complete an application form and that the process is formalised. This means that we would advertise the country vacancies in the early part of the year, followed by secure web based voting for each country. If necessary, voting could be by paper or email. This means that all members can vote rather than just those attending the General Assembly and those who have arranged proxy votes. It also means we can do away with proxy votes which have been so difficult to manage. This will all be explained in more detail early in 2010, with the General Assembly at The Hague making the final decision.

ESC Seminar



Katarina Sedlecky

The 10th Seminar, Belgrade, Serbia

The 10th seminar of The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health was held on September 18 – 19, 2009 in Belgrade, Serbia. This scientific event occupied the attention of many gynaecologists and other healthcare professionals, so that the number of participants was 370 with 59% coming from Serbia and a further 5% from surrounding countries.

The seminar was entitled "Unwanted pregnancy or abortion" with the intention to increase knowledge and reduce barriers to the provision of modern contraception to women and couples. The scientific programme comprised two plenary sessions, eight workshops, two free communication sessions and three sponsored symposia. During the plenary sessions the topics relevant for current contraceptive guidance promotion were presented.

Special attention was paid to the interactive parts of the seminar. Therefore, workshops were designed to enable the exchange of ideas and professional experience, as well as to improve the contraceptive prescribing practice of participants. To facilitate this, there was simultaneous translation into Serbian.



We hope that the participants were satisfied with the social programme, as several different events were organised. Sadly, there were only 19 evaluation sheets returned, but from those that were, the feedback was positive.

Finally, we would like to thank all our colleagues who helped with the planning and organisation including those that helped with registration.

Katarina Sedlecky, Zoran Stankovic and Ana Mitrovic: Local organisers

Winners of the Free Communication and Poster abstracts

There were 62 abstract submissions from which 10 were chosen as Free Communications and 39 as Posters. The winners and holders of joint second place were:

Free Communications

Winner: I.E. Blidaru, M. Roman, I. Catighera, R. Plesca: Compliance and user satisfaction with the injectable contraception in the Family Planning Unit of the "Cuza Voda" Maternity University Hospital. Iasi, Romania.

Data was collected over a 5 year period, with a total of 51,225 consultations. 2,766 women used the injectable, the majority being from rural areas and aged over 30 years. The reasons for choosing this method included breast feeding, medical conditions such as endometriosis and anaemia and contraceptive advantages of the method. On average, the users had 5 injections with a discontinuation rate of 33.5%. There were 16 unwanted pregnancies. In conclusion, the authors stated that the injectable was the ideal method for selected categories of women and that the method was culturally accepted.

Joint Second Place:

O.E. Loeber: Should medical abortion in the Netherlands be used more often? Arnhem, The Netherlands.

V. Ramos, A. Gomes, M. Tavares, T. Bombas, T.S. Fernández, E. Malhiero, P. Moura: Contraceptive behaviour in women seeking for legal abortion. Coimbra, Portugal.

Posters

Winner: L.T. Stanisic, D.V. Zaric: The necessity of sex education of adolescents. Primary Health Care Centre "Novi Sad", Novi Sad, Serbia.

A survey of 1000 Novi Sad male and female adolescents aged 15-19. The survey included questions on periods, menstrual cycles, conditions that can affect reproductive health and situations when conception can occur. There were 56% girls and 44% boys of average age 17.5 years. The girls scored more highly than the boys and educational status was significant. The majority of incorrect answers were in the questions on periods and time of conception in a menstrual cycle. The authors concluded that sex education had to be tailored to cover specific gaps in knowledge and that as students preferred to discuss sex with their peers, that peer educators be used, supervised by teachers.

Joint Second Place:

S.K. Azmat: Perspectives and understanding of law professionals towards the abortion law and women's rights to safe abortion in Pakistan – a qualitative study. Marie Stopes Society, Pakistan

D. Kljatic, G. Vukcevic, Z. Popivoda, D. Radonjic, S. Raicevic: Urgent (emergency) contraception of intrauterine device Multiload 375. Montenegro

New group

New group established for nurses and other non medical professionals

The ESC is pleased to announce that it is to establish a new group for non medical professionals working within contraception, sexual health and abortion. An initial meeting will be held at the 11th ESC Congress in The Hague on Friday 21 May, 2010 from 12:00 to 13:30. This will be an open meeting to discuss the role of this new group, its membership and not least, its name. Please alert any of your colleagues who will be attending the Congress. More details will be available on the ESC website in due course.

Grants

Grants

In 2010 we will again be allocating funds to applicants for articles 14 and 18. The next round of applications will open in January. Application forms can be downloaded from the website. We will also be offering a Humanitarian Aid grant again. Further details will be available on the web early 2010.

Website

Website

Over the last few months, the central office has been researching website companies. Three tenders were accepted and after discussion with the Board, the contract was awarded to PureSign, a Belgian company. They have started initial work on the new structure, including payment of subscriptions on-line, web based voting and a more interactive site. To help with this we are establishing a web committee with a mandate of 2 years. We will keep you posted on this new development.

A new speciality

Sexual and reproductive health - a new speciality

A new specialty of Sexual and Reproductive Health has been established in the United Kingdom with effect from 28th August 2009. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and its Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) have successfully made the application to establish this new independent specialty outside the ESQMO order, having made the case for a "fit for purpose" training programme in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health for doctors in the United Kingdom. The new specialty will be under the umbrella of the RCOG and its new training programme will be delivered and overseen by the Faculty on behalf of its parent College. The new specialty curriculum has been developed and has been submitted to the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB) in the United Kingdom for approval. It is expected that the new training programme will start in 2010.

All materials to be included in the ESC Newsletter should be submitted (electronically) to the: ESC Central Office, Peter Erard, esccentraloffice@contraception-esc.com, Opalfeneweg 3, 1740 Ternat, Belgium, T. +32 2 582 08 52 - F. +32 2 582 55 15 / All Newsletters are also to be found on the website of the Society: www.contraception-esc.com (go to 'News')
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