

ESC NEWSLETTER - Volume 7 - Number 2 - 2010

Newsletter from The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health

Editorial



Editorial

The very successful 11th congress of the ESC lies just behind us and more information about this congress will follow below. Organising this event has been an interesting experience which I have enjoyed very much. Discussing this event, the Local Organizing Committee decided it was a golden opportunity to ask the members to support a declaration acknowledging the need for continuous attention to the sexual and reproductive health needs in some European countries.

The text of the Hague Declaration can be found on our web site. It can be used as a tool to stimulate governments and institutions to support sexual and reproductive health programmes where needed, to facilitate the availability and accessibility of contraception and to organize sexuality education empowering vulnerable people, such as teenagers, immigrants and the poor, to have pleasurable, safe and wanted sex. The Hague Declaration has been approved with an overwhelming majority by the General Assembly. Hopefully it can be used widely and frequently.

In this Newsletter you will find other interesting topics besides the summary of the Congress, such as the awards that have been granted, the new composition of the Board and the new Executive Committee and the decisions approved by the General Assembly. Further there will be a report on the symposium "Modern Contraception and quality of life" by Katarina Sedlecky. You also will find a report on a Seminar, which was jointly organised by the Pro Familia Scientific Society of Hungary and the ESC Hungarian Branch by professor György Bartfai.

Olga Loeber, secretary to the Local Organising Committee

Executive Committee

Dear colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the newly elected Executive Committee I have the pleasure to introduce new members of the ESC official bodies. Johannes Bitzer from Switzerland continues as the President, and Dan Apter from Finland as the Vice President. Katarina Sedlecky from Serbia was elected as Secretary General, assisted by Teresa Bombas, from Portugal. Rob Beerhuizen from The Netherlands became Treasurer, and Patroclos Patroclou from Cyprus the Assistant Treasurer. Jean-Jacques Amy was unanimously reelected as the journal editor-in-chief. We are enthusiastically looking towards new challenges and opportunities to fulfill the mission of the ESC and broaden our activities with the aim of achieving good sexual and reproductive health across Europe and beyond. The realisation of these plans would not be possible without the great support of our experienced and hard working friends Peter Erard, Ria Maes and Nancy Habils from the ESC Central Office, to whom we are very grateful. At the same time, we are very sad that Sarah Randall, Medard Lech and David Cibula are no longer Executive Committee members, and we will miss their experience, wisdom and advice very much. We would like to thank them for the years of commitment, time and energy in supporting the ESC. The composition of the Board of the Directors has changed as well. According to the number of paid-up members from various countries, the country representatives in the Board can be found on our website: www.escrh.eu

Katarina Sedlecky, Secretary General

Congress summary



Rob Beerthuisen



Rik van Lunsen



Elisabeth Aubény



Congress dinner

The best evaluation scores:
Keynote lecture 2
A tribute to
Margaret Sanger
Jean-Jacques Amy

ESC Congress summary

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with great pleasure that we, as congress presidents of the 11th Congress of the European Society and Reproductive Health, both look back at a very successful event full of highlights. We enjoyed the company of colleagues from all over the world in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding that showed that diversity is a blessing instead of a problem. All aspects of the theme "Culture, Communication, Contraception" have been addressed in depth thanks to a variety of presentations of high scientific quality by outstanding speakers who provided us with the latest scientific information.

Because for many it must have been difficult to choose between the various simultaneous sessions we are happy to be able to publish all keynote lectures as well as the complete plenary and congress sessions on the webcast. Of several presentations the complete slideshows are available. Moreover these sessions are downloadable as a podcast as well. So you never have to be bored again when travelling to your work or flying to other congresses. Just take your iPod an relive The Hague! Of the free communications several will be available shortly on our renewed website www.esrch.eu. We thank our sponsors for their financial support and for providing us with the latest information about their new products as well as for the social activities they organised for their guests.

Some figures: over 2300 participants coming from 101 different countries, a new record in the ESC history, attended the congress in The Hague. We received 341 abstracts, resulting in the presentation of a lot of new scientific evidence on several topics related to contraception and reproductive health. The participation of 9 national and international societies, the most ever in ESC history, proved the ever growing merit of our Society worldwide.

We were honored to present the ESC Medal to Prof. Jack Lippes for his outstanding contribution to the Family Planning worldwide as well as the ESC diploma to Elisabeth Aubény for her contribution to the sexual and reproductive health in Europe. Furthermore we could honor two remarkable women: Margaret Sanger and Aletta Jacobs. A beautiful yellow ESC tulip was baptized 'Aletta Jacobs tulip' by professor Saskia Wieringa, president of the Institute for Women's History 'Aletta'. The bulbs will become available this autumn. The sparkling multicultural opening and closing sessions without boring speeches as well as the informal congress dinner along the misty and mysterious North Sea coast made this 11th ESC Congress one you probably will never forget. We hope to see you all back at the 12th ESC Congress in Athens!

Rik van Lunsen and Rob Beerthuisen, congress presidents

Award winners

Please find here the names of the award winners of the 11th ESC Congress in The Hague, The Netherlands.

The abstracts of these award winners can be found on the ESC Website:



Award winners

- **Young Scientist Award - FC-27 / FC-32**
FC-27 Knowledge of HPV and attitudes to HPV vaccination among Swedish high school students - M. Gottvall, M. Larsson, A.T. Höglund, T. Tydén
Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden



M. Gotvall, M. Mattebo, H. Kopp Kallner



S. Kidwai



FC-32 Conflicting messages about sexuality-thoughts and reflections among staff about the effect pornography and sexualised media might have on adolescents - M. Mattebo¹, M. Larsson¹, T. Tydén¹, E. Häggström-Nordin²

¹Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, ²Mälardalen University, Västerås, Sweden

• **Best Free Communication Award - FC-06**

Home self-administration of vaginal misoprostol for medical abortion at 50 to 63 days compared with gestation of below 50 days - H. Kopp Kallner¹, O. Stephansson¹, C. Fiala², K. Gemzell Danielsson¹

¹Dept of Women's and Childrens Health, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, and ²Gynmed Clinic, Vienna, Austria

• **Public Poster Award - P143**

Female rehabilitation after medical abortion - G. Omarova, G. Daliyeva Kazakh National Medical University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

• **Best Poster Award - P073**

Impact of religious background on termination of pregnancy decision and perceived need for post-termination counseling - S. Kidwai, A. Brown, L. Lynch, H. Nixon - Sandyford Initiative, Glasgow, United Kingdom

General Assembly

General Assembly at The Hague

The biennial General Assembly of ESC Members took place in The Hague on 21 May 2010. The minutes of this meeting are available on the website. The most important items were the following:

- The minutes of the last General Assembly (Prague, Czech Republic, 2 May 2008) were agreed
- The number of ESC members has been continuously increasing, so that it has now reached a total of 1536
- The number of societies affiliated to the ESC has been increasing, too, reaching the 9, with 462 affiliated members
- Proposed changes to the Statutes were ratified by the General Assembly
- It was decided to change the awards, so that the diploma established to honour outstanding organisational support and activity within the ESC itself in accordance with the aims of the Society would be replaced by a second medal
- The financial report was followed by the election of four ESC members who would audit the financial report (Rik van Lunsen, Angelo Cagnacci, Gabriele Merki-Feld, Mireille Merck)
- Internal Scientific Committee and Expert Groups reports submitted prior to the General Assembly were ratified
- Applications for support, granted projects and support of humanitarian activities were advised to members prior to the GA and are available in the website.
- Among five bids to host 2014 ESC Congress, Portugal (Lisbon) was chosen with an absolute majority of votes
- Announcement of the next ESC Workshop, which will be held in Budapest, 5-8 November, 2010.

Non-doctor meeting

The first non-doctor members meeting at ESC Congress, The Hague, 21 May 2010

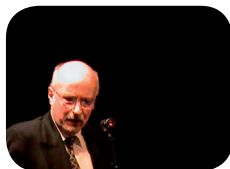


At the ESC congress in The Hague the first meeting of non doctor members of ESC was held. This was co-ordinated by Shelley Mehigan, a specialist contraceptive nurse from the UK. Twelve individuals attended from six different countries and included specialist contraceptive nurses, midwife, social worker, researchers and nurse working in an abortion clinic. The group decided that it did not wish to form a separate group but rather encourage non doctor members to be more active within the current ESC committees and groups. The new application form will allow us to identify non doctor members so that an informal network could be developed.

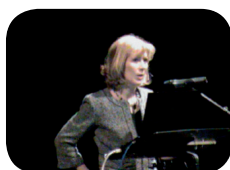


The group decided it would be useful to try and find out what roles are taken by which professionals in the different countries and more work is proceeding on this topic. It was also suggested that notices are put in the ESC Journal and newsletter to encourage more non doctors to join ESC and also to use it as an opportunity to advertise vacancies on ESC committees that they may join.

Symposium Belgrade



Jean-Jacques Amy



Katarina Sedlecky

Symposium “Modern contraception and quality of life”

The first national meeting of gynaecologists related to various aspects of modern contraception use was held on March 25th, 2010 in Belgrade, Serbia. Organised by Republic Family Planning Centre, it was attended by 550 participants and supported by the Gynaecology and Obstetrics Section of the Serbian Medical Society. In the scientific programme a session of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health, consisting of two lectures, was very well accepted and valued. The first lecture “Critical reading” was given by Prof. Em. Jean-Jacques Amy, and the second “Contraceptive counseling” by Katarina Sedlecky instead of Sarah Randall who couldn’t manage to attend the meeting. This session was preceded by the plenary session with six lectures, and three round tables on the topics of combined hormonal, intra-uterine and postcoital contraception. According to the evaluation results, the participants of the symposium “Modern contraception and quality of life” were satisfied. Therefore, organisers are planning to organise another similar meeting in October in the southern part of Serbia.

Katarina Sedlecky

Seminar Budapest

Report of the Seminar of the Pro Familia Scientific Society of Hungary - 27 November 2009

The Seminar of the Pro Familia Scientific Society of Hungary entitled “Sexual and reproductive health – prevention” took place in Budapest. The Seminar was inducted among others by Dr. Melinda Medgyaszai (under-secretary at the Ministry of Health), Prof. Dr. Hakan Satiroglu (IPPF), Prof. Dr. Medard Lech (ESC) and Prof. Dr. György Bártfai (president of the Pro Familia Society of Hungary).

The scientific program started with the prevention of premature birth, sexually transmitted infections and continued with sessions of contraception and induced abortion. The Hungarian Branch of the European Society of Contraception held a separate session with distinguished representatives to introduce the status, experiences and current view of reproductive health and caesarean section in their countries: Prof. Dr. Medard Lech, ESC, Prof. Dr. Hakan Satiroglu, IPPF, Prof. Dr. Sinan Ozalp, ESC, Prof. Dr. Tihomir Vejnovic (Serbia), Prof. Gheorghe Furau and Prof. Petru Chitulea (Romania).

A special session focused on developing family life and peer education in schools. The presentations introduced the role of contemporary educators and the methods and experiences of the „Health, rights and choice for everyone – Light & Love Project” (with the support of the EC).

György Bartfai

All materials to be included in the ESC Newsletter should be submitted (electronically) to the: ESC Central Office, Nancy Habils, 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: <http://www.escrih.eu/publications/newsletter>
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