

Editorial



Editorial

I would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors who trusted me with the presidency of our society for the next two years at their Board meeting in Lisbon. It is a great honour for me, but also a challenge, to continue the excellent work of the past president. I am very happy to work together with the new Executive Committee. Without a doubt, it is the input and engagement of our predecessors that has led to the current success of the European Society for Contraception and Reproductive Health (ESC). Besides the day-to-day management of the ESC we will need to maintain, and even reinforce, the strong position of the ESC, aiming at improving reproductive health in Europe and beyond. There are many complementary approaches which should run in parallel. One is the further development of our educational activities. Another important task is to implement science into clinical practice through evidence-based guidelines and statements. We need to continue providing a platform where all professionals, within the field of contraception and reproductive health, can meet and exchange ideas and have a good time together. I am really looking forward to working with all of you and hope to receive your input on how to move our important work forward. We will need to stay active to expand access to, and knowledge about, reproductive health and rights in Europe and beyond.

Let us share these tasks and support each other to achieve this.

Each of us

Sharing a

Common vision

to implement science and evidence to improve reproductive health and rights in Europe and globally.

ESC President, Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson

13th ESC Congress



The 13th ESC Congress, Lisbon, 28-31 May 2014 - Challenges in Sexual and Reproductive Health

The 13th Congress of the ESC took place in Lisbon, Portugal from May 28th to 31st 2014. The Congress was organised by the ESC in conjunction with local organisers, the Portuguese Society of Contraception, and with the support of the Portuguese Federation of the Societies of Gynaecology & Obstetrics. The global theme of the Congress was 'Challenges in Sexual and Reproductive Health'. Approximately 2400 participants attended both from European and non-European countries. As proposed, the most recent scientific information regarding contraception and reproductive health was presented. The different policies regarding access to sexual education, contraception and safe abortion, which form a barrier to the equality of sexual and reproductive health services in different countries and limit individual rights to a satisfactory sexual life, were discussed. Excellent, well-known speakers were invited by the ESC and there were joint sessions - between ESC and some of the most important organisations and societies working on family planning such as WHO, ESSM, EBCOG, SEGO, ISPOG, ECEC, FSRH, FIAPAC, SFC - took place. Part of the scientific program was interactive, including workshops, debates and meet-the-expert sessions - organised by the ESC Expert Groups with the aim of sharing the best and most up-to-date practical knowledge with professionals.

In keeping with tradition, the 2014 ESC meeting was not only about science but also had a social component that was much appreciated by all. The beautiful city of Lisbon was host with the charm of an old city and the facilities of a modern one, accompanied by superb traditional cuisine. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all colleagues who collaborated with the scientific program; to all the societies that co-hosted the joint sessions; to all the attendees who contributed to, and participated in, the interactive sessions; and, finally, to the the ESC and Mundiconvenius staff who worked very hard to make the meeting not only possible but a success.

Congress impressions: www.eschr.eu/slide-show-esccongress-lisbon-2014

Teresa Bombas, Congress President

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) released the following statement: "The European Medicines Agency has concluded its review of emergency contraceptives containing levonorgestrel or ulipristal acetate to assess whether increased bodyweight affects the effectiveness of these medicines in preventing unintended pregnancy following unprotected sexual intercourse or contraceptive failure. The Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) recommends that these emergency contraceptives can continue to be used in women of all weights as the benefits are considered to outweigh the risks."

Profile picture of the new Executive Committee member

Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson - President

I hold a position as Professor and Chair of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Reproductive Health at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden and as Senior Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Karolinska University Hospital where I am responsible for all clinical education within the hospital. I have been the Director of the WHO Collaboration Centre for Research and Research training in Human Reproduction at Karolinska Institutet for many years.. I am also a member of the International Committee for Contraceptive Research (ICCR) at the Population Council, of FIGO's working group on prevention of unsafe abortion, head of the Swedish Association for Family Planning (within the Swedish Society for Obstetrics and Gynaecology) and have been the president of FIAPAC (www.fiapac.org) for some years. I head a large research group working on translational research including experimental research, clinical trials and global reproductive health. I have been an ESC member for many years, a Board member for some of those years, convener of the Expert Group on aAbortion, a member of the Internal Scientific Committee and a member of the Editorial Board of our Journal. I enjoy teamwork in various forms, in the clinic, in the various committees and organisations where I am involved, in research and within the ESC. As we all know access to effective and safe contraceptive methods and safe abortion is a prerequisite for reproductive health and for reducing maternal mortality and morbidity. It is thus fundamental to individuals and for society. However, many obstacles have to be overcome before reaching these goals. I am happy and proud to be president of the ESC and a member of the Executive Committee. I believe that the ESC has enormous potential in implementing research, increasing knowledge, improving education, disseminating information and in bringing people together. I am looking forward to working together and to seeing some of you again at the ESC session at the FIAPAC conference in Ljubljana in October and at the ESC Seminar next year!

Gabriele Merki - Vice-President

PD Dr Gabriele S.Merki-Feld is a gynaecologist and obstetrician. She is responsible for family planning and adolescent gynaecology in the University Hospital of Zurich. During the last 22 years she has published more than 60 articles in the field of contraception and 32 peer-reviewed articles in her areas of research. Her research interests include mainly issues around effects of hormonal contraception on different aspects of women's health: effects of hormonal contraceptives on bone density and cardiovascular risk markers; effects of progestin-only contraception on less known risk markers; headache and migraine in the context of hormonal contraception; and effects of IUDs on the risk for tubal infertility. Furthermore she investigated changes in the use of EC following permission for use over-the-counter. Another publication addressed the question of what bleeding patterns women would choose at different ages, if they could manipulate their cycle with hormones. Dr.Merki has been a member of the ESC Expert Group for Hormonal and Future Molecular Contraception for 4 years. During this time she wrote two statements - the last one with regard to obesity and contraception will be published in the ESC Journal. In Switzerland she has been the President of the Working Group for Contraception for 6 years and is a board member of the Swiss Society for Adolescent Gynaecology; the Working Group for Reproductive medicine; and the Headache Society. Her aims as a member of the ESC Executive Committee are: to commit to improving access to efficient and healthy contraceptive methods in all European countries; to improving knowledge of doctors and nurses about contraceptive methods; to supporting the organisation of family planning services; and to lobbying for over-the-counter access to emergency contraception in all countries (including ulipristal acetate).

Medard Lech - Secretary General

Medard M. Lech MD, PhD, FPCOG, DPH (1942) gynaecologist/obstetrician who was born and graduated in Warsaw, Poland. He has had a long professional career in Poland, Nigeria, Malta, Swaziland and Iraq. After completing a scientific/teaching role (Head of Department) in the State Postgraduate Center of Medical Education (Warsaw, Poland) he has, since 2006, had an independent role (Director) in the AD REM - Fertility and Sterility Res. Center of Warsaw. He is the author of over a hundred scientific publications and books - among which the most important is the "Safe motherhood and HIV/AIDS epidemiological situation among women in Swaziland" published in 1997. He has been a member of the ESC since 1998; a member of the Board of Directors (2004-2010 and 2012-present), Treasurer (2006-2010). President of the Organising and Scientific





Pictures from top: Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson, Gabriele Merki, Medard Lech, Kai Haldre, Rob Beerthuizen, Patroclos Patroclou

Committee of ESC Seminar in Warsaw (2005); a member of the Expert Group of Hormonal Contraception (2010-present); an editor of the European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care (2006-2014).

Kai Haldre - Assistant Secretary

Dr Kai Haldre, MD, PhD, gynaecologist, works as the head of the Centre for Reproductive Medicine (CRM) in West Tallinn Central Hospital Women's Clinic in Tallinn, Estonia. CRM provides infertility care for men and women, including IVF/ICSI. She worked for many years additionally as a researcher and lecturer at the University of Tartu, Estonia. Dr Haldre is certified by the Nordic Association for Clinical Sexology as a clinical sexologist. Dr Haldre's publications are about sexual health and behaviour of young people in Estonia, she has contributed to the creation of clinical guidelines in Estonia and school textbooks; she is a co-author of a UNESCO study on the cost and cost-effectiveness of school-based sexuality education programmes. She is a founding member of the Estonian Academic Society for Sexology (member of the Nordic Association for Clinical Sexology and World Association for Sexual Health) and directed the Estonian Sexual Health Association, a member organisation of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, from its establishment in 1994 to 2001, serving currently as a board member. She has been a member of FIGO Committee for Sexual and Reproductive Rights in 2008-2009.

Rob Beerthuizen - Treasurer

Rob Beerthuizen MD, PhD (1944) is a general gynaecologist/obstetrician, who was practising in the regional hospital, Queen Beatrix Winterswijk, The Netherlands until 1997. In that year he founded the Dutch Foundation for Contraception and remains as Director to this day. In 1979 he published his thesis on the histological effects of intra-uterine contraceptive devices on the Fallopian tubes. He has been involved in several clinical studies on intra-uterine and hormonal contraception. He became member of the ESC in 1996. Since then he has been active within the Society as a Board member (2000–2006 and 2008–present); a member of both the Internal Scientific Committee and the Expert group on Non-hormonal methods of Contraception; Congress President of the 11th ESC Congress in The Hague (2010); a member of the Editorial Board of our Journal; and since 2010, as Treasurer, a member of the Executive Committee. Since 2001 he has also been the webmaster. He is married to Franci, has 2 children and 7 grandchildren.

Patroclos Patroclou - Assistant Treasurer

Born in Limassol, Cyprus. Medical School – Vienna University, specialised in obstetrics and gynaecology in London, England. In private practice in a privately-owned clinic. 2010-present: a member of the Executive committee of the ESC as Assistant Treasurer.

Board of Directors

Who represents your country in the newly elected Board of Directors of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health?

Board of directors

Austria	Fiala, C.	Latvia	Baumane - Auza, D.
Belgium	Weyers, S.	Lithuania	Zilaitiene, B.
Belgium	Merckx, M.	Lithuania	Vanagiene, V.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Cengic, E.	Poland	Lech, M.
Croatia	Pavicic Baldani, D.	Portugal	do Céu Almeida, M.
Cyprus	Patroclou, P.	Portugal	Palma, F.
Denmark	Skouby, S.	Romania	Birladeanu, C.
Estonia	Haldre, K.	Russia	Erofeeva, L.
Finland	Heikinheimo, O.	Russia	Prilepskaya, V.
France	Gompel, A.	Serbia	Kapamadzija, A.
Germany	Mueck, A.	Slovenia	Pinter, B.
Greece	Deligeoroglou, E.	Spain	Lertxundi Barañano, R.
Greece	Salakos, N.	Spain	Angeles Gomez, M.
Hungary	Bartfai, G.	Sweden	Gemzell Danielsson, K.
Hungary	Gyarmati, B.	Switzerland	Frey Tirri, B.
Ireland	Short, M.	Switzerland	Merki, G.
Israel	Seidman, D.	The Netherlands	Jansen van Hees, A.
Israel	Ber, A.	The Netherlands	Beerthuizen, R.
Italy	Arisi, E.	Turkey	Ozalp, S.
Italy	Di Carlo, S.	United Kingdom	Mehigan, S.
Kazakhstan	Grebennikova, G.A.	United Kingdom	Kishen, M.
		USA	Sivin, I.



WCD



World Contraception Day, 26 September 2014

World Contraception Day (WCD) takes place on September 26th every year. Launched in 2007, WCD's mission is to improve awareness of all contraceptive methods to enable young people around the world to make informed decisions on their sexual and reproductive health. The campaign is supported by several NGOs including the ESC. The overall theme continues to be 'Its your life; its your future' with the following sub themes: Know your options, Know your body, Know your partner. In 2014, a key aim is to maintain momentum for WCD throughout the year by facilitating communications opportunities outside of WCD itself. Perhaps your organisation can think about mentioning WCD in any events you have planned for 2014. WCD does not just have to be 26 September - consider it all the year round.

Sarah Randall, ESC Representative

ESC Congress Award winners



*Young Scientist Award
Sara de Meyer
Mylene Ouzaud Cornabas*

13th ESC Congress, Award Winners

We received an amazing selection of abstracts. After an initial round of marking, 36 were offered a free communication slot including seven for the Young Scientist Award and 263 were given the opportunity to submit an e-poster. Board members and other colleagues kindly attended the oral presentations and a separate group evaluated the posters - all using a similar, standardised marking grid. After some heated discussions between members of the free communication and poster committees a final selection was made.

The Young Scientist Award was split between two presenters:

FC04.2: Sara de Meyer from the International Center for Reproductive Health in Ghent for her work entitled 'Positive attitudes towards gender equality go hand in hand with a safe and happy sex life among adolescents: results from a cross sectional study in Bolivia and Ecuador'.

FC04.7: Mylene Ouzaud Cornabas from Bicetre, France for her presentation: 'The 2013 pill scare in France; a socio-epidemiological perspective on the impact of the crisis on contraceptive practices'.

The Free Communication prize was awarded to Beverly Winikoff's group from Gynuity Health Projects, New York, USA for their project: FC00.3: Task shifting postabortion care services: the integration of sublingual misoprostol. The markers felt that this work had the potential to be translated to other countries.

Six presenters were chosen to attend the Best Poster session but, sadly, only three arrived. The assessors felt that all three were deserving of the prize and so it was split between them.

The three winners were:

A-106: Private sector in provision of modern contraceptive method in middle and low income countries. Lenka Benova; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK.

A-124: In-vitro study on the effect of ulipristal acetate on human embryo implantation using trophoblastic spheroid and endometrial cell co-culture model. Hang Wun Raymond Li; The University of Hong Kong, Dept of O&G, Hong Kong.

A-233: Knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases of seasonal migratory agricultural workers in Turkey. Fatma Ersin; Harran University of Nursing, Sanliurfa, Turkey.

Sarah Randall, Coordinator of the Free Communications and Poster sessions

ESC General Assembly

ESC General Assembly (GA) 2014

The biennial GA of the ESC took place on 29 May 2014 in Lisbon, Portugal. 156 members attended the meeting by which the needed quorum was reached. The reports of the Secretary General and the Treasurer reached all members prior to the GA. There were no questions from the members who were present. Two members were elected to review the written statement of accounts. Hungary was chosen as host for the 2018 Congress. No agenda items were requested by members. An overview of the new Board of Directors was presented. The minutes of the meeting are published on the website in the 'members only' section.

Event

Upcoming event

- **14th ESC Congress, Spring 2016, Basel, Switzerland**
Contraception from molecular biology to social science and politics