



# European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology

[www.euroespa.org](http://www.euroespa.org)

## ESPA President's report 2012

Dear members of ESPA,

The ESPA president's report is both a traditional method of informing members and other interested parties about the activities of Society and an official, statutory document summarizing and archiving the proceedings and actions of the Society over the previous year. In this third year of our existence the Executive Board has continued its efforts to establish ESPA on the European anaesthesia stage and to offer members an increasing number of helpful services, such as access to the video archives of congress proceedings and the F 1000 website as well as a substantial reduction in both the registration fee for ESPA congresses and the subscription to Pediatric Anesthesia.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society has continued to grow. As of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 ESPA had nearly 400 members in the database including a small number of honorary, affiliate and trainee members. The membership fee has been kept as low as possible which means that we cannot cover the running costs of the Society from the fees alone. To keep the Society viable we need in the first instance to continue to focus on running good quality and well attended congresses and this remains one of our chief activities.

ESPA believes that it is very important to listen to the needs of our members. Last year we held a general survey among all members. This year we have surveyed the national societies to determine the most important current issues in paediatric anaesthesia at national level.

### NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

In May of this year ESPA members voted for a new Executive Board who will take office directly after the annual congress in Stresa. Peter Crean and Karin Becke were been re-elected as members of the board and Ehrenfried Schindler was re-elected as honorary treasurer. Newly elected on to the board are Per-Arne Lönnqvist, Marzena Zielinska, Tom Hansen, Riku Aantaa and Torsten Lauritsen who will become our new honorary secretary. Neil Morton was elected as the next president of the society and will take office in 2013. In the meantime Neil will function as vice-president.

I would like to thank warmly the members of the executive board who are stepping down after having worked very hard to establish ESPA in the first years: Ton Schouten, Kerstin Sandström, Ida Salvo, Ignacio Galvez, Olli Meretoja and especially Marcin Rawicz, who has served ESPA and FEAPA as board member, honorary secretary and president during three decades!

### CONGRESSES

The scientific committee under the chairmanship of Neil Morton and the congress committee under the chairmanship of Ton Schouten have been very active this year. The 2012 congress in Stresa promises to be one of the most ambitious ESPA meetings to date having an attractive and extended scientific programme with 5 parallel streams including many interactive sessions. This design has resulted in an increase in faculty and associated costs and the extended programme is being run in Stresa on an experimental basis. The scientific programme has been devised on the basis of a needs-assessment

derived from the feedback from previous congresses and the members' survey of 2011. This is fully in line with the new requirements of the accreditation policy of the European Union of Medical Specialists, which has again recognised the ESPA congress for the maximum number of accreditation points. For their hard work in organising this congress I would like to thank the chairs of the two ESPA committees already mentioned and especially Ida Salvo and her local organizing committee for their untiring efforts to make this congress a success. The Stresa congress is being held in cooperation with the Italian Society for Paediatric and Neonatal Anaesthesia and Critical Care (SARNePI) and cooperation between our two societies has been most fruitful.

The September 2013 ESPA annual congress will be held in Geneva jointly with both the Swiss Society of Paediatric Anaesthesia (SGKA) and the American Society of Pediatric Anesthesia (SPA). Walid Habre and his team are already working very hard to develop and promote this congress and we hope to finalise the scientific programme shortly after the Stresa meeting. In 2014 the ESPA congress will be held in Prague and the venue for 2015 will be decided during the Stresa congress. By applying the protocol for the organization of ESPA congresses drawn up by the executive board last year each of these congresses will have a clear ESPA character. However, each meeting will also take on a local flavour, which is part of the appeal of international congresses. As a further step forward, after many years of debate, the feeling is that we should be looking to employ a permanent PCO to organise our congresses from 2015 onwards.

In addition to the annual congresses ESPA will be holding a number of joint meetings in the coming years. In June 2013 we will be in Cambridge together with the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (APA) at their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting. As the longest established paediatric anaesthesia society in Europe, the APA has been supportive of ESPA since its inception. In the spring of 2015 we hope to hold a similar joint meeting with the French Society for Paediatric Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (ADARPEF). We are also exploring the possibility of a joint meeting with the Russian society at a later date.

ESPA is also participating in the International Assembly for Pediatric Anesthesia, organised by the American SPA in October of this year. This will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SPA and ESPA will be there to take part in the celebrations.

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIETIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The link between ESPA and national societies of paediatric anaesthesia remains important and ESPA's Advisory Council of Representatives of National Societies (ACORNS) is a unique forum for discussion between these societies. As mentioned earlier, this year ESPA has surveyed the most important issues in all member countries and received a high response rate. A number of generic themes were selected from this survey for discussion and debate at the ACORNS meeting in Stresa.

ESPA believes that much is to be gained from cooperation between medical societies in Europe. It is therefore also a great pleasure to be able to welcome the European Resuscitation Council (ERC), the European Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiologists (EACTA) and the European Society of Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care (ESPNIC) to the ESPA congress, each of whom will be holding a joint session in Stresa. ESPA was also very pleased to accept an invitation from ESPNIC to hold a joint session at their congress in June 2013. ESPA is also pleased to be one of the European societies endorsing the first European Congress on Pediatric Resuscitation and Emergency Medicine to be held in Ghent, Belgium in May 2013.

Over the last year we have also continued our relationship with the OrphanAnesthesia project which is a joint project of the both German Society of Anesthesiology (DGAI) and its Scientific Working Group of Pediatric Anesthesia, the Orphanet organisation and ESPA. There are now 13 fully worked-out evidence-based guidelines available on the OrphanAnesthesia website and another 20 are being developed. The website is well worth a visit.

## COMMITTEES

The committee and core-officer structure set up last year appears to be working well and has reduced our meeting costs. The core-officers of the Society, being the president, vice-president, honorary secretary and honorary treasurer, hold regular Skype meetings and liaise with the committee chairs,

while the whole Executive Board meets only twice a year, once at the annual congress. This has led to a 25% reduction in meeting costs compared to last year.

Apart from the congress and scientific committees already mentioned, the other ESPA committees have also been active in the past year. Through the ESPA pain and patient safety committees we have established a link with the QUIPSI-group which stands for the Quality Improvement in Postoperative Pain for Infants project. This is a system of data collection and feedback to participating hospitals on the incidence and intensity of post-operative pain and of patients' satisfaction with pain treatment. We believe this to be a potentially powerful tool for the improvement post-operative pain services for children. ESPA is helping to establish an expert group to develop an implementation plan for the project. Six prominent European paediatric anaesthesiologists have shown interest in the project and we hope to hold the first meeting of the group in Stresa.

The ESPA guidelines committee has collated a number of English language evidence-based guidelines for the ESPA website. We hope to build these into an electronic guideline-library which will provide paediatric anaesthesiologists throughout Europe with a useful educational resource. Also to be found on the website will be a universal operative safety checklist, based on that of the WHO, which was developed by the patient safety committee under the chairmanship of Ehrenfried Schindler in response to requests from members.

The ESPA education committee has drawn up a first draft for a list of competencies for safe anaesthesia for children under one year old which will be presented at Stresa. This is very much a "work-in-progress" and we need the input from members from around Europe to develop it further.

Newly set up this year is the ESPA Paediatric Regional Anaesthesia committee which has as its primary aim the development of a web-based concise and up-to-date information source for paediatric anaesthesiologists wishing to learn about and discuss regional anaesthetic techniques. This committee under the chairmanship of Steve Roberts is currently creating a library of visual material including video clips and artwork of all blocks which, after careful editing will be made available via the ESPA website.

Also new this year is the ESPA Task Force Anaesthetic Services for Children under the interim chairmanship of Neil Morton, which is charged with reviewing and up-dating the older FEAPA guidelines on anaesthetic services. The task force has been set up at the specific request of members as expressed in both last year's members' survey and subsequent communications to the Society.

## CLOSING REMARKS

Dear members, ESPA is a society which exists for its members. I think we can be proud of the fact that, although still a relatively young society, we have already booked some significant achievements. We plan to do much more in the coming years. To what extent we will be successful depends on your input as a member of the Society. Together we can make a change. Together we can improve the anaesthetic care of children in Europe even further. I look forward to many years of fruitful international cooperation in all areas where anaesthesiologists care for children – the preoperative clinic, operating theatre, the wards, intensive care unit, emergency department and outside the hospital - and in all areas of our practice – clinical, organizational and scientific.



Nigel Turner,  
President of ESPA.

Utrecht, September 2012