



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017-8

1 Pertti Kristian Suominen

First, Pertti Suominen suddenly passed away at the beginning of January 2018. He was an enthusiastic and hard-working member of the ExBo and we all miss him.



2 Dual Membership

Under the impulse of its Past-President, Ehrenfried Schindler, the ExBo decided to propose a reduced registration fee to the members of national associations or societies represented in the ACORNS of ESPA. The aim of this initiative is to increase the membership of ESPA and to make the Society a stronger representative of the paediatric anaesthesia community in Europe. Different modalities were discussed. Finally, a proposal for a dual membership was finalised in March. In brief : if you register via your Paediatric or National Association or Society, you pay only 15 euros in addition to your annual fee to become a full member of ESPA for one year. The results will be evaluated after a 2 years period trial. The Scandinavian group, Serbia and The Netherlands already decided to offer this dual

membership through the members of their Paediatric Anaesthesia Society or Association. France will do in 2019. As this was proposed rather late in the year, at a time when most Societies have already received the membership fee for the ongoing year, we must wait 2019 to evaluate the full effect of this initiative. On the 5th September 2018, there were 570 members of ESPA among which 133 benefited of dual membership: 45 from Scandinavia, 54 from The Netherlands, 30 from Serbia and 4 from Estonia. There are 33 trainee members, 38 affiliated members and 7 Honorary Members.

In May, Guarant International, introduced a new membership management system called CLAUDIN. There were some difficulties at the start but everything seems to be settled now.

3 Elections

Elections were organised in May. The new members elected are: Laslo Vutskits (CH) as President –elect, Claudia Hoehne (GER) as Treasurer, Suellen Walker (UK) as chair of the Scientific Committee, Dusica Dimic (SE), Peter Frykholm (Swe) and Tamas Kovesi (Hun). They will start their service to ESPA at the end of the Congress but were already invited to participate to the meetings of the ExBo in Brussels. PA Lonnqvist, who was the link person between ESPA and SubCommittee 5 of ESA will step down in December and be replaced by Nada Sabourdin (F).

The following members will leave the EXBo after the Congress in Brussels: Eva Schaffrath-Jurgens, Maria Vittinghoff and Michael Brackhahn. I thank them all for their work and enthusiasm. I also thank Ehrenfried Schindler for his outstanding Presidency in 2016-7 and his help as Past-President.

4 Young ESPA

It was decided during the last ExBo meeting to invite a representative of your young membership as a member of the ExBo. The job description and candidate profile will be written before the end of this year and we plan to organise the election of this new ExBo member in May next year.

5 Congress in Brussels

Thanks to the hard work of the local organising committee under the leadership of Nadia Najafi, of the Scientific Committee lead by Laszlo Vutskits, and Guarant International, this combined ESPA Congress and Second International Assembly for Pediatric Anesthesia could finally be organised. We should be able to achieve the goal of 500 participants even though organising a Congress so soon in September can make participation difficult for some colleagues (end of Summer holiday, begin of school).

6 Future Congresses

It was announced in Glasgow that the 2019 ESPA Congress would be organised in Trondheim, Norway. After a local visit and open discussions with Erik Ramon Isern who had invited ESPA to go to Trondheim, it was finally decided that due to the high local costs and

additional cost due to difficult access (more days on site for speakers), it was better to choose another location. Fortunately, Jurgen De Graaff and his colleagues of The Netherlands were able to propose quickly a solid alternative solution : Rotterdam. The 2019 ESPA Congress will thus be organised in Rotterdam from 19 to 21 September.

The 2020 World Congress of Anaesthesia will be organised in Prague. We had excellent contacts with the WFSA representatives and proposed that ESPA organises the paediatric program of the Congress. Whether the 12th ESPA annual Congress will be the Paediatric Satellite Meeting of the World Congress is still open to discussion.

The SGIP (Special Interest Group in Paediatric Anaesthesia), now called CIG (Common Interest Group), created at the initiative of Andrew Davidson is very active thanks to the input and enthusiasm of David Linscott, Randall Flick and Laszlo Vutskits. It includes the representatives of the main paediatric anaesthesia societies around the world, in addition to ESPA: SPA (USA), SPANZA (Australia & New Zealand), APAGBI (UK), SARNEPI (Italy), ADARPEF (France) CPAS (Canada) and also from Germany, Japan and China. We look forward including other countries from South America, Asia and Africa. Andrew Davison, Brian Anderson and Mark Thomas are part of the group as representing the journal *Pediatric Anesthesia*. Thanks to Randall Flick, the SPA offered free secretarial support. David Linscott organised a special internet network for the group. The group decided to organize an International Assembly for Pediatric Anesthesia every 4 years in alternance with the World Congress of Anaesthesia organised by the WFSA.

Excellent contacts were also established with ESPNIC and EAPS. Future congresses of these societies will include topics and speakers proposed by ESPA.

7 Achievements:

The ESPA members were very active. Here follows the list of the published results of their work, the yield of my predecessors' input :

- The ***Pain Ladder*** initiative group under the heading of Maria Vittinghoff was able to write very interesting guidelines which were published in *Pediatric Anesthesia* 2018; 28: 493-506.

- ***Tramadol*** statement: in reaction to the new directives of the FDA and the EMA [https://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Periodic_safety_update_single_assessment/2018/03/WC500245268.pdf], a statement about the safe use of tramadol in children was published on the ESPA website.

- ***Fasting*** statement: the APAGBI proposed us to support and co-sign its new statement about pre-anaesthesia fasting in children. This statement, which was also supported by the board of the ADARPEF (France) was published in *Pediatric Anesthesia* 2018; 28:411-4.

- ***European Refresher Course on Paediatric Anaesthesia*** in collaboration with ESA: following the publication of the results of APRICOT, the Subcommittee 5 (Paediatric Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Chair- Karin Becke and now Nicola Disma) of ESA contacted the board of ESPA to organize an European Refresher Course on Paediatric

Anaesthesia on Friday June 1st together, just before the ESA Congress in Copenhagen. This was successful and very well attended. We hope this shall be renewed in 2019 in Vienna.

- *An e-learning platform* was prepared by the Scandinavian Society under the heading of Torsten Lauristen. It was launched by Eva Schaffrath-Jurgens and Mathias Johansen on the website on August 7, 2018. Four modules are already active. A specific subcommittee will be set up shortly.

8 Future research :

Airway management: a working group of the APAGBI, SPANZA, SPA and DAS (Difficult Airway Society) invited us to participate to the redaction of a “Consensus approach to the paediatric airway”. This work is still underway.

Chronic pain or chronic post-surgical pain: Maria Vittinghoff will propose to the ExBo, the ESPA Pain committee and ACORNS to go further by proposing guidelines on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of chronic post-surgical pain in children.

Sedation statement: the working group on paediatric sedation lead by Marzenia Zielinska was wrote a consensus statement that was submitted for publication in Pediatric Anesthesia. The group is currently thinking about the best way to address the reviewers’ critics and suggestions. As one of the critics was about membership support, we propose that the revised version be published on the member section of the website during a 6 weeks period of time so as to allow everyone to read and gives their opinion before resubmitting it for publication.

We should look at other topics of interest in the field of paediatric anaesthesia in order to improve education and improve quality of care. Maintaining the research network initiated by APRICOT and NECTARINE is very important: all multicentric research projects are welcome.

9 What for developing countries ?

As during the first IAPA in Washington, we decided to offer a scholarship to some young anaesthesiologists from low income countries. This meant combining the opportunity to attend our Congress for free and sponsoring an additional 1-2 week-long stay in a paediatric anaesthesia department in Europe. Unfortunately, very few were actually invited. We need to analyse the reasons for this in order to be more successful next time. In the mean time, we need to think about means to make the content of our congresses easily available to our colleagues working in difficult situations: podcasting of lectures, e-learning and other initiatives should be studied.

Next GA: September 20th 2019 in Rotterdam

Francis Veyckemans

September 2018