

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

The European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology

ISSUE #15



The ESPA society aims to provide a variety of services for anaesthesiologists involved in paediatric anaesthesia which

include: coordination and organisation of an

annual international congress on paediatric

anaesthesia via local organisation planning; establishing guidelines on the training, organisation

and practice of paediatric anaesthesia; and acting as a centre of expertise for paediatric

.anaesthesiology



Dear Colleagues,

I hope 2018 started nicely for and your family. This letter is meant to share some information about the actions of the Executive Board (ExBo) of ESPA since the successful Congress of ESPA in Glasgow.

First, ***Pertti Suominen*** suddenly passed away at the beginning of January. He was an enthusiastic and hard-working member of the ExBo and we all miss him. You will find his obituary further in this Newsletter.

Important decisions for the future were taken. 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. In brief : if you register via your Paediatric or National Association or Society, you only need to pay 15 euros in addition to your annual fee to be a member of ESPA for one year. Please contact your paediatric or national Association or Society to know whether you are able to benefit from this offer. 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.

The ExBo also endorsed a statement on ***preoperative fasting for clear fluids*** initially written by the APAGBI. It is meant to encourage colleagues to allow all healthy children to be offered clear fluids (3ml/kg) up to one hour before induction of an elective procedure, as published by the team of the Great Ormond Street Hospital in London (*Pediatr Anesth* 2017 ; 27 : 793-800). The statement will be published soon on the website.



The preparation of the ***ESPA Congress in Brussels*** from September 6th to 8th 2018 is going nicely going forward under the heading of Laszlo Vutskits and the Belgian Association for Paediatric Anaesthesiology (BAPA). As you perhaps already know, we decided with the representatives of most paediatric anaesthesia societies in the world (the CIG group) to organize the ***2nd International Assembly for Pediatric Anesthesia (IAPA)*** at the same time. The aim is to foster the mission to improve paediatric anaesthesia management in (very) low income countries. We are honoured to obtain the support of the WFSA for this initiative. As during the first IAPA in Washington, we would like to offer a ***scholarship to young anaesthesiologists from low income countries***. This combines the opportunity to attend our Congress and sponsoring an additional 1-2 week-long stay in a paediatric anaesthesia department in Europe. If you think your department could support this initiative in any way, please contact your ACORNS representative or info@euroespa.com quickly.

Last, as announced in the message sent on March 1st, ***elections*** will be organised soon to elect or re-elect 4 members of the Executive Board and the President-elect who will take the lead of our Society in 2019.

Wishing you all the best and looking forward meeting you in Brussels,

Best Regards,
Francis Veyckemans



HONORING ESPA BOARD MEMBER: PERTTI SUORMINEN

Pertti Kristian Suominen 18.2.1959 - 9.1.2018

Obituary written by Tomi Taivainen of Finland



It is with deep regret and sorrow that we announce that our great friend and colleague Pertti Suominen died accidentally and unexpectedly on 9th January 2018 at the age of 58.

Pertti was born in the city of Espoo on the 18th of February 1959. He graduated as a nurse in 1982 and worked in that capacity for the UN peace keeping mission in Lebanon. At home, he served as a nurse in emergency clinics and in emergency care. Pertti started his medical studies at the University of Helsinki, and became a qualified physician in 1990.

At the beginning of his career, he worked for the Helsinki Medical Ambulance service and for a longer period as a Helicopter Doctor for MEDI-HELI. He also worked in the EMA Group to bring patients from abroad to domestic hospitals.

Pertti began his research career on the topic of external emergency care and resuscitation, in the children's hospital. His dissertation "Paediatric Prehospital Emergency Care and Resuscitation" was completed in 1998.

Pertti graduated as a specialist in anesthesiology at Helsinki University 20 years ago.

He also qualified in the following specialist training programs: Children's Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine in 2001, Emergency Medicine in 2002 and Cardiology Anesthesiology 2008. Pertti was appointed Docent of Anesthesiology at the University of Helsinki in 2007.

In 2012, Pertti became the permanent director of the Department of Children's Hospital, when the previous holder, Professor Olli Meretoja, retired.

Pertti was full of curiosity, he always wanted to learn new techniques and see other ways of working. He worked on numerous overseas assignments: in Melbourne Children's Hospital in Australia from 2001 to 2002, four years later, the venue was in Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA. At that time, the family was also involved. Shorter assignments were spent in: Houston Texas Children's Hospital, Toronto Sick Kids, Shanghai Children's Hospital and in, Abu Dhabi Hospital. Pertti also worked as a private practitioner in Pikku-Jätti for a long time.

He worked as a trainer in our own field of specialization in the Department of Children's Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Specialists training program. He also contributed his skills in pediatric anesthesia and intensive care medicine to the SSAI for many years. Pertti was active as the editor for Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica, and as a representative of Finland on the ESPA Board of the European Pediatric Anesthesia Association.

Pertti was an extremely active, open and hardworking colleague throughout his whole career. As an anesthesiologist he was versatile, and unparalleled. He was a member of the Children's Clinic Cardiovascular Anesthesia and ECMO-team. He was a distinguished teacher and trainer in numerous forums. He had a real passion for research in the field of child anesthesia and intensive care. The list of his scientific original articles is remarkably long and versatile in its scope.

As a colleague, Pertti was a friendly, pleasant, empathetic, kind, and flexible workmate. He never showed anyone up. He had everything arranged. In difficult clinical situations he was always ready to stay or to come to work when needed. Pertti had a lot of opinions to offer because he had seen so much of the world at large. He was also able to put forward his reasoned opinions, often with good humor, and he never offended anyone in doing so.

Pertti was physically active and he always came to work by bicycle despite the Finnish winter. He really cycled effortlessly around his entire career the whole year. Pertti's hobbies included music and spending time at his holiday cottage.

Pertti's untimely death is impossible to comprehend or accept. He was a fine man and a wonderful colleague. He was a big part of us and also of the children's hospital. Pertti's sudden passing not only touches the Finnish anesthesiologists community but also the vast number of foreign clinicians, researchers and friends alike who had the good fortune to know Pertti.

Our loss is incomparable to the loss suffered by Pertti's family. His wife Pirjo-Lisa, and his children, Mia, Riku and Pihla were the most important to him. We share in their deep sorrow.

ESPA ELECTIONS: CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS TODAY

Please note that TODAY is the last day to nominate for the 2018 ESPA

3 Board Members, Honorary Treasurer, and President - Elect 2019.

[Please complete this form](#) for yourself or someone you would like to nominate and send it to info@euroespa.com by midnight of 15 March, 2018.

We would love see a variety of countries, ages, and gender - please come on board and make a difference in the European paediatric world.

Nice perks also available.



BRUSSELS CONGRESS INFORMATION

Registration and Information will be ready by 31 March on the website.

We will send an eblast with the link.

ESPA/IAPA CONGRESS

*ESPA – European Society
for Paediatric Anaesthesiology*

*IAPA – International Assembly
for Pediatric Anesthesia*

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September 6–8, 2018
Hotel Le Plaza: Brussels, Belgium
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INTERVIEW WITH ESPA MEMBER: ANNE

What is your name, where are you from, and where do you work?

My name is Anne Laffargue. I was born in Paris and I am currently the head of the department of pediatric anesthesia in Jeanne de Flandre teaching hospital, in the beautiful city of Lille, in the North of France. There are four main hospitals in Lille, Jeanne de Flandre is dedicated to the care of mothers and children.



How did you get involved in paediatric anaesthesia and why did you choose this field?

I have always wanted to work with children. During my medical studies, before becoming a resident, I already liked working in the OR. I considered becoming a surgeon, and actually spent my first semester as a resident in surgery. This was a very

informative experience: I found surgery boring and monotonous, and at the opposite, anesthetists were engaged in a wide variety of activities, ranging from technical skills to scientific considerations. So I became a resident in anesthesiology. At the very end of my residency, a senior position in pediatric anesthesia became suddenly and unexpectedly vacant. I was offered this position and immediately accepted it. I have never regretted that choice.

What have you found most interesting in your career that you were surprised by?

What I liked the most was taking care of neonates. I felt we could do so much to improve the outcome of these patients... When I started, neonatal surgery (oesophageal atresia for example) was performed under halothane only, without any opioids. I discovered that as a pediatric anesthesiologist, I could really help these patients to be more comfortable, to feel less pain and also have a better outcome. I remain passionate and fascinated by the anesthetic and pain management of babies. After all, babies are our future. Besides, working with children remains a pleasure every day, and that is priceless.

How can you see ESPA playing a role in the future of PA? What can ESPA focus on in your opinion?

I think the main role of ESPA is to federate the European countries on the best management strategies in pediatric anesthesia. Although each national society has its own specificities, ESPA should also help in harmonizing and improving education in all countries despite their cultural and economic differences.

Where do you personally see the future of PA going? Both locally and globally?

In my opinion, the future of PA is to keep improving the security and quality of care delivered to our patients, especially the younger ones. Ideally, there should be more and more centers exclusively dedicated to children: centers in which all pediatric specialties



would be available, where the environment would be adapted to the special physical and psychological needs of children, and of their parents. I think ESPA should promote these global development strategies.

Globally, I feel that Pediatric Anesthesia is an “expanding” specialty: less and less non-pediatric practitioners agree to

anesthetize young children, and this is a good thing. Our specific expertise should not be “diluted”, shared with too many people having only rare or occasional practice. I believe very young children should only be anesthetized by specialized pediatric anesthesiologists.

In France, the situation is quite paradoxical. Less and less people agree to choose pediatric anesthesia as an exclusive practice. They want to keep an expertise in the field

of adult anesthesia. The consequence is that it takes much longer for them to gain real pediatric skills.

What do you like to do in your free time (if you have any)?

Actually, I don't really have that much free time... But I like reading, and knitting! I also take long walks by the seaside.

What helps you destress the most?

I am not a much-stressed person. Not anymore... But I would say probably sharing time with my three daughters , and....knitting.

What inspires you or motivates you (favorite quote, book, film)?

A book written by my Professor in genetics when I was in my first year of medical studies: « L'éloge de la différence », approximately translated by "In praise of difference". It tells that differences are what makes humanity so rich, so interesting. It fights against the concepts of races, classes, groups... My favourite films are comedies, my favourite books are mystery, crime, detective stories... Elisabeth George is one of my favourite authors, "The name of the Rose" one of my favourite novels.

Anything else you would like to share?

I am a strong supporter of the safetots initiative. And I believe" it is not the drugs which damage the brain; it is the anesthetist."

Safetots.org
Safe Anesthesia for Every Child



LOW INCOME COUNTRY GRANT

Low Income Country Grant Fund - Help your ESPA Community!

One of ESPA's aims is to support colleagues from Lower Income Countries so they may attend the congresses and workshops and bring that knowledge back to their home country. ESPA has a goal to support at least one colleague per year and support them together as a community.



If you can help and donate as little as 10 euros, please use pay into this account below:

IBAN: DE46 2707 0024 0312 0326 01
BIC: DEUTDEDB270
Reference: ELIC Grant

For every euro donated, ESPA will donate the same amount to this fund.

"For every donation, ESPA will issue a certificate stating that the money was spent in this fund in order to declare this in your tax declaration."

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE UPDATE

We are currently updating the new membership system. You will receive an email from ClaudIN next week asking you to update your profile and make any necessary payments.

Please do so in order to have a very accurate database going forward. Thank you and thank you for being an ESPA Member!



THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 SPONSORS!





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