

ESC NEWSLETTER - Volume 7 - Number 1 - 2010

Newsletter from The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health

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General Assembly



General Assembly at The Hague

All paid-up members of ESC are invited to attend the General Assembly at the 11th Congress in The Hague, The Netherlands on Friday May 21st at 16:30 hours.

All items that members wish to put on the agenda should be sent to the Secretary-General (address at the end of this newsletter) by Friday 23rd April 2010. Anyone who cannot attend may give a proxy vote to an attending member. Each attending member is only allowed to carry one proxy vote. Proxy voting forms are available from the Central Office or the ESC website and must be registered at the latest 4 hours before the start of the General Assembly at the registration desk.

At the General Assembly, countries will be electing Board members and voting for the venue for the 13th ESC Congress in 2014.

At the last Board of Director's meeting in Belgrade in September 2009, the Board voted to accept changes to the Rules of the Society and to ask the General Assembly to ratify proposed changes to the Statutes. Both documents are available on the ESC website.

The changes to the Rules include a more formalised application process to all committees and groups as well as a list of duties and responsibilities. A section has been added on voting rules and regulations and the part covering grants and awards has been updated.

Changes to the Statutes address the way members are elected to the Board of Directors. It proposes that the number of representatives a country may have on the Board is based on the number of paid-up members as of 31 December of the year preceding the congress, rather than at the General Assembly. This is better timing as member numbers are maximal at the end of the year. Prospective members would complete a short application form that would be circulated to all of that country's members. Voting would be via the web using a new secure and safe voting system. This ensures that all country members can vote rather than just those attending the General Assembly.

Then, members wishing to stand for other ESC committees eg Executive Committee (EC) or Internal Scientific Committee (ISC) know in advance of the congress whether or not they are an elected Board member and therefore eligible to join one of the committees.

ESC Session

The ESC session during the 6th Congress of the Francophone Society of Contraception

The 6th congress of the Francophone Society of Contraception was held on 16th and 17th October 2009 in Hammamet, Tunisia. The Congress was entitled 'Prevention of the maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity: The role of modern contraception'. The ESC was invited to organise a one-hour session. Two presentations were held. The first one, 'The art of counseling' was given by Dr. Brigitte Frey Tirri. The second presentation 'Are modifications of the 21/7 regimen of oral contraceptive use beneficial' was given by Dr. Katarina Sedlecky. Both presentations were well attended and followed with relevant discussion. The participation of the ESC in this congress could be considered as important, as it contributed to the upgrading of knowledge and skills in contraception provision with more than half of the congress participants being from the underdeveloped countries of Africa.

Reported by Dr Katarina Sedlecky

New Website

New Website

We are planning to launch a new website before the Congress in The Hague (May 2010). Rob Beerthuizen, ESC webmaster and Board member, did a tremendous work to establish and maintain our website from the very beginning. However, time has come for some modernising and overall renovation. And that's just what we have planned! Just as any website should, it will continue to grow around the members who use it. The technical side has been outsourced to PureSign, a Belgium based website development company. The structure and content will initially be advised by the Website Committee.

The implementation of a Content Management System (CMS) will offer the Central Office staff and other key persons involved, the possibility to make changes and updates from behind their own PC. The use of an open-source software will make sure that we will not be dependant on the same company for ever. The website will receive a facelift and the navigation structure will be as intuitive as possible. New functionalities will be added to ensure interactivity (polls, voting system etc). In the members' only section, members will be able to access valuable and specific information. As our current domain name www.contraception-esc.com is rather long and therefore somehow unpractical, we are considering to move to www.esrh.org (or .eu).

The renewed website will become an integral medium in how the ESC will communicate with its members in the future. Feel free to make any suggestions and to inform us on your expectations.

ESC Grants

IPPF seeking ESC support for PROFAMIL in Haiti

The IPPF European Network contacted ESC asking for help for PROFAMIL, the IPPF member association in Haiti. IPPF had been informed that their main clinic in the capital had been destroyed therefore leaving many women, children and men without any specific sexual and reproductive health services. The Executive Committee decided to support this request by means of a donation of 10,000 euro. This is as well as any other humanitarian grant made in 2010.

Applications seeking ESC support for a project - 2009 third quarter

- Granted Project: Creating a counterweight to pornography and sexualised media messages - the critical role of School health- and Youth clinics in the promotion of sexual health and gender equality
- Applicant: Elisabet Haggstrom-Nordin (Sweden)
- Allocated by the ESC: 10,000 euro

Applications seeking ESC support for a course/meeting - 2009 third quarter

- Granted Project: Seminar on medical termination of pregnancy in 1st and 2nd trimester (19 March 2010)
- Applicant: Andreja Stolfa Gruntar (Slovenia)
- Allocated by the ESC: 4,940 euro

Call for applications

Call for applications

The ESC provides funding to support a humanitarian aid project each year.

This is a call for applications for 2010. The available budget for 2010 is 5,000 euro. ESC members and non members can submit a project, but the application must come through an ESC Board member.

Applications should meet the following minimal conditions:

- The venue may be anywhere in the world
- The project MUST be oriented and related to contraception, sexual and/or reproductive health.
- The money MUST be used for a defined project within a definite time frame.
- Applications MUST be received at ESC Central office by 30 April 2010

Please send an email to escentraloffice@contraception-esc.com and ask for the application form to submit a project proposal.

The ESC provides funding to support a project.

There will be 2 opportunities for submission each year; in January and July
The available budget for this first application period is 25,000 euro.

Applications should meet the following minimal conditions:

- The applicant must be a current ESC member
- The grant may be used to support an individual, group, institute or organisation with a project related to the aims of the ESC.
- Examples of projects include: research, audit, review, needs assessment
- Deadline for the first 2010 applications period: 30 June 2010

Please send an email to escentraloffice@contraception-esc.com and ask for the application form to submit a project proposal.

The ESC provides funding to support the organisation of a course or meeting.

There will be 2 opportunities for submission each year; in January and July
The available budget for this first application period is 5,000 euro.

Applications should meet the following minimal conditions:

- The applicant must be a current ESC member
- The grant may be used to support a regional or local course or meeting within Europe related to the aims of the ESC.
- At least one speaker must be a member of the ESC Board, with their expenses paid out of the grant.
- Deadline for the first 2010 application: 30 June 2010

Please send an email to escentraloffice@contraception-esc.com and ask for the application form to submit a project proposal.

**Workshop
2010**

Workshop 2010

Following the very successful workshop held in Budapest in April 2009, the ESC is organising a similar event in the autumn of 2010. Further news to follow

**WCD
Poland**

World Contraception Day in Poland

World Contraception Day, 2009 was celebrated in one of Warsaw’s best theatres. There was a full day of activities with over 500 medical doctors, nurses, psychologists, lawyers and journalists. The themes concentrated on the barriers to contraception and women’s decision regarding the number and timing of pregnancies. On the same day a book entitled “Your Life – Your Choice” was launched, which included interviews with famous Polish women. The cost of the book was financially supported by a pharmaceutical company and the income was donated to the “Dzieci Niczyje” Foundation (Children of Nobody).

Reported by Prof Medard Lech

**ESC
Session**

The ESC special session during the 29th FIGO Congress



ESC cooperates with more than 240 National Societies and International Organisations that share with us common aims such as the promotion of Reproductive Health worldwide. The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) is one of them. FIGO brings together professional Societies from 124 countries over the globe. Thus the FIGO Congresses are considered important events for the dispersion of ESC messages. In this respect a special ESC session was organised during the recent 29th FIGO world Congress that took place in Cape Town, South Africa from the 4th to the 9th of October 2009. The title of the session was: “Contraception: An important part of Reproductive Health”. During this session the ESC representatives presented to the international audience our Society’s vision and efforts so that women of the whole world should achieve the highest possible standards of physical, mental, reproductive and sexual health as well as wellbeing in general throughout their lives. The ESC President, Prof. Johannes Bitzer, the Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care, Prof. Em. Jean-Jacques Amy and the President of the ISC of the ESC, Dr. Dan Apter presented the following topics: “The ESC mission for reproductive health”, “Contraception and sexual function”, “Guidelines, counseling and sexuality education for improving contraceptive use” and “New ways for using hormonal contraception”. The audience participated actively and the session was considered successful and beneficial for the promotion of the reproductive health and our Society.

Reported by Assoc. Prof. Dimitrios P. Lazaris

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: www.contraception-esc.com (go to ‘News’)
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