



NEWSLETTER

@ Newsletter from The **E**uropean **S**ociety of **C**ontraception

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Editorial

Dear friends,

We welcome new and existing readers to this issue of the Newsletter, the aim of which is to keep you informed about the activities of the ESC.

Our recent Seminar 'From abortion to contraception' (Bucharest, Romania, 21-22 September 2007) was a huge success, with more than 450 participants, mainly from Eastern European countries. We will report on this event in detail in a supplement issue of this Newsletter. Also, we will be posting reports and presentations from the Seminar on our website soon.

It is not long now to the Congress in Prague! The second announcement, including the programme update will be posted to you soon. We have been very busy with the promotional campaign over the last year and hope to beat all records in terms of number of participants. It really will be an exciting scientific and networking event with innovative concepts such as the young scientist award, sessions with ESC expert groups and a workshop on how to carry out research. The Congress will not only be about science, but also about having a good time. Not yet registered? What are you waiting for?

With the establishment of the Internal Scientific Committee and the five expert groups, the opportunities and the capacity for collaboration, education and scientific work has increased considerably. The web library on sexuality education and the preparation of the first ESC workshop on Contraception and Sexual Education are just two of the recent developments.

As you will see from this issue, it is advising on the recent decisions and proposals made by the Board at their last meeting in September. We are reporting on World Contraception Day and on initiatives by other organisations. We hope you will find a number of items that will be of interest to you.

If you have anything to contribute to the next issue, however large or small, do not hesitate to contact the Editor-in-Chief at : esccentraloffice@contraception-esc.com

Kind regards,

O. Loeber
Secretary General
Editor-in-Chief Newsletter

D. Cibula
President

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Summary of recent Board decisions and proposals

During the meeting of the ESC Board of Directors (country representatives), the following decisions and suggestions were made:

Upgrade of 'affiliated membership'

Until now, affiliated society members had no voting rights during the General Assembly (GA) and the way in which they had Board representation was complex. Under the new rules, each member of an affiliated society will, if present at the GA, be able to cast their vote individually. This means they will have the same rights as members who attend the GA but who are not members of an affiliated society.

Also, affiliated societies will no longer have separate representation on the Board. Instead, they will be represented by their country's members elected at the GA.

ESC Sessions during other congresses

The ESC is keen to have representation at national and international meetings, congresses and societies who have similar aims and ideals. All requests should be made to the Central Office.

The ESC has agreed to a session at the following events:

- Clinical Conference 'Reproductive Health 2008' organized by the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (Washington, 24 to 27 Sept 2008).
- FIAPAC Congress (Berlin, 24 - 25 Oct 2008).

Establishment of a Committee of Past Presidents

A committee of all past ESC presidents is to be established. The role of this group is purely advisory and they will also assist in ensuring continuity and stability within the ESC. When requested, it will act as the „Ambassador“ of the ESC at European and international level.

Change of Society name

Looking at our activities, projects and areas of interest, it is clear that our society is dealing with and interested in much more than simply contraception. The Board therefore discussed amending the Society's name to the 'European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health'. The abbreviation however would remain the same ie 'ESC'. This issue will be on the agenda of the General Assembly 2008.

Internal Scientific Committee (ISC)

R. Beerthuis (The Netherlands) and A. Pretnar (Slovenia) ended their mandate as members of the ISC and the new members are D. Lazaris (Greece) and J. Bitzer (Switzerland). The ESC wishes to thank R. Beerthuis and A. Pretnar for their contributions to this committee.

Workshop on Contraception and Sexual Education

A working group has been established, chaired by M. Lech (Poland) with the aim of organising an educational workshop for health professionals working in the field of contraception from the Eastern European Countries. There will be further information on this in future newsletters.

10th ESC Seminar

The next Seminar will be held in Belgrade (Serbia) in 2009. The theme and dates (usually September) still need to be confirmed but we will inform you as soon as possible. Our host will be Dr. Katarina Sedlecky from the Mother and Child Health Care Institute of Serbia

10th ESC Congress

Prague, Czech Republic, 30 April to 3 May 2008

“Non-contraceptive impact of contraception and family planning”



Call for abstracts (submission deadline: 1 January 2008)

The Organizing and Scientific Committee invite all those involved in any aspect of contraception, sexual and reproductive health care to participate by submitting abstracts for either oral or poster presentation. All abstracts will be peer reviewed and those accepted will be published in a Supplement of the European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care. Abstracts submitted for the Young Scientist session should be written by a first author who is less than 33 years old on May 1st, 2008. Authors, who wish to be included in this session, should indicate this on the online form. Abstracts can only be submitted electronically through the online system, www.contraception-esc.com (congress section).

Call for registration

Take advantage of the early registration fee (deadline 1 February 2008)!

You can register:

- through the online system on www.contraception-esc.com (congress section)
- or by completing and returning the hard copy registration form to the ESC Central Office

ESC Award 2007



Dr. Anne Webb

In 2005, the ESC agreed to award a Diploma or Medal each year to someone for his or her outstanding scientific work and/or for their contribution within the field of contraception and sexual health.

The Internal Scientific Committee and the Board of Directors unanimously awarded the 2007 Diploma to **Dr. Anne Webb**. This was presented to her during the 9th ESC Seminar in Bucharest.

Dr. Webb is a consultant in Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare, in Liverpool, United Kingdom.

From 1995 - 2001 she was an elected member of the Council of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare and later a Regional Adviser of the same organisation. She has been involved in setting clinical standards and training within the UK. From 1994 - 2006 she was an Executive Committee Member of our European Society of Contraception. In 2006 she awarded the Fellowship of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare.

On behalf of all of us, we congratulate Anne on this award!

First ever World Contraception Day on September 26th, 2007

World Contraception Day is a new initiative aiming to raise the standard of family planning at an international level, by improving awareness and education regarding contraception and reproductive health. This multi-national campaign will take place every year on 26th of September and was initiated for the first time in 2007. It is driven by a coalition of non-governmental organisations, including Marie Stopes International (MSI), the European Society of Contraception (ESC), the Centro Latinoamericano Salud y Mujer (CELSAM), the Asian Pacific Council on Contraception (APCOC) and the International Federation of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (FIGI), all of which are committed to promoting contraception and reproductive health. The initiative is supported by Bayer Schering Pharma, which is committed to investing in improved education regarding reproductive health.

World Contraception Day addresses the high number of unwanted and unintended pregnancies due to use of no or unreliable contraceptive methods. Worldwide, more than a quarter of women who become pregnant today have either an abortion or an unwanted pregnancy.¹

Each year the initiative will focus on a different topic dedicated to a specific educational need regarding contraception and reproductive health. The campaign theme for 2007 was **“Live your life before you start another”**. This theme addressed young people in particular and aimed to encourage them to make an informed choice about when and if they want to have children in their life. Through education, it aimed to reduce the levels of unintended pregnancy and abortion amongst young people.

An advertising campaign was launched to raise awareness for World Contraception Day and highlighted the importance of making informed decisions about contraception. The campaign and its messages were promoted in many countries around the world and different activities and events took place, including educational events at schools, colleges and universities, charity concerts, road shows involving workshops for young people and promotional activities in night-clubs and bars.

An important aspect was a campaign, launched in the participating countries to inform gynaecologists and other appropriate health professionals about the initiatives of World Contraception Day. They were provided with educational material which they could provide to their patients, including a Contraception guide and a pocket card featuring important information on how and where to access contraception and what methods exist.



YOUR LIFE

The website www.your-life.com was launched on World Contraception Day to provide information on a range of reproductive related topics for people of all ages and life-stages. A major part is dedicated to young people providing them with information on contraception, sexuality and ‘body’ education, and also displaying interactive features such as mobile phone downloads and an online survey.

There is also a section on the Website dedicated to parents and teachers, as they play a pivotal role in providing advice and resources to young people. This part predominantly offers information and guidance on how to address the topic of sex and contraception with their children or students. In a section dedicated to healthcare professionals, they can access additional information and resources to support them in their patient consultations and to assist with tailoring contraception to suit different patient groups.

1. The Alan Guttmacher Institute: Facts in Brief “Induced Abortion Worldwide”. 1999

News from other societies

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

Please tell us about contraceptive access in your country

IPPF

At the International Planned Parenthood Federation Europe region we are currently trying to obtain an overview of contraceptive access for young people in Europe.

Therefore we would be grateful if you would complete our short online survey if you are from a country in the WHO Europe region. This region includes EU countries, the Balkans, the Caucasus, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, The Russian Federation, Turkey and Israel.

The survey will take no longer than 10 minutes and consists of 6 questions about the price of contraception and contraceptive access and services in your country.

The survey can be found via this link http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=hlkoHeOtRHhZz6AazAbaXA_3d_3d

We hope through the information you give us we will be able to compile a document on contraceptive access for young people across Europe. If you would like to obtain a copy of this document, send an email to info@ippfen.org

Other IPPF publications that you may wish to look at include...

Sexuality Education In Europe is a guide that was created to assist policymakers and governments to develop better policies and practices related to sexuality education, as well as helping EU Member States to improve the exchange of information and best practices on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights and sexuality education. It provides information about sexuality education in 26 European countries, and is a component of the "SAFE Project: A European partnership to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of youth".

Abortion legislation in Europe is another IPPF EN publication which gives a complete overview of the abortion legislation in those European countries where IPPF European Network has member associations. Among the information provided is: the grounds on which abortion is permitted, the regulations and conditions governing abortion, such as gestational limit, consent required, etc. The data are updated on a 2 yearly basis (in English). It was recently updated in January 2007.

These publications can be found online at <http://www.ippfen.org/en/Resources/Our+Publications/New+Publications.htm>

To find out more about what we do here at IPPF EN and for more resources on sexual and reproductive health and rights you can log on to www.ippfen.org

FPA (Family Planning Association)



FPA is the UK's leading sexual health charity. Our purpose is to enable people in the UK to make informed choices about sex and to enjoy sexual health. Our website has a wide range of high quality, up-to-date information on sexual health issues including contraception, sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy choices, abortion and planning a pregnancy.

We would like to invite you to visit our site www.fpa.org.uk

News from other societies

Call for Applications:

Charlotte Ellertson Social Science Postdoctoral Fellowship in Abortion and Reproductive Health

We are delighted to share a call for applications for the 2008-2010 cohort of the Charlotte Ellertson Social Science Postdoctoral Fellowship in Abortion and Reproductive Health. Support for research in this area is largely absent, and trained researchers who focus in it are scarce.

The fellowship aims to support promising social science and public health researchers who can study abortion and reproductive health from the perspective of their own disciplines and who can bridge the divide between research, policy and practice. Fellows engage in independent and guided research, tap into the network of researchers, service providers and advocates at each fellowship site, and interact with policy and advocacy organizations. We seek applicants who are committed to working on abortion and to developing careers that include a focus on abortion research and advocacy.

We are recruiting five fellows for the 2008-2010 fellowship cohort; one at each of the fellowship sites: Columbia University, the Guttmacher Institute, Ibis Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of California, San Francisco. Fellowships begin no later than September 30, 2008 and are awarded for two years, with the second year contingent upon successful completion of the first.

Applications for the fellowship are accepted on line (<http://www.ibisreproductivehealth.org/projects/fellowship/>) and must be received by 11:59 p.m. PST, Monday, December 3rd, 2007. We will announce fellowship awards on March 3rd, 2008.

More info:

Sarah Jane Holcombe, Fellowship Director
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For your agenda

Cervical and Vaginal Ecology-Impact on Health and Reproduction

December 12-14th, 2007, Lund, Sweden
www.ssgm.se



VALENCIA
23 y 24 de noviembre de 2007
Hotel Las Arenas

**IV Jornadas de la
Sociedad Valenciana
de Contracepción y
Salud Reproductiva**

"Diversidad social y salud reproductiva"

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DE CONTRACEPCIÓN Y
SALUD REPRODUCTIVA

CENTRO VALENCIANO DE LA
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CONTRACEPCIÓN

www.sec.es

9º Congreso de la
Sociedad Española de Contracepción

1ª Reunión
Iberoamericana
de Contracepción

"cambiando actitudes"

SEVILLA, 12, 13 y 14 de marzo de 2008
Hotel Gran Rembrandt

www.sec.es

2º Congresso Nazionale della
Società Italiana della Contracezione

S.I.C.

Donna, sessualità e contraccezione

Presidenti:
G.B. Melis
C. Nappi
G.F. Scarselli
A. Volpe

napoli
5/7
dicembre 2007

**Complesso Universitario
di Monte Sant'Angelo**

Via Cinthia, 26 - Napoli

<http://www.mkt-consulting.it/MKT%20-%20scheda%20SIC%20f.to%20A5.pdf>

All materials to be included in the ESC Newsletter should be submitted (electronically) to the:

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All Newsletters are also to be found on the website of the Society:
www.contraception-esc.com (go to 'News')

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