

ESC NEWSLETTER - Volume 6 - Number 1 - 2009

Newsletter from The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health

Editorial

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Editorial



David Serfaty

A Concise History of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health

I am truly honoured for having been given the occasion to write an article on the history of the society at the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the ESC.

The ESC was born on the 16th of December 1988 in Paris in my hospital (the Saint-Louis Hospital), in the so-called Pavillon du Jardinier, I invited the 6 other founder members of the ESC to create our society:



From left to right : Mary Short (Ireland), Sven Skouby (Denmark), Marcel Veke-mans (Belgium), George Creatsas (Greece), Alexander Teichmann (Germany), Agostinho Almeida Santos (Portugal)

First of all, there was a need for such a medical society as no other European society devoted to contraception existed at that time. It had to be a democratic group that represented all of the member states of the European Economic Community. In 1998, modern contraception was less than 30 years old and was developing as a new medical speciality.

This was a golden opportunity for countries to work together sharing their knowledge and experience in this field. We also needed a society that was open towards other scientific societies who shared ESC's interest in contra-ception and who gave us access to non European countries.

The very first congress of the ESC was in Paris, 27-28 April 1990. It was a truly extraordinary congress due to the quality of its scientific programme, its 9 workshops and the diversity of the 350 participants from all over Europe.

The first General Assembly of the ESC was held 27 April 1990. A board of 24 members (2 for each country of the European Economic Community) and an executive committee were elected. Then the first newsletter of the ESC appeared. Its pioneer editors were Dirk Wildemeersch, Mary Short and David Bromham.

Then, the life of the European Society of Contraception switched to a higher gear. Its evolution is mainly linked to the success of its congresses and seminars as well as to the personality of its six successive presidents (D. Serfaty, G. Creatsas, S. Skouby, C. Coll, D. Cibula, J. Bitzer), supported by their executive committees, boards and help from the central office staff.

From 1990 to 2009, the ESC has organised 10 congresses. In-between the congresses, there have been the seminars which for me represent the true soul of our society. They allow us to meet our European colleagues in their own environment, in their own countries, and to discuss the practical aspects of birth control with them. I am sure these seminars have had positive consequences for us all.

In 2002, the ESC opened the membership to non-doctors who were involved in contraception. In 2006, the ESC had become what I believe to be the first worldwide Contraception Society. In 1990, the ESC had 206 members from 12 European countries.

Today it has over 1000 members from 56 countries. It has a scientific committee with 5 expert groups, a committee of past presidents and an excellent journal - The European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care (Editor-in-Chief : J-J Amy)

The considerable success of the ESC also leads to certain responsibilities in the scientific and social area of contraception. This is a new phase in the existence of our society which has clearly not been created just to organise congresses, however successful they may be. It has also to facilitate learning within the specialty and promote research into both, contraception and reproductive health.

The change in the name of the society in 2008 shows that we now cover a wider field than just contraception.

I am convinced that the ESC will continue to develop in Europe and outside Europe over the forthcoming years.

David Serfaty

10th ESC Seminar

10th ESC Seminar, Belgrade, Serbia

The next Seminar is to be held in Belgrade on 18 and 19 September 2009. The title is Unwanted Pregnancy or Abortion. The programme will comprise lectures and workshops, coordinated by our colleagues in Serbia. There will also be an opportunity for participants to provide abstracts that may be chosen either for the two free communication sessions or for poster display. Details regarding registration, that is free to ESC members, is available on the website.

11th ESC Congress

**11th ESC Congress
The Hague, the Netherlands, 19 to 22 May 2010
Culture, Communication, Contraception**



Dear colleagues and friends,

We warmly invite you to The Hague for the 11th Congress of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health (19-22 May 2010). The title of the congress “Culture, Communication, Contraception” reflects that contraceptive and reproductive health care in multicultural Europe must address the different needs of different individuals in different situations.

There is a growing requirement for preventive strategies that take into account the specific cultural, sub cultural, economic, ethnic and religious characteristics of subpopulations within the European community. It is the diversity of multicultural Europe that challenges our creativity to provide new solutions, new methods and innovative approaches.

First announcement now available online (www.contraception-esc.com)!

The format of the congress will be similar to the successful 10th congress in Prague with a wide variety of topics and sessions. A considerable proportion of the scientific programme will be interactive, including meet the expert sessions, workshops and fora.

Call for abstracts (deadline, 5 January 2010)

The Organizing and Scientific Committee invite all those involved in any aspect of contraception, sexual and reproductive health care to actively participate by submitting abstracts, either for 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. There will be a Young Scientist session again with prizes for the best free communication, best young scientist presentation and best poster.

Abstracts can only be submitted electronically through the online system on www.contraception-esc.com (congress section).

Registration

You are encouraged to register through the online system, available at www.contraception-esc.com (congress section). Completed forms together with the appropriate payment should be sent to the Congress Secretariat. Each registration form is for one participant only. Please contact the congress secretariat for group registrations. Please note the reduced cost of registration if you book early and also the differential fees for non medical personnel.

Membership 2009 Not yet a Member? What are you waiting for?

Visit the ESC website to sign-up and become part of our multi-professional network. The Society is open to all healthcare professionals: doctors, nurses, counsellors, students etc

The annual fee is 50 euro and includes a free subscription to the European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care (with Impact Factor).

- Here are a few of the benefits that you enjoy as member:
- 6 free editions of the official Society Journal
- members may apply to the ESC for educational grants
- free attendance to the Seminar and substantial reduction of the Congress registration fee
- as a member you may have an opportunity to stand for election to the Board or Executive committee and so influence the way the Society develops

If at least 20 of you join as an affiliated group (from the same organisation/institute or local society), your subscription is only 25 euros (see website for terms and conditions)

More info?

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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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