



Dear Colleagues,

Let me (on behalf the ESC Executive Committee and Board of Directors) pass to all of you our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous and Happy New Year.

Best greetings
Medard Lech, ESC Secretary General

Join ESC for 2017

As the end of the year is approaching fast, we will soon start our ESC membership 2017 campaign. However, there is no need to wait to renew your membership or to become a new member through the following link:

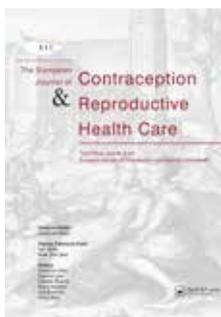
www.esrch.eu/user/register

We are delighted to announce that the Journal (European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care) is again included in the membership fee (60 euro) without any additional cost. We have listed here a few of the benefits you enjoy as a member:

- 6 free editions of the official ESC Journal,
- 3 newsletters,
- Members may apply to stand for the Board of Directors or Expert Groups,
- Members may apply to the ESC for educational grants,
- Members get free attendance at Seminars and a substantial reduction to the Congress fee,
- Personal access to the ESC website

International or national European organisations with similar or related aims may apply for affiliation to the ESC. Members of affiliated societies pay a 50 percent reduced yearly fee. Members of affiliated societies have the same rights as other ESC members including voting rights.

Article on conscientious objection on abortion receives prestigious award



The article "Proposal to inform European institutions regarding the regulation of conscientious objection to abortion", published in the European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care, Volume 21, Issue 3 June 2016, Pages 198 to 201, has been awarded with the Spanish yearly prize on contraception 2016 by the Spanish Contraception Foundation (FEC). This article is of utmost importance for the debate about this issue and could be one example in the relations between scientific societies and political institutions.

Therefore we are pleased to offer you **Open Access (until 31 Dec 2016)** to this article as well as to two related articles published in the same issue.

- Proposal to inform European institutions regarding the regulation of conscientious objection to abortion
Roberto Lertxundi, Oliver Ibarrondo, Gabriele S. Merki-Feld, Modesto Rey-Novoa, Sam Rowlands & Javier Mar
- Conscientious objection - to be or not to be
Johannes Bitzer
- Yes we can! Successful examples of disallowing 'conscientious objection' in reproductive health care
Christian Fiala, Kristina Gemzell Danielsson, Oskari Heikinheimo, Jens A. Guðmundsson & Joyce Arthur

<http://www.esrch.eu/about-esc/news/article-conscientious-objection-abortion-awarded>

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MEET THE 2016 AMBASSADORS

Ten young men and women were recently appointed as World Contraception Day (WCD) Ambassadors: In the course of a three-year programme they will promote the goals of WCD – raising awareness for young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights including contraception. The program is part of the ongoing efforts of Bayer and its partners to empower young people to act as youth advocates and speak up for their needs.

Telling People’s Untold Stories from around the Globe

The newly appointed 2016 WCD Ambassadors focus on storytelling about contraception, family planning and reproductive health for young people and adolescents. For example, in Latin America, Kizanne James is developing an app for phones that contains information about different types of contraception, including where to find them, across Trinidad and Tobago. Franklin Gnanamuthu, from India, is creating a documentary to capture the real life challenges faced by both married and unmarried young boys, girls and transgender youth in acquiring the correct knowledge and accessing quality sexual and reproductive health services.

<http://www.wcdambassadors.com/meet-the-2016-ambassadors-home>

History of birth control



I am thrilled that the creation of a special interest group of members, pertaining to this topic, was approved by the Executive Committee of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health. There may be a real need for this initiative.

The existing literature is replete with **myths, lack of evidence and anecdotes** perpetuated by an endless series of authors who never took the trouble to check primary sources. Some major, past contributions in the world of birth control may vanish from our radar if a coordinated effort is not undertaken to acquaint professionals with these accomplishments.

Is every reader of these lines conscious of the input of Johannes Rutgers, Annie Besant, Wu Yuantai and Wu Xianzhen, Henry Morgentaler, Étienne-Émile Baulieu? Are we all aware of the strenuous fight that was required for mankind to gain legally endorsed access to safe and effective means of reducing fertility? To paraphrase dear old Karl Marx, “The history of all hitherto existing birth control is a history of struggle”.

Further, should we not join efforts and alert public opinion concerning countries where this basic human right is still – or again! – denied to the population? **Recent trends in certain eastern European countries are a matter of great concern.** To fight back effectively against these dreadful returns to dark ages, hard historical evidence about the dramatic consequences of legal restrictions must be put forward. Dionysius of Halicarnassus (30-7 B.C.) was so right in stating that «History is philosophy from examples.»

Jean-Jacques Amy, Belgium



15th ESC Congress, 9 -12 May 2018, Budapest

The Hungarian Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology is delighted that the 15th Congress of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health in 2018 will be held in Budapest.

Budapest is a historic city in the midst of Europe, forming a bridge between East and West across the river Danube.

The Congress will increase not only the professional prestige of the Hungarian associations involved, but will provide an excellent opportunity for young researchers, clinicians and professionals from Hungary and from the wider region to attend the meeting and join the international network in this field.

Wish to learn some basic expressions in Hungarian before visiting the country?

Hungarian is a fascinating language. It's quite an oddball - surrounded by Slavic and Germanic languages, by which we mean that none of the surrounding countries speak anything like this nearly-unique language!

Hi / bye-bye - Szia [sio]

Yes - Igen [igen]

No - Nem [nem]

Thank you! - Köszönöm. [køszø-nøm]

Welcome to Budapest!

Üdvözöljük Budapestben

ESC Grants

Do you have a project or course you would like to do?

Are you a paid-up European ESC member whose membership is paid within a European country?

Did you know that the ESC provides grants, twice a year for projects and courses which are based on the aims and objectives of the Society? **Up to 5,000 euro is offered per course and up to 10,000 euro for a project.**

Instructions and application forms are available on the website: <http://www.eschrh.eu/education/grants>

All applications are reviewed by the Internal Scientific Committee (ISC) and usually 3 to 4 awards are made within each category. The ESC is not always able to provide full funding and so it is important that applicants consider whether their project or course could still be undertaken. Some applicants acquire funds from sources other than the ESC. Project funding is allocated in 2 parts with approximately 2/3 of the requested amount given at the start and the remainder on receipt of a satisfactory interim report. Course funding usually receives the total grant at the start.

All applicants are allocated a mentor – a member of the ISC. This person is there to help with any problems or concerns and will make contact to check how the project or course is progressing. A final report is expected at completion showing results and any publications or presentations planned. Whilst undertaking the grant reviews, the ISC members may become aware of applications with potential that require further work before a grant could be paid. These applicants will also be allocated a mentor who will work with them on their grant proposal so that they may apply again. This does not, of course, guarantee that the applicant will be successful but should ensure they have a better chance.

The ISC reviewers keep a very open mind on what topics will be granted and over the years a wide variety of issues have been addressed. Details of previously granted projects with their interim and final reports can be found on our website at: <http://www.eschrh.eu/education/grants/projects/granted-projects>. The ISC is particularly interested in innovative ideas that may have a practical impact on contraceptive, sexual and reproductive health as well as those applications that cover less common ground, such as disadvantaged groups.

The deadline for the next round of applications is 31st December 2016.

Sarah Randall, Chair ISC

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In memoriam Egon Diczfalusy

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the ESC and the Presidium of the Diczfalusy Foundation we inform you that Egon Diczfalusy passed away on 19 September in the age of 96 years. Egon Diczfalusy was Professor Emeritus and Honorary Professor of many universities all over the world. The work that gave Egon Diczfalusy his international fame was the definition of the human fetoplacental unit. From there on, the main focus of his scientific work remained the hormones involved in human reproduction.

As the Head of the Hormone laboratory in Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden he made it one of the leading institutions in the world on steroid hormone biogenesis and metabolism. Diczfalusy joined as a Senior Consultant the newly established "WHO Expanded Programme of Research, Development and Research training in Human Reproduction". Over the next 25 years he became involved with every Task Force Steering Committee, while at the same time heading the WHO Collaborating Centre in Research and Research Training in Human Reproduction established by the Karolinska Institutet. Eventually the Programme grew to become a "Special Programme", co-sponsored by four international entities, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO and the World Bank.

Egon Diczfalusy has been **an outstanding scientist and humanitarian** who founded the Egon and Ann Diczfalusy foundation to support science and development in Eastern Europe. During the 12th ESC Congress in Athens Egon Diczfalusy was awarded with the ESC Medal. More info about the Foundation you will find on the website: <http://www.diczfalusy.shp.hu>

ESC Seminar, 10 - 13 September 2017, St Petersburg

The Russian Association for Population and Development (RAPD) warmly welcomes the Seminar of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health to St Petersburg, Russia in 2017. St Petersburg is the second largest city, situated in the North-West of Russia. It has more to offer than just the Hermitage Museum and the Mariinsky Ballet. It is one of the biggest cultural centres in the world, a city with an exceptionally rich history, centuries-old traditions and a promising future.

RAPD, which applied to organise the seminar, is the largest NGO in the field of reproductive health and rights in Russia, striving for building the capacity and sensitisation of health care professionals, public health officials and general population in the field of modern contraception and family planning. It is rare that international scientific events are focused on contraception and reproductive choice exclusively. Reproductive healthcare professionals from Russia and Russian-speaking countries are very honoured to host the event for the first time in the territory of the Russian Federation. The North-West region of Russia is characterised by highly dense population, good awareness of health issues, developed infrastructure and high concentration of medical and scientific entities. The second biggest Scientific Research Center in Russia (named after obstetrician-gynaecologist Dmitry Ott), five medical schools, many medical colleges and vocational schools are situated in St Petersburg.

RAPD and the Scientific Research Center for Obstetrics, Gynecology and Perinatology, as leading organisers of the event, are convinced of the success of the event and will try to embrace participants with traditional Russian hospitality, introducing them to scientific and practical achievements in the field of reproductive health care in Russia and acquainting them with a beautiful city of canals, architecture, world heritage, monuments, museums as well as great and exciting history.

Lyubov Erofeeva, ESC Board member Russia



Apologies Taylor and Francis

Unfortunately, the advert of the ESC Congress in Basel (May 2016) has been published in two more issues of the European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care after the Congress. Also, things went wrong with the distribution of the hard copy of the last two newsletters. We discussed this with Taylor & Francis (the publisher) and action has been taken to prevent this in the future. On behalf of Taylor & Francis, we apologise for the inconvenience.

All materials to be included in the ESC Newsletter should be submitted (electronically) to: Nancy Habils, nancy.habils@escrh.eu
ESC Central Office, Orga-Med Congress Office, Opalfeneweg 3, 1740 Ternat, Belgium.

All Newsletters are also to be found on the website of the Society: www.escrh.eu/publications/newsletter

Chief editor: Medard Lech, Poland