

Editorial

The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health has now reached its 30th anniversary. During these years, the Society has very actively promoted reproductive health issues around Europe. Our principal aim was, and still is, “to improve and facilitate knowledge and use of contraception, abortion and STI’s in the countries of Europe”.

It is a good time to ask how far are we in fulfilling our aim, in the rapidly changing world. In spite of many new developments in digitalisation and communication around the world, our Society is still under-represented in many important European countries (eg. Germany, France, Poland). We have to ask ourselves how to improve this situation (any initiatives from readers are very welcome).

There are also new and continuing issues which we need to address in our everyday activities including:

- conscientious objections to induced abortions and trials of withdrawing liberal abortion laws in some European countries;
- pill/hormone scares around Europe;
- underdevelopment of technologies in male contraception;
- violence against women;
- and many others, which we have to address in our current activity.

So again, we are lucky but there is still a lot to do...

Medard Lech - ESC Secretary General

PS: as you may see, our Newsletter is changing. Perhaps you would have time to share, with the Executive Committee, your ideas and concepts on how to improve the Newsletter. Your thoughts and ideas are very welcome. Please do not hesitate to write us: info@escrh.eu

Apply for ESC membership 2017



We hope you will join the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health in 2017. We work together to improve access to contraception and reproductive health care.

Renew your membership or become a new member through the following link: www.escrh.eu/user/register

We are delighted to announce that the European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care is again included in the membership fee (60 euro) without any additional cost.

In addition here a few of the benefits you enjoy as a member:

- 6 free editions of the official ESC Journal,
- 3 newsletters,
- Access to the Congress library with webcasts and ePosters,
- 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 Congress registration,
- Access to the Members Only area of the ESC website

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.

The European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care in 2016



The EJCRHC is a forum for scientific research, educational material as well as personal opinions and advocacy papers in the field of contraception and sexual and reproductive health care. It is at the same time the official organ of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health. We publish a large variety of articles ranging from editorials, original research, clinical studies, case reports, to debates, personal opinions, new developments and letters to the editor. Last year we had submissions from 42 countries around the world. The rejection rate in 2016 was 70.2 % which is an indication of the high scientific standard which we try to maintain.

The Highest Altmetric scoring paper and most downloaded paper for 2016:

[Fertility awareness-based mobile application for contraception](#)

The top cited article from 2016:

[The shorter, the better: A review of the evidence for a shorter contraceptive hormone-free interval](#)

The following papers from 2016 are open access:

- [Midwives as drivers of reproductive health commodity security in Kaduna State, Nigeria](#)
- [Fertility awareness-based mobile application for contraception](#)
- [Targeting factors for change: contraceptive counselling and care of female adolescents](#)

I invite you to submit papers and make our Journal an active and productive part of our Society:

mc.manuscriptcentral.com/dejc

At the same time I ask those who submit papers to carefully read the [guidelines](#) for authors published and to follow these guidelines. This helps us a lot in providing timely publications.

*Johannes Bitzer,
Editor in Chief, EJCRHC*

ESC Seminar, 13 - 15 September 2017, St Petersburg



Theme: Reproductive choice: empowering progress against stereotypes
The Russian Association for Population and Development (RAPD) and the Scientific Research Center for Obstetrics, Gynecology and Perinatology, warmly welcomes the Seminar of the ESC to St Petersburg, Russia.

We 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. The programme and all practical information will be available at:

www.esrch.eu/events/esc-events/13th-esc-seminar

Call for bids to host the 2019 ESC Seminar

Although it may seem far off, we would like to remind you that proposals for holding seminars should be delivered to the Central Office not later than two months before the day of the appropriate Board meeting. Since the next appropriate Board meeting - where voting will take place - is scheduled on 15 September 2017 in Sankt Petersburg, the deadline to submit a bid is 15 July 2017. Full information on how to submit a bid can be found at

www.esrch.eu/about-esc/statutes-rules-policies/rules#12_Congresses__meetings_and_events_

www.esrch.eu/about-esc/statutes-rules-policies/policies#Cfr_Rule_12_Guidelines_

Any member from any European country interested in making a bid is encouraged to do so.

Closing date: 15 July 2017

The Central Office (info@esrch.eu) will be happy to reply to any request for further information on how to prepare a bid.

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ESC at other events

- 25th EBCOG European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in conjunction with 15th Congress of Turkish Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology



Antalya, Turkey, 17 – 21 May 2017

ESC Master Class

Chair: J. Bitzer (Switzerland)

- How to use the WHO Medical eligibility criteria wheel for contraceptive use - G. Bartfai (Hungary)
- Decrease the risk for VTE in CHC users: is a general screening for thrombophilia useful? J. Bitzer (Switzerland)
- Mandatory school sexuality education - can it really make a difference? K. Haldre (Estonia)

- European Headache Federation Congress 2017



Rome, Italy, 1-3 December 2017

Headache in Europe - EHF meets ESC

Chairs: G. Bartfai (Hungary) - P. Martelletti (Italy)

- Progestin-only contraception and beneficial effects on migraine - G. Merki (Switzerland)
- Combined hormonal contraception and migraine, WHO and EHF/ESCRH criteria and balancing risks and benefit - S. Sacco (Italy)
- Discussion

ESC medals



Istvan Batar

The Seminar Medal 2017 will be awarded to Istvan BATAR (Hungary) at the Seminar in St Petersburg this year. A Seminar Medal is established to honour outstanding organisational support and activity within the ESC itself in accordance with the aims of the Society.

The Congress medal is established to honour outstanding national or international recognised activity in contraception, abortion, sexual or reproductive health in accordance with the aims of the Society. Nominations for such honours are put forward by the members of the Board of Directors. The appropriate nomination form should be used and signed by 3 Board members and the CV of the nominee must be attached. All proposals will be initially scrutinised by the Executive Committee (EC) and will then be presented to the Board. The next Congress Medal award, to be presented at the 15th Congress in Budapest in 2018, is decided during the seminar Board meeting (St Petersburg, 15 September 2017).

Closing date for applications is 3 months prior to the Board meeting: deadline 15 June 2017.

An overview of the medals, awarded till now, can be found at:

www.escrih.eu/about-esc/history-and-aims#esc_awards

Article published in The European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care: Postabortion contraception

Sam Rowlands^a and Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson^b; for and on behalf of the European Society of Contraception Expert Group on Abortion

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Abstract: The European Society of Contraception Expert Group on Abortion identified as one of its priorities to disseminate up-to-date evidence-based information on postabortion contraception to healthcare providers. A concise communication was produced which summarises the latest research in an easy-to-read format suitable for busy clinicians. Information about individual methods is presented in boxes for ease of reference.

Link to this article: [dx.doi.org/10.1080/13625187.2017.1287352](https://doi.org/10.1080/13625187.2017.1287352)

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World Contraception Day 2017



World Contraception Day (WCD) takes place on September 26th every year. WCD is supported by a coalition of 12 international Non-Governmental Organizations (including ESC) with an interest in sexual and reproductive health and is sponsored by Bayer HealthCare. Katarina Sedlecky (Serbia) represents ESC and has attended the Annual Partner Meeting in Berlin (21-22. February, 2017). New materials have been

created by well-known Key Opinion Leaders on contraceptive adolescent counselling. Global experts in contraception have developed a series of educational resources designed to support HCPs when counselling women about contraception. A range of slide presentations, educational case studies, videos and checklists are available to help you help women of all ages to choose a method that matches their individual needs and lifestyle. You may check the web link to access the latest material updates for healthcare professionals: www.your-life.com/en/for-doctors-parents-etc/hcp/

European Medicines Agency

In July 2016, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) initiated a review of retinoid medicines to evaluate measures currently in place for pregnancy prevention due to the potential teratogenicity associated with these medicines. In the context of this ongoing review, EMA consulted with healthcare professionals and patients on the most suitable measures to monitor the effectiveness of the risk minimisation strategies and proposed to organise a consultation meeting on 3 March 2017, at the EMA offices in London. ESC was invited to join this meeting.

ESC Grants

Do you have a project or course you would like to do? Are you a paid-up 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.esrh.eu/education/grants>
The deadline for the next round of applications is **30th June 2017**.

Facebook

Check out our facebook page with weekly updates:

www.facebook.com/The-European-Society-of-Contraception-and-Reproductive-Health-ESC-174933929196249/

Find out more on our new ESC board members.

Profile picture



Profile picture



All materials to be included in the ESC Newsletter should be submitted (electronically) to: Nancy Habils, nancy.habils@esrh.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.esrh.eu/publications/newsletter

Chief editor: Medard Lech, Poland

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