



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

Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

It is already the last month of 2017. Within a few weeks we are going to celebrate the New Year, 2018. The year of the 15th ESC Congress in Budapest. Please mark your calendar (9 till 12th May, 2018). 2017 was full of ESC activities, the most important being the 13th ESC Seminar in St. Petersburg – reported by Lubov Erofeeva (President of the Organising Committee). In addition the ESC agreed to upgrade to a new website and introduced the concept of ESC Partners. Details of this initiative you will find in the short statement by Shelley Raine (ESC Vice-President). We have many new projects and plans for the year 2018.

Best greetings
Medard Lech, ESC Secretary General

ESC Seminar Report, Saint Petersburg, Russia



During September 2017 an ESC Seminar took place for the first time in Russia, in the town of St. Petersburg. The seminar was jointly organised by the ESC and the Russian Association “Population and Development” (an all-Russian public organisation promoting the protection of reproductive health of citizens). Holding international congresses of leading professional organisations contributes to the broadening and deepening of international cooperation in the field of medicine and healthcare. For the scientific community of Russia this is of particular importance, as it promotes the generation of new research ideas and directions of development of science and improvement of practice. One of the main characteristics of international medical congresses in recent times is the increasing attention of participants to such global issues as prevention, living conditions and health, protection of the environment and the impact of new medical technologies. The event was opened by a Deputy Chairman of the Committee on development of tourism who read a greeting letter to the participants from the Governor of St. Petersburg. She noted the importance of holding such events for the development of medicine and to strengthen international cooperation in the field of science, noting the relevance of the topic of the seminar: “Family Planning for healthy families and overall improvement of the nation’s Health is one of the major challenges not only to specific scientists but to the State as a whole.” For almost 400 participants representing 40 countries it was a wonderful opportunity to discuss key issues of health development in the European Region and Russia, the prospects for further development and how to implement these into everyday clinical practice. Holding international congresses and seminars in Russia is not only useful but also prestigious from the standpoint of the development of science and practice.

Lyubov Erofeeva, Russia

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15TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY
OF CONTRACEPTION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Family planning and contraception
from adolescence to the menopause

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, 9 - 12 MAY 2018
WWW.ESCRH.EU/15TH-ESC-CONGRESS

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

Dear Colleagues,

If you would like to participate in the 15th Congress of the ESC please put the date of 9-12 May 2018 into your calendar. The congress, entitled 'Family planning and contraception from adolescence to the menopause', will deal with all of the newest research achievements in the field of Reproductive Health.

We are organising pre-congress workshops, hands-on-training, keynote lectures and 35 sessions ranging from technology and basic science through economics and epidemiology of contraception to state-of-the-art developments. In the expert group sessions, you will meet clinicians and researchers who are the best representatives in the specific field. If you cast a glance at the programme, you will find many outstanding, internationally acknowledged speakers.

However, the conference is not pure science and clinical practice. You will be in Budapest which is a vibrant city in the heart of Europe. It has colourful heritage dating from Roman times and a modern life full of state-of-the-art buildings and vivid social programmes for all ages. You can see the panoramic view of Hungarian Parliament at the embankment of river Duna, discover Hungary's past at the Heros' Square, cross the spectacular bridges of the city or have a romantic walk on Margaret Island. If you are a fan of the wellness you can enjoy one of the curative spas, e.g.: the Szécheny Spa was one of the 10 most beautiful ones in 2016. Moreover, you can take an excursion in the Hungarian gastronomy. Select either typical Hungarian food or international cuisine. Take this opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

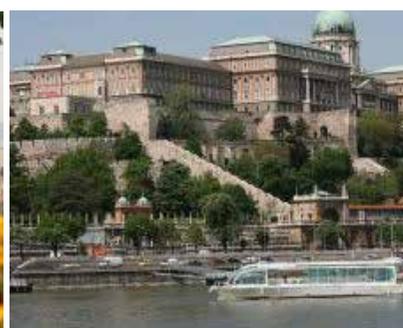
I am sure that you are convinced. Please reserve your airplane or train ticket and hotel accommodation. You can find more information on the website of the ESC: www.escrh.eu/15th-esc-congress

See you in Budapest!

Prof. Dr. György Bártfai
Congress President

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Merki
President of the ESC

Prof. Dr. Nándor Ács
Head of the Local Organizing Committee



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Website

We are delighted to announce that the Executive Committee has agreed to replace our website. This was necessary partly because the old platform was out of date and no longer supported by the original provider – we were advised that we would be likely to experience increasing problems with functionality and it would not be as secure as it should be. In addition, in order to support the increasing use of interactive website and social media, it was felt that it was wise to upgrade at this time. This process is now underway and we hope to have the new website up and running in 2018. We hope to make it vibrant, modern, user-friendly and relevant to all our members and how they work in the 21st century! Management of the new website will be undertaken by the ESC Central Office.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Rob Beerthuizen for all his dedication, time and enthusiasm as the webmaster and getting the website to the healthy position it holds today.

Watch this space!

Shelley Raine (Vice-President) & Nancy Habils (Central Office)

European Medicine Agency stakeholders meeting on valproate in women of reproductive age

I represented ESC at this meeting held in the high tech headquarters of EMA in London's Canary Wharf business district. EMA will have to move after 'Brexit'. Valproate is a very effective treatment [In some cases the only optimal treatment] for types of epilepsy, bipolar mental disorders and is user off-licence for managing migraine. Stoppage or switching in epilepsy has to be done gradually. valproate use during pregnancy has been associated with congenital defects and neurological developmental problems in children. In 2014 EMA introduced restriction on use of valproate and a change in product information. The meeting was called to ask experts on further ways to enhance the advice on valproate and to manage fertility and pregnancy. Some of the identified conclusions were:

- emphasis on good history taking in all disciplines to include medication intake
- valproate [and any other risky medicine] should be flagged up at every visit to make sure that information about the drug taken is updated
- women on valproate should be able to access all contraceptive options including permanent contraception. The options and pregnancy plan/pre-conception advice is a multidisciplinary effort where discussion with such disciplines as neurology, psychiatry and midwifery
- emergency contraception information and medication should be available without restriction

Ali Kubba, ESC Board Member UK

14th ESC Seminar 2019, Madrid, Spain

At their last meeting in Saint Petersburg the Board decided, by unanimous vote, to hold the next ESC Seminar in 2019 in Madrid, Spain. Dates are to be decided (September or October). The bid was fully supported by the Spanish Society of Contraception (SEC). Madrid offers ideal conditions for holding all types of meetings, as is demonstrated by its position as one of the leading world cities in terms of the numbers of international congresses which are hosted there.

In addition to its complete infrastructure of communications, high-quality accommodation and meeting centres, Madrid has a rich, historical past and monumental history which combines harmoniously with its lively, contemporary and vigorous modern-day culture. All of these characteristics make Madrid the perfect meeting point for congresses and exhibitions.

The theme of the Seminar will be 'Contraception, Sexuality and Quality of Life'. SEC has developed the first questionnaire about the use of contraceptives and quality of life. Looking forward meeting you in Madrid in 2019!

Roberto Lertxundi
Hosting Organiser



Apply now for an ESC Grant
Deadline: 31 December 2017

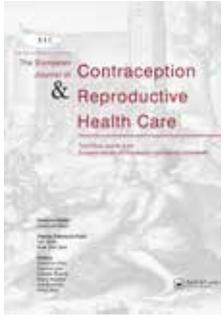
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Projects
&
Courses

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Publish your work in the European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care



The European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care is the official journal of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health. It focuses on scientific research and education in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health in general including clinical trials, observational and epidemiological studies, qualitative research, expert opinions, reviews and debates. The latest impact factor 2016 was 1,627 raising from 1,236 in 2015. The latest rejection rate (August 2017) is 78%. The time from submission of a manuscript to first decision is 22.7 days. In 2016 we received 196 papers from more than 40 countries worldwide

We invite all members of the ESC, and all readers and colleagues involved in research in the field of sexual and reproductive health, to submit their work to the EJCRHC
www.escrh.eu/publications/journal

Johannes Bitzer, Editor-in-Chief

ESC Partners



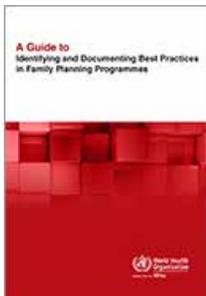
The ESC has traditionally worked closely with a number of other national and international organisations in a number of ways. This has mostly been in the format of organising sessions, and/or recommending speakers at each others' congresses, joint policy statements and projects. With the increased use and importance of social media this offers greater opportunities for promoting and sharing publications, events, news, projects, courses, meetings and links on websites.

To further this aim the Executive Committee (EC) voted to introduce this concept of ESC Partners. We have started the process of inviting those organisations with whom we share principles and ideals and who we feel will benefit jointly from this initiative. There will be a page on the new website dedicated to these partners. The EC will also consider requests from other organisations who wish to become ESC Partners. There is no cost involved in becoming an ESC Partner.

This is separate to, and does not replace, individual or affiliated membership, which is thriving and we hope will continue to enable more individuals to become members and to benefit from and contribute to the work of the Society.

Shelley Raine, Vice-President

WHO newly published “Guide to identifying and documenting best practices in family planning programmes” now available online



Check out the WHO newly published “Guide to identifying and documenting best practices in family planning programmes” available in English, French and Portuguese.

- English
www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/family_planning/best-practices-fp-programs/en/
- French
www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/family_planning/best-practices-fp-programs/fr/
- Portuguese
www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/family_planning/best-practices-fp-programs/pt/

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

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