

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by John F Martin, president of ESCI

The Annual Scientific Meeting held last year in Toledo was a great success. The science of the workshops was of the highest international standard - the main complaint that I heard was that the overlap in the timing of workshops meant that some participants could not attend all the presentations they wanted. However, this is an inevitable situation if we are to have workshops of high standard. In the future we must try to make sure that similar subjects in workshops are separated as much as possible.

I also enjoyed the delightful social programme executed by the Spanish organizers. A problem in the meeting was the lecture of the Nobel Prize Winner, Kary Mullis. Instead of talking about his discovery of the polymerase chain reaction he spoke of his ideas about the cause of AIDS not being related to a virus. As those of you who were there will know, his ideas were unscientific and his attitude to science, and named scientists, cynical. I stopped the lecture as I believed it was diminishing our Society and his public utterance required a public response. The letter I wrote to Nature about this event caused much discussion in the scientific community. I got several letters of support especially from the USA.

The council met in Cambridge in September 1994. The new council members, Thomas Lüscher and Krzysztof Sladek, brought new ideas and maturity to the council. I hope that Krzysztof Sladek's election will allow us to plan an Annual Scientific Meeting in Poland, possibly in 1998. During the September council meeting we returned to the debate on the future direction of the Society. I am convinced that science and medicine have to re-discover the need for lateral connection between science and clinical disciplines. This is the essence of ESCI. Combined with the fun of mixing our national differences I believe that ESCI has an expanding future. I believe that our Society is a melting pot of cellular and clinical pathophysiology. The more we understand the mechanisms of cellular functions, the more relevant it is to have a society whose objective is to study those functions in themselves and apply that understanding to a wide variety of cells and organ systems. The programme of workshops in the Cambridge meeting illustrates this wide strength of the Society.

We will flourish over the next ten years because of our wide interest in physiology and pathophysiology, at a time when specialist societies will become even more specialized. Alan McGregor has led our Journal from London as Editor-in-Chief for the last three years. During this time, the quality (and quantity) of the Journal have improved. Alan has given a great deal of his professional and personal time to bring about the change in the Journal. The office moves to another European location every five years. The council

will discuss how this will be done in two years time and what further changes might be undertaken at that time. It was decided that the post of the next Editor-in-Chief should be advertized.

A flourishing ESCI requires a hard-working imaginative council. It also needs your participation in the Annual Scientific Meeting and the Journal, and your ideas for change. Please write to me about any subject you would like to be discussed at the next council meeting. I hope to see you in Cambridge in 1995.

MACK-FORSTER AWARD 1995

by Hein A Koomans, vice-president of ESCI

ESCI is proud to propose Peter Valent as the winner of the 1995 Mack-Forster Award. By his age, 32 years, Peter Valent is the youngest Mack-Forster awardee until now. He finished his medical training at Vienna University in 1987, but before that he was already involved in haematological investigation as a research fellow at the same institute. His training in Internal Medicine, finished only lately in 1994, was mixed with ongoing activity in haematological research. Invited lectures at highly esteemed meetings followed soon after the start of his research career and at the age of only 30 years he had been honoured with no less than 9 official science awards. Today, Dr Peter Valent has an academic appointment in Experimental Haematology at the University of Vienna.

Peter Valent is already a well-recognized authority in the field of his research area. This field concerns the description of the basophil - and mast cell - phenotype, cytokine receptors expressed on human basophils and mast cells, description of human basophil - and mast cell - growth factors, and the clarification of mast cell origin.

Many of his observations were recognized as unique and soon confirmed by others in the same field. His work, summarized in major journals, is widely recognized and frequently cited. The relevance of his work is basic, but also clinical: the characterization of the basophil and mast cell has already contributed to the improvement of leukaemia diagnosis. Peter Valent drives a significant and efficient research group in experimental haematology and has proven to be a very prolific writer producing many papers of exceptional quality. At his young age he has been extremely successful and is apparently destined for an extraordinary career. ESCI is honoured to present him the 29th Mack-Forster Award in Cambridge in April 1995.



Peter Valent

OBJECTIVE MEASURES TO JUDGE SCIENCE

by Christoph Gisinger, councillor of ESCI

Biomedical scientists are competing worldwide for grants, awards and academic positions. The decisions are usually taken by academic committees on the basis of expert evidence. However, committees may feel uncomfortable to rely only on expert evidence considering the fact that the most competent experts may be biased due to their close connections to the field. Therefore, objective measures of scientific qualification may serve as an important additional basis for decision finding.

Traditionally, the number of publications represented such objective measures. However, this only favoured the publication of an immense number of superficial papers. Therefore, the quality of a scientific publication must also be assessed by objective measures and the evaluation of the list of publications should relate number and quality of papers. One suitable measure appears to be the impact factor (IPF), as provided by the *Institute for Scientific Information* which is calculated as the average number of citations of an article in a specific journal within a year. This means that an article in a journal having an IPF of 24 like the *New England Journal of Medicine* will be cited in scientific publications by other authors 24 times. Since everybody attempts to get his or her work published in the 'best possible' journal (i.e. with the highest IPF), the IPF's of the papers reflect their quality as judged by the reviewers and editors of that respective journal. As soon as a paper is published, the IPF of the journal may serve as a measure of the quality of a specific article without the need to wait several years to find out how often it is actually going to be cited as measured by the citation index.

In order to measure the actual scientific impact which has been already achieved, the citation index may be more appropriate. This is a measure which reflects real scientific breakthroughs and/or methodological contributions (example: Lowry will be cited for decades). However, the citation index misses more recent advances, since papers begin to show up in this index only after two or more years after their publication. Altogether, IPF as well as citation index may give a pretty good idea about the overall quality of somebody's scientific work and his or her role of influencing the work of others.

Those objective measures to judge science have also helped to identify this year's Mack-Forster Award winner. Despite being the youngest applicant, he has the highest cumulative IPF, the highest IPF per paper and the highest IPF per productive year of scientific work. All the other criteria, like number of original publications, first- and senior-authorships, independence to main co-author, dynamic of science citation index also underlined the excellence and independence of his scientific work (see table). Those measures together with the judgement of scientist in the respective fields of the applicants where the basis of the decision of the ESCI council for this year's Mack-Forster Award.

Certainly, the quality of science and the qualification of applicants should not only be judged by number of papers, impact factors and citations. Many other aspects need to be considered like study-ethics, publication policy (authors who favour European Journals tend to be 'punished' by lower IPF's), field of research (the more groups doing research in a specific field, the higher the IPF's). Additionally, revolutionary ideas and projects, which will eventually lead to paradigmatic changes, might be reflected only in the far future (citations only after several years) or missed completely (papers originally not being accepted by established journals).

Therefore, IPF and citation index can never replace a responsible decision by the committee in charge of a specific decision. However, applying 'objective' measures for judging science may lead to (1) a more effective allocation of resources for research projects, (2) facilitate the career of researchers around Europe and (3) counter-balance the inevitable 'old-boys-networks'.

age	32 years
present position, degree, date postdoc training	Associate Professor of Medicine, MD, 1987 Univ Vienna, Inselspital Berne, Univ Vienna
research achievements	mast cells basophils growth factors for mast cells origin of mast cells
3 representative papers selected by the applicant	Blood 1989 PNAS 1989 J Immun 1990
impact factors (IPF) of those 3 papers	8.1+ 10.5 + 6.7 = 25.3
No of original papers (first/last author) yrs of full productive scientific work	53 (15, 14) 6 years
No of papers per yr	8.8
No of papers as first author per yr	2.5
No of papers as last author per yr	2.3
No of papers as first + last author per yr	4.8
cumulative impact factor	323.9
IPF per paper	6.1
IPF per year	54.0
citations 1990	34
1991	36
1992	62
1993	70
co-authors	27 of 53 papers
main co-author:	(51% of total number of papers) with main co-author,
Dept-director	IPF 154 (47% of total IPF) with main co-author

EUROPEAN SCIENCE

by Tjerk W A de Bruin, honorary secretary-treasurer of ESCI

The European Union has been subsidizing science programmes which strengthen international scientific collaboration and education, promote integration of scientific knowledge to industry (or vice versa) and help to establish centres with technological standards. One of their subsidizing programmes is called EUROMED, which operates in the field of biomedical and health research. This programme is divided into technical areas or research topics under the name of BIOMED I, which covers the period 1990-1994.

We have been informed that a BIOMED II programme has been approved in March 1994 by the European Committee to cover the period 1994-1998 with a 336 million ECU (!) research fund devoted to biomedical and health research. A 'call for proposals' is however not expected until 1995. Preparations for such proposals, also called 'concerted actions', are time-consuming. It is better to have a headstart on your potential competitors, or even better, turn them into your research partners early. Specific details are lacking, but the application has to fit into one of the Areas, has to involve innovative research, impeccable methodology and research questions, and must have a certain European dimension. In BIOMED II, area 1 represents pharmaceutical research, area 2 biomedical technology and engineering, area 3 brain research, area 4 major health problems and diseases with great social-economic impact (AIDS, cardiovascular disease, aging and so on), area 5 human genome analysis, area 6 public health, while area 7 covers biomedical ethics. Each country in the EU has a representative officer specifically responsible for the communication between Brussels, universities and individual applicants. The membership of ESCI may be an excellent opportunity to find international colleagues who are interested in collaborating with you to submit an application for the BIOMED II programme.

SUMMARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME 29TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Cambridge (UK), 2nd - 5th April 1995

Sunday 2nd april 1995

from 14.00 registration (Robinson & Newnham College)

18.00 - 18.45 **Bristol-Myers Squibb Update Lecture** (Newnham College)

'Signal transduction in secretory cells'

J Meldolesi (Milan, Italy)

Chairman: A E Pontiroli (Milan, Italy)

from 18.45 welcome reception (Newnham College)

Monday 3rd april 1995

08.30 - 08.45 *Opening ceremony of the 29th Annual Scientific Meeting* (Music School)

M J Brown (Cambridge, UK)

J F Martin (London, UK)

08.45 - 09.30 **ESCI Update Lecture** (Music School)

'Nitric oxide'

S Moncada (London, UK)

Chairman: T F Lüscher (Berne, Switzerland)

09.45 - 12.30 **workshops** (11.00 - 11.30 coffee break): (Music School/Robinson College)

1. Cell biology of phagocytes
2. Platelet activation
5. Molecular medicine
6. Renal transplantation and immunology
8. The epidermal growth factor family
11. Predictors of arterial thrombosis: focus on diabetes mellitus
12. Scientific advances in the diabetic foot
13. Clinic and molecular basis of hormone resistance syndromes
14. The application of computerized cognitive testing to clinical trials

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch and poster viewing subspecialty sessions

14.00 - 14.45 **MRS Update Lecture** (Music School)

'Human genes'

S Brenner (Cambridge, UK)

Chairman: M J Brown (Cambridge, UK)

15.00 - 17.30 **workshops** (16.00 - 16.30 tea break) (Music School/Robinson College)

1. Cell biology of phagocytes
2. Platelet activation
5. Molecular medicine
6. Renal transplantation and immunology
8. The epidermal growth factor family
11. Predictors of arterial thrombosis: focus on diabetes mellitus
12. Scientific advances in the diabetic foot
13. Clinic and molecular basis of hormone resistance syndromes
14. The application of computerized cognitive testing to clinical trials

18.00 end of Monday's programme

evening official congress dinner (Trinity College Great Hall)

Tuesday 4th april 1995

08.30 - 09.15 **Renold Memorial Lecture** (Music School) 'Endothelium and vascular disease'

M Gimbrone (Boston MA, USA)

Chairman: J F Martin (London, UK)

09.30 - 12.30 **workshops** (10.45 - 11.15 coffee break) (Music School/Robinson College)

1. Cell biology of phagocytes
2. Platelet activation
4. Bone biology
5. Molecular medicine
8. The epidermal growth factor family
10. Preventive strategies in vascular disease: focus on n-3 fatty acids

11. Predictors of arterial thrombosis: focus on diabetes mellitus

13. Clinic and molecular basis of hormone resistance syndromes

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch and poster viewing subspecialty sessions

12.30 - 13.00 Annual Business Meeting ESCI (members only)

14.00 - 14.45 **Lecture Mack-Forster Award 1995**

(Music School)

'Mast cell differentiation antigens: expression in normal and malignant cells and use for diagnostic purposes'

P Valent (Vienna, Austria)

Chairman: A J Verhoeven (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

15.00 - 18.00 **subspecialty poster sessions** (16.15 - 16.45 tea break) (Music School)

Cardiovascular Medicine (combined with MRS posters)

Diabetes/Metabolism/Lipids (combined with MRS posters)

Endocrinology (combined with MRS posters)

Gastroenterology/Liver

Haematology/Oncology

Nephrology/Hypertension

Neurology

workshop poster sessions (16.15 - 16.45 tea break) (Music School/Robinson College)

Workshop 1: Cell biology of phagocytes

Workshop 2: Platelet activation

18.00 end of Tuesday's programme

Wednesday 5th april 1995

08.30 - 09.15 **Merck, Sharp & Dohme Update Lecture** (Music School)

'Immunology of the liver'

A L W F Eddleston (London, UK)

Chairman: S Keiding (Aarhus, Denmark)

09.30 - 12.30 **workshops** (10.45 - 11.15 coffee break) (Music School/Robinson College)

1. Cell biology of phagocytes
2. Platelet activation
3. Interactions between the endocrine and immune systems
4. Bone biology
7. Novel aspects in physiopathology of reproduction
9. Body composition
10. Preventive strategies in vascular disease: focus on n-3 fatty acids

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 17.00 **workshops** (15.15 - 15.45 tea break) (Music School/Robinson College)

1. Cell biology of phagocytes
2. Platelet activation
3. Interactions between the endocrine and immune systems
4. Bone biology
7. Novel aspects in physiopathology of reproduction
9. Body composition
10. Preventive strategies in vascular disease: focus on n-3 fatty acids

17.00 **Bristol-Myers-Squibb Poster Awards**
Closure of the meeting.

Congress Venue

University Music School, University of Cambridge
West Road, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Congress Secretariat

(registration, enquiries, information, technical exhibition etc.)
ESCI Secretariat Cambridge 1995, Mrs Susan McCarthy
68 Hampstead Way, London NW11 7XX, United Kingdom
Telephone +44 (0)81 455 7980
Telefax +44 (0)81 731 9766

Central Office ESCI

(enquiries scientific programme, general information ESCI etc.)
Mrs Janine du Mosch-Poot, Bolognalaan 40
3584 CJ Utrecht, The Netherlands
Telephone +31 (0)30 50 8787
Telefax +31 (0)30 51 5724

please note

- the meeting will take place at the Music School, Robinson College and Newnham College (Sunday only). From Monday onwards, the central meeting point will be at the Music School

registration

- on Sunday (from 14.00) registration will take place at Robinson & Newnham College
- from Monday onwards registration will take place at the Music School

accommodation

- since the number of rooms available in the colleges is limited, it is very important that you register and book accommodation beforehand. Please note that there may not be any accommodation available anymore on the day of your arrival!

opening lecture & welcome reception

- the opening lecture by Prof Meldolesi is scheduled on Sunday 2nd April 1995 at 18.00
- from 18.45 there will be a welcome reception
- both activities will take place at Newnham College

Congress dinner

- the official congress dinner will be held on Monday evening 3rd April 1995 at Trinity College Great Hall

THE FIRST ESCI MEETING IN CAMBRIDGE: 1979

by R Hermon Dowling, former Secretary of ESCI

The history of the ESCI, and of its Annual Scientific Meetings, is well known. However, the story of its changing venues, and of the first meeting in Cambridge in 1979 may not be so familiar to current members of the Society. The purpose of this article, therefore, is to paint a picture of the first ESCI meeting to take place outside the Netherlands and to review the rationale for deciding on a rotating venue.

The inaugural meeting of the ESCI took place at the seaside resort of Noordwijk, with its rolling sand dunes, on the Dutch coast in 1967. Over the next few years, the venue for the meeting moved - but not very far - to the Spa town of Scheveningen with its famous Kurhaus. Many will remember with affection not only the scientific sessions there, but also the bonhomie of the 'Dutch evenings' and the splendid 'rijsttafel' meals at the famous hotel Bali - just opposite the Kurhaus. After five years in Scheveningen, however, the Society decided to move to Rotterdam where the meetings were run in the ultra-modern Dijkzigt University Hospital there. The Netherlands had been an excellent choice of venue for the first ESCI meetings. Our Dutch hosts were friendly and efficient. Moreover, Holland was considered to be politically neutral. It was conveniently placed and had good transport connections to the rest of Europe. However, the organization of the meetings was becoming a heavy burden for the Dutch team who found it increasingly difficult to obtain financial support, year after year, from local sponsors who were suffering from 'donor fatigue'. The decision to move from The Netherlands was not an easy one but in the late 1970's the council proposed and the Annual Business Meeting accepted the idea of a rotating venue. The main objective of the ESCI meetings was (and still is) to provide a forum at which young clinical scientists could present their original work. The prime motive for the meetings was not tourism. Nonetheless, given the rich diversity of cultural life within Europe, council appreciated that each nation had a different tradition to offer, which would add an extra dimension to the meeting. Besides, it was anticipated that it might be easier to persuade local authorities

to support a 'one-off' event, than to seek their financial help every year. With this in mind council opted for Britain as the first non-Dutch venue for an ESCI meeting. The choice lay between Oxford, Cambridge and London but Cambridge won the day. In Britain, scientific and medical meetings are often held on University campuses during the holiday period - so that participants can stay in Halls of Residence or, in the case of Cambridge, in the largely autonomous Colleges that make up the University. This arrangement not only offers the advantage of on-site lecture theatres and conference facilities. It also offers easy access to budget-priced accommodation and to a communal lifestyle at the end of the working day - so important in cementing friendships and promoting collaboration between investigators from different countries.

As the secretary of the Society at the time, I contacted a friend and fellow gastroenterologist from Cambridge, Dr John Hunter, to seek his help with the 1979 meeting. He readily agreed to act as the local organizer and based the meeting on the Sidgwick Avenue lecture theatre site. The delegates were offered 'routine' college accommodation in Corpus Christi, Pembroke, Selwyn and Queens colleges and 'executive' accommodation in the Harvey Court of Caius (pronounced 'keys') College. There was, therefore, a spectrum of types of accommodation ranging from modern buildings overlooking beautiful college gardens, to traditional medieval buildings of great character and distinction surrounding the college courtyards. In those days, official site visits were somewhat perfunctory affairs, but the secretary and the secretary's secretary duly set off for a planning meeting with John Hunter at Cambridge. Their tour of inspection not only included the facilities for lecture theatres and poster demonstrations, but also the accommodation in the Halls of Residence. It may not be surprising, perhaps, that when his Research Fellows learned of his outing, the secretary was subjected to good-natured, but ribald, comments about conducting a tour of the bedrooms with his attractive young assistant!

In 1995 the ESCI meeting in Cambridge will take place during early April. At that time of year, one can reasonably expect a magnificent display of daffodils growing on the banks of the River Cam, at 'the Backs' of some of the Colleges. March, however, (when the first ESCI meeting in Cambridge took place) is a little early for traditional spring blossoms and the daffodil extravaganza. Nonetheless, by March, winter has usually departed from Southern Britain - even though French, German, Swiss and Italian clinical scientists can still enjoy late skiing in the Alps and Dolomites at that time. In 1979, however, March saw an unseasonably cold easterly wind blowing across the flat fenland: it dumped several centimeters of snow on Cambridge. Normally, the opportunity of sleeping in college bedrooms built several centuries ago is an esthetically-enriching experience. In the absence of central heating, however, the novelty of 'feeding' coin-operated, and rather inadequate, gas fires in the bedrooms, soon wore thin. This, coupled with icy winds, draughty windows and rattling doors no doubt explained why some of our visitors looked sleepless and bleary-eyed, at the early morning scientific sessions. What a contrast from the comfortable, albeit moderately expensive, hotels in Scheveningen and Rotterdam! The experiment of rotating the venues for the ESCI meetings nearly foundered on this unfortunate climatic experience. Fortunately, home comforts at the ESCI meetings returned the following year in Salzburg where the participants were housed in warm and well appointed comfortable hotels - even if it poured with rain for all four days of the Austrian meeting. Weather apart, the scientific and social aspects of the 1979 Cambridge meeting were a great success. The then Regius Professor of Physic at Cambridge (that is, the 'Royal' Professor of Medicine dating back to a proclamation by Henry VIII in 1540) was Sir John, now Lord, Butterfield. He chaired one of the scientific sessions and, in the best Oxbridge tradition, entertained all the participants to a sherry party in 'the Old Schools' - the administrative part of the University. Everyone who attended that first Cambridge meeting will have his or her own memories of its academic landmarks. But for all who were there, the highlight of the meeting was undoubtedly the splendid medieval banquet which was held in the magnificent dining Hall of King's College. Not only was the food superb (the menu included roast quail if memory serves me well) and the wines outstanding, but the musical entertainment and speeches were unforgettable.

The meals that evening were served by wenches in period costumes while the music was provided by the famous King Singers - a choral group of the highest calibre, who were also dressed for the occasion. After the first course, the Singers began their repertoire with a couple of rather dry Elizabethan madrigals which provoked only a polite ripple of reluctant applause. A similar, rather wooden response greeted an equally tedious rendition between the next two courses. By the time the quail arrived, the choristers had relaxed somewhat with a few songs from Porgy and Bess - even if 'Summertime, and the living is easy' did not seem totally appropriate, given the blanket of snow outside. By the time dessert and coffee arrived, however, the group had progressed to dixieland jazz, the music of the Beatles and good old fashioned 'barber shop' - with 110% participation by everyone in the room. As scientists, we strive for objectivity and accurate measurement. That evening, however, there was none. But in the totally subjective opinion of many who were there, the 1979 ESCI banquet at King's College was one of the most memorable experiences in the history of the Society. Then, as now, there were many alternative opportunities for scientific meetings in clinical and basic scientific aspects of medicine. The growth of the subspecialty organizations was threatening the existence of the ESCI and similar multi-disciplinary organizations - such as the Medical Research Society. It is appropriate, therefore, that these two Societies should have planned a joint venture in Cambridge during April 1995. As always, however, what made the ESCI meetings so special was not only the high level of science, but also the warmth of fellowship and the bonds of friendship which developed at that time. To some, gala dinners are unnecessary trimmings, but the importance of an event such as the banquet in Cambridge that snowy March night, cannot be overestimated.

NEW COUNCILLORS 1995

For vice-presidency, Christoph Gisinger (Vienna, Austria) and Susanne Keiding (Aarhus, Denmark) are proposed.

Hereunder you will find the summarized curriculum vitae of the candidates nominated for councillorship. The councillors that will resign in 1995 are Hein Koomans (Utrecht, The Netherlands) and Manuel de Oya (Madrid, Spain). As usual, you can choose between the two candidates per country on the enclosed ballot paper. The ballot paper should be returned **BEFORE 15TH MARCH** to the Central Office of ESCI, Bolognalaan 40, 3584 CJ Utrecht, The Netherlands. A simple majority vote will be decisive in each case.



Arthur Verhoeven

Arthur Verhoeven is 39 years old and received his university degree in chemistry in 1980 with biochemistry and immunology as majors. In 1985 he completed his PhD thesis at the University of Amsterdam on hormonal effects on mitochondrial functions in rat liver and started as a post-doc in the Laboratory of Experimental and Clinical Immunology of the same university working on human phagocytes. From 1988 until 1993 he was a Research Fellow of the Dutch Academy of Sciences focussing on signal transduction in human neutrophils. Since 1993 he is a Senior Investigator in the laboratory mentioned above, doing

basic research closely related to clinical problems, in particular phagocyte disorders. Since 1986 he has actively participated in the Phagocyte Workshop, which constitutes an important part of the Annual Scientific Meeting of ESCI. In 1994 he was the organizer of the 13th Phagocyte Workshop during the 28th Annual Scientific Meeting of ESCI in Toledo. Since then, he has represented the Phagocyte Workshop in the ESCI council as an ex-officio councillor.

Bruce Wolffenbuttel graduated in 1980 in medicine at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. He was Research Fellow at the



Bruce Wolffenbuttel

Experimental Cardiovascular Research Department of the Thoraxcenter, before he started his residency at the Department of Internal Medicine III/Endocrinology of the University Hospital 'Dijkzigt' in Rotterdam in January 1983. In December 1987 he was registered as an internist and immediately thereafter obtained a post as endocrinologist at the Division of Endocrinology of the University Hospital Maastricht/ University of Limburg. At this university he finished his PhD thesis in 1991 on the basis of studies related to complications and treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus. Focus was aimed at the effects of insulin therapy on glucose and lipid metabolism in diabetic patients. For his work he was awarded the Dr Gerritzen Prize for Diabetes Research in 1992. In the beginning of 1993 he was appointed Associate Professor of Medicine and Endocrinology. Bruce Wolffenbuttel is Associate Editor of the Netherlands Journal of Medicine. His present interest in research concerns the biochemical factors responsible for the development of structural and functional micro- and macrovascular abnormalities in both human and experimental diabetes, and pharmacologic intervention to prevent the development of these complications. As an ESCI member he was co-organizer of the Annual Scientific Meeting in Maastricht in 1990; he also organized the workshop on Diabetic Angiopathy during the Annual Scientific Meeting in Vienna in 1992.



Lina Badimon

Lina Badimon is 41 years old and graduated in 1975 at the University of Barcelona (pharmacology-biochemistry), got her PhD in 1979 (physiology) and her Public Health Diploma in 1980. She was Postdoctoral Fellow (1981-1983) at the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester MN, USA. In 1983 she joined the Division of Cardiology at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York as Director of the Cardiology Basic Research Laboratory and was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine (1983-1987) and Associate Professor of Medicine (1988-1991) at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. From

1991 to 1994 she joined the Cardiac Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital and was appointed Lecturer in Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Boston. Since 1992 she is the Director of the Cardiovascular Research Centre in Barcelona, created under the scope of the High Council for Scientific Research of Spain, the Division of Cardiology of Hospital Santa Cruz and San Pablo, and the School of Medicine of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Chair Catalana-Occidente). Her research activities focus on basic aspects of atherosclerosis and thrombosis in the onset of ischaemic heart disease (cell-cell interaction, signal transduction and regulation of gene expression). She has published over 180 articles in scientific journals and books.



Carlos Villaverde

Carlos Villaverde graduated in Medicine and Surgery and obtained his PhD at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Barcelona, his Public Health Diploma by the Department School of Barcelona and his specialization in pharmacology at the School of Pharmacology, University of Barcelona and Mario Negri Institute in Milan, Italy. From 1961 to 1970 he was Director of the Department of Pharmacological Research at Almirall Laboratories Ltd, Barcelona. In 1971 he joined the High Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) as Senior Scientist. Since 1972 he is Professor at the School of Pharmacology in Barcelona. In 1974 he founded

the Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis Unit at Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo (CID-CSIC) in Barcelona. His main area of interest is the role of fibrinolysis in the development and complications of atherosclerosis. He is vice-president of the Spanish Foundation of Atherosclerosis and past-president of the Spanish Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis.

FUTURE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

1995, 2nd - 5th April
Cambridge, United Kingdom
local organizer: Prof M J Brown (Cambridge, UK)
(nb. programme summary in this newsletter!)

1996, 24th - 27th April
Interlaken, Switzerland
local organizer: Prof T F Lüscher (Berne, Switzerland)

1997, 19th - 22nd March
Kiel, Germany
local organizer: Prof Dr U R Fölsch (Kiel, Germany)

1998 (preliminary)
Cracow, Poland
local organizer: Dr V Urazc (Cracow, Poland)

1999
Milan, Italy
local organizer: Prof A E Pontiroli (Milan, Italy)

2000
Aarhus, Denmark
local organizer: Dr S Keiding (Aarhus, Denmark)

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

by Alan M McGregor, Editor-in-Chief EJCI

Over the past year the Journal has continued to show slow but sure improvement. Since writing my report for the Society's Newsletter last year I have attended three meetings relevant to the Journal. Firstly we held an editorial board meeting in London in May 1994. Secondly I had the opportunity to meet with the president and council of the European Society for Clinical Investigation at their council meeting in London and finally the president and I met with representatives of Blackwell's to discuss issues relevant to the Journal. A number of issues was discussed, all of them point to progress, though in addition we have had discussion relating to further ways of enhancing the Journal. My main concern this past year has been that with the increase in the number of papers submitted, and despite an increase in rejection rate we are failing to meet the original commitment we made to publish papers within 4 months of acceptance. This is good news rather than bad news since it means that our decision to move to a monthly Journal was justified, and the response to our current problem has been an equally enthusiastic response from Blackwell's to increase the number of pages per issue immediately. Just as soon as it is possible, therefore, the Journal will increase in size and I hope very much that within the next 4 to 6 months we will have returned to our original commitment time of publishing within 4 months of acceptance.

Authors continue to appreciate enormously the reviewing process which the editorial board carries out so assiduously in conjunction with the referees that they use. In order to achieve the high standards of refereeing and keep referees to the allotted time allowed, editors and their offices are under constant pressure and both on the editorial board and in my discussions with Blackwell's we have talked seriously about introducing a payment per paper for editors to cover the considerable expenses involved in the writing, telephoning and faxing from the editors to our office in London and also from the editors to the individual referees. I am exceedingly keen that all costs we maintain the quality of the refereeing process since this is clearly something which attracts authors and for which they are grateful. Blackwell's likewise seem totally committed to maintaining this quality by investing in payments to the editors.

Other issues which are currently under discussion relate to the actual presentation of the Journal and in particular the cover. Whilst I hold fairly conservative views on the current appearance of the front cover these are not necessarily shared by my col-

leagues on the editorial board nor by the council of ESCI and if any of you who read this are particularly concerned about the cover of the Journal or inspired to offer suggestions regarding change I would be delighted to hear from you.

The Journal continues to consider an increasing number of rapid communications but the standards that we demand are high and therefore we are fairly restrictive in those we agree to publish. I hope very much that this is a facility that authors will continue to find and make use of. The quality of the rapid communications we agree to publish are clearly of a high standard since to our disappointment in the past year 2 that we accepted were subsequently published in the Lancet. Hopefully we will evolve to a quality Journal which makes it just as important to get a rapid communication into our Journal as it is into the Lancet. My own guess for those of you who are interested is that we probably end up publishing our rapid communications faster than the Lancet publishes its paper despite the latter being a weekly Journal!

Both invited and uninvited reviews continue to be received and again their quality is both recognized and appreciated by those who receive the Journal. Key to the successful progress of the Journal has been my ability to rely totally on the efficiency, effectiveness and enthusiasm of Yvonne Hanscombe who runs the editorial office here at King's in London. Our rejection rate may be rising which I hope you take as a measure of our quality but with it comes a thorough and effective refereeing service which in almost all cases is rapid and efficient. Occasionally we let people down and as luck would have it the two I remember most uncomfortably in the past year are a paper submitted by a council member of the European Society and another by one of our own editors. These delays when they occur are the result of referees who let us down. I hope that those of you who are occasionally frustrated by delays which you feel are longer than they should be will recognize in your other roles as referees, rather than as paper authors, what a huge responsibility refereeing papers is and how important it is that all of us meet this commitment if we expect to be treated similarly by others refereeing our papers.

I have gone on long enough. The Journal prospers and this is almost entirely due to the huge effort that Yvonne Hanscombe, the scientific editors and the huge number of referees that we use put in to making the Journal. I am as always incredibly grateful to them all.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society is open to any person, irrespective of age, who has accomplished meritorious original investigation in clinical or allied sciences.

In addition, young scientists can apply for junior membership with a reduced membership fee. Eligibility:

- Any young scientist under the age of 30 can apply for junior membership of ESCI.
- Junior membership is for a maximum of three (3) years.
- Junior members receive the European Journal of Clinical Investigation and have the same financial benefits as full members.
- Junior members are not allowed to vote during the Annual Business Meeting and are not eligible to any office.
- Junior members can apply for full membership at any time.
- Junior members pay a membership fee which is about 40% lower than the full membership fee.
- If junior members do not fulfill the requirements for full membership within the period of three (3) years, their membership will be terminated.

Applications, both for full and junior membership can be sent to the Central Office. Application forms can be obtained from the Central Office.

Publication of this Newsletter is made possible by a generous gift of Merck, Sharp & Dohme.