

EDITORIAL

by Lina Badimon, President of ESCI

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2000 is now behind us and we are initiating the third millennium with high expectations and renewed energies. Our 2000 Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Aarhus, Denmark. It was a good meeting with some highly specialized workshops that promoted lively discussions. The Council wants to thank Dr. Susan Keiding for all her work towards a successful Meeting. Susan, a past-council member and a long-standing member of ESCI, also did her best in organizing a good social program that allowed a close interaction among delegates.

In the year 2002 we will also have a past-council member as President of the Annual Scientific meeting of the Society. It is Dr. Patrick Evrard who will gather us all in Brussels.

Regarding ESCI-Barcelona 2001 there is some news to discuss. But first of all and again we should thank Servier for sponsoring the ESCI Award-2001 for Excellence in Clinical Science to be presented in Barcelona. Unfortunately this year we cannot provide an abridged CV of the winner in this newsletter because it has not been decided as yet due to a change in the schedule of the Council meetings. However we can already say that the winner will be a present reality and a future asset for European research.

During the last year we have undertaken a number of actions that are directed to promote participation of ESCI members in new initiatives.

Long overdue is the need of a web site for ESCI. We are negotiating with Blackwell towards this end and we expect to have it working at the mid-2001. It was decided that abstract submission to our Annual Meeting had to be solely in electronic format starting this year with the Barcelona 2001 Annual Meeting and therefore a web page is badly needed. A certain risk is involved in this decision that may cause a lower abstract submission for the Barcelona 2001 meeting. However, the decision had to be carried out and this year we have worked out the solution of using the web page of the Spanish Society of Atherosclerosis because we are celebrating a joint meeting (www.searteriosclerosis.org/barcelona2001).

Finances are reasonably well and we do not expect any problems in the near future.

We have had a change in our Central Office. As you will read in the comment prepared by Dr. J. Marx, Janine du Mosch-Poot decided to quit her post as Secretary of the Society. She was really important in the every day running of ESCI. For me she was "the expert" in all matters. We will miss her. However, we have now with us a new person in charge : Jos Sperna Weiland, an old friend (she has been working with us in EJCI for some time), has taken the position. From here I want to welcome her to ESCI.

Also new and welcomed to the Council were the members elected last year : Peter Grant from Leeds (United Kingdom), Daniel Hayoz from Lausanne (Switzerland), Martin Reincke from Freiburg (Germany).

This year Jerome Rossert and Jacek Jawien will leave the Council and from the new tentative candidates from France and Poland you will have to vote one per country. We thank Jerome and Jacek for their work. The council would like to propose Robin Dullaart and Michael Roden to serve as the new vice-presidents.

An important topic for ESCI is our Journal. We are facing important changes that I expect will follow the path of previous years. Jo Marx, the present Editor-In-Chief, had decided to finish his job on December 2001 and procedures were initiated (through public advertising) to find a successor. In our next Council Meeting we will have a final decision that will be made public in the Barcelona Annual Meeting. EJCI is a dear matter for us and we want to make the correct decision. Unanimously, the Council wants to thank Jo Marx and the Editorial Board for the effort and work devoted to the Journal.

Continuing medical education should be initiated as one of the important tasks of the Society. As such we will this year, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, held the Second Course in Molecular Biology. The first course was held in Aarhus and it was greatly appreciated by the participants. Jerome Rossert has been involved in the organization of both courses.

A President's lunch for past councillors was held in Aarhus as an initiative to bring ideas from ESCI-experts that may help to outline the future. The consensus was that ESCI has had and has a specific scientific role in Europe that should be strengthened with the help of the new technologies available to us. We should keep working for ESCI.

I have the honor and pleasure to be the President of the Organizing Committee of the 35th Annual Scientific Meeting of ESCI to be held in Barcelona May 2-5, 2001. I can tell you that the prospects of the meeting are excellent. The invited speakers are first class and thus the scientific quality is warranted. On the other hand, excellencies of social and city life in Barcelona do not need advertising. Come and enjoy science and life in Barcelona.

36th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

by Patrick Evrard, Local Organizer

On behalf of the European Society for Clinical Investigation (ESCI), it is my pleasure to invite you to attend the 36th Annual Scientific Meeting of ESCI that will be held in Brussels April 26-28, 2002.

Brussels was founded in 979 and became the capital of Belgium in 1830. Brussels is also one of the three federalist regions of Belgium and the capital of the European Community. It heads the largest economy block of the world. Brussels is called 'the company town' for European Government. In this city of art and culture, you will also enjoy the charm of downtown with its old houses, pubs, typical cafes and restaurants. Brussels, indeed Belgium, is renowned for its culinary excellence, from the typical Flemish and Walloon food to the cuisine from virtually every corner of the world. Who hasn't heard of our Belgian beer (more than 500 varieties) or tasted our incomparable chocolates.

European and non European citizens are friendly encouraged to participate to this meeting of the highest level. The Brussels 2002 Annual Scientific Meeting of ESCI meeting will give a multidisciplinary forum for scientists engaged in studies of basic mechanisms of molecular biology as well as in clinical and therapy trials.

I hope that you will actively contribute to the scientific success of this meeting by presenting your work and sharing your knowledge with us. We will be waiting for you in Brussels.

For more information, please contact the organizing secretariat :

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A farewell to Janine

Janine du Mosch – Poot leaves ESCI after being a secretary for 14 years

It is always a pleasure for me to look back at my career in ESCI. I came in office about 15 years ago. In those years ESCI, with more than 1000 members and strict rules for membership (below 45 years of age, at least three international publications, proposal by two ESCI members) was run by an enthusiastic council, but without a secretariat. The president was in office for only one year, in contrast to the honorary secretary and honorary treasurer who stayed for three years.

Membership and financial administration was maintained by hand and by typewriter, in two different countries, and usually by a local secretary or the officers' wife. The council in those days took an important decision: the Society should be a professional organisation with a professional secretariat, also the president should remain for three years, and the functions of honorary secretary and treasurer should be combined. It was my task to perform that reorganisation, and I stayed in office for four years. But the first thing to do was to hire the perfect secretary.

At that time I was living in Vianen, a small town near Utrecht, and I was lucky enough to have a good friend by the name of Ton Poot. He was a businessman and knew everything about secretaries. Together we made the profile for the perfect secretary: she should be intelligent, friendly, accurate, very good looking, young, a good ballet dancer (preferably well known by performances on television), fluent in English, French, German and Spanish, and she should have completed professional training as a secretary with the highest possible notes. Ton Poot added another criterion to this list: "And she should be my daughter". A few weeks later Janine Poot was secretary of ESCI, and she was the best possible choice. It was a pleasure to work with her, to reorganize and computerize ESCI administration, to redesign all kinds of guidelines, including those for congress organizers, to take care of the organisation of the scientific part of four Annual Scientific Meetings of ESCI, and to enjoy those wonderful meetings for many years. Janine became the face of ESCI, at least the face that many members and congress participants will remember.

One of our tasks was to make ESCI financially healthy. We found that numerous members had failed to pay their contribution for many years. By disposing non-paying members we initiated the shrinking of the ESCI membership. And all forthcoming secretary-treasurers continued this strategy. Meanwhile Janine became Mrs. du Mosch-Poot. Soon thereafter the shrinking of ESCI membership started to be compensated by expansion of Janine's family. First, of course, there was a husband (Robert), soon followed by three beautiful sons, one after the other: Sam, Max and Ralph. And Janine is a wonderful mother, taking care of her family with even more passion than for ESCI. To be secretary of ESCI remained to be a demanding job. The moment had to come that her job would interfere too much with her other responsibilities. That moment came by the end of the year 2000.

Now Janine is a retired ESCI secretary. Many ESCI officers and councillors will remember her with warm feelings of gratitude and friendship. Thank you Janine. You were a fantastic secretary, and you will remain a great person.

Jo Marx,

who was honorary secretary-treasurer of ESCI from 1987-1991, and who brought Janine to ESCI

NEW COUNCILLORS 2001

The Council would like to propose Robin Dullaart and Michael Roden for Vice-Presidency. Moreover, the curricula vitae of the candidates nominated for councillorship are listed. The councillors that will resign in 2001 are Jacek Jawien and Jerome Rossert. As usual you can choose between the two candidates per country on the enclosed ballot paper. The ballot paper should be returned immediately to the Central Office of ESCI. You will find exact instructions on the ballot paper. A simple majority vote is decisive in each case.

council candidates Poland

Piotr Kulakowski was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1957. He completed medical education at the Warsaw Medical Academy in 1982. Since then he has been working at the Department of Cardiology, Postgraduate Medical School, Warsaw, Poland as an assistant (SHO), Senior Assistant (Registrar), and from 1994 till now as an Associate Professor and Head of the Electrophysiology Laboratory. He is a specialist in internal medicine and cardiology.

Between October 1990 and July 1993 he worked as a Research Registrar at the Department of Cardiological Sciences, St. George's Hospital Medical School, London, UK, sponsored by the Research Fellowship from the European Society of Cardiology and the British Heart Foundation Grants.

His main interests in cardiology include clinical non-invasive and invasive electrophysiology (signal-averaged ECG, Holter monitoring, non-pharmacological therapy of arrhythmias – pacing and ablation). He is the Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology, Member of the Editorial Board of 'Clinical Electrophysiology Review' and 'Europace', Member of the Task Force on Syncope of the European Society of Cardiology, Member of the Polish Society of Cardiology, and Deputy Editor of the Polish Heart Journal. He published over 50 original papers in peer-reviewed journals.

Piotr Kulakowski is married and has one child. His hobbies include tennis, cycling, and windsurfing.

Marek Sanak is 42 years old. He graduated with honors in medicine at the Jagellonian University Medical School of Cracow in 1983. From 1983 to 1993 he worked in the Medical genetics Department of the Polish-American Children's Hospital in Cracow. During that time he got his first and second degree certification in pediatrics and completed the medical thesis on birth defects in the population of Southern Poland.

Since 1994 he is working at the Department of Internal Medicine, in the team of Prof. Andrew Szczeklik. He leads a research group working on genetics of bronchial asthma and common mutations in cardiovascular diseases. Simultaneously he works in the Department of Biochemistry, Institute of Pharmacology at the Polish Academy of Sciences on the genetics and molecular pathology of psychiatric diseases.

He spent several months abroad, as a research fellow in Hospital Necker, Paris (1991-1992, 12 months); Swiss Institute for Allergy and Asthma, Davos (1996, 2 months); Boston Children's Hospital (1988, 3 months) and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston (1998, 2 months). In 1997 he received the Investigator Award of The Lancet for discovery of leukotriene C₄ synthase polymorphism and its role in asthma. In 1999 he obtained the Individual Prize of the Polish Ministry of Health for achievements in molecular Biology. He published 28 research and 26 review articles and presented over 50 congress communications.

His current field of interest is genome genetics and genetics of common diseases. He is working on applications of recent advances in molecular medicine into daily clinical work, by means of prevention and pharmacogenetics prognostics for common multifactorial diseases.

Marek Sanak is enjoying computing, the indispensable tool of geneticists, but also modern and classic music, sharing this avocation with his wife and 15 years old daughter.

council candidates France

Bruno Fouqueray is 44 years old and graduated as MD in 1980 from the University Pierre and Marie Curie in Paris. After a fellowship in nephrology and internal medicine (1982-1986), he was research fellow in immunology for 18 months working on animal models of glomerulonephritis. He next became assistant professor of nephrology then assistant professor of physiology. From 1991 until now he is an associate professor of physiology in the renal and metabolic investigation unit at the University Hospital Tenon in Paris. Since 1989 he has been involved in basic research in renal physiology and pathophysiology pertaining to pro- and anti-inflammatory pathways in the kidney. After training in the laboratory of the division of nephrology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio where he worked on cytokines and chemokines (1993-1994), he got his PhD degree in 1996 on the glomerular production of TNF- α and its regulation.

His basic and clinical area of research is now focused on the progression of kidney diseases with (i) *in vitro* and *in vivo* basic projects studying the mediators and their signalling responsible for the control of inflammatory processes and fibrosis and (ii) prospective clinical trials to investigate the genetic and environmental determinants of the progression of nephropathies.

He is member of the Société de Physiologie, the American Society of Nephrology and the International Society of Nephrology. He is (co-)author of about 50 papers in peer-reviewed journals.

Bertrand Knebelmann is 38 years old and graduated in medicine in 1987 at the university of Marseille. He was a resident in several hospitals in Paris and a clinical fellow in Nephrology in the Necker Hospital in Paris. He got a PhD thesis on the molecular defects involved in Alport syndrome in the Necker Hospital and did pioneering work in the field of type IV collagen mutation detection. He then went for a 3 years postdoctoral position at Harvard Medical School in the renal division of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center headed by Pr VP Sukhatme. His work focused on the role of the von Hippel Lindau tumor suppressor gene in renal cancer and angiogenesis, leading to several publications. He was appointed as associate Professor in the department of Nephrology at the Necker Hospital-University Paris V-René Descartes in September 2000.

His main research activities focus on renal cancer and autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease and other hereditary renal diseases.

He is a member of the European Dialysis and Transplantation Association, of the International Society of Nephrology and a founding member of the European Kidney Research Association.

SUMMARY (PRELIMINARY) SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME 35th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Barcelona, Spain, 2nd - 5th May 2001

Wednesday 2nd May 2001

- 9.00 - 17.00 Postgraduate Course on basic methods in molecular biology, organised by *J Martinez - J Rossert*
- 15.00 - 18.00 Registration
- 17.00 - 18.00 **Memorial Grande Covian Lecture**
'MRI in the understanding of atherothrombosis: From mice to humans'
V Fuster (New York, NY)
- 19.30 - 20.30 Opening Ceremony
- 20.30 - 21.30 Welcome Reception

Thursday 3rd May 2001

- 8.45 - 9.30 **Plenary Lecture**
'How cells read growth control signals'
J Massague (New York, NY)
- 9.45 - 13.45 **Workshops** (10.45 - 11.15 Coffee break and poster viewing)
- 1 Recent progress on the metabolic and genetic aspects of familial combined hyperlipidaemia
M Castro Cabezas (Utrecht, The Netherlands), J Ribalta (Reus, Spain)
 - 2 Mediterranean diet. impact in chronic disease prevention.
P Mata, L Badimon (Madrid, Spain)
 - 3 New dimensions in understanding the mechanism and management in hypertension and beyond
A Fernández-Cruz (Madrid, Spain)
 - 4 Therapeutic options beyond LDL for atherosclerosis
JJ Badimon (New York, NY)
- 13.45 - 15.00 Lunch and poster viewing
- 15.00 - 15.45 **Plenary Lecture**
P Carmeliet (Belgium)
- 16.00 - 17.30 **Workshops** (17.30 - 18.00 Coffee break and poster viewing)

- 1 Recent progress on the metabolic and genetic aspects of familial combined hyperlipidaemia
M Castro Cabezas (Utrecht, The Netherlands), J Ribalta (Reus, Spain)
- 2 Mediterranean diet. impact in chronic disease prevention.
P Mata, L Badimon (Madrid, Spain)
- 3 New dimensions in understanding the mechanism and management in hypertension and beyond
A Fernández-Cruz (Madrid, Spain)
- 4 Therapeutic options beyond LDL for Atherosclerosis
JJ Badimon (New York, NY)

Friday 4th May 2001

8.45 - 9.30 **Plenary Lecture**

'Arterial smooth muscle cells phenotypic heterogeneity: role in restenosis and atheroma formation'

G Gabbiani (Geneva, Switzerland)

9.45 - 13.45 **Workshops** (10.45 - 11.15 Coffee break and poster viewing)

- 1 Recent progress on the metabolic and genetic aspects of familial combined hyperlipidaemia
M Castro Cabezas (Utrecht, The Netherlands), J Ribalta (Reus, Spain)
- 5 Phagocytes: from bench to clinic
J Barquinero, F Mollinedo (Barcelona, Spain)
- 6 Insuline resistance
R Gabriel, A. Gómez-Pan (Madrid, Spain)
- 7 Nuts and health
E Ros (Barcelona, Spain) & J Sabaté (Loma Linda, USA)
- 14 New approaches in the management of heart failure
A Bayes de Luna, M Garcia Moll (Barcelona, Spain)

13.45 - 15.00 Lunch and poster viewing

15.00 - 15.45 **Poster Awards 2001**, followed by
Plenary Lecture ESCI Award 2001

16.00 - 17.00 Chaired poster discussion
(17.30 - 18.00 Coffee break and poster viewing)

17.00 - 18.00 General oral session of selected posters

Saturday 5th May 2001

8.45 - 9.30 **Plenary Lecture**

'Stem cells and their impact in biomedicine'

G Margarie (Paris, France)

9.45 - 13.45 **Workshops** (10.45 - 11.15 Coffee break and poster viewing)

- 5 Phagocytes: from bench to clinic
J Barquinero, F Mollinedo (Barcelona, Spain)
- 8 Recent advances in immunopharmacology and immunotherapy
K Masek (Czech Republic)
- 10 Wine in health and disease.
J Millan, L Alvarez Sala (Madrid, Spain)
- 11 New risk factors in atherosclerosis
X Pintó, F Blanco, M Vilaseca (Barcelona, Spain)
- 12 Central nervous system and oxidative stress
F Cruz-Sánchez (Barcelona, Spain)

13.45 - 15.00 Lunch and poster viewing

16.00 - 17.30 **Workshops** (17.30 - 18.00 Coffee break and poster viewing)

- 5 Phagocytes: from bench to clinic
J Barquinero, F Mollinedo (Barcelona, Spain)

- 10 Wine in health and disease.
J Millan, L Alvarez Sala (Madrid, Spain)
- 11 New risk factors in atherosclerosis
X Pintó, F Blanco, M Vilaseca (Barcelona, Spain)
- 13 Serpins and inflammation: focus on antithrombin
C Wiedermann (Innsbruck, Austria)

Important addresses

Congress venue

Palau de Congressos de Barcelona
Av. Reina Maria Cristina s/n
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Local organizer

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Future Annual Scientific Meetings

2001, 2 – 5 May
Barcelona, Spain
Local organizer: Lina Badimon
(see editorial in this Newsletter)

2002, 26 – 28 April
Brussels, Belgium
Local organizer: Patrick Evrard
(see announcement in this Newsletter)

2003
Great Britain
Local organizer: Gareth Williams

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