

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Prof. Heinrich Schulte, President of ESCI

Dear fellow members of ESCI, colleagues and friends of ESCI,

Our Society concluded a successful year with many highlights. It is my feeling and that of the Council: the European Society for Clinical Investigation increased its visibility among the scientific community and within the European academic setting through its activities, the Annual Scientific Meeting and the Journal.

Firstly, I have to thank the organizers of the Verona meeting in April 2003, Giovanni Ricevuti and Roberto Corrocher, for preparing and conducting a superior meeting in Verona, consisting of 21 workshops of a high scientific standard and taking advantage of the historic scene in this ancient city to promote a lively social interaction within the meeting.

The European Journal of Clinical Investigation is in good shape with its editor-in-chief and the editorial board in Vienna. Walter H. Hörl is collaborating with a number of European scientists, all of them highly recognized specialists in their field, to keep the Journal on its successful way. Electronic publishing is speeding the whole publishing process and the turnover of the manuscripts.

The Council is grateful to Daniel Hayoz, he hosted the autumn meeting of the Council in Lausanne, where a number of new councillors could be welcomed on board. We had a lively strategic discussion about the future of ESCI and benchmarked a number of upcoming events for the Society. The Council emphasizes on attracting new members for the Society outside the core countries and will further develop its visibility in the Scandinavian countries, the Eastern European countries and within Southern Europe.

Furthermore, it is a great pleasure for me to invite you to the next annual scientific meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation to be held in Utrecht, The Netherlands, April 14 – 17, 2004. Jo Marx as the president of the local organizing committee has prepared an outstanding program. Twenty workshops will be presented by scientists well-known in their field and I do hope, we will have the time to meet you there, where you present your scientific work within the ESCI annual scientific meeting.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me about ESCI and personal matters. As president I will be open for all constructive criticisms to our Society.

THE ESCI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL SCIENCE 2004



Dr. Allan Flyvbjerg

Winner of the 2004 ESCI Award for Excellence in Clinical Science

Once again the choice of this year's winner of the ESCI Award for Excellence in Clinical Science was a difficult task due to the high scientific achievement of all candidates who applied for the prestigious European

recognition. However, Dr. Allan Flyvbjerg, MD, PhD, Associate Professor at the Medical Department of the Aarhus University Hospital in Denmark, was awarded the ESCI Award for Excellence in Clinical Science for his creative and promising research work in the field of diabetic nephropathy after a thorough evaluation of all applications by the ESCI Council.

Dr. Allan Flyvbjerg was born in Denmark in 1959. He graduated from Aarhus Medical School in 1986 and obtained his PhD in 1993 with a thesis work entitled "The role of insulin-like growth factor I in initial renal hypertrophy in experimental diabetes". He went on to specialize in endocrinology and internal medicine and was promoted Chief Physician and associate Professor of medicine. As a diabetologist Dr. Allan Flyvbjerg focused his interest on the mechanisms underlying the development of diabetic nephropathy. He has greatly contributed in this field by showing for the first time that renal hypertrophy in experimental models of diabetes is preceded by local accumulation of insulin-like growth factor I (IGF-I). He demonstrated that without affecting the metabolic status, somatostatin was able to prevent kidney growth and to normalize urinary albumin secretion in rat models of diabetes mellitus.

Although today, inhibitors of the renin angiotensin aldosterone system have been shown to slow progression of diabetic nephropathy, Dr. Allan Flyvbjerg has pursued further with the involvement of growth hormone and IGF-I in concert with other key players in the renal remodelling occurring in diabetes. VEGF, TGF- β and more recently Receptors for Advanced Glycation Endproducts (RAGE) are being investigated in his quest to unravel the pathogenesis of diabetic renal changes. Inhibition of several of these growth promoting factors holds promises to prevent diabetic nephropathy. Both RAGE and VEGF inhibitors have experimentally demonstrated nephroprotective effects.

Dr. Allan Flyvbjerg presently the president of the Danish Diabetes Association has consistently published his research in the most prominent journals of physiology and diabetology and has been awarded prestigious prizes for his research in diabetes.

Altogether, the innovation and the quality of Dr. Allan Flyvbjerg's research with a fair potential for clinical application made him an outstanding laureate for this year's ESCI Award for Excellence in Clinical Science. We are all looking forward to the awardee's lecture to be scheduled at the next ESCI meeting in Utrecht in April 2004.

Daniel Hayoz
Vice-president of ESCI

NEW COUNCILLORS 2004

During the next Annual Business Meeting of ESCI, April 2004, both vice-presidents, Dr. Daniel Hayoz and Dr. Marek Sanak, will finish their offices for the Society. Therefore, new councillors for Switzerland and Poland should be appointed in council. Furthermore, it has been decided that the procedure with respect to the councillor for the phagocyte group will change. Instead of a one-year ex-officio appointment, the councillor who represents the phagocyte group will now be officially elected for three years. So, you will find the candidate for this position also enclosed on the ballot paper that ESCI members will receive together with this Newsletter.

The curricula vitae of the candidates nominated for councillorship are listed below. As usual you can vote through the ballot paper. The ballot paper should be returned to the Central Office of ESCI as soon as possible. Exact instructions can be found on the ballot paper. A simple majority vote is decisive in each case.

Council candidates Poland



Anetta Undas, MD, PhD
Department of Medicine
Jagiellonian University School
of Medicine
Cracow
Poland

Anetta Undas, 37 years old, is associate professor at the Department of Medicine, Jagiellonian University School of Medicine. Her scientific career took place in

the School of Medicine, Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland. After obtaining the MD in 1990, she started to work in the Department of Medicine, where she completed her doctoral thesis in 1996. She was a research fellow for over 1 year at the Department of Biochemistry in Burlington, USA, under Dr. Kenneth G. Mann.

Dr. Undas' major fields of interest involve blood coagulation, atherosclerosis, and its modulation by various pharmacological compounds, particularly non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs and statins. She discovered and published about important pharmacogenetic interaction between acetylsalicylic acid and blood platelet functions determined by PIA1/A2 polymorphism of glycoprotein IIb/IIIa. Her interest in genetic control of haemostasis led her to research on polymorphism of clotting factor XIII as well as a role of homocysteine in the pathogenesis of atherosclerotic vascular disease and venous thrombosis. She is a co-author of more than 40 papers, published in peer-reviewed journals, and she is the editor-in-chief for the Polish edition of *Circulation*.



Milosz Jankowski, MD, PhD
Department of Medicine
Jagiellonian University School
of Medicine
Cracow
Poland

Milosz Jankowski is 34 years old, married and awaiting his first baby. He graduated with honours from the Medical Faculty, Jagiellonian University School of Medicine in Cracow, Poland, in 1994, and has been working as a physician and researcher at the Department of Medicine of this University since then on.

Dr. Jankowski's clinical career led him through the internal medicine ward to the intensive care unit where he is working now, and he gained speciality in internal medicine in 2002. His main research interests include blood coagulation, genetics, autoimmunology and atherogenesis. He was awarded a scholarship in the framework of Flemish-Polish bilateral agreement in 2000 and 2001, and worked as a researcher at the Center for Molecular and Vascular Biology, University of Leuven, Belgium, (for 9 months) and at the Department of Immunology, Allergology and Rheumatology, University of Antwerp (for 3 months), Belgium. He defended his doctoral thesis on prothrombin gene polymorphism in 2002, and is author and co-author of 21 publications mainly in the area of antiphospholipid antibodies, thrombin generation and thrombophilia.

Council candidates Switzerland



Michel Duchosal, MD, PhD
Division of Haematology
Department of Medicine
Lausanne University Hospital
Lausanne
Switzerland

Michel Duchosal was born in 1957 in Geneva, Switzerland where he graduated from medical school in 1982. He was then a resident in clinical pathology and later in internal medicine at the University Hospital in Geneva. He next went to La Jolla, California, at the Research Institute of Scripps Clinic from 1986 to 1994 where he became Assistant Professor in the Department of Immunology. From 1994 he has been in the Division of Haematology at the Lausanne University Hospital where he is now Associate Professor. Dr. Duchosal has a very solid teaching experience and research activity in the Department of Internal Medicine. He is supervising the general and onco-hematology patients as well as the specialized laboratory of haematology and his broad and encyclopaedic knowledge of clinical medicine makes him an excellent integrator in internal medicine. Since 1986 he has been the recipient of numerous research grants and has received several awards for scientific merits.

Michel Duchosal's field of expertise in research is focused on basic mechanisms on hemato-lymphopoiesis with in vitro cultures and in vivo laboratory models. In the latter models human cells are transplanted into conditioned immunodeficient mice that do not reject xenografts. Current works are aimed at dissecting mechanisms of interactions between human stromal cells and human hematopoietic cells that boost human hematopoiesis.

Dr. Duchosal is the author of more than 35 original scientific papers in leading journals as well as book chapters. He is a member of various national and international clinical and scientific societies.



François Mach, MD, PhD
Department of Cardiology
Geneva University Hospital
Geneva
Switzerland

François Mach was born in Geneva in 1960. He studied medicine in Geneva where he graduated in 1989. After completing his residency in internal medicine at the University Hospital in Geneva he specialized in cardiology at the same institution. He next became a research fellow at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, from 1995 to 1999, where he trained in cardiovascular biology. Back in Switzerland he became the recipient of a career award of the Swiss National Research Foundation and is Senior Clinical Fellow in Cardiology at the University Hospital in Geneva from 1999.

Dr. Mach's main research area is in inflammation and immunological pathways implicated in atherosclerosis. He has contributed a great amount into the mechanisms of plaque development and complications. His current interest extends also to the mechanisms of chronic heart rejection, and of restenosis in coronary arteries as well as in biochemical markers of acute ischemic heart disease. His publication record comprises a list of more than 50 articles in the leading basic science and cardiovascular journals. He is invited to prestigious conferences on cardiovascular biology. He is a member of many scientific committees and boards of national and international societies.

Council candidate for representation of the Phagocyte Group



Dirk Roos, PhD
Sanquin Research
Netherlands Blood Transfusion
Laboratory (CLB)
Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Dirk Roos is a biochemist specialised in cellular innate immunology. He graduated in 1969 from the University of Amsterdam, did his PhD studies at the Netherlands Blood Transfusion Laboratory (CLB) in Amsterdam, and thereafter went for a sabbatical period to the New York University Medical School. On his return to Amsterdam, he obtained a tenured position at the CLB and soon became head of a research and diagnostic department in that institute. In 1992 he was appointed as a professor of Immunology at the University of Amsterdam. At present, he is head of a department with about 50 employees, including 4 tenured staff members, 6 post-docs, 10 PhD students and about 30 technicians and pre-doctoral students. In addition, 4 guests from abroad are working in his department.

Prof. Roos' research activities are focused on phagocytic leukocytes and their interactions with micro-organisms. Other research topics in his laboratory include genetics of blood groups, allo-immunisation against blood group antigens, interaction of leukocytes and endothelial cells, and hematopoietic stem cell biology. His department serves as a reference laboratory for phagocyte dysfunctions and genetic analysis of neutrophil defects. Other diagnostic services include red blood cell defects (hemoglobinopathies, structural and enzymatic defects) and detection of minimal residual disease in leukemias and lymphomas. Dirk Roos is author or co-author of more than 400 publications and is frequently asked as a speaker at international meetings. Under his guidance, 40 PhD theses have been prepared. He served in many national and international scientific committees.

The connections of Dirk Roos with ESCI date from 1981, when he co-organised the first Phagocyte Workshop at the Annual Scientific Meeting of ESCI. Since then, he organised many additional Phagocyte Workshops and gave a Plenary Lecture at the ESCI meeting in Brussels, in 2002. Prof. Roos is a member of the European Society for Clinical Investigation.

38TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF ESCI

Utrecht, The Netherlands
14 – 17 April 2004

by Prof. Jo Marx, local organizer

Welcome to Utrecht!

The 2004 scientific meeting of ESCI will take place at the Educatorium of the Utrecht University. The University of Utrecht, founded in 1634, is the largest in The Netherlands. The faculties of biomedical sciences, including medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, biology and biochemistry, are among the strongest in Europe. In Utrecht, great science is made in an exciting environment. The city, with a history going back to Roman times, has a beautiful old center with numerous monumental buildings and an abundance of all kinds of restaurants and cafes. Being in the heart of Holland, Utrecht can easily be reached by train, car or bicycle, and Schiphol Airport is just half an hour away.

The ESCI annual scientific meeting will offer a mixture of fundamental biomedical and clinical science, where a multidisciplinary discussion of mechanisms of disease will be stimulated. A forum will be offered where established and young investigators can discuss science of the highest possible quality, in workshops, symposia, poster presentations, plenary sessions and keynote lectures.

On behalf of the local organizing committee I would like to invite you to attend the 2004 Annual Scientific Meeting of ESCI.

SUMMARY PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

■ Wednesday 14 April 2004

- 09.30 – 13.00 **pre-conference workshop** (19): New aspects of vaccination (NWO, EGS)
- 13.00 – 14.00 lunch/exhibition
- 14.00 – 16.00 **pre-conference workshop** (19): New aspects of vaccination (NWO, EGS)
- 15.00 – 16.00 **Eijkman plenary lecture** by SHE Kaufmann, Director Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology (Berlin, Germany)
Vaccine design against tuberculosis: learning from the natural immune response
- 16.15 – 16.30 **opening ceremony**
- 16.30 – 17.30 **UMCU plenary opening lecture** by MJG Veltman, Nobel Prize winner 1998 (Utrecht, The Netherlands)
The impact of physics on medicine
- 17.30 – 19.30 UMCU **welcome reception** for ESCI in the Educatorium

■ Thursday 15 April 2004

08.30 – 13.00 **workshops**

10.30 – 11.15 **plenary lecture** by MH Ginsberg (La Jolla, CA, USA)

Integrin signaling in leukocyte migration

workshops:

02 Familial endocrine syndromes and oncological endocrinology

CJM Lips (Utrecht, The Netherlands),

TP Links (Groningen, The Netherlands)

04 Diet and insulin resistance

EE Blaak (Maastricht, The Netherlands),

K Frayn (Oxford, UK)

08 Applications of embryonic and adult stem cells in cardiovascular pathology

PAFM Doevendans (Utrecht, The Netherlands)

09 Cardiovascular diseases: new horizons for iron chelator treatment (ICOC)

FLJ Visseren (Utrecht, The Netherlands),

P Nielsen (Hamburg, Germany)

17 Phagocyte biology

P Coffe (Utrecht, The Netherlands), D Roos

(Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

13.00 – 14.00 **lunch / poster viewing / exhibition**

14.00 – 14.45 **plenary lecture** by JA Fagin (Cincinnati, OH, USA)

Molecular genetics of thyroid cancer: how tumors start and why it matters

14.45 – 18.00 **workshops**

02 Familial endocrine syndromes and oncological endocrinology

CJM Lips (Utrecht, The Netherlands),

TP Links (Groningen, The Netherlands)

04 Diet and insulin resistance

EE Blaak (Maastricht, The Netherlands),

K Frayn (Oxford, UK)

07 Computer based diagnostic decision support in clinical practice

HJ Kappen & WAJJ Wiegerinck (Nijmegen,

The Netherlands), JP Neijt (Utrecht, The

Netherlands)

09 Cardiovascular diseases: new horizons for iron chelator treatment (ICOC)

FLJ Visseren (Utrecht, The Netherlands),

P Nielsen (Hamburg, Germany)

17 Phagocyte biology

P Coffe (Utrecht, The Netherlands), D Roos

(Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

18 Immunopharmacology: present status and future perspective

K Masek (Prague, Czech Republic),

JW Hadden (Tampa, USA)

■ Friday 16 April 2004

08.30 – 13.00 **workshops**

10.30 – 11.15 **Genmab plenary lecture** by MJ Glennie

(Southampton, UK)

Title to be announced

workshops:

02 Familial endocrine syndromes and oncological endocrinology

CJM Lips (Utrecht, The Netherlands),

TP Links (Groningen, The Netherlands)

05 Biliary lipids and water: novel aspects in secretion and therapeutic implications

P Portincasa (Bari, Italy), KJ van Erpecum

(Utrecht, The Netherlands)

06 The European hospital(-based) bioethics program: goals and achievements

A Semplicini & R Pegoraro (Padova, Italy)

10 Nitric oxide, metals and endothelial function

EEH van Faassen (Utrecht, The Netherlands),

P Martasek (Prague, Czech Republic)

14 Selective Xa inhibitors – further advances in research and therapy

W Kirch & D Pittrow (Dresden, Germany)

15 Oral iron chelators in treatment of thalassemias and other diseases (ICOC)

NA Georgiou (Utrecht, The Netherlands),

A Kolnagou & GJ Kontoghiorghes (Limassol,

Cyprus)

17 Phagocyte biology

P Coffe (Utrecht, The Netherlands), D Roos

(Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

20 Immune-intervention for cancer and inflammation

JGJ van de Winkel (Utrecht, The Netherlands)

13.00 – 14.00 **lunch / poster viewing / exhibition**

14.00 – 14.45 **plenary lecture winner ESCI Award 2004**

(sponsored by Amgen, France)

A Flyvbjerg (Aarhus, Denmark)

see laudatio in this Newsletter

Potential therapeutic strategies in diabetic kidney disease

15.00 – 16.00 chaired discussion of subspecialty posters

16.30 – 18.00 general oral session of selected subspecialty posters followed by **Poster Awards 2004**

Subspecialty poster sessions:

Cardiovascular Diseases

Endocrinology, Diabetology and Metabolism

Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Haematology and Oncology

Immunology and Rheumatology

Lipids

Nephrology and Hypertension

Neurology and Neurobiology

Osteoporosis and Bone Metabolism

Respiratory Medicine

■ Saturday 17 April 2004

08.30 – 13.00 **workshops**

10.30 – 11.15 **plenary lecture** by J Burn (Newcastle upon Tyne, UK)

Title to be announced

workshops:

- 01 Molecular mechanisms of cancer
HC Clevers (Utrecht, The Netherlands)
- 03 New insights in control mechanisms of metabolism and body composition
AJ van der Lely (Rotterdam, The Netherlands), J Romijn (Leiden, The Netherlands)
- 15 Oral iron chelators in treatment of thalassemias and other diseases (ICOC)
NA Georgiou (Utrecht, The Netherlands), A Kolnagou & GJ Kontoghiorghe (Limassol, Cyprus)
- 16 Contribution of host and virus in the determination of HIV pathogenesis
CAB Boucher (Utrecht, The Netherlands)
- 17 Phagocyte biology
P Coffey (Utrecht, The Netherlands), D Roos (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- 21 Gene doping (NeCeDo)
HJ Haisma (Groningen, The Netherlands), O Rabin (Montreal, Canada)

13.00 – 14.00 **lunch / poster viewing / exhibition**

14.00 – 17.00 **workshops**

- 01 Molecular mechanisms of cancer
HC Clevers (Utrecht, The Netherlands)
- 12 The metabolic syndrome
AJ van de Wiel (Amersfoort, The Netherlands), JJP Kastelein (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- 15 Oral iron chelators in treatment of thalassemias and other diseases (ICOC)
NA Georgiou (Utrecht, The Netherlands), A Kolnagou & GJ Kontoghiorghe (Limassol, Cyprus)
- 16 Contribution of host and virus in the determination of HIV pathogenesis
CAB Boucher (Utrecht, The Netherlands)
- 17 Phagocyte biology
P Coffey (Utrecht, The Netherlands), D Roos (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- 21 Gene doping (NeCeDo)
HJ Haisma (Groningen, The Netherlands), O Rabin (Montreal, Canada)

■ Important addresses

Congress venue

Educatorium
Utrecht University
Leuvenlaan 19
3584 DE Utrecht (Uithof)
The Netherlands

Local organizer

Prof. Jo JM Marx
Eijkman Winkler Institute for Microbiology, Infection and Inflammation
University Medical Center Utrecht, G 04.614
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All **updated information** about the 38th Annual Scientific Meeting of ESCI can be found on the ESCI website: <http://www.esci.eu.com/>

ANNOUNCEMENT

39th Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation



Athens, Greece, 6 – 9 April 2005

One year after the Olympic Games will have returned to their place of birth, the European Society for Clinical Investigation (ESCI) will hold its 39th Annual Meeting in the city that is also the fountain of all European history: Athens, Greece.

On behalf of the President and Council of ESCI, we cordially invite you to this exciting meeting, which - in the longstanding tradition of the Society - will combine all areas of clinical investigation and provide a forum of scientific discussion to strengthen the European ties in basic and clinical research. The meeting will especially focus on the field of endocrinology and, thus, extend the successful tradition of the 1989 ESCI meeting in Athens to the cutting edge research of the new millennium.

In recent years, the city of Athens has successfully merged its well-preserved ancient charm with the ingredients of a modern 'metropolis', where art and science are once again flourishing. It is in this place where scientists overlook the more than two-thousand years old splendor of the Acropolis from laboratories equipped with the most advanced technology. Please join us!

We are looking forward to welcoming you all in Athens!

Prof. George P. Chrousos, MD
President of the Local Organizing Committee

Prof. Antonis Makrigiannakis, MD
Scientific Secretary of the Local Organizing Committee

FUTURE SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

2005, spring

Athens, Greece

Local organizers: Prof. George Chrousos,
Prof. Antonis Makrigiannakis

2006, spring

Prague, Czech Republic

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THE NETHERLANDS
UTRECHT 38th ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC MEETING
14-17 APRIL 2004

European Society for Clinical Investigation

ESCI

Local organizer

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