

FROM THE PRESIDENT



In March 2008, we had a scientifically and financially successful annual scientific meeting in Geneva. The local organizers Francois Mach and Brenda Kwak and their team succeeded to put together an attractive scientific program in a youthful locale, which was highly appreciated by a large audience. The financial support from industry and other sponsors was greatly appreciated. In 2008, several initiatives were taken by our distinguished former President Jo Marx and the Council in order to rejuvenate the ESCI, which we plan to pursue further with vigor.

A point of constant concern is the slowly decreasing membership of our Society. This is not unique to us. It was first seen with our sister American Society of Clinical Investigation (ASCI), of which I have had the pleasure of being a member for a long time. The main reason for this is the overwhelming expansion of medical subspecialties that have their own meetings, which should be and are attended by academic physicians with the corresponding expertise. The mission of ESCI and ASCI has changed. They now play the role of Biomedical Science integrators, facilitators of interdisciplinary communication and fora for translational Biomedical Science. It is my feeling that a resurgence in the usefulness of interdisciplinary societies, such as ESCI, is taking place, as the extreme reductionism and production of huge amounts of new knowledge, that occurred in the past 30 years, should now be understood in the integrated context of the complex organism.

Our Society has active and honorary members. Active members must reside in Europe or have strong ties with European medical science and should have accomplished meritorious original investigations in the clinical or allied sciences of medicine. They pay an annual subscription and may participate in the business and scientific sessions of the Society; they may vote at general meetings, are eligible for election to office in ESCI and receive the European Journal of Clinical Investigation. In exceptional circumstances honorary members may be proposed by the Council and approved by a simple majority vote of the General Assembly. Honorary members pay no subscription for membership and no registration fee for the annual scientific meetings. In 2007 the Council decided to offer a 10 years free membership to active members who have served ESCI as members of the Council, editors of the European Journal of Clinical Investigation, local organizers of the

ESCI annual scientific meetings and winners of the ESCI award for Excellence in Biomedical Investigation. In addition, a free corresponding membership shall be offered to high-profile biomedical scientists, including those who were selected to deliver a plenary lecture during an annual scientific meeting. Free and corresponding memberships will be decided by the Council. We hope to increase the number of influential biomedical scientists with affinity to ESCI and our Journal, in a win-win situation.

During the annual scientific meeting in Geneva, the second Albert Struyvenberg Medal, a token of appreciation for outstanding achievements in the field of European Clinical Investigation, was awarded to Professor Heinrich M. Schulte. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

From 2008 on, we will resume educational activities at a pan-European level. The ESCI has taken the initiative to organize an annual three days ESCI Core Course on Clinical Research, which will be delivered for the first time in Brussels in September 2009. Its mission will be to educate young biomedical investigators and to update experienced clinical scientists in biostatistics, clinical trials, pharmacology, bioethics etc. through lectures, case presentations and practical exercises. The faculty will consist of leading scientists from Europe and the USA. Funding will be provided by ESCI and the pharmaceutical industry. Grants will be available for participants from Eastern European countries. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Starting in 2010, the ESCI Council unanimously voted that there will be two annual ESCI Awards for Excellence in Biomedical Investigation, given to two different biomedical scientists, one for accomplishments in translational research and one for contributions to clinical investigation.

In 2008 the European Journal of Clinical Investigation has already received a new and more attractive design. Introduction of a new format is being discussed with the publisher. The scientific quality of the Journal continues to increase with now an impact factor near 3. The Council unanimously selected Professor John Ioannidis, University of Ioannina Medical School, as the new Editor-in-Chief of the Journal. The Council is indebted to Professor Walter Hörl, University of Vienna, for his outstanding leadership of the EJCI up to now.

ESCI will try to expand contacts with the European Commission (EC). We are able and willing to facilitate meetings of EC-funded biomedical research groups, which are considered to be project

deliverables. This may increase the visibility of ESCI with an obvious benefit to groups that take the opportunity to use the framework of a well-organized European scientific conference for their obligatory meetings.

For 2009 we all are looking forward to a great ESCI annual scientific meeting in Frankfurt, which is being organized by Professor Alexander Mann. The program contains very interesting workshops, there are again excellent plenary lectures, and there is already much interest in the subspecialty sessions. An outstanding European biomedical scientist will receive the ESCI Award for Excellence in Biomedical Investigation and will deliver a major plenary lecture. Also, an outstanding senior biomedical investigator will receive the Third Albert Struyvenberg Medal and will deliver a medico-philosophical lecture of his or her choice at our annual dinner. Although April in Frankfurt may still be rather cold, we hope for a bright sky in this old and very attractive city.

I express my deep feelings of gratitude to Professor Jo Marx, the outgoing President for his contributions to ESCI. The Council and I hope to be seeing him at the annual meeting of the Society for many years to come.

I sincerely hope that in the near future many young biomedical scientists and clinicians will take the opportunity to join and enjoy ESCI.

*George P. Chrousos, MD
President of ESCI*

BIRTH AND EARLY CHILDHOOD OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

It all started in 1965 when three senior clinical investigators, Andries Querido, Rolf Luft and Lars Werkö, while waiting for their flight connections at a Scandinavian airport, discussed the possibility of establishing a European equivalent of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). Among the many Societies in the United States this organisation, together with the Association of American Physicians, played an important role in bringing together the majority of young American clinical investigators. The Annual General Meeting in Atlantic City was the place where results of American recent medical research were shown to the scientific world. It was also the place where chiefs of clinical departments scouted for new young talent for their research laboratories. Because members of the Society were young and unconventional, they called themselves the Young Turks. The three professors decided that the time had arrived to try to boost the quality of medical practice by creating a similar forum for results of clinical research in Europe.

They brought together a small number of well-known European

investigators for discussing the desirability of the plan. This exploratory and preparatory meeting took place in London in July 1966. It was hosted and presided by Gordon Wolstenholme, at that time the extremely active director of the Ciba Foundation. The meeting was attended by some twenty persons, representing almost all of the European countries from outside – and one from inside – the iron curtain. It was decided to go ahead with the plans. The society-to-be was to be called the European Society for Clinical Investigation. The main objectives were similar to those of the ASCI and included the advancement of medical practice through science and the cultivation of clinical research by the methods of the natural sciences. Active membership was restricted to persons less than forty-five years old who had accomplished original and meritorious investigations in the clinical or allied sciences of medicine. For reasons of nationalistic pride, the headquarters of the society could not be located in France, Germany, or Great Britain. The Netherlands, a relatively small country with the additional advantage of being centrally located, was chosen instead.

After returning from London, Querido asked me to set up the new headquarters in Leiden and get the Society going. This activity included getting together the provisional Council, preparing the election of new members, adjusting the statutes in accordance to Dutch law, and organising the first Annual Meeting. My secretary, Anneke Burger, and I decided to devote each Saturday morning for the next six months to working for the Society. It was an important and pleasant job, we worked well together and everything went as we had hoped. The above-mentioned international preparatory group was active in suggesting names for the provisional Council and in addition providing names for about a hundred potential members. The Council met several times under the capable leadership of the first president Albert E. Renold from Geneva. The statutes were recognised by the Dutch authorities in September 1968.

The first Annual Meeting took place in Noordwijk in April 1967. It was a great success. Approximately one hundred members attended. Twenty-six papers were presented, most of which in the categories of cardiology, endocrinology, haematology, immunology, nephrology, and pulmonology. These papers were well-presented and there were active and lively discussions. Eighty new members were elected.

A few problems had to be solved. One was the language of the Society. While all papers were presented in English, a few of the discussions were in French. One should realize that at that time most French and Italian investigators were not fluent in English. The Council aimed for one language only. However, if the Council would have prescribed exclusively English for presentations and discussions, the French would have been prevented to become members by a rule of Charles de Gaulle, stating that French citizens should speak French abroad. This practical language problem solved itself. From the second meeting onward, only English was spoken. Another practical problem was keeping to the time-schedule of the

meetings. One should realize that at that time Southern-European speakers generally were not accustomed to stick to the allotted time for their presentation. The Council wished to encourage discussions. The allotted time for presentation therefore was ten minutes, followed by ten minutes discussion. A strict time-schedule was kept with the help of three lights on the platform, routinely handled by one of the Council members. Green light meant: start of paper; yellow light: one minute left; red light: immediate stop of presentation. This novel educational system worked very well. A third important problem was whether and when to start a journal. It took some time to reach a decision and then another year looking for a suitable publisher, but in 1970 the European Journal of Clinical Investigation was launched at Springer Verlag by Dr. Colin Dollery and Dr. Werner Creutzfeldt.

At the end of the First Annual Meeting, the president, donning his fez as a young Turk, looked back on a successful meeting. He mentioned the fact that the start of the Society had been the product of the international preparatory group, of which several members had been fully aware that they, being older than forty-five, would have to resign as active member upon acceptance of the statutes. He stressed the fact that the Society had two principles: firstly, that, as the patient is one human being, both individual specialists and whole (sub)disciplines should communicate well; and secondly, that, as research is an international enterprise, barriers of national, hierarchical, or ideologic type should be removed.

The Second Annual Meeting took place in the Kurhaus Hotel in Scheveningen, with much better facilities for both large audiences and small group sessions. The Society was growing rapidly. Two years after the start, at the third Meeting in 1969, the membership had increased to 317 and the number of abstracts, most of which of excellent quality, was 101. In the following years it continued to grow. After the first three or four years, when members had become accustomed to the rules of presentation, the system of the green-yellow-red lights could be abandoned. A more difficult problem was allowing members from behind the iron curtain to attend the meetings. Attendance was stimulated as much as possible by defraying travel expenses and by sending them official invitations for the presentation of a paper or the chairing of a session. In spite of this it was often difficult for them to get permission by their authorities to travel in time to attend the meetings. It took several years before this problem was satisfactorily solved. The Society stayed in Scheveningen for five years. It then moved to the Medical Faculty in Rotterdam where I handed over the chair of the local organisation committee to Harry Hulsmans. After having stayed in Rotterdam for another six years, the annual meetings from 1979 (Cambridge) started to travel through Europe. For many years I have enjoyed being present at these meetings. They were well-attended and the standard was always high. It is interesting to note that in the last ten years, with the increase of scientific communication through the Internet, the importance of the meetings has decreased, while that of the Journal has markedly increased, with financial consequences for the Society. It is difficult to predict

future developments. Some journals are at present going through a difficult time. However, the need for interdisciplinary scientific communication, in one form or another, will always remain. And the European Journal of Clinical Investigation is doing very well.

Last year I was informed that an annual medal for outstanding work in the field of clinical investigation bearing my name and image has been established. I feel deeply honoured and like to thank the Council for this elegant gesture. However, it should be remembered that our Society of forty years ago was the product of a group of both older and younger clinical investigators who all played an important role in its creation. I have wonderful memories of these early years and wish the Society a bright future.



The first Council in front of the Scheveningen Pier (1967), with Albert Renold (wearing fez, seventh from left), Anneke Burger (white dress) and Albert Struyvenberg (third from right).

Albert Struyvenberg

THE ESCI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN BIOMEDICAL INVESTIGATION 2009



Professor Josef Penninger MD, PhD
Scientific Director IMBA, Institute for Molecular Biotechnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria

winner of the 2009 ESCI Award for Excellence in Biomedical Investigation
(photo: IMBA/Rainer Wohlfahrt)

Professor Josef M. Penninger is one of the leading scientists of the world with groundbreaking achievements in the field of molecular medicine.

He was born in Gurten, Austria in 1964. He graduated as a medical doctor from the University of Innsbruck in 1990 and received his PhD degree for his studies on lymphocyte biology in the same year. He then spent a 4-year postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Tak W. Mak at the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto, Canada

and then became an independent principal investigator at the Amgen Research Institute at the University of Toronto in 1994. He returned to Austria in 2002 to establish and head the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (IMBA) in Vienna, a leading European biomedical research institute. At present, he is the Scientific Director of IMBA while holding full or honorary professorships at the University of Vienna, the University of Toronto and the Beijing Medical College.

Throughout his scientific career, the major focus of Prof. Penninger's research activity was the application of in vivo genetic manipulation of mice for the better understanding of physiological processes and the mechanism of human diseases. The scope of his research has been extremely diverse, from the molecular analysis of lymphocyte activation through the identification of novel players of bone metabolism to understanding of major human diseases such as osteoporosis, autoimmune diseases, diabetes or SARS. His most recognized scientific achievement was the identification of RANK ligand as the critical regulator of osteoclast development and a major player of bone loss during osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis or bone metastases. His other clinically most relevant achievements were the development of a new model of autoimmune heart disease, establishing the first genetic link between mitochondrial metabolism and diabetes, identification of a critical component of pain perception, and demonstration of the role of novel angiotensin converting enzymes in lung failure. His pioneering work on the role of immune-related molecules in bone biology led to the establishment of osteoimmunology, a major new research field. He published a large number of outstanding papers in leading scientific journals including a total of 37 papers in Nature, Science or Cell.

Professor Penninger received a number of major awards and honors during his career. He was ranked among the ten most cited scientists in two consecutive years. He received the "Highest Talented" Award from the Rotary Club Innsbruck for his achievements as a graduate student. He was named one of the Young Leaders in Medicine in Canada, one of Canada's Top 40 under 40, elected as one of the Young Global Leaders by the World Economic Forum, listed as one of the ten most promising scientists of the world, was named as the Austrian of the Year and the Austrian Scientist of the Year, and received the Descartes Prize, the highest research prize of the European Union. He is the youngest member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and member of the Leopoldina Society of Germany.

Based on his groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of the physiological functioning of the mammalian organism and the molecular basis of major human diseases, as well as on his active leadership role in biomedical research in Europe, the ESCI Council proudly selected Professor Josef Penninger as the recipient of the 2009 ESCI Award for Excellence in Biomedical Investigation.

*Attila Mócsai, MD, PhD
ESCI Councillor*

2008 ALBERT STRUYVENBERG MEDAL AWARDED TO HEINRICH SCHULTE



In 2008, the ESCI Award Committee decided to bestow the second Albert Struyvenberg Medal upon Professor Heinrich M. Schulte from Hamburg, Germany, for leadership and outstanding achievements in Clinical Investigation in Endocrinology and Metabolism.

The Society named the Award after one of its founding fathers, professor **Albert Struyvenberg**, who achieved excellence in clinical science, teaching and training of young scientists and medical specialists. He used to be head of the Department of Internal Medicine of the University Medical Centre in Utrecht. Albert Struyvenberg is one of the very few honorary members of ESCI. His portrait is depicted on one side of the medal. The other side of the medal shows the remains of the temple of Asklepios on the Greek isle of Kos. This is the place where the first hospital was founded and where Hippokrates, born in 460 BC, for the first time performed clinical investigation and practiced evidence-based medicine. The roots of ESCI, devoted to spreading knowledge and understanding of mechanisms of disease, go back to the still existing plane-tree in the city of Kos. In the shade of that tree Hippokrates discussed clinical science with his students as it is still pursued during ESCI workshops.

Heinrich Maria Schulte, born in Essen in 1953, studied medicine at the universities of Freiburg, Düsseldorf, Chicago and Essen, followed by research programs at the Postgraduate School for Endocrinology at Hammersmith Hospital in London, the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda Maryland and the University Hospital in Kiel, Germany. At the Christian-Albrecht University Hospital in Kiel he spent six years as a senior physician specialising in endocrinology and metabolism and was head of the intensive care unit. During this period he was appointed professor of medicine and endocrinology. Professor Schulte started his very successful biomedical research career at the NIH by performing a series of fundamental preclinical and clinical studies on corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH), which led to a profound understanding of the physiology and pathophysiology of stress, and provided the basis for the development of the CRH-stimulation test, now used worldwide for the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of Cushing syndrome and adrenal insufficiency.

During his tenure as a professor and director, Professor Schulte mentored and supported the careers of several subsequently very successful clinical investigators, including Professor Michael Karl of the University of Miami, Florida, and Professors Christoph and Anna-Maria Bamberger of the University of Hamburg. Prof. Schulte joined ESCI in 1984; in 2002-2005 he held the office of president of the European Society for Clinical Investigation. He lectures at various universities and is an author of textbooks and reference books. Prof. Schulte has made contributions to over 50

books as well as published more than 350 original works, short publications and manuscripts.

In 1994 he established the *Endokrinologische Praxisgemeinschaft* in Hamburg, from which the *Endokrinologikum* group emerged. Today the medical research and treatment network for hormonal and metabolic disorders, reproductive medicine and gynaecological endocrinology has a total of 14 offices throughout Europe. Prof. Schulte is its executive director and shareholder.

Since 1993 he has co-founded and advised many successful biotech enterprises. For example, he along with Nobel laureate Dr. Manfred Eigen, were the founding partners of the now listed biotech firm Evotec AG. He also co-founded the successful Direvo AG in Cologne, and NewLab AG in Erkrath.

In 2006 Prof. Schulte acquired Bankhaus Wölbern & Co., a private bank in Hamburg. In early 2007 the Wölbern Group KG was established, which brought the Bankhaus Wölbern and Wölbern Invest AG under one roof. Thanks to his years of experience and outstanding networking in the international private equity market he was the driving force in establishing Wölbern Private Equity AG, which at present is offering its fourth fund offer for subscription. Today, the Wölbern Group benefits significantly from Schulte's contacts and widespread network. Dr. Schulte is chairman of the supervisory board of Wölbern Private Equity AG, a member of its life science investment committee and a member of Wölbern Invest AG's supervisory board.

George P. Chrousos, MD
President of ESCI

NEW VICE-PRESIDENTS

During the next Annual Business Meeting of ESCI on 3 April 2009 Dr. Alexander Mann will end his vice-presidency in the Council. Therefore two vice-presidents shall be elected. Candidates for vice-presidents are: Professor Attila Mocsai and Professor Piero Portincasa. You can elect the candidates through the ballot paper.

ESCI ANNUAL CORE COURSE ON CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

ESCI has approved the conduct of an annual Clinical Investigation Course under its sponsorship. It is increasingly recognized that clinical investigation requires the combination of expertise in diverse disciplines and a sound knowledge of research methodology is an absolute prerequisite for designing, performing, analyzing and reporting high-quality research. The course will aim to bring together leading faculty who are widely recognized for their research and didactic ability, drawing mostly, but not exclusively from European institutions. It will be open to participants from academia, research

institutes, and other organizations who are interested in obtaining a state-of-the-science understanding of methods and challenges arising in clinical investigation.

Besides methods, the course will also cover issues of ethics, transparency, conflicts of interest, and funding that are also extremely important for developing seasoned, well-rounded investigators. An effort will be made to have participants representing the whole spectrum of European science geographically with stipends available for a number of participants from eastern European countries. The first course is scheduled to take place in Brussels in September 2009 and details will be announced in due time.

John Ioannidis, MD
Co-organizer of the Clinical Investigation Course

PROFESSOR JOHN IOANNIDIS, NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF EJCI



John P.A. Ioannidis (born in New York in 1965) is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology at the University of Ioannina School of Medicine and he also holds an adjunct appointment at Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. He is a physician with a doctorate in biopathology.

After graduating at the top rank of his class from the University of the Athens School of Medicine, he trained in internal medicine, infectious diseases and clinical epidemiology at Harvard and Tufts and held faculty appointments at Tufts, Johns Hopkins, and NIH before returning to Europe. His research interests span evidence-based medicine, clinical and molecular epidemiology, genetics and genomics, modeling, and empirical evaluation of research methods. Recently he has also assumed the leadership of the genetics/genomics component of the Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute and the Center for Genetic Epidemiology and Modeling. He is a member of the executive committee of the Human Genome Epidemiology Network and director of one of its global coordinating centers.

Professor Ioannidis is a member of the editorial board of 22 international peer-reviewed journals and has given over 250 invited lectures in 28 countries. His publication record includes over 370 peer-reviewed publications in international journals. His work has received approximately 15000 citations (increasing at a rate of approximately 3000 in the last year). His paper on "why most published research findings are false" published in PLoS Medicine in 2005 is the most downloaded paper in the history of the Public Library of Science. Professor Ioannidis is the recipient of the 2007 ESCI Award for Excellence in Biomedical Investigation.

George P. Chrousos, MD
President of ESCI

NOTE FROM PROFESSOR JOHN IOANNIDIS, NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF EJCI

The European Journal of Clinical Investigation (EJCI) has a long established history of publishing high quality research since its first issue appeared in 1970. In these 4 decades, clinical investigation has undergone a tremendous and fascinating transformation driven by the interplay of diverse forces. Key forces that have shaped this transformation and that continue to lead us into the future are the rapid advances of concepts and understanding in the molecular biological sciences, the exponential growth of biological measurement methods and high throughput platforms, the human genome revolution, the introduction and dissemination of more rigorous methods in clinical research, and the advent of evidence-based medicine. Clinical investigation has continuously diversified and continues to diversify. A major joy in all of us working in this field is the wide variety of options that are available to tackle interesting research and clinical questions. The mature clinical investigator can combine energetically, imaginatively and robustly various designs and experimental approaches. EJCI has tried to reflect this diversity in the articles it has published and under the excellent leadership of Professor Hörl it has further established itself as a major international peer-reviewed journal. We hope to be able to continue publishing excellent research and to keep and accelerate the momentum.

We want to particularly invite the submission of studies that merge cutting-edge expertise in basic disciplines such as genomics, bioinformatics, or new molecular biology tools with clinical and population outcomes. Harnessing and making sense of the data from high throughput genomic and biological platforms for clinical and population health, for understanding of biological pathways and for drug development represent major challenges. We want EJCI to be a leading publishing partner in this process. We are interested in papers that describe new methods, applications, or both. We will focus on the high quality of the work and not on whether the results are extravagant or not. EJCI will continue to depend on a robust system of careful peer-review to maximize the quality of accepted papers and we will try to introduce an expanded forum of associate editors and editorial board members. We will continue to try to make swift decisions on both rejected and accepted manuscripts and cut down further on the time from submission to publication. Eventually, making projections about the future in such a rapidly changing field as clinical investigation is not only a challenge, but also an invitation to a trap of proving to be wrong, even for what will happen next year. At a minimum, we hope to remain ready and eager to listen and adapt.

*John Ioannidis, MD
Editor-in-Chief EJCI from April 2009*

43rd ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF ESCI

Frankfurt/Main, Germany
1 – 4 April 2009

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of our Society and the local organizing committee I cordially invite you to the 43rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation. The meeting will take place in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, from April 1 – 4, 2009, at the Campus Westend of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe –University.

Frankfurt is an important financial and economic center in Europe but at the same time a place of history and tradition in Germany. Nicknamed Mainhattan by many people Frankfurt brings together extremes and is characterized by a multicultural and tolerant life style. Its central location in the heart of Europe and Germany makes Frankfurt an important traffic hub, which can be easily reached. Europe's second largest airport, Germany's largest railway station, and the motorway connections allow a comfortable way of getting here from almost everywhere in Europe.

It is our aim to bring together scientists from both the clinical and the laboratory side which you will find as a principle in the program of the meeting. We welcome basic science orientated workshops like the phagocyte group and more clinically based workshops with the main topics centering around endocrinology and metabolism, rheumatology and cardiovascular diseases. A new activity of ESCI – the clinical research courses – is presented with a workshop on translational research. Taken together we are looking at an excellent program of highest standards in clinical research which will make the meeting very attractive.

Further details about the scientific program and the location are accessible on the ESCI website www.esci.eu.com. For your online registration and more information about hotel reservation please look at www.esci2009.com

We welcome you in Frankfurt in April !

*PD Dr. W.A. Mann
President of the local organizing committee*

**Summary preliminary scientific program:
see separate insert**

FUTURE SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

**44th Annual Scientific Meeting of the
European Society for Clinical Investigation
Bari, Italy
24 – 27 February 2010**

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to invite you to join us at the 44th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation which will take place at the University Medical School in the history-laden city of Bari, Italy, on February 24 – 27, 2010.



Bari (Latin, Barium, coordinates 41°08'N 16°52'E), a charming city located in the Apulia region in southern-east Italy bordering the Adriatic sea, is laden with a very rich history and culture and is well-known for its port and its university. Always considered to be the Italian gateway to the East (the Levant), Bari serves as an ideal bridge between the West and the East cultures. In addition to several museums, Bari boasts very important monuments including the Castello Svevo (Swabian Castle) of Frederick II of Hohenstaufen (the Holy Roman emperor), the Basilica of Saint Nicholas (the saint patron of the city), a splendid example of the Apulian Romanesque churches scattered throughout the region, and an important pilgrimage site for the devout throughout Europe and the Christian world, the Petruzzelli Theatre and the "Russian" Church. The Old Bari and the Murattiano district are the heart of the city and offer a beautiful promenade on the sea. The recently redeveloped Karol Wojtyła Airport has several connections to major European cities.

ESCI is a truly interdisciplinary association of clinicians and basic scientists across Europe working to integrate the different aspects of biomedical research. I have no doubt that your dedication to sound science and the need to share the latest results will make the Bari meeting a major success, with the highest standards in research. At the large and central university hospital "Policlinico" several topics will be addressed by well-known international scientists dealing with the mechanisms of molecular, cellular, endocrine and metabolic regulation and their consequences for growth, inflammation and atherosclerosis. Several workshops and plenary lectures will guarantee a highly integrated approach throughout the congress, and it is our aim to pool bench to bedside researchers to focus on the

different aspects of science. Further details will be available at www.esci.eu.com.

I look forward to welcoming you all to Bari to celebrate together 44 years of commitment to doing research!

*Prof. Piero Portincasa, Internist, PhD
President of the local organizing committee*

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EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

43 **rd ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC
MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR
CLINICAL INVESTIGATION**

April 1 – 4th, 2009

Frankfurt/Main, Germany

Campus Westend of the Johann Wolfgang
Goethe-University



www.esci.eu.com

President of the Congress: Priv.-Doz. Dr. med. W. Alexander Mann

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SUMMARY PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

43rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the
European Society for Clinical Investigation
Frankfurt/Main, Germany
1 – 4 April 2009

I Plenary lectures

Seven plenary lectures, including the lectures by the winner of the 2009 **ESCI Award** for Excellence in Biomedical Investigation: Josef Penninger, and by the awardee of the 2009 Albert Struyvenberg Medal: Joannes Marx

- **Clinical implications of the new biology of estrogen action**
Jan-Åke Gustafsson (Stockholm, Sweden)
- **Advances in the management of neuroendocrine tumors**
Kjell Öberg (Uppsala, Sweden)
- **Myeloid leukocyte recruitment in inflammation**
Klaus Ley (San Diego, USA)
- **How common is somatic mosaicism for copy number variations? analysis of twins, differentiated human tissues as well as breast and ovarian cancers**
Jan Dumanski (Uppsala, Sweden)
- **Genetic modeling of human disease**
Josef Penninger (Vienna, Austria) - Winner 2009 ESCI Award
- **Benefits and hazards of nutrient iron**
Joannes Marx (Utrecht, The Netherlands)
Awardee 2009 Albert Struyvenberg Medal
- **New insights in postprandial metabolism**
Ulrike Beisiegel (Hamburg, Germany)

II Workshops

- 2. Neuroendocrine tumors: genetics, tumor biology and treatment**
Organizers: E. Tiensuu Janson (Uppsala, Sweden), B. Wiedenmann (Berlin, Germany), M. Pavel (Berlin, Germany), J. Bojunga (Frankfurt/Main, Germany)
- 3. Stem cell therapy in cardiology**
Organizers: A. Zeiher (Frankfurt/Main, Germany), B. Assmus (Frankfurt/Main, Germany)
- 4. Molecular mechanisms of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis**
Organizers: S. Zeuzem (Frankfurt/Main, Germany), U. Leuschner (Frankfurt/Main, Germany)
- 5. Rheumatology: Mesenchymal signaling**
Organizer: U. Müller-Ladner (Bad Neuheim, Germany), H. Burkhardt (Frankfurt/Main, Germany)
- 6. Phagocyte biology**
Organizers: B. Walzog (München, Germany), M. Sperandio (München, Germany), A. Mocsai (Budapest, Hungary)
- 7. Pediatric endocrinology: growth disturbances / congenital adrenal hyperplasia**
Organizers: A. Richter-Unruh (Wattenscheid, Germany), S. Drop (Rotterdam, The Netherlands), H.L. Claahsen-van der Grinten (Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

8. Endocrine hypertension

Organizers: S. Diederich (Berlin, Germany), G. Eisenhofer (Dresden, Germany)

9. Vitamin D-hormone: pleiotropic effects

Organizers: K. Badenhop (Frankfurt/Main, Germany), K.-H. Usadel (Frankfurt/Main, Germany)

10. Introduction to translational research

Organizers: G.P. Chrousos (Athens, Greece), J.P.A. Ioannidis (Ioannina, Greece)

11. Symposium Onkologikum: Molecular targeting in oncology

Organizers: D. Hoelzer (Frankfurt/Main, Germany), A. Boehme (Frankfurt/Main, Germany)

12. Symposium Endokrinologikum: New aspects in the treatment of the metabolic syndrome and hyperlipidemia

Organizers: K.-H. Usadel (Frankfurt/Main, Germany), W.A. Mann (Frankfurt/Main, Germany)

III Subspecialty Poster Sessions

Cardiovascular medicine
Endocrinology, diabetology and metabolism
Gastroenterology and hepatology
Haematology and oncology
Immunology, rheumatology and inflammation
Lipids
Nephrology and hypertension
Neurology and neurobiology
Thrombosis and haemostasis

Poster viewing will be possible during coffee breaks and at lunchtime from Thursday 2 April to Saturday 4 April.

Poster Awards: the four best posters (including workshop abstracts/posters) will be awarded the Poster Award 2009 to the amount of EURO 250 per poster.

The presentation of the poster awards is scheduled Friday 3 April 2009, immediately following the ESCI Award winner's lecture.

Congress venue:

Campus Westend of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University
For further information please contact:

Congress secretariat ESCI 2009:	President of the local organizing committee:
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An update of the **program** can be found on:
<http://www.esci.eu.com>