

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**George P. Chrousos, MD, PhD**  
ESCI President

In April 2009, we had a scientifically and financially successful annual scientific meeting in Frankfurt, Germany. The local organizer Alexander Mann and his team succeeded to put together an attractive scientific program in a superb locale, which was highly appreciated by a large audience. The financial support from industry and other sponsors was greatly appreciated. In 2009, several initiatives were taken by the Council in order to rejuvenate the ESCI, which we plan to pursue 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 the 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 research. At this time, 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 (EJCI). 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 Frankfurt, the third Albert Struyvenberg Medal, a token of appreciation for outstanding achievements in the field of European clinical investigation, was awarded to Professor Jo Marx. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

From 2009 we have resumed educational activities at a pan-European level. The ESCI has taken the initiative to organize an annual three day ESCI Core Course on Clinical Research, which will be delivered for the first time in Greece in April 2011. 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.

In 2008 the European Journal of Clinical Investigation received a new and more attractive design. Introduction of a new more attractive format is being discussed with the publisher. The scientific quality of the Journal continues to increase with 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 very recently. Professor Ioannidis has already assumed the leadership of our journal. We are certain the EJCI will thrive further.

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 2010 we all are looking forward to a great ESCI annual scientific meeting in Bari, Italy, which is being organized by Professor Piero Portincasa. The program contains very interesting workshops, there are again excellent plenary lectures, and there is already much interest in the subspecialty sessions. Two outstanding European biomedical scientists will receive the ESCI Awards for Excellence in Biomedical Investigation either in basic/translational or in clinical science and will deliver two major plenary lectures. Also, an outstanding senior biomedical investigator will receive the fourth Albert Struyvenberg Medal and will deliver a medico-philosophical lecture of his or her choice at our annual dinner. Although February in Bari may still be a little cold, we hope for a bright sky in this old and very attractive Mediterranean city.

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*  
*ESCI President*

## 2009 ALBERT STRUYVENBERG MEDAL AWARDED TO JOANNES MARX



**Joannes J.M. Marx, MD, PhD**

awardee of the  
2009 Albert Struyvenberg Medal

In 2009, our Society had the distinct pleasure to have **Professor Jo Marx** as its third Albert Struyvenberg Medal Awardee, a token of appreciation for outstanding achievements in the field of European clinical investigation. Jo Marx was born in 1943 in Roermond, The Netherlands. He studied medicine in Utrecht and graduated in 1970. After his military service he started his career in internal medicine and completed his residency in the Utrecht University Hospital in 1977. Combining medicine with science allowed him to obtain his PhD in 1976. After subspecialising in haematology he had the opportunity to work 1980-1981 with Philip Aisen as a visiting associate professor of biophysics in the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Returning to Utrecht he became a staff member of both the Departments of Medicine and Haematology of the Utrecht University Hospital. For several years he was vice-chairman of Haematology, but in 1992 he became professor of internal medicine and head of the University Policlinic for Internal Medicine and Dermatology. As he is familiar with both clinical and laboratory research

he became vice-chairman of the Eijkman-Winkler Institute for Microbiology Infectious Diseases and Inflammation in 1998. When he became manager research and education of the Division Laboratories and Pharmacy, and also director of the Eijkman Graduate School, he decided in 2001 to terminate all clinical activities. From 2002-2004 he was in addition acting chairman of the Department of Immunology. From 2004 the functions of Jo Marx, remaining Professor of Medicine at the Utrecht University, are Chairman of the Eijkman Graduate School and Director of the Catharijne Foundation for Medical Research. From January 2005 he was also guest-professor of Iron Metabolism at the University of Nijmegen.

The scientific work of Jo Marx, resulting in more than 200 publications, concerns the pathophysiology of iron metabolism, in particular iron overload, mechanisms of iron transport and its role in host defence and tissue damage. From 1997-2005 he is coordinator of European (framework 4 and 5) consortia in iron research.

His first activity in ESCI was that of workshop organizer during the 18<sup>th</sup> ASM in Milan. Since then he participated in all following annual meetings and organized many more workshops. From 1987-1990 Jo Marx was treasurer/secretary of ESCI. From 1991-1996 he was scientific editor of the European Journal of Clinical Investigation, and from 1996-2002 he was its editor-in-chief. In 2004 he was local organizer of the 38<sup>th</sup> ASM of ESCI in Utrecht. During the past 20 years he observed major changes in the attitude and needs of medical scientists and professionals regarding scientific and practical information in journals and during meetings. Pursuing idealistic goals, which were highly valid 40 and even 20 years ago, ESCI partly diverged from the actual needs of its members and potential beneficiaries. To regain its initial success and vitality, which is possible, ESCI must continue to reconsider its goals and activities.

Jo Marx retired in 2008. After his retirement he moved to Limburg in the south of The Netherlands. Up till now he is still busy in science. In his dinner lecture during the Frankfurt meeting, Jo Marx presented a panorama of his achievements in iron metabolism research.

*George P. Chrousos, MD*  
*ESCI President*

## 2010 ESCI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN BASIC / TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH



**Reuven Agami, MSc, PhD**

Dept. of Gene Regulation  
Netherlands Cancer Institute  
Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

winner of the 2010 ESCI Award for  
Excellence in Basic/Translational Research

**Professor Reuven Agami** is one of the world's leading scientists in the fields of cancer research and microRNA biology. He was born in Israel in 1965 and raised there, receiving his bachelor's degree from the Tel-Aviv University in 1991. He then joined the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot where he received his PhD degree for his studies on the Abl kinase and a novel apoptosis pathway in 1998. He moved to Amsterdam in 1998 where he spent a three-years postdoctoral period at the Netherlands Cancer Institute, supported by an EMBO Long-Term Fellowship. He became an independent group leader of the Netherlands Cancer Institute in 2001 and heads the Institute's Division of Gene Regulation since 2008. He has been appointed professor of genetics and pathology of the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam in 2009.

Throughout his scientific career, Prof. Agami's research activity focused on the molecular mechanisms of cancer cell development and survival. During his PhD studies, he identified a novel pro-apoptotic pathway mediated by c-Abl and p73 and challenged the then prevailing view that DNA damage only activates the p53 pathway. During his postdoctoral studies, he identified a novel, rapid signaling pathway that is able to mediate cell-cycle arrest upon DNA damage prior to the transcription activation of p53-mediated pathways. As a group leader, his interest turned to the analysis and application of RNA interference as a novel mechanism of the regulation of gene expression. In 2002 he developed a short hairpin RNA (shRNA) based vector system (called pSUPER) to suppress gene expression in mammalian cells, providing the tools for large-scale functional genetic screening in mammalian cells. Prof. Agami's own group has used these genetic screens to identify novel genes and pathways involved in tumor development, tumor suppression, and the DNA damage response. However, his shRNA-based RNA interference approach has also been widely used by the scientific community worldwide to identify the function of various genes in diverse biological phenotypes beyond tumor development. Last and more recently, his group has developed functional genetic approaches to identify microRNA species involved in cancer development. With these approaches in hand, they have identified cancer-causing microRNAs bypassing cellular senescence, stimulating cell invasion and metastasis formation, as well as promoting cancerous proliferation. They have also made significant contributions to

our understanding of how microRNAs exert their effect on the functioning of normal and malignant cells. Those studies have been published in journals of the highest standing including 7 primary research papers in Nature, Science or Cell.

Professor Agami received a number of major awards and honors during his career. He has been awarded a European Young Investigator Award and an ERC Starting Independent Investigator Award from the European Union. He won the Dr. Joseph Steiner Cancer Research Prize in 2007. He was selected as a member of the EMBO Young Investigator Program and later an EMBO member. He is a member of the Center for Biomedical Genetics and the Young Academy of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also an elected editorial board member of the *EMBO Journal* and the *EMBO Reports*.

Based on his groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of cancer development and the genetic regulation of cellular functions, as well as on his active leadership role in biomedical research in Europe, the ESCI Council proudly selected Professor Reuven Agami as the recipient of the 2010 ESCI Award for Excellence in Basic/Translational Research.

*Attila Mócsai, MD, PhD*  
*ESCI Councillor*

## 2010 ESCI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL RESEARCH



**I. Sadaf Farooqi, MB ChB (Hons), PhD**

Dept. of Clinical Biochemistry  
Addenbrooke's Hospital  
Cambridge  
United Kingdom

winner of the 2010 ESCI Award for  
Excellence in Clinical Research

**Doctor Farooqi** is one of the foremost investigators in the world in the genetic aspects of human obesity. She has been associated with important and vital discoveries in the relationship between genetic disorders and human obesity, both in terms of its rare monogenic disorders as well as in the more common variants of obesity in the human.

Dr. Farooqi was born in 1969. She had her clinical training at the University of Birmingham where she gained her MB ChB (honours). She then rapidly proceeded to membership of the Royal College of Physicians (MRCP), but returned to academic work receiving her PhD from the internationally-renowned Trinity College at the University of Cambridge. During this time she was the Wellcome Trust Clinical Training Fellow in the University Department of Clini-

cal Biochemistry, where she was recently appointed as Reader (Associate Professor) in Human Metabolism. She was appointed Honorary Consultant in October 2006 following completion of her full specialist training, and was awarded FRCP in 2008. Her current position is Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Fellow in the Institute of Metabolic Science at the University of Cambridge, and she is an affiliated investigator to the Cambridge Institute of Medical Research. At the same time, she carries out her clinical duties at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

Dr. Farooqi's research has concentrated on human obesity, and she is a leading member of the team in the identification of the first single gene defect to cause human obesity, describing this in two children with a mutation in the gene encoding the hormone leptin. She went on to characterise this disorder both clinically and endocrinologically, and also noted the relationship between leptin deficiency and hypogonadism as well as changes in immune function. Subsequent to this she set up and coordinated the first clinical trial of recombinant human leptin in congenital leptin deficiency, showing that the children with this condition demonstrated marked changes in appetite, weight and immune function as a consequent of adequate replacement.

She has continued her investigation of obesity, looking in particular at possible genetic variants which may contribute to this growing epidemic. To this end she has coordinated a study of the phenotypes and genotypes of severe childhood obesity and now has a cohort of nearly 2000 subjects in the Genetics of Obesity Study (GOOS). She has been able to demonstrate that mutations of the melanocortin-4 receptor are the commonest genetic cause of obesity thus far identified, and most recently has related melanocortin to the regulation of blood pressure. Her work has shown the perfect co-ordination and translation between basic science and clinical medicine, utilising fundamental basic research and applying it to clinical situations, albeit rare disorders in the first instance. However, the demonstration that leptin plays a crucial role in the maintenance of body weight, gonadal function and immune function in the human has led to a huge variety of research studies from many groups into the role of leptins in general, and the genetic basis of obesity as a major field of study in its own right. This work continues to expand, and her studies, published in the most prestigious scientific and clinical journals, have had an enormous impact.

She is a member of all the major societies and associations related to endocrinology, obesity and metabolism, and is a member of the International Obesity Task Force Group directly reporting to WHO. She has been awarded numerous prizes, including the British Society for Paediatric Endocrinology Award in 1991, the Young Investigator Gold Medal for the Medical Research Society in 2001, the Young Endocrinologists Award from the Society of Endocrinology 2003, the Young Achiever Award from the Association for the Study of Obesity 2005, the Taft Award from the Australian Endocrine Society, the Young Scientist of the Year

Bioscientist Award from the House of Commons in Great Britain, the Andre Meyer Award from the International Association of the Study of Obesity, the RD Lawrence Award from Diabetes UK, the Storer Lecturer from the University of California Davis, and finally in 2008 the Alvin Hayles Visiting Professor at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA.

Clearly, Doctor Farooqi is an outstanding scientist and clinician, and based on her outstanding contributions to basic, translational and clinical research we are delighted to award her the ESCI Award for Excellence in Clinical Research for 2010.

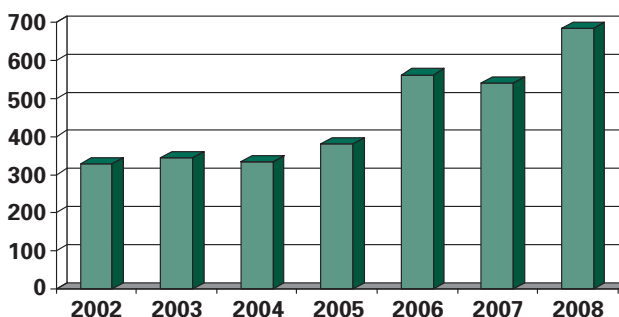
*Ashley B. Grossman, BA, BSC, MD, FRCP FMedSci  
ESCI Councillor*

## PROFESSOR WALTER H. HÖRL, LEAVING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF EJCI

### The experience with the European Journal of Clinical Investigation (EJCI)

It was a great pleasure for me to have worked as the editor-in-chief of the EJCI from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2009. During the year 2002 329 manuscripts were submitted to the journal. The number of submissions to EJCI increased continuously during the following years and reached 674 in the year 2008 (figure 1). Approximately 90% of the manuscripts submitted to the journal are original investigations, the other 10% are devoted to overviews, editorial comments, letters and (occasionally) case reports. I started with a rejection rate of approximately 55%. With the increase of submissions, the rejection rate increased to approximately 83% due to the limited space within the journal and due to the fact that with the increased number of submissions, only the most interesting manuscripts were selected for publication.

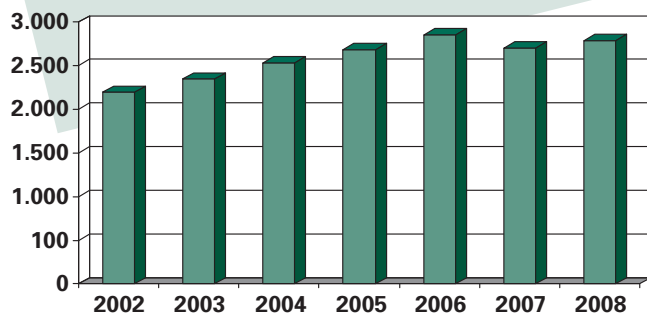
#### Manuscripts submitted per year



In 2008, we handled 884 manuscripts, 674 de novo submissions and 210 revised manuscripts. In approximately 50% of the cases, a decision was made within 30 days. In approximately 90% of the manuscripts, a decision was made within 60 days. In 2008, adequately revised manuscripts were accepted for publication

within 105.6 days after submission. The printed versions of the accepted manuscripts were published 196.7 days after submission. Most manuscripts submitted to the EJCI were dealing with cardiovascular disease, followed by diabetes and lipid metabolism. Over the years of my stewardship, the impact factor increased from 2.193 (2002) to 2.784 (2008) (figure 2).

### Impact factor



In the year 2007 EJCI received manuscripts from 52 different countries from all over the world. Most manuscripts (n=109) were submitted from Italy (with an acceptance rate of 14.7%), followed by Austria (n=85) with an acceptance rate of 21.2%, followed by Germany (n=55, acceptance rate 18.2%), Spain (n=52; acceptance rate 17.3%) and Taiwan (n=52, acceptance rate 15.4%). These data indicate that the acceptance rate is well balanced between the countries. I am convinced that the number of submissions and the impact factor of the journal will further rise contributing to the future success of the EJCI and ESCI.

*Walter H. Hörl MD, PhD, FRCP  
Professor of Medicine  
Head, Division of Nephrology and Dialysis  
Medical University of Vienna  
Vienna, Austria*

## NEW VICE-PRESIDENTS AND COUNCILLORS

During the next Annual Business Meeting of ESCI on 26 February 2010 Professor Attila Mócsai and Professor Piero Portincasa will end their term as vice-president in the Council. Therefore, two vice-presidents shall be elected. Candidates for vice-presidents are Prof. Alexandre Persu, Belgium, and Prof. Eva Tiensuu Janson, Sweden.

Dr. Alexander Mann, Frankfurt, Germany, will resign from the Council after a 3-years term as a councillor and 1 year as vice-president. A new German councillor shall be elected.

Moreover, Prof. Dan Dumitrascu is the proposed candidate to represent Romania in the ESCI Council.

You can elect the candidates through the ballot paper.

### Council candidate for Germany



**Stefan Bornstein, MD, PhD**

Dept. of Medicine  
University Hospital Dresden  
Dresden  
Germany

**Professor Stefan Bornstein** was born in 1961 in Oberstdorf, Germany. Stefan Bornstein is married and has two sons. He graduated from the University of Ulm and Miami in 1988. He also obtained his PhD in the same year and completed the 6-yr residency in internal medicine in 1994. Two years later he specialised in endocrinology and diabetes. He won several awards including the 1<sup>st</sup> prize for "the new generation of academics" and the Marius-Tausk-Award of the German Endocrine Society. Recipient of the Heisenberg Award of the German Research Foundation (DFG), Professor Bornstein has been working for many years as a research scholar and acting unit chief at the endocrine branch at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, in the United States. From 2001 – 2004 he was Professor and Vice-Chair of the Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the University of Düsseldorf, Germany.

Since 2004, Prof. Stefan Bornstein is Director and Chair of the Department of Medicine at the Dresden University, Germany. He is involved in basic and clinical research on a variety of topics, including diabetes, endocrinology, stress regulation and sepsis. His main research interests focus on steroid- and catecholamine metabolism, immune endocrine crosstalk, geronto-endocrinology and dermato-endocrinology, type 1 diabetes and mechanisms of hypertension in the metabolic syndrome.

He has (co)authored almost 300 Medline-cited scientific papers and contributed to numerous books. Other activities include member/fellowships of international societies and editorial boards, reviews for a wide variety of journals and lectures at (inter)national meetings.

Furthermore, Doctor Bornstein was appointed as Honorary Professor at the University of Miami, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine.

## Council candidate for Romania



**Dan L. Dumitrascu, MD, PhD**  
2nd Medical Department  
University of Medicine and Pharmacy  
Iuliu Hatieganu  
Cluj  
Romania

Born in Cluj, Romania, in 1957, **Professor Dumitrascu** graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the same city in 1982. He worked as a resident at the 5<sup>th</sup> Medical Department of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iuliu Hatieganu in Cluj and as research fellow at the Institute for Normal and Pathological Physiology Daniel Danielopolu in Bucharest and at the Institute of Hygiene and Public Health in Cluj. After the political changes in Eastern Europe he obtained the possibility to work in the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iuliu Hatieganu of Cluj, starting in 1991 as assistant professor at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Medical Department, continuing the academic career and obtaining a full professorship in 2007 at the 2nd Medical Department. Meanwhile he became consultant of internal medicine in 1993 and of gastroenterology in 1996. He accomplished also a training in cognitive and behavioural psychotherapy. He worked between 1992 and 2006 about two years with intermittencies as research fellow of the DAAD and Humboldt Foundation in Augsburg, Germany (with Prof. Wienbeck), and in Mannheim, Germany (with Prof. Singer). His main research interests are: functional gastrointestinal disorders, gastrointestinal motility, psychosomatic medicine, clinical trials, and clinical pharmacology.

Doctor Dan Dumitrascu is author or co-author of more than 220 papers in Romanian and international journals (around 80 indexed on Medline) and numerous abstracts, author of more than 10 books, co-author of several books. Thus, he became one of the most prolific authors in clinical medicine in his country. He is also first author of two patents of invention. He is director of a CEEPUS (Central East European Project for University Studies) programme on psychosomatic medicine running since 2004. He organized several scientific meetings with international participation on neurogastroenterology and psychosomatic medicine. He is an invited speaker at many national and international meetings and used many ERASMUS teaching staff mobilities for lectures in many European countries. He was awarded the International Research Award of the Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders in Milwaukee 2003 and twice the American Psychosomatic Society Award for Groups of Interest in Psychosomatic Medicine in 2005 and 2006. Dan Dumitrascu is president of the Romanian Society of Neurogastroenterology, vice-president of the Romanian Society of Applied Psychosomatic and Behavioural Medicine, member of the International Liaison Committee of the Rome Foundation, etc.

He is also involved in the editorial activities of several journals: editor-in-chief Clujul Medical; assistant editor of the Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases (former Romanian Journal of Gastroenterology), member of the editorial board of Hepato-Gastro (Paris), Revista Medicala Balint (Romania), Romanian Journal of Internal Medicine, Medicina Interna, Revista Medicala Romana, etc. He served also as peer reviewer for Quality of Life Research, Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics, Digestive Diseases and Sciences, European Journal of Internal Medicine, European Journal of Clinical Investigation, American Journal of Gastroenterology, etc.

Dan Dumitrascu's main hobbies are philately and fine arts.

## 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF ESCI

**Bari, Italy**  
**24 – 27 February 2010**



**Piero Portincasa, Internist, PhD**  
University Hospital Policlinico  
Bari, Italy

President of the local organizing committee

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to invite you to join us at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation (ESCI) 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 very rich history and culture and 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 Wojtyla 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](http://www.esci.eu.com).

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

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

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

## FUTURE SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the  
European Society for Clinical Investigation  
Crete, Greece**



*The Venetian Fortress in Heraklion, Crete, called 'Koule'*

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to announce that the **45<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation (ESCI)** will take place on the island of **Crete, Greece**, on **April 13 – 16, 2011**.

Situated at the point where the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa meet, Crete is the largest of the Greek islands and the fifth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. Crete has seen the passing of thousands of years of fascinating history, rich in events and periods of turbulence - the Minoan civilization, Byzantine rule, Saracen pirates, Venetian rule, Ottoman domination and revolutions. The Cretan countryside is full of monuments of the civilizations that flourished here. Crete is also well known for its natural beauty and its impressive mountain ranges, ravines and long stretches of beach leading into deep blue seas, as well as for its pleasant and mild climate. Modern day Crete is a busy hub of financial, commercial and tourist activity that successfully combines its modern qualities with its traditional advantages (temperate climate, natural beauties, historical background).

In this ideal setting, we plan to have a rich scientific program for clinicians and basic scientists from across Europe. In keeping with the true interdisciplinary nature of ESCI, we aim to further explore and understand the hidden and intricate mechanisms of disease, through the science of clinical investigation.

We hope that you will plan ahead to join us in Crete in 2011 and look forward to sharing with you all the latest exciting developments in biomedical research!

on behalf of the local organizing committee  
*Antonis Makrigiannakis, MD, PhD (Heraklion, Greece)  
Andrew Margioris, MD, PhD (Heraklion, Greece)*

## ADDRESS ESCI CENTRAL OFFICE

Central Office  
European Society for Clinical Investigation (ESCI)  
Bolognalaan 34  
3584 CJ Utrecht  
The Netherlands  
Mieke van Geffen  
Jos Sperna Weiland

phone +31 88 755 8787  
fax +31 30 251 5724  
e-mail [esci@umcutrecht.nl](mailto:esci@umcutrecht.nl)

Visit our website: <http://www.esci.eu.com/>

■ **ESCI**

**EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL INVESTIGATION**

# **44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL INVESTIGATION**

**24 – 27 February 2010**  
**Bari, Italy**  
**University Medical School**  
**Policlinico Hospital**



[www.esci.eu.com](http://www.esci.eu.com)

**President of the Congress**

Prof. Piero Portincasa, MD, PhD  
Clinica Medica "A. Murri"  
Department of Internal Medicine and Public Medicine  
University Medical School  
I-70124 Bari - Italy

phone +39 080 5478227  
fax +39 080 5478232  
e-mail: p.portincasa@semeiotica.uniba.it

**Congress secretariat ESCI 2010**

Meeting Planner srl  
Via S. Matarrese 12 - pal. G  
I-70124 Bari - Italy

phone +39 080 9905360  
fax +39 080 9905359  
e-mail: info@meeting-planner.it  
<http://www.meeting-planner.it>

## SUMMARY PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

### I Plenary Lectures

- Wednesday, 24 February, 19.15 - 20.00  
A new genus of anti-inflammatory and pro-resolving lipid mediators from a systems approach to inflammation  
**Charles N. Serhan (Boston, USA)**
- Thursday, 25 February, 10.30 - 11.15  
A cofactor network to control metabolism  
**Johan Auwerx (Lausanne, Switzerland)**
- Thursday, 25 February, 14.00 - 14.45  
Progress in immunity requires more clinical research  
**Antonio Coutinho (Lisbon, Portugal)**
- Friday, 26 February, 10.30 - 11.15  
**Lecture 2010 ESCI Award Winner, Basic/Translational Research**  
Role of microRNAs and regulatory RNA binding proteins in cancer  
**Reuven Agami (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)**
- Friday, 26 February, 14.00 - 14.45  
**Lecture 2010 ESCI Award Winner, Clinical Research**  
Understanding obesity – from genes to molecules to behaviour  
**I. Sadaf Farooqi (Cambridge, UK)**
- Friday, 26 February, 20.00 congress dinner lecture  
**Lecture 2010 ESCI Medal Awardee**
- Saturday, 27 February, 10.30 - 11.15  
Chronic inflammation and gastric cancer  
**Peter Malfertheiner (Magdeburg, Germany)**

### II Workshops

- 1 Emerging aspects of phagocyte biology**  
Organizers: M. Cassatella (Verona, Italy), S. Sozzani (Brescia, Italy)
- 2 Lipid disorders in the body:**
  - I Cholesterol and metabolic aspects**  
Organizer: P. Portincasa (Bari, Italy)
  - II Liver steatosis**  
Organizer: F. Lammert (Homburg, Germany)
  - III Bile secretion and gallstone disease**  
Organizers: D.Q.-H.Wang (Boston, USA), K.J. van Erpecum (Utrecht, The Netherlands)
- 3 Nuclear receptors in health and disease**  
Organizer: A. Moschetta (Bari, Italy)
- 4 Methodology of research**  
Organizers: G. Chrousos (Athens, Greece), J. Ioannidis (Ioannina, Greece)
- 5 Aquaporins: pathophysiological relevance in clinical disorders**  
Organizer: G. Calamita (Bari, Italy)
- 6 Systemic sclerosis: the pathophysiology of sclerodermic vasculopathy**  
Organizer: G. Lapadula (Bari, Italy)
- 7 Obesity and reproduction**  
Organizers: G. Garruti, R. De Palo (Bari, Italy), A. Mann (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)

- 8 Differential diabetes diagnostic (ESCI-CEED3 joint meeting)**  
Organizer: M.T. Malecki (Cracow, Poland)
- 9 Irritable bowel syndrome – Constipation: the disease burden**  
Organizer: D.F. Altomare (Bari, Italy)
- 10 Top topics in gastroenterology (ESCI-EAGE joint meeting)**  
Organizer: P. Malfertheiner (Magdeburg, Germany)
- 11 Stem cells: tissue engineering and clinical implications (ESCI-Plastic Surgery joint meeting)**  
Organizers: A. Portincasa (Foggia, Italy), M. Pascone (Bari, Italy)
- 12 Viral hepatitis and metabolic aspects**  
Organizer: V.O. Palmieri (Bari, Italy)

### III Subspecialty Poster Sessions

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

Poster viewing will be possible during coffee breaks and at lunchtime from Thursday 25 February to Saturday 27 February.

Poster Awards: the four best posters (including workshop posters) will be awarded a Poster Award 2010 to the amount of Euro 250 per poster.

The presentation of the poster awards is scheduled Friday 26 February 2010, immediately following the ESCI Award winning lecture.

### Congress venue:

Aula Magna 'G. De Benedictis'  
University Hospital Policlinico  
Building Polifunzionale  
Piazza Giulio Cesare, 11  
Bari, Italy

### For further information please contact:

Congress secretariat ESCI 2010 Meeting Planner srl  
Via S. Matarrese 12 – Pal. G I-70124 Bari, Italy  
Phone: +39 080 9905360  
Fax: +39 080 9905359  
e-mail: info@meeting-planner.it

President of the local organizing committee:  
Prof. Piero Portincasa, MD, PhD  
Clinica Medica 'A. Murri'  
Dept. of Internal and Public Medicine  
Bari, Italy  
p.portincasa@semeiotica.uniba.it

An update of the **programme** can be found on:  
<http://www.esci.eu.com/>