

ESC NEWSLETTER - Volume 5 - Number 4 - 2008

Newsletter from The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health

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Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year to all

This is the beginning of our 20th Anniversary. The Society was established in Paris at Christmas twenty years ago exactly on December 26, 1988. We will be celebrating with news from our Founders in the next newsletter.

This newsletter has a special greeting from Santa Claus himself. We also hear from Jean-Jacques Amy who represented the Society at the World Contraceptive Day launch in London in September. Rik HW van Lunsen and Rob Beerthuizen introduce the next congress to be held in The Hague in 2010 – a date for your diary. Dan Apter relates his visit to Washington to participate in a meeting of the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals. The Journal has a new editor – Anne Webb and finally Nancy Habils reminds us all that our subscriptions are due for 2009!

Sarah Randall
Chief Editor

Christmas Greetings



Christmas greetings from Santa Claus

I have recently been made aware that it is the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the ESC, one of the leaders in reproductive health matters in Europe. The Society was established in Paris, France at Christmas twenty years ago exactly on December 26, 1988. This Society continues to provide us with a most valuable Christmas present: that of providing information on and improving access to reproductive health care in the countries of Europe. It looks to try and harmonize the many different legal positions in this field, and to co-operate with appropriate organizations and institutions sharing the Society's aims throughout the world.

The most recent years are crowned with successful events (seminars and congresses) as well as achievements (increasing membership and a stronger financial background). The Society has participated in many International meetings including the World Contraception Day programme.

This is currently one of the most flourishing periods in the Society's history. On this festive occasion I wish all the members of the Society good fortune in their personal work to reach the above-mentioned goals, and I symbolically put this wish under the Christmas tree of ESC at Christmas of 2008.

Santa Claus

World Contraception Day



Jean-Jacques Amy

Media Event ahead of World Contraception Day London, 24th September, 2008

Two days ahead of World Contraception Day (26th September, 2008), which was expertly organised by Bayer-Schering Pharma under the auspices of different non-profit organisations, including the ESC, a big media event took place in London which was attended by journalists from all over Europe.

The varied, entertaining and highly informative programme was extremely well received by the audience. There were both short video presentations (pertaining to family planning challenges encountered in Latin America, Africa and the Asia Pacific Region) and live presentations. Dr. Sharon L. Camp (Guttmacher Institute, New York) gave a 'Worldwide picture on unplanned pregnancy'. Mr. Dana Hovig (President of Marie Stopes International) read a paper entitled 'Behind the statistics: the impact on unplanned pregnancy on lives and society'. Dr. Régine Sitruk-Ware (Population Council and Rockefeller University) discussed the most recent developments in contraceptive technology.

I myself had the privilege of representing the European Society of Contraception and the arduous task of being interviewed live (speaking time: four minutes!) on the very wide subject 'A perspective from Europe'. Mr. Phil Smits highlighted 'Bayer-Schering Pharma's commitment to World Contraception Day'.

The last, but very moving and successful presentation was that of the 'celebrity' who had been asked to give her support to the wider and better use of family planning, namely Ms. Kelly Osbourne.

All speaker presentations, footage and photographs of the event can be found on the Your Life website at: http://www.your-life.com/scripts/press/00_index.php

The key messages of the day were to my mind:

- That control of one's fertility is a basic human right.
- Unplanned pregnancies are the result of low rates of contraceptive use and improper use.
- Two hundred million women, 137 million of whom in the developing world, have an unmet need for contraception.
- A wider choice of contraceptive methods allows to better meet the needs and preferences of applicants.
- Access to contraceptives is a major issue.
- Abortion rates are declining as a result of greater contraception use. Most of the decline observed recently in Europe occurred in Eastern Europe. In some countries in that region a major effort must still be undertaken with regard to the deficient contraceptive knowledge.
- Investing in family planning has a favourable impact on the economy, the environment and, most importantly on public and individual health.

I am most grateful to the ESC for having been given the opportunity to attend this important event. Do have a look at the website!

Jean-Jacques Amy

11th ESC Congress



World Forum Convention Centre

11th ESC Congress

Dear colleagues and friends,

We warmly invite you to The Hague for the 11th Congress of the European Society of Contraception (19-22 May 2010). The time was right to organize an ESC congress in the Netherlands, because we feel that the Dutch have been playing a pivotal role in transforming the ESC from a mainly medical society to a more multidisciplinary European platform where all bio-psycho-social and cultural aspects of contraception and reproductive/sexual health are a focus of interest.

The format of the congress will be similar to the successful 10th congress in Prague with a wide variety of topics and sessions. A considerable proportion of the scientific programme will be interactive, including meet the expert sessions, workshops and fora.

The title of the congress "Culture, Communication, Contraception" reflects that contraceptive and reproductive health care in multicultural Europe must address the different needs of different individuals in different situations. There is a growing requirement for preventive strategies that take into account the specific cultural, subcultural, economic, ethnic and religious characteristics of subpopulations within the European community. It is the diversity of multicultural Europe that challenges our creativity to provide new solutions, new methods and innovative approaches.

There is no better place in Europe to discuss these topics than the beautiful city of The Hague, which is not only the residence of the Dutch Royal family and the Dutch Government, but also the city where no less than 7 UN bodies and numerous headquarters of international organizations reside. The words peace, justice and safety are synonyms for The Hague.

The modern congress venue, the World Forum Convention Centre (www.worldforum.nl/wfcc/uk/factsfigures_uk.html), is situated in a gardenlike district of The Hague between the historical city centre and the seaside resort of Scheveningen. The congress hotel and many other hotels are within walking distance. The Netherlands is a very compact country with frequent flights to and from all important airports.

So join us in The Hague in 2010!

Rik HW van Lunsen & Rob Beerthuisen
Presidents of the 11th ESC Congress

Editorial team

New member on the editorial board team

The editorial team of the European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care is genuinely pleased to announce that Dr. Anne Webb is now one of its Members. Dr. Webb has served in the past as a Member of the Board of Directors and as an Officer in the Executive Committee. She is known for her sharp wit, her comprehensive knowledge of family planning, her engagement for the defence of women's rights, her mastery of the art of writing and her dedication to the Society. Unquestionably few have a European profile as marked as she has: her parents were British with Irish connections; her mother was born and brought up in France whereas Anne herself was born and raised in Spain and educated by the Swiss. Undoubtedly she will contribute to the further rise of the impact the Journal already has in the scientific literature.

Jean-Jacques Amy

Reproductive Health 2008



Report from the Reproductive Health 2008 - annual conference

Reproductive Health 2008 annual conference was held in Washington DC September 17-20 2008. It was jointly organized by The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP), Planned Parenthood® Federation of America (PPFA) and Society of Family Planning (SFP). Details about the partners and the conference are found at www.ReproductiveHealth2008.org. There was an excellent presentation, "A Vignette-Based Approach to Addressing Hormonal Contraception" by David Grimes, addressing unintended pregnancies, compliance and patient concerns. The use of long acting reversible contraception was emphasized in several presentations. James Trussell presented an up-to-date review of "Contraception for obese women", summarizing the scope of the obesity problem in the United States. ESC was allocated one session, with a presentation by Dan Apter "Low Teen Pregnancy Rates: The education and service culture regarding reproductive health in US remain quite different from most of Europe.

Among the awards presented was the institution of the Irving Sivin lifetime achievement award, and the first recipient was Irving Sivin, our US Board member in ESC.

ARHP Executive Committee Chair Pablo Rodriguez, ESC Vice President Dan Apter and ARHP President and CEO Wayne Shields (picture), discussing continuing ARHP-ESC cooperation, including a suggestion of a joint ARHP-ESC (+ rest of the world?) conference in the future.

Dan Apter

ESC membership

Renew your ESC Membership 2009 today!

The subscription may be tax deductible in some countries.

What does the ESC offer you in return for the yearly membership fee of 50 euros?

- active participation in the policy-making of the Society through the General Assembly or by being elected to the Board of Directors
- free attendance at the biennial Seminar – next one is in Belgrade 2009
- being part of a professional, multicultural, Europe wide network
- free subscription to the (official Society Journal) European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care
- reduced registration fee for the biennial Congress
- access to the comprehensive Society website
- delivery of a quarterly electronic Newsletter
- a membership certificate

How can you become a member?

1. complete the online membership form at: www.contraception-esc.com (membership link on the left side of the homepage)
2. ask us for a membership form (esccentraloffice@contraception-esc.com)

All materials to be included in the ESC Newsletter should be submitted (electronically) to the:

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All Newsletters are also to be found on the website of the Society: www.contraception-esc.com (go to 'News')

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