



THE
Endocrinologist



**Crossing The Pond:
The View Stateside**

PLUS...

**All for one, one for all
- where next for
your Society?**

**Looking Back:
20 years of the BES
Animal Science Group
at your service**

Editor: Prof Richard Ross
Associate Editor: Dr Saffron Whitehead
Co-ordination: Ailsa Bailey
Sub-editing: Caroline Brewer
Design: Martin Harris

Society for Endocrinology
17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands,
Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK
Fax: 01454-642222
Email: info@endocrinology.org
Web: www.endocrinology.org
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England No. 349408
Registered Office as above
Registered Charity No. 266813

©2003 Society for Endocrinology
*The views expressed by contributors
are not necessarily those of the Society*

Officers

Prof SR Bloom (*Chairman*)
Prof JAH Wass (*General Secretary*)
Prof A White (*Treasurer*)
Prof A Logan (*Programme Secretary*)

Council Members

Dr DRE Abayasekara, Dr M Hewison, Dr JP Hinson
Prof IA Hughes, Prof PJ Lowry, Prof JP Monson
Prof SM Shalet, Prof RV Thakker

Staff

Executive Director: Sue Thorn
Personal Assistant: Brenda Parsons
Tel: 01454-642216 for the above
Publications Manager: Steve Byford
Production Editor: Ailsa Bailey
Desk Editor: Lara Thompson
Editorial Assistants: Nathalie Gilmore, Jane Shepley
and Jolene Guy
Peer Review Administrators: Lyn Cole, Kathy Davies
and Hélène Dabjat
Tel: 01454-642220 for the above
Society Services Manager: Julie Cragg
Secretary: Christine Davis
Training Courses and Grants Administrator: Ann Lloyd
Tel: 01454-642200 for the above
Conference Manager: Helen Gregson
Events Organisers: Liz Brookes and Victoria Withy
Conference Assistants: Tamara Lloyd and Donna Price
Tel: 01454-642210 for the above
Finance and Administration Manager: Janet Ashton
IT and Administration Assistant: Christopher Wolfe
Accounts Assistant: Jenny Rees
IT Officer: Jonathan Seagrave
Web Products and Systems Officer: Steven Perry
Tel: 01454-642235 for the above
External Relations Officer:
Business Development Officer: Tom Parkhill
Public Relations Assistant: Jane Shepley
Tel: 01454-642205 for the above

2003 Advertising Rates

Advertise your event in *The Endocrinologist*!
Members: Mono - Half page £100 Full page £150
Others: Mono - Half page £300 Full page £450
Colour - Full page £995

Deadline for news items for
the Summer 2003 issue: **17 March 2002**.
Please send contributions to the above address.

This is an issue of memories, both past and present, and would certainly qualify as a historical document. Few realise the importance of the founding of the British Endocrine Societies (BES) Meeting. We are indebted to Colin Beardwell and the pioneers who established the BES Liaison Committee in 1975 and held their first meeting in 1981. As everyone will know, these have turned out to be highly successful meetings and probably the second largest annual endocrine meeting after that of the US Endocrine Society.

Recently, the BES Liaison Committee has become a committee within the Society for Endocrinology and, at the same time, we have seen the establishment of two other committees (the Clinical and Science Committees). These two committees have been very active in pulling together scientific programmes and in increasing the standard of both clinical and scientific endocrinology. On page 15, the two Chairs of these committees give us their perspective on their roles and the future. Another committee that works hard on our behalf is the Animal Science Group. This has addressed issues surrounding the use of animals in research and, on page 14, Barry Furr and Nancy Rothwell describe some of the activities of this group. For anyone involved with animal research, this is a very valuable resource.

History also gives us an opportunity to reminisce - on page 8 Maria Castro reflects on her move from Manchester to Los Angeles. For all who have worked abroad or are considering this in the future, this is an essential read and certainly a reassuring one. I am sure we should all follow her motto, 'Follow your heart, wherever it may take you!'

SOCIETY CALENDAR

26 February 2003

Clinical Cases Meeting
London, UK

24-26 March 2003

BES 2003
Glasgow, UK

15 July 2003

Molecular Endocrinology Workshop
Manchester, UK

16-17 July 2003

Advanced Endocrine Course
Manchester, UK

18 July 2003

Clinical Practice Day
Manchester, UK

10-12 September 2003

**Endocrine Nurses Training Course:
The Pituitary Gland**
Durham, UK

3-5 November 2003

**194th Meeting of the Society for
Endocrinology**
London, UK

Prizes galore

Congratulations to the young endocrinologist winners at the recent Society meeting in London!

Prizes of £200 were awarded for the best oral communications. The winner in the clinical category was 'Pulse wave velocity and blood pressure are reduced by 6 months of GH therapy in adult GH-deficient patients' by RW McCallum, JR Petrie, AF Dominiczak & JMC Connell (Glasgow). The basic science prize went to 'Evidence from co-culture studies that annexin 1 serves as a paracrine mediator of glucocorticoid action between folliculo-stellate cells and corticotrophs' by T Tierney, HC Christian, JF Morris & JC Buckingham (London/Oxford).

Recipients of the £100 poster prizes (clinical and basic science categories respectively) were 'Determinants of bone density and height in women with androgen insensitivity, 46XY gonadal dysgenesis and 46XX gonadal dysgenesis' by S Trikudanathan & G Conway (London) and 'Somatostatin inhibits the release of ghrelin in normal subjects' by TMM Tan, M Levy, V Skinner, N Beaumont, K Srail, PJ Goadsby, P Bouloux & M Vanderpump (London).

All change!

Following the recent AGM, the Society's officers are Professor Steve Bloom (Chairman), Professor John Wass (General Secretary) and Professor Ann Logan (Programme Secretary). Professor Anne White will remain Treasurer for a further 4 years. We thank outgoing Chairman Professor Steve Franks, and Professor Malcolm Parker, the outgoing Programme Secretary.

Three new Council members were also elected: Dr Martin Hewison, Professor Steve Shalet and Professor Raj Thakker. Thanks to retiring members Professor Krish Chatterjee and Professor Richard Ross.

Nurse news

'The impact of thyroid eye disease' was the subject under the spotlight at the Nurses session during the Society's November meeting in London. Overviews of both medical and surgical approaches were very well-received. The enthusiastic, multi-disciplinary audience also learnt about the psychological and social issues associated with the disease, from the patients' perspective. Time was scheduled for questions, resulting in a great deal of valuable discussion. Our thanks go to all those who participated. We look forward to seeing you again at BES 2003 in Glasgow next March, where the Nurses Session will look at 'Ethical dilemmas' (see pages 6 and 7 for further details).

Members on the move...

T A Chowdhury to The Royal London Hospital;
E Hobbs to University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne; N Finer to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge; E W Hillhouse to University of Leeds; D Lincoln to UNSW, Sydney;
M W J Strachan to Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.



**ALDO 2003:
International Symposium
on Aldosterone**
27-30 April 2003
London, UK

Celebrating 50 years of aldosterone

Contact: Helen Gregson or
Donna Price, BioScientifica Ltd,
16 The Courtyard, Woodlands,
Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK
Tel: 01454-642240;
Fax: 01454-642222;
Email: aldo-03@endocrinology.org;
Web: www.bioscientifica.com/aldo03

**Abstract deadline:
15 January 2003**



Red Fort, Agra, India
by Steve Olczak,
Consultant Physician
at the Pilgrim Hospital
in Boston, UK.

Spam!

Like most organisations, the Society's Bristol office has been plagued by increasing amounts of unwanted email, also known as 'spam'. Recent levels have reached 2000 messages per month. We are experimenting with a filtering service, which may eliminate the problem. However, there is a very small chance that a legitimate message may be blocked. If you have a problem sending us email, please contact Jonathan Seagrave, IT Officer, on 01454-642235.

Web wise

Improvements to the Society's web site will be taking place over the next few months. We would value your ideas, so if you have any suggestions please email steven.perry@endocrinology.org.


2003
SUMMER SCHOOL

15-18 July 2003
HULME HALL, MANCHESTER

Molecular Endocrinology Workshop
Advanced Endocrine Course
Clinical Practice Day

Grants are available for young endocrinologists to attend

Further details available in March 2003



Medal winners

The Society is delighted to announce the following winners of its medals for 2003-2004:

Society for Endocrinology Medal 2003: PJ Lowry (Reading)

European Medal 2003: E Ghigo (Turin)

Transatlantic Medal 2004: J Flier (Boston)

Dale Medal 2004: W W Vale (La Jolla)

Asia & Oceania Medal 2003: M J Waters (Brisbane)



Serono Foundation for the Advancement of Medical Science

Workshop on Molecular Steroidogenesis

24 - 27 April 2003

ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BATH, UK



Contact: Helen Gregson or Donna Price,
BioScientifica Ltd, 16 The Courtyard, Woodlands,
Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK
Tel: 01454-642240; Fax: 01454-642222;
Email: molster03@endocrinology.org;
Web: www.eurosterone.org/serono/index.html

Abstract deadline: 22 January 2003

Patient information

Greater power, protection and choice for patients are all on the agenda following the NHS Plan and the Kennedy Report into the Bristol Inquiry. In order to help organisations as they strive to improve patient information, a 'toolkit' has been developed by the Department of Health, working in collaboration with the Patient Information Forum (a national group representing NHS and voluntary sector workers in the field of patient information), the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Plain English Campaign.

This resource, known as the 'Toolkit for producing patient information', includes guidance for written patient information and a series of templates. It is available at www.doh.gov.uk/nhsidentity/toolkit-patientinfo.htm or from the NHS Response line on 0870 155455, by quoting reference number 29682. For further information contact Lorna Demming (Tel: 0207-9725250; Email: lorna.demming@doh.gsi.gov.uk).

Phyto-oestrogens

'Phyto-oestrogens and Health' is the subject of a draft report compiled by the Committee on Toxicity (a working group of the Scientific Advisory Committee). It has been issued for consultation via the Foods Standards Agency's web site and can be found at www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/consultations/ukwideconsults/cotphytohealth, together with background information about the working group.

ESF grants

The European Science Foundation has announced a call for proposals for research projects to be executed under the Eurocores Programme on Dynamic Nuclear Architecture and Chromatin Function (EuroDYNA). The deadline for the submission of outline proposals is 15 January 2003. Further information can be found at www.esf.org/eurodyna

Webspinning

Melissa Westwood highlights the best on the web

For scientific information only

www.scirus.com

Here's a great resource for life scientists! This search engine only trawls through science-related websites and databases, like ScienceDirect, Medline, Beilstein, Neuroscion, BioMed Central and Patents from USPTO. A quick search on my favourite protein produced 2860 links: 1912 in journals and 948 on the web, though it's easy to refine searches with additional terms, or by customising the date, type and source of information displayed.

SERVICES: D, L; STRONG POINTS: Vast coverage; WEAK POINTS: Some links are to fee-based sources; RATING: Very good.

What's the spec?

www.spectroscopynow.com

An online publication of John Wiley & Sons, this site provides a wide-ranging collection of information on spectroscopy. 'Chapters' cover IR, NMR, MS, UV, X-ray and atomic spectroscopy, and there's even a section on proteomics. The newspaper format of the front page also offers links to daily news, feature articles, technical topics and e-zines. However, registration is necessary to access the site's enhanced features.

SERVICES: D, L, N, O (e-zines); STRONG POINTS: Great design, easy to use; WEAK POINTS: Wiley advertisements; RATING: Excellent.

Thanks to Kevin Ahern and *Genetic Engineering News*. Don't forget to visit the Society for Endocrinology on the Web: www.endocrinology.org; tell us about your favourite website: melissa.westwood@man.ac.uk

Career development

nextwave.sciencemag.org/europe

This weekly e-zine from *Science* is aimed at early-career scientists. It tackles issues relating to PhD students (such as absent supervisors and writing a thesis), as well as problems, like fixed-term contracts and teaching/supervision, that are faced by post-docs. It also discusses factors affecting the science job market, and offers really good advice on developing a career in academia, going into industry, or ways of leaving the bench far behind.

SERVICES: N, S; STRONG POINTS: Great content; WEAK POINTS: None; RATING: Excellent.

KEY

Services provided at websites:

- T Tools - Analytical computing tools
- D Data - Searchable or downloadable database information
- G Goods - FTP delivery of useful items (e.g. full package, bug fix or demo software)
- L Links - Useful links to other sites
- N News - News of interest
- S Support - Feedback in response to users' enquiries
- O Others - e.g. Innovative use of web tools, appearance, editorial point of view

Ratings: Excellent, Very Good, Good
Nothing below good will be reported here.



A History of Biological Standardization

D R Bangham

This book examines the characterisation and measurement of complex molecules of importance in clinical and research medicine, during the period from 1900-1995.

Copies (priced £40.00) are available from the author at 4 Crown Close, Mill Hill, London NW7 4HN, UK



22ND JOINT MEETING OF THE

British Endocrine Societies

24-26 March 2003

Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow, UK

BES 2003 is sure to get everyone talking! Speakers are travelling to join us from around the world, and a host of delights will address everyone's interests.

From the University of Texas, we welcome Professor Keith Parker. As this year's Transatlantic Medal Lecturer, Professor Parker will discuss 'Steroidogenic factor 1: a key mediator of endocrine development'. The Dale Medal Lecture will be delivered by the Society for Endocrinology's new Chairman, Professor Steve Bloom. Come along to find out 'How the brain controls appetite'. Professor Ann Klibanski flies in from Boston to lecture on 'The effects of the GH/IGF-I axis on bone density and body composition' in her role as visiting professor for the Clinical Endocrinology Trust. Meanwhile, Professor Nancy Carrasco, from New York, will present the Pitt-Rivers Lecture on 'The journey of the sodium/iodide symporter: from its molecular identification to its medical role in thyroid and breast cancer'. The meeting is sure to end on a high note, as Professor Steve Shalet from Manchester delivers his Clinical Endocrinology Trust Lecture: 'Growth hormone outgrows growth'.

You can't afford to miss this exciting and stimulating programme, as BES 2003 delivers yet another superlative mix of the latest science and clinical

practice. Come ready for a packed meeting - this year we have a record-breaking eight symposia in just 3 days!

Watch the web for details of our NEW Hot Topics symposium (see www.endocrinology.org)!

Another innovation for 2003 will be a focused science session, on the subject of 'Tissue engineering in endocrinology'.

BES wouldn't be the same without its high quality oral communications and poster presentations, as well as workshops and dedicated sessions for Nurse and Young Endocrinologist members. There really is something for everyone.

As if this wasn't enough, we also have nine sessions where you can find out 'The Expert's View?'

Along with this jam-packed scientific programme, we hope you will be able to find the time and the energy to join us at some fabulous social events. All tastes have been catered for, and we look forward to sharing a few of the traditions of Scotland!

Glorious Glasgow

Glasgow is Scotland's largest city, and one of the liveliest and most cosmopolitan destinations in Europe. It boasts world famous art collections, superb shopping facilities, and the most vibrant nightlife in Scotland. As well as Charles Rennie Mackintosh's legacy of art nouveau splendour, visitors can enjoy the renowned Burrell Collection and the contemporary Gallery of Modern Art. The city's newest attraction is the Glasgow Science Centre, including an IMAX cinema, science mall and the 100m Glasgow Tower, with exciting panoramic views.

The Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) will host the BES on their second visit to Glasgow. This is one of Europe's finest integrated conference and exhibition centres, easily accessible to international and UK visitors. Though located in the heart of the city, the SECC is only 30 minutes from some of the most spectacular Scottish scenery, made famous down the years in verse and song.



SOCIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY

Glasgow Golf Club in Killermont will host the annual Golf Tournament, while the BES Five-a-Side Football Tournament is back by popular demand! 2003 may also see the first BES Tennis Tournament - further information will be available shortly.

MONDAY

The Lord Provost is generously providing this year's Welcome Reception at the SECC, which will be followed by supper and a ceilidh at The Arches. A truly Scottish theme will make this riotous mixture of eating, drinking and dancing most memorable!

TUESDAY

The BES Banquet will take place in Glasgow University's historic Hunter Halls. Fine dining will be accompanied by a jazz quartet and a whisky-tasting competition! Prizes will be announced during the evening.

WEDNESDAY

For those of you who can't bear the meeting to end so soon, there will be an informal 'farewell' evening at Café India, one of Glasgow's finest curry houses.

HIGH PROFILE PLENARY LECTURERS:

Keith Parker 'Steroidogenic factor 1: a key mediator of endocrine development'

Ann Klibanski 'The effects of the GH/IGF-I axis on bone density and body composition'

Steve Bloom 'How the brain controls appetite'

Steve Shalet 'Growth hormone outgrows growth'

Nancy Carrasco 'The journey of the sodium/iodide symporter: from its molecular identification to its medical role in thyroid and breast cancer'

Wide-ranging symposia:

Androgens and prostate cancer

Trophic control of size

Apoptosis/survival signalling

Dominant endocrine cancer syndromes

The adipocyte as an endocrine organ

Prolactin: novel aspects

Radio-iodine biology in the 21st century

Hot topics

Key workshops:

HRT: the good, the bad and the ugly

Tissue engineering in endocrinology

Management of craniopharyngioma

Exploiting bacteriophage for peptide display and targeting

Plus:

Endocrine Nurses Symposium 'Ethical dilemmas'

Young Endocrinologists Workshop 'Alternative careers for endocrine researchers'

See the experts discuss:

Intersex, Calcium imaging in endocrine cells, Thyroid eye disease, Delayed puberty, Diagnosis of Cushing's, Microarrays and postarray, Hirsutism, Hypercalcaemia, Lipid rafts.

Further details from Liz Brookes
BES, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands
Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK
Tel: 01454-642210; Fax: 01454-642222;
Email: conferences@endocrinology.org;
Web: www.endocrinology.org/sfe/confs.htm

Both sides of the pond

Manchester or LA? Some of us might think the choice was easy, but, as Maria Castro found out, it's not quite so simple!

In hindsight, 7 August 2001 was a brave step into the unknown for me. Together with my husband, Dr Pedro Lowenstein, my son Elijah and our two cats Link and Marbles, I crossed the Atlantic.

Our journey transported us from Manchester to Los Angeles, where we were relocating to Cedars Sinai Medical Center, University of California. 'Brave' and 'unknown' are not overstatements! Nobody could have ever warned us how different LA would be, compared with what had become second nature to us in the UK. It wasn't as if we weren't used to moving: Oxford, Dundee, Cardiff and finally Manchester, with our longest time in any one place just 6 years. But nothing could have prepared us for the adventure we were about to embark upon.

Daily life set aside, our new working environment was incredibly opulent compared with NHS-funded UK hospitals: expensive art on the walls, shining floors in which I could see my own reflection, state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. At the same time, I must say I missed the familiarity of the Manchester Medical School, with its Gothic style buildings, its old library and bistro, the feeling that hundreds of years of history were all around you. Manchester was the place where the industrial revolution started, where the first computer was ever invented. Whilst there, I felt part of its history. I even missed the old teaching amphitheatre, where I felt as though I had been transported to the 19th century.

I have a vivid memory of the intense insecurity I felt on arrival in LA. This immediately set me in NIH grant-writing mode! Unlike in the UK, here, your long-term job security depends very heavily on how successful you are in getting NIH grants. I am a survivor and a born fighter (having survived the military dictatorship in Argentina which killed thousands of fellow students), so maybe this stood me in good stead.

I knew immediately what I had to do, and together with Pedro and the help of very generous colleagues, we set out to write two NIH grants. Amazingly

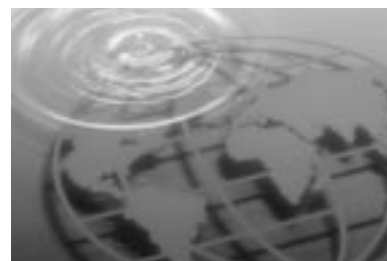
to most, we both got our RO1 NIH grants, which will fund our work for the next 5 years. We have also recently been awarded a third grant in collaboration with several groups within the USA. Unlike UK grant applications, these are almost as big as a PhD thesis, with painstaking details of the proposed experiments and methods.

More than a year on, my anxieties have abated substantially, and I am beginning to enjoy my work and my

*'the beaches are beautiful
and the sun keeps shining
on and on ... but I will
always remember with
enormous affection the
fog and the rain'*

life in LA. It took almost a year to get the lab working as smoothly as it used to in Manchester, despite three very courageous and driven post-doctoral fellows and one PhD student coming with us from Manchester to join our Institute. Our first results are beginning to emerge and the first 'Made in LA' paper will be submitted for publication before the end of 2002!

I have been welcomed into the scientific community here in the USA, and feel honoured to be part of it. I



am already involved in two study sections at the NIH. I would not do things differently if I had the chance. In the UK, the system and people gave me the opportunity to rise to the top of the academic ladder; I grew as a scientist and led, together with Pedro, one of the most prestigious and productive gene therapy groups in Europe. The time is ripe for exploring other horizons and for developing our scientific programme on the west coast of the USA, where the beaches are beautiful and the sun keeps shining on and on. The UK will always be part of me, and I will always remember with enormous affection all that I learned, the fog and the rain, the green lawns and the wonderful tea, but above all the wonderful colleagues and friends I met there.

I cannot say whether I prefer the UK or the USA, or which one I would recommend to students and mentees. My only message is 'Follow your heart, wherever it may take you!' You won't regret it.

MARIA G CASTRO



We are pleased to highlight the activities of some of our corporate members in this special section. Companies wishing to join the Society should contact Tom Parkhill in the Bristol office (tom.parkhill@endocrinology.org).

Abbott Laboratories Ltd

Abbott House, Norden Road Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4XF
Tel: +44 (0)1628-784041 Fax: +44 (0)1628-644205

AstraZeneca

Mereside, Alderley Park, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 4TG
Web: www.astrazeneca.com



BioScientifica Ltd

BioScientifica Ltd provides publishing and conference-organising services to science and industry. Our services include:

- journal publishing, including the management of peer review, production, distribution, marketing and electronic publishing
- publication of symposium proceedings from authors' manuscripts and/or tape recordings; our rapid publication service includes full project management
- conference and symposium organisation for 100-1500 delegates, including product launches, symposia and satellite meetings, and complete conferences.

BioScientifica's clients include major pharmaceutical companies, the British Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes, the Bone and Tooth Society and SEJE, on whose behalf we publish *European Journal of Endocrinology*.

BioScientifica is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Society for Endocrinology, publisher of *Journal of Endocrinology* (monthly), *Journal of Molecular Endocrinology* (bi-monthly), *Endocrine-Related Cancer* (quarterly) and *The Endocrinologist* (quarterly). All profits are returned to science and medicine via the Society for Endocrinology.



BioScientifica

Tom Parkhill
Business Development Officer
BioScientifica Ltd
16 The Courtyard, Woodlands
Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ
Tel: +44 (0)1454-642220
Fax: +44 (0)1454-642222
Email: info@endocrinology.org
Web: www.bioscientifica.com

Are endocrine-active chemicals bad for your health?

Friday 24 January 2003

THE MØLLER CENTRE, CHURCHILL COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE



An Academy of Medical Sciences meeting organised in association with the Society for Endocrinology



Programme includes:

Human male reproductive disorders that may arise during sexual differentiation *Niels Skakkebaek*

Sexual differentiation disorders in wildlife that arise from environmental chemicals *John Sumpter*

Pathways of endocrine disruption during sexual differentiation *Richard Sharpe*

Levels of selected endocrine-active compounds in the US population *Larry L Needham*

Identification of endocrine-active chemicals - strengths and weaknesses of available methods *Andreas Kortenkamp*

A critical look at the evidence for and against human effects of endocrine-active chemicals *Paul Foster*

Please register for this meeting via The Academy of Medical Sciences web site (www.acmedsci.ac.uk/f_events)

The Academy gratefully acknowledges the support of AstraZeneca plc for this meeting.



Eli Lilly

Lilly House, Priestley Road, Basingstoke RG4 9NL
Tel: +44 (0)1256 775120; Web: www.lilly.co.uk



Endocrine Pharmaceuticals Ltd

Endocrine Pharmaceuticals Ltd is a hormone drug discovery venture based at Harwell in Oxfordshire. It is virtual in configuration, with about a dozen scientists working on contract at different locations.

The company specialises in the hormonal causes of tissue mass disorders such as benign prostatic hypertrophy, endometriosis and osteoporosis. It is supported within AEA Technology's incubation programme at Harwell, with AEA Technology holding an equity stake in the company.

Other shareholders include 3i, Avlar BioVentures Ltd (a Cambridge venture capital fund managed by Alan Goodman), Helms Brown & Company of Oxford, and Cambridge Research and Innovation Ltd.

The company's chief executive is Dr John Hart. He co-ordinates the work at Harwell and at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge, the University of Sheffield and centres in Australia. The goal is to elucidate the controls on internal organ size, for therapeutic benefit.

For further information please contact: john.hart@endopharm.co.uk

Endocrine Pharmaceuticals Limited

551 Harwell, Didcot
Oxfordshire OX11 0QJ
Tel: +44 (0)1235-434830
Fax: +44 (0)1235-434695
Web: www.endopharm.co.uk

Genzyme Therapeutics

462 Kingsgate, Cascade Way, Oxford Business Park South, Oxford OX4 2SU, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1865-405200; Fax: +44 (0)1865-774172; Web: www.genzyme.com



GlaxoSmithKline

GlaxoSmithKline is one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies. We are committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer.

Last year we invested £2.5 billion in the research and development of new innovative medicines. Our early-stage pipeline of promising compounds offers great hope for better medicines against diseases such as cancer, obesity, diabetes and heart disease.



Stockley Park West, Uxbridge
Middlesex UB11 1BT
Tel: +44 (0)208-9909000
Fax: +44 (0)208-9904321
Email: customercontactcentre@gsk.com
Web: uk.gsk.com

Ipsen Ltd

Ipsen Ltd is the UK subsidiary of a European pharmaceutical group, founded in 1929 by Dr Henri Beaufour. The Beaufour Ipsen Group has a history of successful discovery, with a continued commitment to research and development in a variety of therapeutic areas. These include endocrinology, oncology, neurobiology, gastroenterology and haematology.

Within the field of endocrinology, Ipsen is committed to research into the role of somatostatin analogues, as well as to identifying and developing receptor subtype-specific compounds for application in a variety of conditions. These include acromegaly and neuroendocrine tumours.

Ipsen is a benefactor of the BES, and a major sponsor of Society meetings. For further information please call 0800-3892284 (freephone, UK only).



1 Bath Road, Maidenhead
Berkshire SL6 4UH
Tel: +44 (0)1628-771417
Fax: +44 (0)1628-770211
E-mail: pivotal.care@ipsen.co.uk
Web: www.ipsen.ltd.uk

Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd

Novartis AG is a world leader in healthcare with core businesses in pharmaceuticals, consumer health, generics, eye care, and animal health. The Group has invested approximately \$2.4 billion in research and development, employs about 70 000 people and operates in over 140 countries around the world.

In the UK, Novartis has large research and production facilities, as well as a dedicated sales and marketing company. Novartis UK is organised into integrated business units, covering all aspects of customer relations from clinical development to sales and marketing.

Our endocrine/oncology business team has the leading UK product in the somatostatin analogue market, in the form of Sandostatin® LAR®. Looking to the future, both radio-labelled sandostatin analogues and universal somatostatin receptor blockers are in development.

Other products that we currently market include Zometa®, a highly potent bisphosphonate, Aredia®, Femara®, an aromatase inhibitor, and Glivec®, the first signal transduction inhibitor to reach the market, representing a significant milestone in targeted anti-tumour therapy.

The Novartis endocrinology team is proud of its links with the Society for Endocrinology and is pleased to offer support where it can. The team can be contacted on 01276-698561.



Frimley Business Park, Frimley
Camberley, Surrey GU16 7SR
Tel: +44 (0)1276-692255
Fax: +44 (0)1276-698605
Web: www.novartis.com

Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals Ltd

Novo Nordisk is a focused healthcare company. With the broadest diabetes product portfolio in the industry, including the most advanced products within the area of insulin delivery systems, Novo Nordisk is the world leader in diabetes care.

In addition, Novo Nordisk has a leading position within areas such as growth hormone therapy, haemostasis management and hormone replacement therapy.

Novo Nordisk has produced recombinant human growth hormone since 1988. The first and only liquid growth hormone treatment in the UK was launched by Novo Nordisk in 1999, along with an advanced delivery system. We also provide the support of a homecare service and the convenience of home delivery.

Novo Nordisk manufactures and markets pharmaceutical products and services that make a significant difference to patients, the medical profession and society.



Novo Nordisk

Tel: +44 (0)1293-613555
Fax: +44 (0)1293-613535
Web: www.novonordisk.co.uk

FERTILITY 2003

ABERDEEN SCOTLAND
13 - 17 July 2003

**Joint Meeting of the
British Andrology Society,
the British Fertility Society and
the Society for Reproduction and Fertility**

CONTACT

Victoria Withy, BioScientifica Ltd, 16 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ
Tel: +44 (0) 1454 642219 Fax: +44 (0) 1454 642222 Email: fertility2003@endocrinology.org
Web: www.fertility2003.com



Pharmacia

Pharmacia's main endocrine product areas are focused on growth hormone replacement, treatment of hyperprolactinaemia, and acromegaly. We are delighted to continue our support for the BES Clinical and Basic Science Research Awards in the field of endocrine growth factors, which are now in their seventh year. Pharmacia also offers support to the Society for Endocrinology through sponsorship of initiatives aimed at developing endocrinology through clinicians, nurses, young endocrinologists and researchers.

Pharmacia is a leading global, innovation-driven pharmaceutical company of 30 000 employees operating in more than 100 countries. The UK head office is based in Milton Keynes.

For further information please contact lesley-ann.hugo@pharmacia.com

PHARMACIA

Davy Avenue, Knowlhill
Milton Keynes MK5 8PH
Tel: +44 (0)1908-661101
Fax: +44 (0)1908-603023
Web: www.pnu.com

Randox Laboratories Ltd

55 Diamond Road, Crumlin, Co Antrim BT29 4QY
Tel: +44 (0)28-94422413 Fax: +44 (0)28-94452912 Web: www.randox.com

Schering Health Care Ltd

Schering Health Care Ltd is a research-based pharmaceutical company. Using new ideas, we aim to make a recognised contribution to medical progress, and strive to improve quality of life. Schering Health Care's pharmaceutical activities in the UK currently involve clinical research, marketing, sales and distribution, together with related support functions.

Primary areas of research and development interest are fertility control, hormone therapy, multiple sclerosis, oncology, diagnostic imaging and radiopharmaceuticals.



SCHERING
making medicine work

The Brow, Burgess Hill RH15 9NE
Tel: +44 (0)1444-232323
Fax: +44 (0)1444-246613
Web: www.schering.co.uk

Serono Pharmaceuticals Ltd

Bedfont Cross, Stanwell Road, Feltham TW14 8NX
Tel: +44 (0)208-8187200; Fax: +44 (0)208-8187222;
Email: serono_uk@serono.com; Web: www.serono.com



serono

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MEDICAL SCIENCE



serono
foundation

Inhibins, Activins and Follistatins

Siena, Italy

3-4 July 2003

A workshop covering the following topics:

Proteins and receptors
Impact on reproduction and development
Cell differentiation and cancer
Inflammation

Abstract deadline: 31 January 2003

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

N P Groome (UK); D de Kretser (Australia); F Petraglia (Italy);
Alan Schneyder (USA); Wylie Vale (USA)

Contact: P Florio/D D'Antona/S Luisi, Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Siena, Viale Bracci, 53100 Siena, Italy
(Fax +39-0577-233454; Email: obgyn@unisi.it; Web: www.unisi.it/eventi/inhibin2003)

BES: in the beginning...



Every spring, hundreds of endocrinologists gather together for three days to absorb new facts, gather ideas for research and socialise with old friends. Then they all return home and settle down to work for another year, until the following spring when they repeat the same thing all over again. Though certainly a well-loved ritual, it is difficult to believe that meetings of the BES only date back 20 years. How and why they came into being has already started to fade into the mists of time.

Endocrinology changed dramatically between 1960 and 1980, a period when my contemporaries and I were mostly training or had just become consultants. The clinical endocrinology of the 1950s was largely descriptive. The symptoms of many endocrine disorders had been recognised, but few hormone assays were available or accurate. Peptide hormones could not be measured at anything like physiological concentrations, and individual steroids could only be measured by isotope dilution after isolation by days of paper chromatography. We were consequently ignorant of most things that are now taken for granted.

After 1960, the introduction of RIAs, the rapid advances in cell biology and biochemistry and the development of CT and MR scanning made endocrinology one of the most rapidly advancing and fascinating fields of medicine and basic science. These advances attracted many highly intelligent graduates; existing endocrine units expanded rapidly and new units developed across the country.

The traditional means of exchanging information came under increasing strain. The twice-yearly meetings of the Society for Endocrinology were largely devoted to basic science, the Endocrine Section of the RSM met monthly and catered for clinical presentations, while smaller, specialist societies such as the Thyroid Club, The Bone and Tooth Society, the Ovarian Club and the Hormone Section of the Biochemical Society dealt with special interests. These were the main meetings for the presentation of endocrine data. Most took place in London, presenting difficulties for the increasing numbers who worked elsewhere. Anyone who wanted a broad overview of British endocrinology needed to subscribe to a bewildering variety of societies, some of which were not accessible to juniors.

For all these reasons, and because many of us had enjoyed the International Congresses of Endocrinology, the two-yearly Acta Endocrinologica meetings in Europe and The Endocrine Society meetings in the USA, my contemporaries and I favoured a single, big annual meeting in the UK, to cover the whole field. But we had to convince those senior to us of the need for change.

Our seniors were in all the positions of power on the important committees. They too were affected by the rapid changes in the field, but also had a medico-political agenda. British endocrinology had made great advances, but they felt that it hadn't received the recognition that it deserved overseas. Those who were already convinced of the need for a new national annual forum also saw it as an opportunity to increase the worldwide influence of British endocrinology. From 1970 onwards, moves to strengthen international ties were made.

One of the foremost problems was British representation on the committee of the International Society for Endocrinology, which was responsible for the four-yearly International Congresses. The number of representatives from each country depended upon the size of the national endocrine society. But which of the plethora of British societies should be approached for nominations and how many representatives should there be? To try and provide some unity, a Liaison Committee with representatives from the two main societies was established, and in 1975 the British Diabetic Association was also invited to join.

Moves were also being made to broaden and improve the standard of scientific presentations at the Society for Endocrinology's spring meetings. In 1978, the then Chairman, Roger Short, suggested that it should become more like a symposium, with two or three major lectures, that some of the meetings should be held outside London, and that The Endocrine Society should be approached with a view to

establishing transatlantic lectureships.

These ideas were favourably received and further developed informally, until, at a meeting of the Liaison Committee in October 1980, it was suggested that a loose federation of British endocrine societies should be formed, with a view to holding an annual general endocrine meeting. The proponents of this scheme seem to have included Lesley Rees, Vivian James, David London and John Phillips, as well as Roger Short from the Society for Endocrinology, and Michael Besser, Chris Edwards and David Heath from the RSM.

In May 1981, at a meeting with representatives from several of the specialist endocrine societies and the Irish Endocrine Society, it was agreed to form a new Liaison Committee, tasked with the organisation of an annual meeting of British Endocrine Societies. Some of the societies feared loss of their individuality. On this basis, the British Diabetic Association decided to hold its own meeting, but on the same site and immediately following the BES, with a joint symposium linking the two meetings. Likewise, the Thyroid Club chose to hold its own meeting within the BES, though open to all, and including the annual Pitt-Rivers lecture.

The British Endocrine Federation was recognised by the International Society for Endocrinology, and so achieved the other aim of allowing full representation on that body.

From these beginnings, the annual BES meetings have gone from strength to strength. The scientific standard has remained exceptionally high, other societies have joined in, and overseas representation has increased. Above all, the BES has certainly served to meet the key objective of its original organisers - to promote the international reputation of British endocrinology!

COLIN BEARDWELL

I am very grateful to all who have helped compile this record in response to my queries: Lesley Rees, Clara Lowy, Howard Jacobs, Roger Short, Michael Besser, David London and Vivian James

ASG: aims in animal research

The UK Life Sciences Committee Animal Science Group (ASG) was established to address all the issues surrounding the use of animals in research. Here, Barry Furr and Nancy Rothwell update members of the Society for Endocrinology on the activities of ASG, and seek your comments and suggestions for action and improvements.

None of us likes it, although most of us accept it, but some of us do have to use animals in our research. Those who require animals to answer scientific questions or to develop new treatments for animal or human disease know the problems only too well: the continuous personal and national concern about animal welfare, the high costs, and the complexity of designing and analysing whole animal experiments.

This must make it one of the most difficult subjects with which we have to deal. These problems are compounded by concerns about public opinion, the vociferous and sometimes violent actions of a small group of extremists who oppose animal experiments, and a seemingly ever-increasing burden of regulations, requirements, paperwork and delays.

The ASG exists to address all of these complexities. It represents academic scientists, but has regular dialogue with, and representation from, all scientists with an interest in this area, including funding bodies, the commercial sector, laboratory veterinary surgeons and technicians, as well as the scientific and medical academies. The Society for Endocrinology has representation on the ASG (through Barry Furr) and provides support for the group, both of which are essential for the ASG's effective operation. The group is chaired by Nancy Rothwell, the secretariat is provided by the British Pharmacological Society, and the group supports a part-time consultant policy administrator, Dr Vernon Barber.

The group, or its representatives, meets regularly with senior Home Office (HO) staff in several fora. In June 2002, a discussion meeting with HO staff and academics saw representation from 50 UK academic institutions; feedback was very positive. A range of issues and actions was raised, including turnaround times for licence processing, the ethical review process (ERP), Animal Procedures Committee, new

inspectors, consistency of decisions by the HO Inspectorate, presentation of best practice for animal welfare, and ensuring best practice in preparing project licences, including the development of 'low maintenance' licences. A proposal was welcomed for a 'virtual centre' to co-ordinate and disseminate information and developments about animal welfare, and to optimise protocols for standard techniques.

Importantly, those present recognised the enormous diversity in structure, operation and turnaround times of ERPs. The ASG is now preparing a document recommending 'best practice' for an efficient and effective ERP, which will be distributed widely.

The ASG has met with Jack Straw (when he was Home Secretary), Lord Hunt (Minister for Health), Lord Sainsbury (Minister for Science) and three previous ministers with direct responsibility for animals. We arranged for two ministers (Mike O'Brien and Angela Eagle) to visit academic animal units; both were clearly impressed by what they saw. We are now actively seeking a meeting with the recently appointed minister (Bob Ainsworth), and have invited him to visit scientific institutions.

Nancy Rothwell meets regularly with Lord Sainsbury and senior HO staff as a member of the Pharmaceutical Industry Competitive Task Force, which also represents the concerns of academia. Lord Sainsbury has been enormously supportive of our aims and concerns, and these meetings continue to be very valuable. At his suggestion, we will continue to meet regularly to review progress in ensuring that the UK has the most efficient and effective regulatory system for animal experiments.

With regard to efficiency, the ASG is in regular discussion with the HO about the processing of licences. Having reviewed turnaround times for selected institutions, we are pleased to report an apparent significant reduction in processing time for new

project licences. We will continue to monitor processing times for all licences by the HO and through the ERP, and to seek ways to make these processes more efficient and effective in improving animal welfare. We are particularly keen to hear from institutions or individuals who have experienced problems.

The ASG had a major input into the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures. We have welcomed the report and provided a detailed response (see www.lifesci.org/asn), and will be following up several recommendations. In addition to the review of best practice in the ERP noted above, we are working with the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries to simplify the project licence application, and are actively considering how we can better promote animal welfare and the three Rs (reduction, refinement and replacement of animals used in experiments) and establish a 'centre' to meet these goals.

An important recommendation of the House of Lords Select Committee was for more openness by scientists about what they do. The ASG is very keen to meet this goal, but also recognises that scientists have very real concerns about security, safety and competitiveness. We are working towards better public understanding of the use of animals in research, are in regular discussion with police and security bodies about protecting scientists (and breeders), and are considering ways that any revision of the project licence can meet the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act without jeopardising the very real concerns of the scientific community.

This is just a snapshot of the activities of the ASG. We welcome your input into our current and future activities.

NANCY ROTHWELL
BARRY FURR

All for one, and one for all! Unifying endocrinology

The Chairmen of the Society's Science and Clinical Committees take an opportunity to look to the future and canvass your views. Where next for the Society?

Endocrinology is certainly a core discipline within biomedical sciences and clinical practice. This is self-evident from scanning the list of members' research interests and affiliations in the Society's handbook, wherein subjects ranging from genomics to behavioural endocrinology, invertebrates to cancer, and diabetes to evolution mingle. The list of research interests and activities seems endless, and dovetails with almost all aspects of the biomedical sciences and clinical medicine.

Historically, during the Society's early years, things were rather different, as Colin Beardwell recalls on page 13. A dichotomy existed between the interests of the purely medical clinical endocrinologists and, at the other end of the spectrum, the so-called basic scientists. Those older than the authors (is that possible?) will recall how Society activities emphasised basic science, so much so that a separate journal for clinical endocrinology, and several isolated clinical groups, formed outside the Society's umbrella. More recent times have seen the many avenues within endocrinology become a much more unified network (although many still feel that particular arenas remain outside the Society's bailiwick).

So the Society now embraces a broad spectrum from molecular (atomic?) to clinical endocrinology, including clinical practice. We should, however, remain alert to the potential 'downsides' of the present breadth of discipline within our single organisation.

We are at a point where we must decide how to embrace the many obvious talents of the membership and promote interaction. For example, how should members who investigate gene expression in insects interact with those who treat congenital adrenal hyperplasia? Clearly there is an intellectual mutuality between these somewhat disparate areas of investigation - but how to unify?

As a starting point, the Society created two committees who were charged with, among other things, achieving such an ambition: the Science Committee and the Clinical Committee. Both meet three times a year and have responsibility for drawing up the programmes for the Society's meetings. In addition, both committees have identified, from different standpoints, a need to increase the prominence of endocrine teaching and training.

The Clinical Committee also concerns itself with statements of care and their delivery. It interacts with various government organisations, including the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), which has recently appraised the use of GH in children and in adults. The Committee provides expert evidence and guidance to the Government as, for example, in the provision of specialist endocrine services in the UK. In light of the probable increase in demand for endocrinologists, we want to ensure that adequate numbers of young graduates enter the specialty.

The Science Committee has input into the UK Life Sciences Committee and the new UK Biosciences Federation. The Committee is also represented on the Parliamentary Science Committee and within the Institute of Biology.

So having agreed (we trust) that endocrinology is a unifying area that spans many cognate disciplines, how may we consolidate and extend the wide spectrum of our interests? We must now solicit views from the Society's membership as to how we should proceed. Your ideas would be welcomed by the editor of *The Endocrinologist*, Richard Ross, who is enthusiastic about establishing a regular correspondence on ways of achieving this unity of interests, from undergraduate teaching to the highest levels of endocrine investigation.

Some ideas have been presented at the Clinical and Science Committees, and these may serve to provoke your suggestions. They include extension of our web

presence to cover specific areas of endocrinology, one-day meetings on highly specific endocrine subjects (attracting no more than 50 attendees), and the development of special interest groups (SIGs) within the Society.

Such SIGs would be akin to the Hormone Group of the Society for Endocrinology and the Biochemical Society. This long-established group has had remarkable successes, but its profile within the Society has waned somewhat more recently. Given the breadth of disciplines within endocrinology, it would seem appropriate to establish other SIGs within the Society. These could focus on a single hormone, a particular gland, or a distinctive phenomenon - the permutations and possibilities are wide-ranging. Similar SIGs could be established with other learned societies and disciplines, for instance genetics, developmental biology, general physiology or pharmacology. Each could have separate inputs into programme committees and, in the longer term, into the overall teaching of endocrinology. This could significantly increase the national and international profile of our discipline.

SIGs and other developments can only be created with input from you, the members. How would you like your Society to develop? What are your suggestions? Do you favour the idea of SIGs and, if so, which groups would you find advantageous? Write to the editor, who solicits your views and suggestions.

One final point: the composition of these committees (www.endocrinology.org/sfe/commit.htm) should reflect the membership. Some areas of endocrinology are not represented and these should be identified. Please let the editor hear your views!

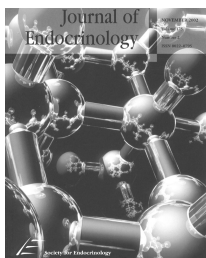
IAN HENDERSON
JOHN WASS

Hot Topics

Selected highlights of the latest research from the Society's journals brought to you by Nathalie Gilmore, Jolene Guy and Jane Shepley.

Thyroid receptor roles

The numerous splice variants of the thyroid hormone receptor are expressed in time- and tissue-specific patterns.



Genetic manipulation has enabled investigation of the physiological actions of these various isoforms, and O'Shea & Williams now comprehensively review the literature describing the many mouse models created to elucidate the roles of the T3 receptors, TR α and TR β .

Nine sections each deal with a particular target organ or system, describing of the phenotypes of several knockout models, and possible mechanisms of action of the missing gene products. The various mutations cause a great many phenotypic changes, including hypo- and hyperthyroidism, impaired fertility, skeletal and muscle abnormalities and defective visual/auditory development, as well as effects on the maturation of the small intestine and the function of the heart and liver. Genetic engineering has therefore revealed the enormous complexity of thyroid hormone receptor function, and provided new and wide-ranging physiological insights into the mechanisms of thyroid hormone action in individual target tissues.

This review is almost a database, and is a fantastic reference tool for anyone interested in thyroid hormones and their receptors.

(See the full article in Journal of Endocrinology 175(3), December 2002)

Gender-specific insulin secretion

Protein malnutrition during pregnancy has been associated with the impairment of fetal pancreatic

development, and linked with glucose intolerance, insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes in the adult offspring. Reports have indicated a relationship with gender. Male offspring of rats fed a protein-restricted diet during pregnancy are less glucose-tolerant than non-protein-restricted controls. But no significant difference has been observed for females.

Sugden & Holness have now investigated the gender-specific effects of maternal protein restriction on 20-week-old rats maintained on a protein-restricted diet after weaning, or transferred to a normal protein diet. Male rats, when transferred to a normal protein diet, showed an increased insulin secretory response to compensate for the development of insulin resistance. Female rats on this diet, however, did not show compensatory insulin secretion and had lower post-absorptive insulin levels, indicating that they have a greater insulin sensitivity than the males.

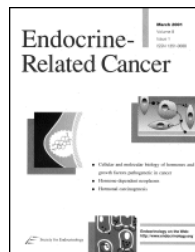
The authors conclude that early growth retardation, due to maternal protein restriction, leads to gender-specific insulin resistance in adulthood, but glucose tolerance is maintained. This also suggests that protein restriction can enhance insulin action, but that this may also be gender-dependent.

(See the full article in Journal of Endocrinology 175(3), December 2002)

Breast cancer insights from microarray studies

In this fascinating review, Desai & colleagues examine the rapidly increasing amounts of data from research into breast cancer using microarray technologies.

Breast cancer accounts for 30% of tumours in American women, but many questions regarding its clinical progression remain unanswered. Microarray studies now enable researchers to build up expression profiles of breast tumours, which allow them to determine the expression patterns of thousands of genes



simultaneously. It is hoped that these data will allow more accurate classification of tumours, so making it easier to predict the natural history and response to therapy of individual cases. In turn, this could lead to more specialised treatment of patients, dependent on their tumour's profile. Gene expression profiling of transgenic models will also allow molecular changes to be monitored during tumour progression.

The authors emphasise that these data should be used in parallel with proteomics and genomics, in order to increase our understanding of breast cancer and improve the prognosis for patients.

(See the full article in Endocrine-Related Cancer 9(4), December 2002)

α ER expression in the α ERKO mouse

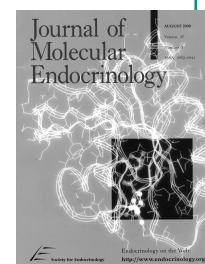
Since 1993, the oestrogen receptor- α knockout (α ERKO) mouse has been used extensively by researchers to study oestrogen action.

However, whether α ERKO is a genuine null mutation was a persistent concern, until in 1995 two alternatively spliced α ER transcripts (E1 and E2) were shown to be expressed in α ERKO mice.

Koš & co-workers have now described a variant protein that results from alternative splicing of the α ER gene, which may correspond to the E1 transcript. This isoform is expressed in the uteri of the majority of α ERKO mice, and its activity is cell-type specific.

The authors suggest that data obtained using the α ERKO mouse should be re-evaluated in light of these findings. They also suggest that the variable expression of this α ER isoform could be useful in further defining activating functions AF-1 and AF-2 of mouse α ER. These separate domains of α ER recruit transcriptional co-factors that direct oestrogen-dependent gene expression.

(See the full article in Journal of Molecular Endocrinology 29(3), December 2002)



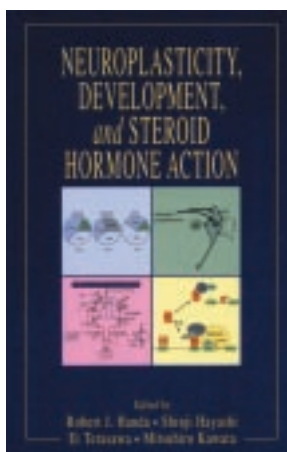
Neuroplasticity, development, and steroid hormone action

Eds R J Handa, S Hayashi, E Terasawa & M Kawata, CRC Press, 2002, 424 pp, \$149.95, ISBN 084930962X

This book has an enticing title, a topic that is of great interest to many, namely, how the brain reacts to its environment and experiences to modulate its development and, in later life, neuroplasticity. The book is the result of a joint meeting of scientists from Japan and the USA held in 2000 and even though it gives only a partial view of the field, many of the participants are world-renowned.

Each review gives a concise overview of the author's work in the context of the recent literature. The main positive feature of this compilation is that it covers many different technical aspects of steroid research, from molecular mechanisms of transcriptional regulation through biochemical and neuro-anatomical changes to the behavioural consequences.

The vast majority of the chapters relate to the brain-pituitary-gonadal axis. There are several chapters on the GnRH neurone, covering activity, pulsatility and regulation by gonadal steroids, promoter regulation of the GnRH gene, LHRH cell migration during development, and several aspects of sexual differentiation of the brain. The final chapter is a wonderful review of the two oestrogen receptors, ER α and ER β , their expression patterns throughout development and in the adult, and the molecular mechanisms underlying regulation of transcription and translation of the receptor genes, touching on RNA splicing and receptor trafficking. So, in general, current work on the gonadal axis in neuroplasticity and development is



comprehensively covered in these reviews.

However, covering the periphery of this field, there is only one chapter each on thyroid hormone, insect ecdysteroids and glucocorticoids, giving a rather poor reflection of the work done in these fields.

This publication will help people who want to keep up to date on steroid actions or neuroplasticity. Its layout in terms of subject order is good, but the decision to separate the few colour pictures from their chapters and place them together in the centre is questionable. This book does accomplish an overview of some of the exciting work carried out on steroid actions in the brain, demonstrating the importance of hormones in neural function, and emphasising that the discipline of neuroendocrinology is not only alive and kicking, but at the forefront of research on molecular through to cognitive aspects of neuroscience.

MEGAN HOLMES

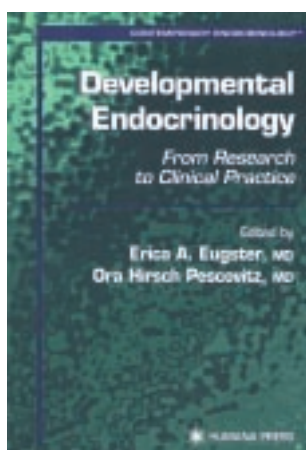
Developmental Endocrinology: From Research to Clinical Practice

Eds E A Eugster & O H Pescovitz, Humana Press, 2002, 436 pp, \$165.00, ISBN 0 896 03860 2

This book is the latest volume in the impressive 'Comprehensive Endocrinology' series. The editors state that their goal is to include the latest scientific information regarding the development of endocrine systems, and to link physiology with optimal clinical management. A brief so wide that virtually any topic could qualify. In fact, the choice of topics is broad, impressive and balanced. In many chapters the style of writing is dense, and the lack of subheadings ensures that this book is not for bed-time reading. The chapter by Laron does reference numerous publications from the author's department, but is nevertheless a balanced view.

It is a pity that the chapter on normal and abnormal growth is not more focused on topical issues such as fetal growth, its genetic and environmental control, and the consequences and treatment of its disturbance. As a paediatrician, I hesitate to comment on the chapter on adult GH deficiency; however, key areas of current interest, such as transitional care through adolescence, and titration and monitoring of GH dosage appear to be omitted. The section on thyroid is excellent and fulfils all the editors' aspirations.

The coverage of calcium and bone is outstanding, being detailed, highly informative, wide-ranging - and dense! I was also highly impressed by the chapter



on sexual differentiation, which is a model of clarity, well diagrammed and both informative and authoritative on clinical topics such as sex assignment. The chapter on precocious puberty is valuable for the clinician, as is the one on delayed puberty, which covers molecular and developmental aspects as well as clinical management. The final section on hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal development and genetic defects in steroidogenesis really is the icing on the cake, and completes what is a very impressive volume.

This book is, above all, a valuable source of information for the reader, both scientist and clinician, who has specific questions to answer. Overall, it succeeds in fulfilling the editors' stated aims.

MARTIN SAVAGE

Are Endocrine-Active Chemicals Bad for your Health?

Cambridge, UK, 24 January 2003.

Contact: Susan Wicks, Academy of Medical Sciences, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, UK (Tel: +44-20-79695289; Fax: +44-20-79695289; Email: susan.wicks@acmedsci.ac.uk; Web: www.acmedsci.ac.uk/f_events.htm).

Royal College of Physicians Research Skills Workshops: Getting into Research

London, UK, 29 January 2003.

Contact: Peter Taylor, Education Department, Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1, UK (Tel: +44-20-79351174 ext 308; Fax: +44-20-74874156; Email: education@rcplondon.ac.uk; Web: www.rcplondon.ac.uk).

7th International Symposium on Graves' Ophthalmopathy

Pisa, Italy, 6-8 February 2003.

Contact: Tre Emme Congressi srl, Via Risorgimento 4, 56126 Pisa, Italy (Tel: +39-05-044154; Fax: +39-05-0500725; Email: treemme@sirius.pisa.it; Web: www.treemmecongressi.it).

2nd International Workshop on the Genetics of Bone Metabolism and Disease

Davos, Switzerland, 15-18 February 2003.

Contact: European Calcified Tissue Society, PO Box 4, Dursley GL11 6YL, UK (Tel: +44-1453-549929; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: admin@ectsoc.org; Web: www.ectsoc.org).

Royal College of Physicians Research Skills Workshops: Successful Research

London, UK, 24 February 2003.

Contact: Peter Taylor, Education Department, Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1, UK (Tel: +44-20-79351174 ext 308; Fax: +44-20-74874156; Email: education@rcplondon.ac.uk; Web: www.rcplondon.ac.uk).

Society for Endocrinology Clinical Cases Meeting

London, UK, 26 February 2003.

Contact: Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: www.endocrinology.org/sfe/train.htm).

Royal College of Radiologists Meeting on Imaging in Endocrinology

London, UK, 27 February 2003.

Contact: Caroline Eason, Royal College of Radiologists, 38 Portland Place, London W1N 4JQ, UK (Tel: +44-20-76364432 ext 124; Email: conf@rcrac.uk).

Spring Academic Meeting of the Midland Endocrine Club

Birmingham, UK, 5 March 2003.

Contact: Neil Gittoes, Department of Medicine, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TH, UK (Tel: +44-121-4721311; Fax: +44-121-6272384).

BES 2003: 22nd Joint Meeting of the British Endocrine Societies

Glasgow, UK, 24-26 March 2003.

Contact: British Endocrine Societies, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642210; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: conferences@endocrinology.org; Web: www.endocrinology.org/sfe/conf.htm).

Warwick University Short Course: an Introduction to Immunology

Coventry, UK, 2-3 April 2003.

Contact: Steve Hicks, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK (Tel: +44-24-76523540; Fax: +44-24-76523701; Email: s.j.hicks@warwick.ac.uk; Web: www.bio.warwick.ac.uk/shortcourses).

13th International Meeting of the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO)

Brussels, Belgium, 6-10 April 2003.

Contact: ESGO Secretariat, 17 Rue du Cendrier, PO Box 1726, CH-1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland (Tel: +41-22-9080488; Fax: +41-22-7322850; Email: esgo13@esgo.org; Web: www.esgo.org/esgo13).

46th Journées Internationales d'Endocrinologie Clinique: Endocrinology of Menopause and 'Andropause'

Paris, France, 24-25 April 2003.

Contact: G Copinschi, Laboratory of Experimental Medicine, Brussels Free University, CP 618, 808 Route de Lennik, B-1070 Brussels, Belgium (Fax: +32-2-5556239; Email: klotz@ulb.ac.be).

Serono Foundation for the Advancement of Medical Science: Workshop on Molecular Steroidogenesis

Bath, UK, 24-27 April 2003.

Contact: Helen Gregson or Liz Brookes, BioScientifica Ltd, 16 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642212; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: molster03@endocrinology.org; Web: www.eurosterone.org/serono/index.html).

6th European Congress of Endocrinology

Lyon, France, 26-30 April 2003.

Contact: Congress Agency, Scientific Secretariat, Transit Communications, 18 place Tolozan, 69001 Lyon, France (Tel: +33-4-72985858; Fax: +33-4-72985898; Email: info@endocrinology2003.com; Web: www.endocrinology2003.com).

ALDO 2003: International Symposium on Aldosterone

London, UK, 27-30 April 2003.

Contact: Helen Gregson or Liz Brookes, BioScientifica Ltd, 16 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642212; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: aldo-03@endocrinology.org; Web: www.bioscientifica.com/aldo03).

2nd European Consensus Conference Menopause: State of the Art Toward Consensus

Athens, Greece, 1-4 May 2003.

Contact: CFEF/FEMS Executive Organisation, 12 rue du Quatre-Septembre, 75002 Paris, France (Tel: +33-1-42865592; Fax: +33-1-42604535; Email: eska@club-internet.fr; Web: www.eska.fr).

30th European Symposium on Calcified Tissues

Rome, Italy, 8-12 May 2003.

Contact: Janet Crompton, The Old White Hart, North Nibley, Dursley GL11 6DS, UK (Tel: +44-1453-549929; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: admin@ectsoc.org; Web: www.ectsoc.org).

International Course on Laboratory Animal Science

Utrecht, The Netherlands, 12-23 May 2003.

Contact: LFM van Zutphen or Stephen van Meulebrouck, Department of Laboratory Animal Science, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, PO Box 80.166, 3508 TD Utrecht, The Netherlands (Tel: +31-30-2532033; Fax: +31-30-2537997; Email: pdk@las.vet.uu.nl; Web: las.vet.uu.nl).

Frontiers in Reproduction: Molecular and Cellular Concepts and Applications

Woods Hole, MA, USA, 18 May-29 June 2003.

Contact: Carol Hamel, Admissions Co-ordinator (Tel: +1-508-2897401; Email: admissions@mbl.edu; Web: courses.mbl.edu).

10th European Federation of Endocrine Societies (EFES) Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Riga, Latvia, 29-31 May 2003.

Contact: Valdis Pirags, P Stradins University Hospital, Pilsonu iela 13, Riga LV-1002, Latvia (Fax: +371-7069955; Email: pirags@latnet.lv; Web: www.euro-endo.org/latvia.pdf)

2nd World Congress on Fetal Origins of Adult Disease (FOAD 2003)

Brighton, UK, 7-10 June 2003.

Contact: Hampton Medical Conferences Ltd, 127 High Street, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8HH, UK (Tel: +44-20-89770011; Fax: +44-20-89770055; Email: foad@hamptonmedical.com; Web: www.foad2003.org).

1st European Endoscopic Surgery Week

Glasgow, UK, 16-18 June 2003.

Contact: BSGE/ESGE, Index Communications Meeting Services, Crown House, 28 Winchester Road, Romsey SO51 8AA, UK (Tel: +44-1794-511331/2; Fax: +44-1794-511455; Email: icms@dial.pipex.com; Web: www.eesw.com) or EAES Office, PO Box 335, 5500 AH Veldhoven, The Netherlands (Tel: +31-40-2525288; Fax: +31-40-2523102; Email: info@eaes-eur.org; Web: www.eaes-eur.org).

ENDO 2003: 85th Annual Meeting

Philadelphia, PA, USA, 19-22 June 2003.

Contact: Beverly Glover, Administrative Assistant, Meetings, The Endocrine Society, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 500, Bethesda, MD 20814-4410, USA (Tel: +1-301-9410220; Fax: +1-301-9410259; Email: bglover@endo-society.org; Web: www.endo-society.org).

4th International Symposium on Hormonal Carcinogenesis

Valencia, Spain, 21-25 June 2003.

Contact: Tandria Price/Jonathan J Li, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics, Mail Stop 1018, University of Kansas Medical Center, 3901 Rainbow Blvd, Kansas City, KS 66160-7417, USA (Tel: +1-913-5884744; Fax: +1-913-5884740; Email: tprice@kumc.edu; Web: www.kumc.edu/hormonecancers).

National Osteoporosis Society 9th Bath Conference on Osteoporosis

Bath, UK, 23-26 June 2003.

Contact: Janet Crompton, The Old White Hart, North Nibley, Dursley GL11 6DS, UK (Tel: +44-1453-549929; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: janetcrompton@compuserve.com; Web: www.nos.org.uk).

Serono Foundation for the Advancement of Medical Science: Workshop on Inhibins, Activins and Follistatins

Siena, Italy, 3-4 July 2003.

Contact: Pasquale Florio, Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Siena, Viale Bracci, 53100 Siena, Italy (Tel/Fax: +39-05-77233454; Email: obgyn@unisi.it; Web: www.unisi.it/eventi/inhibin2003).

FEBS 2003 Meeting Signal Transduction: from Membrane to Gene Expression, from Structure to Disease

Brussels, Belgium, 4-8 July 2003.

Contact: V Wouters, ICEO (Tel: +32-2-7795959; Fax: +32-2-7795960; Email: febs@iceo.be; Web: www.febs-signal.be).

12th Vitamin D Workshop

Maastricht, The Netherlands, 6-10 July 2003.

Contact: R Bouillon, LEGENDO, Onderwijs en Navorsing (9e Verd), Gasthuisberg, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium (Tel: +32-16-345971; Fax: +32-16-345934; Email: roger.bouillon@medkuleuven.ac.be).

Bone and Tooth Society Annual Meeting

Sheffield, UK, 9-11 July 2003.

Contact: Janet Crompton, The Old White Hart, North Nibley, Dursley GL11 6DS, UK (Tel: +44-1453-549929; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: janetcrompton@compuserve.com; Web: www.batsoc.org.uk).

University of Exeter Advanced Diabetes Course

Exeter, UK, 9-11 July 2003.

Contact: Ruth Hooper, Department of Diabetes and Vascular Medicine, Barrack Road, Exeter EX2 5AX, UK (Tel: +44-1392-403089; Fax: +44-1329-403027; Email: r.e.hooper@ex.ac.uk).

Fertility 2003: Joint Meeting of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility, British Fertility Society and the British Androgen Society

Aberdeen, UK, 13-17 July 2003.

Contact: Victoria Withy, BioScientifica Ltd, 16 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: fertility2003@endocrinology.org; Web: www.fertility2003.com).

Society for Endocrinology Molecular Endocrinology Workshop

Manchester, UK, 15 July 2003.

Contact: Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: www.endocrinology.org/sfe/train.htm).

Advances in the Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics of Bone Disease

Oxford, UK, 15-16 July 2003.

Contact: Janet Crompton, The Old White Hart, North Nibley, Dursley GL11 6DS, UK (Tel: +44-1453-549929; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: janetcrompton@compuserve.com; Web: www.paget.org.uk).

Society for Endocrinology Advanced Endocrine Course

Manchester, UK, 16-17 July 2003.

Contact: Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: www.endocrinology.org/sfe/train.htm).

International Symposium on Paget's Disease

Oxford, UK, 16-19 July 2003.

Contact: Janet Crompton, The Old White Hart, North Nibley, Dursley GL11 6DS, UK (Tel: +44-1453-549929; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: janetcrompton@compuserve.com; Web: www.paget.org.uk).

Society for Endocrinology Clinical Practice Day

Manchester, UK, 18 July 2003.

Contact: Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: www.endocrinology.org/sfe/train.htm).

Society for Endocrinology Endocrine Nurses Training Course: The Pituitary Gland

Durham, UK, 10-12 September 2003.

Contact: Ann Lloyd, Society for Endocrinology, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: www.endocrinology.org/sfe/train.htm).

Oxford Advanced Endocrinology Seminar

Oxford, UK, 15-17 September 2003.

Contact: Helen Gregson, BioScientifica Ltd, 16 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642212; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: conferences@endocrinology.org).

75th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association

Palm Beach, FL, USA, 16-21 September 2003.

Contact: ATA, 6066 Leesburg Pike, Suite 650, Falls Church, VA 22041, USA (Email: admin@thyroid.org; Web: www.thyroid.org).

42nd Annual Meeting of the European Society of Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) 2003

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 18-21 September 2003.

Contact: Ciril Krzisnik, Department of Paediatric Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, University Children's Hospital, University Medical Center Ljubljana, Vrazov trg 1, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia (Tel: +38-6-12320887; Fax: +38-6-12310246; Email: ciril.krzisnik@mfn.uni-lj.si; Web: www.europepe.org/meetings.jsp).

25th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research

Minneapolis, MN, USA, 19-23 September 2003.

Contact: ASBMR, 2025 M Street, NW Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036-3309, USA (Tel: +1-202-3671161; Email: asbmr@dc.sba.com; Web: www.asbmr.org).

11th European Federation of Endocrine Societies (EFES) Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology

Oxford, UK, 29 September-1 October 2003.

Contact: Helen Gregson, BioScientifica Ltd, 16 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642212; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: conferences@endocrinology.org; Web: www.euro-endo.org/courses.htm).

59th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM 2003)

San Antonio, TX, USA, 11-16 October 2003.

Contact: ASRM, 1209 Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, AL 35216-2809, USA (Tel: +1-205-9785000; Fax: +1-205-9785018; Email: asrm@asrm.org).

194th Meeting of the Society for Endocrinology

London, UK, 3-5 November 2003.

Contact: Liz Brookes, Society for Endocrinology, 17-18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642210; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: conferences@endocrinology.org; Web: www.endocrinology.org/confs.htm).

31st Meeting of the British Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes 2003

Edinburgh, UK, 20-21 November 2003.

Contact: Liz Brookes, 17-18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642210; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: info@endocrinology.org; Web: www.bsped.org.uk).

International Conference on Progress in Bone and Mineral Research 2003

Vienna, Austria, 27-29 November 2003.

Contact: Vienna Academy of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Alser Strasse 4, A-1090 Vienna, Austria (Tel: +43-1-40513830; Fax: +43-1-405138323; Email: bone2003@medacad.org).

BES 2004: 23rd Joint Meeting of the British Endocrine Societies (in association with EFES)

Brighton, UK, 22-24 March 2004.

Contact: British Endocrine Societies, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642210; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: conferences@endocrinology.org; Web: www.endocrinology.org/sfe/confs.htm).

31st European Symposium on Calcified Tissues

Nice, France, 5-9 June 2004.

Contact: European Calcified Tissue Society, PO Box 4, Dursley GL11 6YL, UK (Tel: +44-1453-549929; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: admin@ectsoc.org; Web: www.ectsoc.org).

ENDO 2004: 86th Annual Meeting

New Orleans, LA, USA, 16-19 June 2004.

Contact: Beverly Glover, Administrative Assistant, Meetings, The Endocrine Society, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 500, Bethesda, MD 20814-4410, USA (Tel: +1-301-9410220; Fax: +1-301-9410259; Email: bglover@endo-society.org; Web: www.endo-society.org).

International Society of Endocrinology Congress 2004

Lisbon, Portugal, 1-4 September 2004.

Contact: ISE, Department of Chemical Endocrinology, 51-53 Bartholomew Close, London EC1A 7BE, UK (Tel: +44-20-76064012; Fax: +44-20-77964676; Email: i.h.rees@mids.qmw.ac.uk; Web: www.jingo.com/ise/ice2004.htm).

43rd Annual Meeting of the European Society of Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) 2004

Haifa, Israel (alternative venue: Basel, Switzerland), 10-13 September 2004.

Contact: Professor Ze'ev Hochberg, Department of Pediatrics, Rambam Med Center, PO Box 9602, Haifa 31096, Israel (Tel/Fax: +972-4-8542157; Email: z_hochberg@rambam.health.gov.il; Web: www.europepe.org/meetings.jsp).

30th Annual Meeting of the European Thyroid Association

Istanbul, Turkey, 18-22 September 2004.

Contact: Prof. Gurbuz Erdogan (Email: gurbuz.erdogan@temd.org.tr).

11th World Congress of Gynecological Endocrinology

Florence, Italy, 27-30 September 2004.

Contact: Biomedical Technologies srl, Via Trieste 1, 56126 Pisa, Italy (Tel: +39-050-501934; Fax: +39-050-501239; Email: biomedical@tin.it; Web: www.gynecologicalendocrinology.org).

76th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association

Vancouver, Canada, 29 September-3 October 2004.

Contact: ATA, 6066 Leesburg Pike, Suite 650, Falls Church, VA 22041, USA (Email: admin@thyroid.org; Web: www.thyroid.org).

60th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM 2004)

Philadelphia, PA, USA, 16-21 October 2004.

Contact: ASRM, 1209 Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, AL 35216-2809, USA (Tel: +1-205-9785000; Fax: +1-205-9785018; Email: asrm@asrm.org).

BES 2005: 24th Joint Meeting of the British Endocrine Societies

Harrogate, UK, 4-7 April 2005.

Contact: British Endocrine Societies, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: conferences@endocrinology.org; Web: www.endocrinology.org/sfe/confs.htm).

2nd Joint Meeting of the European Calcified Tissue Society and the International Bone and Mineral Society

Geneva, Switzerland, 25-29 June 2005.

Contact: European Calcified Tissue Society, PO Box 4, Dursley GL11 6YL, UK (Tel: +44-1453-549929; Fax: +44-1453-548919; Email: admin@ectsoc.org; Web: www.ectsoc.org).

European Congress of Endocrinology

Göteborg, Sweden, September 2005.

Contact: To be announced.

61st Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM 2005)

Montréal, Québec, Canada, 15-21 October 2005.

Contact: ASRM, 1209 Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, AL 35216-2809, USA (Tel: +1-205-9785000; Fax: +1-205-9785018; Email: asrm@asrm.org).

BES 2006: 25th Joint Meeting of the British Endocrine Societies

Bournemouth, UK, 12-16 April 2006.

Contact: British Endocrine Societies, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-1454-642200; Fax: +44-1454-642222; Email: conferences@endocrinology.org; Web: www.endocrinology.org/sfe/confs.htm).

6th EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF ENDOCRINOLOGY

26-30 APRIL 2003

LYON, FRANCE

PLENARY LECTURES

Biological clocks

P Sassone-Corsi (France)

Endocrinology of critical illness

G Van de Berghe (Belgium)

Activation mechanisms of glycoprotein hormone receptors

T Gudermann (Germany)

Ontogeny of endocrine pancreas

O D Madsen (Denmark)

Role of oestrogen receptors: lessons from knock-out mice

J A Gustafsson (Sweden)

Regulation of the growth plate by PTHrP

H M Kronenberg (USA)

Angiogenesis

P Carmeliet (Belgium)

SYMPOSIA

Thyroid cancer

Target identification in type 1 diabetes

Basic endocrinology of fat cells

Selective receptor modulators

Adult consequences of pediatric endocrine disease

Register today!

Take advantage of lower fees by registering early:

- Full registration €400 (€475 after 28 February 2003)
- Student registration €275 (€350)

Fees include access to all congress sessions/commercial exhibition, delegate pack and programme, abstract book, welcome reception, coffee breaks, and shuttle bus service to congress venue.

Are you a Young Endocrinologist?

If you're under 35 and still in training, register quickly for the Young Endocrinologist Special Package. This includes registration, accommodation from 26 to 30 April and lunches - at only €520. But hurry as PLACES ARE LIMITED!

To register, or for further information, visit www.endocrinology2003.com, or contact: Congress Agency, Scientific Secretariat, Transit Communications, 18 place Tolozan, 69001 Lyon, France (Tel: +33-4-72985858; Fax: +33-4-72985898; Email: info@endocrinology2003.com).



Come to Lyon - a city full of life!

Lyon is a city of both tradition and innovation. The capital of the Gauls under the Roman Empire, Lyon has a very special character: don't miss the Gallo-Roman museum, St Jean's Cathedral, the printing museum and the entire district of Old Lyon.

Gastronomic delights are available at all prices and for all tastes. Lyon has 1500 traditional restaurants, known as 'Bouchons', and is home to some of France's greatest chefs. For those with less time to spare, the streets are full of bars and brasseries.

In addition, this fine city sports a national opera house, theatre, numerous pubs and casinos. Nearby are the jewels of the French Alps, and the châteaux of the Beaujolais and Burgundy regions.

Lyon's central location is a major asset. Its airport, TGV facilities and position on the motorway network puts the city just 2 hours away from most European capitals.