



European Society of Paediatric Endoscopic Surgeons
Founded in London 2010



Dear Friends, Dear Colleagues, Dear Members,

Winter is there since December but, at least in several regions of Europe, global warming seems to make from this season a prolonged autumn or a beginning spring. In Nice some flowers are blowing!

A society as **ESPEs** needs to think about Global Warming too. An **E-learning platform** may be part of the response! More about that later but I can tell you that we raised enough money during the *Grant Evening* of November in order to transform the ESPEs website in an **exciting scientific platform**.

2020 will first of all be the year of the **biggest joint meeting in Pediatric Surgery** ever seen. And it will be in the heart of Europe! Don't forget to book your travel and stay now because demand will be important.

In order to help young surgeons from less "fortunate" countries to participate, ESPEs is happy to announce that Prof. Steve Rothenberg decided during the last congress in Vicenza not to be reimbursed for his travel expenses (it's the rule for invited experts) at the condition that money will be spent inviting young surgeons in Vienna. **ESPEs offers 250 euro to 5 Junior surgeons**, 2020 member of ESPEs, originating from those countries in order to help them to attend. Selection will be made by the Executive Board. What do you need to do? Send a letter of motivation and a proof of your working place to secretary@espes.eu. Finally, even if the **congress** will be **common** with IPEG, ESPEs will distribute the TWO annual **ESPEs AWARDS** in Vienna (best Oral communication and best Poster)

2020 is also the year of the **election of the next Honorary Secretary of the Society**. Candidatures are open right now.

What are the tasks of an Honorary Secretary?

This person will be responsible

- of controlling all the **administrative** work of the Society
- write the **minutes** of all the meetings of the EB and manage the schedules,...
- **work closely with the President** in order to help him/her in his/her legal tasks and in developing the projects

It's a very important job for a Society.

Candidates can send a short **letter of candidature** to secretary@espes.eu

People can candidate until 31 of March.

All candidatures will appear on the website and **voting** will be organised (always through the website) **between 15 of April and 5 of June**.

« Voting members are members in good standing with their dues » at the opening of the voting system. So be careful to pay your 2020 dues before 15 of

April if you want to vote.

It's the occasion for me to remember everybody that ESPES lives mainly from the annual fees and that, considering that aspect, ESPES is far less expensive than whatever IPEG or EUPSA!!

So please be so kind to pay your 2020 membership fees NOW.

Finally a short word about the **Committees** because there seem to raise some questions about their interest and legitimacy.

First of all I remember that putting together such committees was one of the main goals of my candidature as president of the ESPES.

Indeed, when a Society is becoming bigger, the Executive Board is mainly busy with controlling that everything runs well on administrative and legal points of view, thinking about new developments and working very hard every year with the local organiser of the annual congress. Members of the EB are also elected for a quite short time period.

Committees have two main interests in this regard: they can be focused on some subjects the Society finds important (science, communication systems, education,...) and work on a longer time basis because members are free from voting schedules.

That's why those Committees are very important in helping ESPES to develop New Ideas and increase the interest of the Society.

Finally I would finish my long winter letter with a very good News. Over 8 papers will be sent very soon to "**Frontiers in Pediatrics**" in order to be reviewed for publication in a special ESPES Edition.

All those papers were previously selected and eventually corrected by our scientific committee after the Vicenza congress. Many thanks to them. This is a perfect example of what Committees can bring to ESPES members!

See you ALL in Vienna in June!

Your President
Henri Steyaert