



# Circulation, Oxygen Transport & Haematology

Newsletter October 2014

## European Society for Paediatric Research

Welcome to the autumn newsletter from the ESPR section for Circulation, Oxygen Transport & Haematology .

### Elections for New Section Council Member

Following the call for a new section council member we are delighted to have received an unprecedented 5 nominations: you can read the candidates personal statements on page 2 of the newsletter.

Election of the member will take place at the annual business meeting during the EAPS meeting in Barcelona **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 12.30pm**: check the website for exact room location: [www.kenes.com/eaps](http://www.kenes.com/eaps).

Only active members of the ESPR are eligible to vote. It is not too late to become a member of the ESPR: go to [www.espr.info](http://www.espr.info)  
If you will not be in Barcelona you can email your vote in confidence to [topunaustin@doctors.org.uk](mailto:topunaustin@doctors.org.uk)  
Electronic votes must be in by midnight on 17<sup>th</sup> October.



The 5<sup>th</sup> EAPS meeting in Barcelona is almost upon us and promises to be the biggest EAPS meeting to date.

As well as the **ESN course on the circulation**, a number of sessions will be of interest to members of this section:

**Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup>**

- **Cerebral Oxygenation**: Hall A 11.00-12.30; keynote speaker Prof. Gorm Greisen

**Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup>**

- **Oxygen for extremely low birthweight infants: update and challenges**: Hall C 08.00-09.00
- **Understanding haemodynamic transition at birth: from bench to bedside**: Hall D 08.00-09.00
- **Cardiac failure in congenital diaphragmatic hernia: cause or consequence**: Hall E 11.00-12.30

**Monday October 20<sup>th</sup>**

- **Masterclass: ultrasound in the cardiac ICU: looking outside the heart**: Hall I 08.00-09.00; Joan Sanchez de Toledo
- **Circulation/PDA**: Hall C 11.00-12.30; keynote speaker Prof. Nick Evans

**Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup>**

- **Masterclass: functional echocardiography**: Hall I; 08.00-09.00; Prof Nick Evans
- **Final Symposium: The Heart**: Hall H; 09.00-10.30; keynote speakers: Prof. Mike Burch, Prof. Gerald Tulzer, Prof. Nick Evans

A full interactive programme, including all the poster sessions, can be found at [www.kenes.com/eaps](http://www.kenes.com/eaps)

### ESPR/ESN Special Interest Group: Setting practical standards in functional echocardiography in neonatal intensive care

There is still time to register interest in joining this special interest group, with the aim of defining standards and setting a European research agenda for functional echocardiography. Further details will be given in the section business meeting in Barcelona, but to register your interest email [topunaustin@doctors.org.uk](mailto:topunaustin@doctors.org.uk). The aim is to have a 2 day workshop in Copenhagen in 2015 with the hope of publishing a consensus document.

### Guest Speaker at the Section Meeting

During our section business meeting we are delighted that Gerhard Pichler has accepted an invitation to speak on **cerebrovascular changes at birth** – the meeting is open to everyone – so please encourage friends and colleagues to attend.

#### Section Secretary

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#### Section Council Members

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## Nominations for New Section Council Member: Personal Statements

**Dr. Afif El-Khuffash** *Consultant Neonatologist, The Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, Ireland.*

I am a neonatologist working in the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, Ireland and I have over 8 years' experience in both functional and structural echocardiography. I acquired the skill in Ireland by completing a 1 year cardiology/echocardiography fellowship and completed my training in Toronto, Ontario under the supervision of Prof Patrick McNamara (Consultant Neonatologist and head of the Neonatal Haemodynamic Programme, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto) and Prof Luc Mertens (Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist and Section Head of the Echocardiography Lab in the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto). I spent 18 months in Toronto as faculty as well prior to my return to Ireland. During my time in Toronto, I was an instructor on the local echocardiography training program. I authored an echo teaching manual for neonatal echo trainees and co-designed and developed a neonatal echocardiography teaching website ([www.tnecho.com](http://www.tnecho.com)) and a mobile phone app (<https://itunes.apple.com/ie/app/tnecho/id522700359?mt=8>). I am now providing a 1 to 2 year neonatal echocardiography training program for interested trainees in Dublin. My research focus is the haemodynamic and myocardial functional assessment in preterm infants in various disease states.

**Dr. Anja Lee** *Akershus universitetssykehus HF, Lorenskog, Norway*

I have been working in paediatrics for 14 years. Since 2005 I have been working mainly with paediatric cardiology, both the neonatal intensive care unit and the outpatient department at Oslo University Hospital (2005-10) and Akershus University Hospital (2010 – present) in Norway.

This August I will defend my PhD thesis on "Superior vena cava flow and tissue Doppler imaging – two new methods for assessment of circulation and cardiac function in the newborn, preterm infant". My opponent will be Prof. Adelina Pellicer from Madrid.

Various abstracts from this work have been presented at several ESPR meetings during the past 4 years.

My work has developed in close collaboration with my supervisor, Professor Fugelseth, and my co-workers Eirik Nestaas and Beate Eriksen. We share the ambition to make "clinician performed ultrasound" an integral part of neonatology in Norway. Recently, we invited Prof. Martin Klockow from Sydney to give a series of lectures to the annual meeting of the Norwegian Paediatric Society, and we got the impression, that there is substantial interest among neonatologists to do CPU as part of their daily work. We are about to develop a "CPU" teaching course and follow-up program for Norwegian neonatologists.

**Dr Yogen Singh** *Consultant Neonatologist, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridge, United Kingdom*

I am working as a Consultant Neonatologist and Paediatrician with Expertise in Cardiology (PEC) at Cambridge University Hospitals. I am an educational and academic convenor at the Paediatrician with Expertise in Cardiology Special Interest Group (PECSIG) executive committee and also a lead for the accreditation and training at NIChe (Neonatologist with Interest in Cardiology and Haemodynamics) executive committee in the UK.

Targeted Neonatal Echocardiography (TNE) statement is very well written but seems very difficult to bring into practice in the UK and possibly Europe. I am leading the project on developing a 'Suggested best practice approach for the neonatal cardiology training and neonatal cardiology clinical practice / clinical governance in the UK'. I am the lead author and link person between NIChe, PECSIG and BCCA (British Congenital Cardiac Association) in developing this best practice statement which has now been endorsed by NIChe, PECSIG and BCCA.

I am a course co-director at 'Yorkshire Paediatric Echocardiography Course' and regularly teach on the Paediatric Echocardiography course (Cambridge) and 'Neonatal Echo Skills Course' in the UK and Europe.

Being on the PECSIG executive committee since 2010, has given me excellent opportunity in contributing to developing consensus statements and I have been actively involved in developing RCPCH PEC curriculum, PEC service standards and PECSIG constitution.

Having close working relationship with NIChe, BCCA and PECSIG, and my enthusiasm for promoting functional echocardiography training, and safe neonatal cardiology clinical practice will keep me motivated in developing European consensus statement on targeted functional echocardiography.

**Professor Istvan Seri** *Director, Sidra Neonatology Center of excellence. Chief, Division of Neonatology, Vice Chair of Faculty Development, Department of Pediatrics, Sidra Medical and Research Centre.*

I have a long lasting interest in developmental hemodynamics and oxygen transport and have contributed to this field over the past thirty plus years with a number of publications, books, courses and presentations and have received (NIH) and non-federal grant support to pursue my research activities. I'm a Hungarian-American, thus semi-qualify for ESPR's interest in engaging Central and Eastern European researchers to become members of the council. I also have extensive leadership experience in the US academic system and thus could bring a potentially valuable diverse background to the table. I have very recently moved from the University of Southern California and the Children's Hospital Los Angeles to Sidra Medical and Research Center in Doha, Qatar to participate in the development of an academic medical system and a state-of-the-art women's and children's hospital. The system is based on the North American model with faculty affiliation with Weill-Cornell Medical College (appointment in process). I have maintained my academic affiliation with the University of Southern California as well.

I'm now close to the European academic and scientific activities and I am interested in contributing to the mission of ESPR, where I have been a member for a number of years.

**Dr. Gabriela Zaharie** *Head of Neonatology, University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iuliu Hatieganu, Romania*

I think that to be a council member for the ESPR section for Circulation, Oxygen Transport and Haematology is a great opportunity for each ESPR member. I am very interested in this field because of its involvement in a great part of neonatal pathology.

I currently participate in the European consortium - NeoCirc where we want to find the best solution for the hemodynamic insufficiency in the immediate postnatal period. I would like to participate and to be involved in the research networks, learn how to create research studies but also learn all the administrative problems this will involve.

To be involved in the activity of this section will bring me more experience useful for the consortium. Also with my experience, I think I can contribute to the development of this section.

I have been ESPR member since 2006.