



Dear colleagues, dear friends,

The 15th Annual Congress of the European Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy will take place in Strasbourg, France from the 5–7 October 2006.

It is a critical time for laparoscopic gynaecological surgery as despite the undeniable progress made in the 1980s and 90s this has now slowed and recent evidence shows that today only 10% of major gynaecological procedures are done using the laparoscopy We believe this is due to the absence of published evidence demonstrating the advantages of our techniques and a lack of organisation on our part to promote laparoscopic surgery. It is our society’s role to correct past mistakes and promote endoscopy and laparoscopy and we would like to call upon your support to achieve this. By coming to the congress in Strasbourg you can be an active part in deciding how we will change policy and help guide the future direction of our Society.

The meeting will now place more emphasis on surgical practice and scientific vision. On Wednesday, October 4th, the postgraduate courses will start. The will include the very much appreciated video presentations.

On Thursday, the plenary sessions will start and concentrate on the more scientific part of Gynaecology. Some of them will be organized separately in order to gather a larger number of participants.

A significant place will be dedicated to young gynaecologists through the “Junior” platform introduced since the EGSE Congress in Athens as well as through the organization of a whole day of courses focused on basic knowledge necessary to start operative laparoscopy.

This will include practical sessions in the form of master and tutorial classes. There will also be a half-day of live surgery enabling participants to see the state of the art of all those techniques.

There will be a significant presence of industrials at the Congress representing the most important recent technical innovations in the field.

Finally, the city of Strasbourg is a beautiful international city with a vibrant, friendly and welcoming atmosphere. It is in the heart of Alsace surrounded by famous vineyards and historical villages and is reputed for its gastronomy, waterways and architecture. We have selected the scene of the European parliament for this meeting to demonstrate the open spirit of our society.

The presence and support of all European countries is necessary to ensure that the European Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy retains its prominent position as the

Don't turn your back on endoscopic surgery

→ WORKSHOPS → TUTORIAL SESSIONS → TUMOR BOARDS
→ PLENARY SESSIONS → LIVE SURGERY → MASTER CLASS

15TH ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR GYNAECOLOGICAL ENDOSCOPY

5TH, 6TH, 7TH OCTOBER 2006 STRASBOURG - FRANCE

CONGRESS PRESIDENT → A. WATTIEZ MD
ESGE PRESIDENT → J. DEQUESNE

INFORMATION:
→ EMAIL: gyn.ath@ircad.u-strasbg.fr - www.aths.org
→ EMAIL: centraloffice@esge.org - www.ESGE.org

ESGE



leading scientific association in the field. For this, we need you to join us for this Congress.

See you soon in Strasbourg

Jacques Dequesne
President of the ESGE

Arnaud Wattiez
President of the 15th ESGE Congress

The new Junior Platform of the ESGE

One of the strength of a scientific society is its ability to attract young people. This is why the ESGE, through its President, Jacques Dequesne, and one board member, Frédéric van den Brûle, had the idea to create a new body within the Society, called the Junior Platform.

Jacques Dequesne (Lausanne, Switzerland) was elected Senior Coordinator of the Platform and Frédéric van den Brûle (Liège, Belgium) was elected Junior Coordinator, in charge of the relations of the Platform with the General Board of the ESGE.

The Board Members of the Junior Platform are Vito Chiantera (Naples, Italy), Ulrich Füllers (Wuppertal, Germany), Bernd Holthaus (Osnabruck, Germany), Liliana Mereu (Negrar, Italy), Michael Muller (Bern, Switzerland) and Roberto Tozzi (Milan, Italy) (Fig. 1). A first meeting of the Platform took place in Lausanne (CH) on 19 January 2006.

The goals of the Platform are multiple. First, it aims to highlight the surgical and scientific activities of the younger members of the ESGE. For instance, during the annual congress, a special session will be dedicated to the Platform, and some selected members will be able to demonstrate their

surgical and scientific know-how and expertise. The first such session will take place at the forthcoming 15th Annual Meeting, to be held in Strasbourg, France, from 5–7 October 2006, and will encompass various aspects of endoscopy.

Other subjects will later be developed. For instance, we plan to set up, in collaboration with the Academy, a body to help young people get specific endoscopic training in carefully chosen centers, according to their level of expertise and the techniques they want to learn. Endoscopic centers and departments will be selected according to their expertise and their capacity to welcome young trainees, so that centers and applicants can be matched.

We also plan to create a website, connected to the ESGE website, that will support the above-mentioned activities and provide visitors with all necessary information about the Junior Platform.

Frédéric van den Brûle

Slovenian Society for Gynecological Endoscopy

It has been a great honor and pleasure for me to be invited to write about the Slovenian Society for Gynecological Endoscopy, although at the same time this invitation has caused me considerable embarrassment. Namely, in spite of a great tradition of surgery and endoscopy in Slovenia, particularly at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, we do not have a national endoscopic society. The reasons for this are the somewhat complicated administrative procedures involved in founding the society on the one hand, and a temporary crisis in the Slovenian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (SSOG) on the other. The problems have recently been solved, and it has been decided that all national subspecialist societies should become sections of the SSOG. Thus,

Frédéric van den Brûle



Vito Chiantera



Ulrich Füllers



Bernd Holthaus



Liliana Mereu



Roberto Tozzi

Slovenian endoscopists will finally be joined in the Section for Endoscopic Surgery of the SSOG; foundation is in progress. Therefore, I will now focus on the history of Slovenian endoscopy and on the activities of Slovenian endoscopists, regardless of their membership in various societies.

The first laparoscopic procedures in Slovenia were carried out in a small general hospital in the late 1980s, but the real beginning of endoscopic surgery in our country should be placed in 1993, when equipment for endoscopic surgery was purchased at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. At first, laparoscopic surgery was limited to procedures on the adnexa, such as ectopic pregnancy, PCO, and cystectomy, and the established hysteroscopic procedures were introduced immediately. Endoscopic surgery was introduced by gynecologists involved in reproduction who had long experience in diagnostic laparoscopy, hysteroscopy and microsurgery. As they were members of the Slovenian Society for Reproductive Medicine, this society became a member of the Slovenian Society for Endoscopic Surgery (SSES), which includes all branches of surgery, and is also a member of ESGE.

As early as 1994, the first course on endoscopic surgery in gynecology was organized at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The first 11 courses involved over 230 participants; the 12th course took place on 5–9 June 2006. To each course, an expert from abroad is invited to present a special topic. A book of proceedings with theoretical lectures and up-to-date results is published for the occasion. Of the 11 courses, 3 were joint courses organized in collaboration with Prof. Jorg Keckstein and his co-workers from Villach, Austria. In this way we exchanged experience and also learnt from them the most advanced laparoscopic procedures, particularly procedures for deep infiltrating endometriosis. The course consists of theoretical lectures, live-video surgery, hands-on sessions on Pelvitainers and individual training (www.obgyn-si.org/endosurgery). All this has resulted in the introduction of endoscopic surgery in the gynecological departments of 14 hospitals in Slovenia: in some only basic procedures are performed, in others intermediate interventions as well, while the most advanced procedures are still carried out only at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Ljubljana.

More and more gynecologists have become involved in endoscopic surgery and started to change standard open surgical procedures into endoscopic procedures, but most of them are not involved in assisted reproductive technologies (ART) and have therefore expressed the desire to found an endoscopic society or endoscopic section; as mentioned above, this will be realized in the near future.

Although we are not organized in a subspecialist society, Slovenian endoscopists are very active. We actively participate in the national congresses of the SSOG and the SSES, held every second year, and in local and international symposia on urogynecology, oncology and ART. The role and results of reproductive surgery have been presented in two international symposia on ART in the Slovenian city of Bled. In 2002 we organized the International Symposium on Deep Infiltrating Endometriosis, which helped to improve the diagnosis and treatment of the disease. Slovenian endoscopists are more often being invited as speakers at

international meetings in neighboring countries, also in ESGE meetings, and invited to run courses on endoscopic surgery in the republics of the former Yugoslavia. They publish their works in national and international scientific journals.

At the moment, Slovenian endoscopists have two main aims. The first is to prepare a quality control protocol for endoscopic surgery. The Slovene Medical Chamber and Ministry of Health have already introduced quality control protocols for evaluation of health care in Slovenia. A unique protocol for all gynecological surgical procedures was introduced with which we were not satisfied; we proposed a separate quality control for endoscopic surgery, which has been accepted. As national coordinator, I am preparing this protocol, specific for endoscopy. It will allow us to have an overview of the number, types, outcomes and complications of endoscopic procedures in Slovenian hospitals.

The second and most important aim and obligation of Slovenian endoscopists is the 16th ESGE Congress, organized in cooperation with the SSOG, Section for Endoscopic Surgery and Section for Reproductive Medicine, which will take place on 6–8 September 2007 in Portoroz on the Slovenian coast. We shall combine our efforts to organize a successful congress, promoting endoscopic surgery not only generally but also in Slovenia. For this occasion we have already started to prepare a textbook in Slovenian and English on endoscopic surgery in gynecology. The purpose of the book is to promote endoscopic surgery in Slovenia and in the countries where this type of surgery is less developed. Slovenian endoscopists will write most of the chapters, and some international experts have accepted the invitation to contribute chapters on specific topics.

We promise that the participants of ESGE 2007 will not be disappointed.

*Assist. Prof. Martina Ribic-Pucelj,
Congress President ESGE 2007, Portoroz, Slovenia
Member of the Slovene Society for Reproductive Medicine
Member of the Section for Gynecological Endoscopy of the
SSOG (currently being founded)*



Martina Ribic-Pucelj

Events organised by the ESGE

15th Annual Congress of the ESGE
« Don't turn your back on endoscopic surgery »

Strasbourg, France
5 to 7 October 2006

Information:
meeting.com
Swiss Design Center
Rue de la Mercerie 12
1003 Lausanne, Switzerland

T +41 (21) 312 92 61
F +41 (21) 312 92 63
sabine.gisler@meeting-com.ch
www.esge2006.org

Events organised by National Societies or others

Russian Association of Gynecologic Endoscopy
International Congress with Advanced Endoscopic
Course "Advanced Technologies for the Diagnosis
and treatment of Gynecologic Diseases"

5–8 June 2006
Moscow, Russia
Info: katyar@newmail.ru

Russian Association of Gynecologic Endoscopy
First International Congress on Reproductive Medicine
8–12 June 2006

Moscow, Russia
Info: kongrepro@mail.ru

Czech Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy
(CGPS - CSGE)

New horizons of endoscopy
12–14 October 2006
Hradec Kralové city, Czech Republic
www.laparoscope.cz/2006

VII the PAX Meeting
Adhesions, Tumour implantation,
Mesh Biology,
Leuven, Belgium
28–30 September 2006



European Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2006

Join (or renew) the ESGE as a member for the year 2006 by completing and returning this form as mentioned below (full information on www.ESGE.org)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Last name (family name):

First name:

Title:

Institute:

Department:

Street:

Postal code and city:

Country:

Email address:

PAYMENT SECTION (please tick the appropriate check-box):

Amount due in Euro: If no amount is indicated, 125 Euro will be charged (Subscription to the journal '*Gynecological Surgery*' is included in the fee)

- Euro 55 Trainees (please prove by document)
- Euro 85 If you are a member of an ESGE Member National Endoscopic Society* from Croatia, Czech Rep., Slovenia, Sociedad Ibero-Americana, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Russia (please prove by document)
- Euro 125 All other members

- Please charge my credit card: Eurocard/Mastercard VISA

Card N°: _____

Exp. date: _____

Name of Cardholder: _____

Signature: _____

- I enclose a certified bank cheque, payable to ESGE
- I will make a bank transfer in **Euro** to account N° (IBAN) CH30 0827 9001 R327 4689 0 of the ESGE. Bank: Anker Bank, SWIFT code: ANKBCH2L (bank address: Anker Bank, Avenue de la Gare 50, 1003 Lausanne, Switzerland). No costs for the beneficiary