

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is a great pleasure to invite you to the ESDP Congress in Chamonix from 17 to 20 June 2009, on behalf of the Council of the European Society for Developmental Perinatal and Paediatrics Pharmacology (ESDPPP). This will be the 12th meeting of the Society and the second one held in France as the previous ESDPPP Congress was organized by Elisabeth AUTRET-LECA in Ajaccio (Corsica) in 1998.

The fields of clinical and developmental pharmacology and paediatrics have a long tradition in France, as ESDPPP was founded in Lyon in 1987 before the Society was formally launched in Les Diablerets (Switzerland) in 1988. The current President has also been General Secretary of ESDPPP for 7 years.

The importance of medicines in children has finally been recognized by the vote of the European Parliament on December 2006. Subsequently, the Paediatric Committee has been put in place in June 2007 with a large number of Paediatric Investigation Plans being submitted to EMEA by the manufacturers.

The evaluation of medicinal products in children still remains a challenge since we have to face the dilemma of fostering clinical research in children on one hand and the concern of protecting children from invasiveness of investigations on the other hand. This dilemma gives a crucial place to innovative methodological approaches allowing to decrease the number of patients recruited and the invasiveness in each individual patient recruited, such as for example modeling and simulation as well as observational comparative approaches.

The symposia and plenary sessions will bring back on the stage the scientific and regulatory issues of the evaluation of medicinal products during pregnancy and in perinatology owing to the joint organization of Donald Mattison (NIH) and Marc Bardou (INSERM). ESDPPP has been originally founded by both paediatricians and obstetricians. Furthermore a special emphasis has been put on one aspect of adolescent medicine frequently left out of the evaluation : birth control. Other challenging topics will be presented : vaccinations in newborn, premature neonates and immunocompromized children, treatment of juvenile refractory epilepsy, neuroprotection in children, current issues in the development of anti-cancer agents in children, innovative therapeutic approaches in cystic fibrosis, treatment of children in various areas of the world and links between ethics and the choice of methodological approaches in children undergoing clinical trials. In order to face the difficulties of recruiting the patients an EU network federating national and subspecialized EU networks have recently been put in place by EMEA.

We want to extend our sincere thanks to the members of the scientific and organizing committees who all contributed to make the Congress possible.

Please, join us at the ESDPPP Congress ! Feel welcome to present your own research results and share information with colleagues from Europe and all over the world. Enjoy the scientific, social and friendly atmosphere that marks the ESDPPP since its inception in 1988. We warmly welcome all of you to Chamonix 2009 and wish fruitful and valuable scientific exchanges and a rewarding time in Chamonix and in France.

Gérard PONS

President of ESDPPP

Donald MATTISON

Guest Scientific Coordinator