This year saw a number of developments in the educational provision and services in Endocrinology provided by the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) on behalf of the European Board of Paediatrics (EBP). The Society continues with its annual meetings and this year’s was in Madrid. A number of themes were considered from the basic sciences such as the role of homeobox genes in endocrine development and from the clinical standpoint a symposium was held on the management of patients with congenital adrenal hyperplasia. The Society continued its successful trainee programme at its Summer and Winter Educational schools.

The Society has created a core-working group to address the development of educational training within the European Union. This working group has had 3 meetings in Brussels and the minutes of these meetings are attached to this report. The working group has made considerable progress in the commencement of the process for accreditation of training centres and has already recognised 3 sites in the Netherlands, one for the whole of Finland and one for the whole of Belgium as creditable training centres for Paediatric Endocrinology. The formula used for assessment is that advanced by the UEMS and this system has worked well. We had originally trialed this in visitations in the UK and the final document for assessment is essentially a conglomeration of the UEMS document and recommendations along with the practical implementations gained from experience in the United Kingdom.
The challenge now is to roll out this programme to the remainder of the European Union member states and to put in place the assessment of trainees who wish to be specialist Endocrinologists in the European Union. We have consulted widely on this and taken expert opinions from educationalists in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands and a sub group of the working group is working at devising an assessment programme.

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