



Rome, January 1, 2009

Dear ESPCR member,

The time has arrived for the annual dues for 2009, so I invite you all to renew your memberships in order to keep our Society healthy and active. At the beginning of this new year I would like to inform you about the things done in the last months and about some news which will contribute to keeping the ESPCR productive and dynamic.

Thanks to the great work done by our webmaster, Lluís Montoliu, the website has been completely restyled, and it is now much more user-friendly, modern and attractive. This will facilitate communications and interactions among the Council and members, and will modernize our procedures, for example enabling online payment of the annual fee.

The registration of the Society as a non-profit association, which had been postponed until the election of the new Officers, will be completed shortly. Moreover, some other good news is about the location of the 2011 IPCC, which will be organized in Bordeaux.

With regard to our Journal, as you probably know and thanks to the great effort put in by Colin Goding, PCMR now has an Impact Factor of 4.3, which makes the Journal one of the most relevant in the dermatological field. Further news about PCMR is the decision to make its subscription mandatory for all IFPCS members; this decision has been taken after an extensive debate, actually solicited by the ESPCR, among the four sister societies of the IFPCS and I am sure this news will contribute to the development of the Journal and of the Societies. In fact, as you know, during 2008 the Society for Melanoma Research has also adopted Pigment Cell Research as its Society journal. This is the reason why the name has been changed to Pigment Cell and Melanoma Research (PCMR); the next editor will belong to the SMR and, in addition to this, the Melanoma Society has already established the compulsory subscription to the journal.

In order to minimize the impact of this decision on the annual membership fee and to make access to the journal easier, we have agreed to make mandatory the subscription to an on-line version of the journal through the IFPCS website. The membership fee will, of course, be affected but, by guaranteeing the subscription of all IFPCS members, we have succeeded in obtaining from the publisher the price of only €35 per member per year. This means that the annual ESPCR fee will change from €70 to €105 for regular members and from €35 to €70 for students (but please consider that PhD students can have the journal cost reimbursed). This is quite a good result considering that the cost of the paper version was €15.

President :
Dr Mauro Picardo

Direttore Laboratorio Fisiopatologia Cutanea
Istituto Dermatologico San Gallicano
Via San Gallicano 25
I - 00153 Roma

tel 0658543662
fax 0658543740
E-mail : picardo@ifo.it

Secretary :
Prof. Lionel Larue

UMR 146 CNRS, Inst. Curie
Bâtiment 110, Centre Universitaire
F-91405 Orsay, Cedex

Tel : (+33) 1 69 867107
Fax : (+33) 1 69 867109
E-mail : lionel.larue@curie.fr

Treasurer :
Prof. Jo Lambert

Dpt. of Dermatology
Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
Ghent University Hospital
De Pintelaan 185, B-9000 Gent, Belgium

Tel : +(32) 9 240 2298
Fax : +(32) 9 240 4996
E-mail : jo.lambert@ugent.be



European Society for Pigment Cell Research

www.espcr.org

It is clear that this represents a big change for all of us and an extra effort for all members, but I am sure our Society will benefit greatly, both because almost all scientific Societies request from their members a mandatory subscription to their Journals, so this will put the ESPCR in line with other important Societies, and also because this is necessary to maintain a balance between the influence of Pigmentation and Melanoma research in the development and running of PCMR.

The formal increase in the fees will be submitted to members for their approval at the next ESPCR meeting in Münster. Therefore, to facilitate the integration of the news and because of the delay in its communication due to the long time needed for final agreement among the Societies and with the Publisher, I am glad to inform you that, for 2009, the cost of the online Journal will be supported by the ESPCR. Therefore current membership fees will remain the same as in 2008.

I hope you will understand the importance of this implementation, as your contribution is essential to maintain and develop the work and the level of our Society. Please register or renew your membership through the ESPCR website (<http://www.espcr.org>) and find out how easy the new on-line registration/renewal is!

We kindly request you to renew by March 31st in order to qualify as IFPCS Member to access full PCMR on-line contents. From now on we will request annual renewals to be submitted by March 31st for this reason. Thanks for your collaboration and understanding.

Best wishes,

Mauro Picardo

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Via San Gallicano 25
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tel 0658543662
fax 0658543740
E-mail : picardo@iffo.it

Secretary :
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Tel : (+33) 1 69 867107
Fax : (+33) 1 69 867109
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