Editorial

The 50th meeting of ESPE was an important milestone in the life of our Society. Chaired by Professor Chris Kelnar, the meeting was exceptionally well attended with 3,200 delegates coming from 89 countries worldwide. This made the ESPE meeting a real international forum for the exchange of high-quality information from basic scientific research to clinical practice – a long way from the first meeting held in Zürich 50 years ago with 26 paediatricians dedicated to paediatric endocrinology!

The history of our journal and the relationship between the Society and the journal is more recent. Indeed a prominent ESPE member, Professor Jurg Girard, served as Editor-in-Chief of *Hormone Research* from 1976 but, at that time, the journal was not formally linked to our Society and, for example, the abstracts of annual meetings were published in other journals such as the *Acta Paediatrica* or *Pediatric Research*.

It was not until 1987 that Karger Publishers offered to make *Hormone Research* the official journal of the ESPE, and this was realised two years later in 1989. The long connection between the Society and the journal is remarkable and is thus a major responsibility for the Editor-in-Chief and the board of Associated Editors. The journal has changed over the years and is now a well-established paediatric endocrinology journal. For this reason it was renamed in 2010 as *Hormone Research in Paediatrics*. I

read with great interest, in the extraordinarily well-documented book edited by Wolfgang Sippell, *ESPE – The First 50 Years* (Karger Publications) that during the annual meeting in 1987, participants had already expressed concern that *Hormone Research* was not yet dedicated solely to paediatric endocrinology! This has been achieved and the journal is now entirely dedicated to paediatric endocrinology.

Today, *Hormone Research in Paediatrics* is more focused and stronger, it has an international audience and is also the official journal of the ESPE's Latin American sister society, SLEP. However, we should continue to strive for an even better quality journal. The impact factor has increased slowly over the last years and this is an important step. We hope that this trend will continue. I hope also that we will continue to attract many talented colleagues in the future who will choose our journal, *Hormone Research in Paediatrics*, to publish their work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Associate Editors, the Editorial Board and all the reviewers for their valuable work, which is so important for the continued success of our journal.

For 2012, I wish you and your loved ones success and happiness for the future.

Paul Czernichow, Editor-in-Chief