

## News from ESMO communities



### ESMO provides childcare facilities at its annual congress

Making life easier for oncologists with young children, ESMO has listened to its members and now provides childcare facilities at its annual congress. Piloted at ESMO 2017, the scheme, which was organised by the ESMO Women for Oncology (W4O) Committee and the ESMO Young Oncologists Committee (YOC), was a runaway success; so much so that you'll be seeing it this year at ESMO 2018.



According to **Solange Peters, ESMO W4O Committee Chair and ESMO President-Elect**, this is progress indeed. "As a mother myself, having childcare facilities at the ESMO Congress has long been a dream for me. When a large group of ESMO members responding to a W4O survey recently included this type of service among the top suggestions for facilitating the difficult interface between professional development and family life, it became clear that ESMO could no longer delay its introduction. It hasn't been easy to implement; but operational problems and legal issues have not prevented us from moving ahead. Thanks to the collaboration between the W4O Committee and the YOC, the support from the Executive Board and the coordination of the ESMO staff, the dream is now a reality."

**“It makes me feel so proud, to see men and women, mothers and fathers supported by ESMO in their quest for knowledge to become better oncologists without having to compromise on being good parents.”**

Her enthusiasm is echoed by ESMO YOC Chair 2016-2017, Matthias Preusser. "The idea of the ESMO childcare facilities is to enable parents to attend ESMO congresses, confident that their children are taken care of onsite. I was very impressed by the professionalism of the childcare provider and all the activities they offered for children of a wide age range. I am very proud of the collaboration of the ESMO YOC and W4O Committees, which made this successful initiative possible. So, for all parents wishing to attend ESMO congresses: bring your children along, they will enjoy the warm welcome and, more especially, the fun at our childcare facilities!"



## What about feedback from those using the childcare facilities?

Susana Banerjee, ESMO Executive Board and W4O Committee Member. "I am so pleased that ESMO recognises the challenges parents with young children have attending congresses and that it set up the childcare services at ESMO 2017 in Madrid. My 2-year old daughter, Juliana, loved the facility and it was difficult to persuade her to leave the tea party! The nannies were so caring, professional and experienced and I felt reassured that I could visit my daughter in between sessions. We will definitely be using the childcare facilities in the future. Thank you ESMO."



Victoria Galvis, ESMO 2017 participant. "I found out about the childcare services through the thriving ESMO Young Oncologists Facebook group. When we got there, the staff were so organised and caring and my baby had a great time. Between talks, I was able to visit him and I could see that he was happy.

**"It gave me the chance to develop my career while still juggling my time as a mum and it gave my (non-medical) husband a break from childcare."**

"I think it's a fantastic idea to have such fabulous facilities available, especially for young oncologists. I am definitely looking forward to going to future ESMO meetings where my tiny oncologist-in-training can join me and have fun!"

Sotiraq Senjo, ESMO 2017 participant. "Dealing with children while going to conferences is always a problem, especially when both parents are attending. So offering childcare onsite was really helpful for me.

**"Having my child somewhere safe, close to me, gave me the opportunity to concentrate fully on the sessions."**

"I really hope to see this at future events because this type of support actually encourages us to go on with our careers and to be successful and more confident."

