

# **AGENDA endometriosis seminar 28 MARCH 2007**

**12.30, Room ASP 1H1**

## **➔ Background**

Endometriosis is a chronic disease which affects an estimated 14 million women in Europe alone. Despite its often crippling effect on a woman's life it does not provide a visible handicap, and is subsequently not recognised by the general public (and many first line practitioners). In addition, endometriosis is shrouded in a cloud of taboos about menstruation, sexuality, infertility, and pain. The myth that "pain is part of being a woman" leads to an average diagnostic delay of 8.3 years. Treatments are "hit and miss", and there is no cure.

Endometriosis can impact on the physical, mental and social well being of a woman and can have a profound effect on her life, including the ability to finish an education, maintain a career and to bear children. The socio-economic burden, including delayed diagnosis and "hit and miss" treatments, is considerable, as are the costs to the individual when disease symptoms interfere with day-to-day life at work or at home. Yet there is scarce funding into research of pathogenesis and management of endometriosis.

## **➔ What is the problem with endometriosis?**

### **Diana Wallis MEP**

- Liberal Democrat Euro-MP for Yorkshire and Humber, United Kingdom
- Vice-president of the European Parliament

## **➔ What is the challenge of endometriosis in the scientific community?**

### **Professor Thomas D'Hooghe**

- Coordinator Leuven University Fertility Center, Belgium
- Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Leuven University, Belgium
- Chair, ESHRE Special Interest Group on Endometriosis
- Fundamental Clinical Investigator in Endometriosis, Foundation for Scientific Research, Belgium
- Research Associate, Institute of Primate Research, Nairobi, Kenya
- Editor-in-chief, Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation, Basel, Switzerland

## **➔ What has the Italian Senate and the AIE done to address this?**

### **Senator Laura Bianconi**

- Senator, Forza Italia, Italy
- Member of the 12th Commission of Hygiene and Health

### **Jacqueline Veit**

- Co-founder and President, Associazione Italiana Endometriosi Onlus (AIE)
- Co-coordinator, European Endometriosis Alliance

## **➔ What is the next step?**

### **Lone Hummelshøj**

- Secretary General, World Endometriosis Society
- Chief Executive, World Endometriosis Research Foundation
- Co-coordinator, European Endometriosis Alliance

## **➔ Debate, Q&A**