

Turkey's own 'ESRU' shows promise

Residents group achieves main goals in the first year



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Turkey has approximately 2,500 urologists and 500 residents in urology, figures which can be considered as one of the highest in Europe. With the growth in numbers in our specialty, our residents and young urologists saw the need to form a well-organised union to support the educational and academic activities in Turkey.

With the establishment of Turkiye ESRU in 16 April 2008, many residents and young urologists finally found a new platform that enables them to participate in nationwide activities (1). This union, created within the Turkish Association of Urology, initiated its activities in July 2008 with the first founder executive committee meeting. After the collection and creation of the national resident and young urologist database, every academic department was asked to appoint one representative. These representatives had the chance to come together in the 20th National Urology Congress, held in Antalya in November 2008. Up to now, there are 70 representatives elected from every academic department in Turkey.

After going through the establishment stage and closely communicating with each department's representative, a board meeting was held in Ankara in February this year, a milestone event for Turkiye ESRU. In this meeting many important decisions have been reached that would impact the future of urology residents. Participants also voted on the guiding statute of our union. Moreover, our unions' members elected us to represent our country in ESRU via a democratic election.

The working groups have also been created and maximum participation of the members has been ensured. A standardised assignment of the duties was the first aim of our union. To fulfill this target every region was represented with at least one resident for every working group. Finally, a professional organisation scheme has been created, comprised of or with the involvement of responsible and voluntary residents and young urologists. (Figure 1).

We are indebted to Dr. Emre Huri, chairman of Turkiye ESRU and former ESRU secretary (on behalf of Turkiye

ESRU executive committee), Prof. Dr. Ates Kadioglu chairman of Turkish Association of Urology (on behalf of the National Association of Urology), and Prof. Dr. Tark Esen, chairman of EAU Resident's Office, and many others who created this well-organised union and gave their maximum support to the residents and young urologists. We are aware that without the professional support of the National Urological Associations it is really difficult to organise both international and nationwide activities for residents (2).

Turkiye ESRU's activities in 2008-2009

Below is a list summarising the activities during the previous year:

- We have organised the Turkiye ESRU Day and the scientific meetings including workshops with animal models in urology during the 20th National Urology Congress. Held in Antalya in November 2008, an ESRU Turkey Booth welcomed visitors during the congress.
- We participated in the scientific meetings organised every month by our National Association of Urology. A Turkiye ESRU section has been organised and several residents and young urologists from all over the country took the opportunity to present themselves. Scientific presentations, interactive case discussions, debates on challenging subjects and nightmare sessions have been presented. This new format generated great interest and has been noted by our faculties.
- The Board Meeting of Turkiye ESRU was held in Ankara in February 2009. Members voted on the guiding statute of our union and the vote was accepted with total support of all representatives. Two NCO's (Dr. M. Selcuk Silay and Dr. Zafer Tandogdu) have been selected out of four candidates after a tight voting. Representatives also formed the working groups which, in turn, identified and planned the activities.
- Dr. Ali Ersin Zumurbas (Database manager of Turkiye ESRU) presented the results of a questionnaire survey which aim to identify the difficulties often experienced by a young urologist in Turkey. This nationwide research provided valuable information regarding the performance of young urologists during their national obligatory service in various regions of Turkey.
- Six members (three residents and three young urologists) from different departments had the chance to participate, free of charge, in the 4th Applied Laparoscopy Urology Course' held in Ankara in April 2009.
- * A Turkiye ESRU page has been featured in the bi-monthly published newspaper of the Turkish Association of Urology called 'UROTURK.' Our members published some case reports, presentation of their departments, news from scientific meetings, courses and several interesting topics.
- An extended course on statistics for residents and young urologists has been organized with the kind support of our National Urological Association. Around 100 participants received certificates after the course.
- 'Advanced Course on Laboratory Animal Science' has been made available free of charge to all participants and 20 Turkiye ESRU members who all received certificates after the two-week course.

Again, we thank our National Association for their financial support.

- A nationwide questionnaire on overactive bladder has been extensively studied by our 'Questionnaire Committee' and presented in the scientific meetings. This study was unique with regards to multicentre and resident participation. The Turkish Continence Society extended their support for this project.
- Although most resident and young urologists are often based in major cities such as Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir, approximately 30% of our members are working in other regions. To improve the collaboration with other regions and to raise the standards of education, two-day 'Contemporary Urology' meetings were organised in peripheral cities in collaboration with the Turkish Association of Urology. More than 300 residents and 100 young urologists attended these meetings, with the registration and accommodation provided free for every Turkiye ESRU member.

Moreover, the active participation of our members in the scientific sessions, case discussions, nightmare sessions and debates turned these meetings into unique events that aim to raise the standards of medical education. Indeed, we can claim that these quality meetings can be seen as important milestones in our nationwide activities.



Figure 2: Meeting of the regional correspondents of Turkiye ESRU in Ankara, 2009

Turkiye ESRU's website

To provide an easy and open access to our members, we created a website that aims to draw the attention and interest of Turkish urologists. Furthermore, an English version of our website is also available. The statute and organisation chart of our union, events announcements, planned activities such as scholarships, meetings, free courses, congress calendar, updated news, CV and contact addresses of the executive committee and other committee members are also published in our website at 'www.turkiyeesru.org'.

We are pleased that Turkiye ESRU has made considerable progress in achieving its nationwide goals. Our thanks to all residents, young urologists and our faculty generously supported and participated in the activities. We believe that this generation will be raising the standards of urology both in Turkey and in Europe.

Turkiye ESRU Summit

On behalf of the executive Committee of Turkiye ESRU, we also invite all urology residents and young

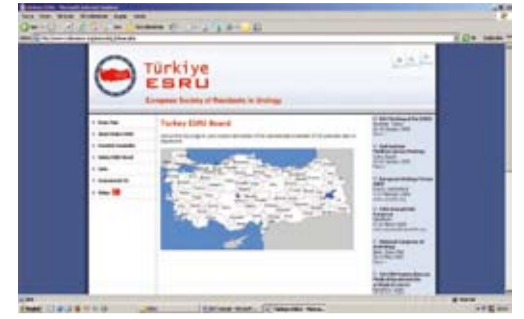


Figure 3: A page from www.turkiyeesru.org

specialists to the Turkiye ESRU Summit to be held from 23-24 January 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey. The objective of this meeting is to enable young urologists to benefit from the advantages of "training - being trained" by highly respected professors who are veterans of many national and international training programmes.

During this meeting resident training, training process of specialisation period and administrative issues will be discussed. Every participant will set forth his/her own perspective and guide the projects and activities. With regards to topic such as uro-oncology, pediatric urology, endourology, andrology, neurology - incontinence, there will be scientific discussions in the form of 'Meet the Expert' 'Presentations' and 'Case Discussions.' The language of the congress is Turkish. At sessions, simultaneous translation will be done in English and Turkish. Meeting participants can send their poster submissions online.

Furthermore, the training system of urology residents in Turkey and the evaluations about the training process will be covered in the sessions. The necessary evaluations that will affect the global standardisation of training activities will be made with the participation of highly respected international colleagues.

This symposium will be possible only with the effective collaboration and hard work which we hope will inspire similar events. We also hope that this meeting will be a success. See you in Istanbul in 2010!

www.turkiyeesru2010.com



Figure 4: Invitation to international summit of Turkiye ESRU

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1. Huri E, Acar O: Turkey's Own 'ESRU': European Urology Today 2009, Volume 21, No.2, April/May.
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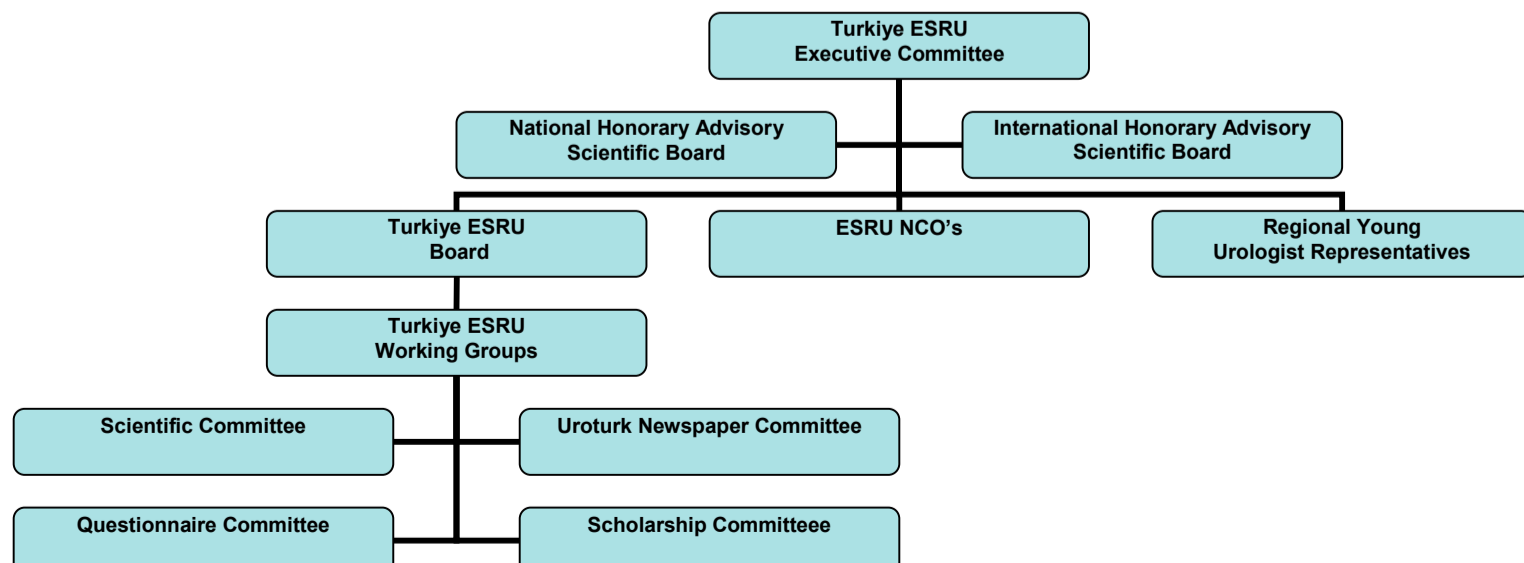


Figure 1: Turkiye ESRU organisational chart

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