



## INTRODUCTION

NESPEN was founded in 1982 in the Netherlands as the **NWPEV, the Dutch working Group on parenteral and enteral nutrition.**

NWPEV was born by the rising interest in nutritional treatment for severe ill patients. The urgency of good nutritional status for a good recovery had the attention of Dutch physicians, pharmacists, nurses and dietitians. Twice a year meetings were organized for the multidisciplinary members. During these meetings all facets of artificial nutritional treatment were faced. The members of NWPEV were stimulated to visit the ESPEN congresses and bring their work over there to discuss with experts in the field of artificial nutrition.

The NWPEV extended in members and the idea of founding a society started late '80 and turned this working group into **SVEM, the Dutch society for nutrition and metabolism.** This society was hosted by the Dutch society of gastroenterology (NVGE) and twice a year the society is part of the congresses of NVGE and takes care of an abstract meeting, workshops and symposia.

In 1997 SVEM hosted the 19<sup>th</sup> congress of ESPEN in Amsterdam. The theme was 'flow control' focused on stable isotopes and metabolism. This excellent congress was the first to use new communication possibilities resulting in a DVD for all visitors including all lectures.

In 2000 the SVEM changed names again, this time to have a more international focus.

The new name was **NESPEN, the Dutch PEN group.** Activities remained the same with several highlights like a congress on ERAS, fast track surgery and nutritional intervention, two farewell symposia for long term members Prof. Peter B. Soeters and Prof. Hans P. Sauerwein.

## AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

NESPEN aims to promote knowledge and application of this knowledge on clinical nutrition and metabolic diseases and the interactions among nutrition, nutrients and (disordered by disease) metabolic processes.

NESPEN is focusing on a multidisciplinary audience: doctors, pre-clinicians, pharmacists, nutritionists, dietitians, (food), nurses and other academics interested in nutrition in its broadest application.

In order to achieve the objective, the following activities organized by NESPEN:

- ✓ Scientific meetings during spring and autumn meetings of the NVGE. Lectures are presented by speakers on the basis of submitted abstracts.
- ✓ Twice a year the NESPEN price (500 euros) for best submitted abstract presented at the meeting;
- ✓ scientific symposia: invited speakers based on knowledge and skills in the field of nutrition
- ✓ symposia with topics in clinical nutrition and metabolism for multidisciplinary audiences
- ✓ delegation in the council of the European Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ESPEN) [www.espen.org](http://www.espen.org)
- ✓ organizing block membership ESPEN members of the NESPEN members
- ✓ contacts with other organizations with interest in clinical nutrition and metabolism:
  - the Dutch steering group on malnutrition
  - Dutch society for nutrition support teams
  - Dutch society for dietitians
  - Dutch society for nutrition support nurses
  - Dutch society for intensive care (nutrition working group)
  - Dutch society for pediatric gastro-enterology
  - Dutch society for surgery
  - Dutch society for gastro-enterology
  - Dutch working group on intestinal failure
  - Dutch quality institute for healthcare (development of guidelines)

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