

Executive Committee:

President: Prof Evangelos Xynos **President Elect:** Prof Klaus Matzel **President in Waiting:** Prof Eloy Espin Basany
Immediate Past President: Prof Willem Bemelman **Secretary:** Prof. Antonino Spinelli **Treasurer:** Dr Miguel Pera
Communications Committee Chair: Mr Richard Brady **Education Committee Chair:** Prof Dieter Hahnloser **Ass. Education Committee Chair:** Janindra Warusavitarné **Global Reach Committee Chair:** Prof. Dion Morton **Guidelines Committee Chair:** Associate Prof. Stéphanie Breukink
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UEMS Representative: Dr David Zimmerman

ESCP AGM Committee Reports 2021

The ESCP AGM agenda is on the last page of this report

Colorectal Disease Report

Introduction:

The journal is officially recognised by Index Medicus and is listed on Medline. The Journal's Impact Factor currently stands at 3.78.

Editorial Report:

The editor in chief (EIC), Neil Smart, has continued to engage with ESCP regarding journal matters. Many of the editorial team are members of ESCP. Furthermore, editorial members participate in the ESCP Communications Committee (CommComm) ie Debby Keller, Member of the Editorial Board of Colorectal Disease and Journal representative at the ESCP CommComm. In 2021 Drs Miguel Cunha and Zoe Garoufalia from the ESCP SoMe Subcommittee have joined the Junior Editorial Board of Colorectal Disease as members of the journal's Social Media Committee. This new and exciting collaboration will ensure optimal, bidirectional communication and exchanges between ESCP and Colorectal Disease.

Journal subscription:

ESCP has previously paid €35,000 annually for a block member subscription. However, with the journal moving to online it would seem reasonable to see this reduction in costs being reflected in the amount charged to ESCP. Following negotiations with ACPGBI, the annual block subscription has been reduced to €29,000 in 2021. This has been very much welcomed by ESCP.

Journal finances:

Total revenues for 2019 were £354,434. This is a significant increase on last year, boosted by increased revenues on the copyright and digital right lines. It is important to note that these lines are subject to fluctuation as they depend heavily on the particular content which is of interest in a given year so this should not be viewed as a trend that will continue annually. There has been a sustained growth in the Open Access line, and it is hoped that this trend will continue into the future although it is expected that there will be increased fluctuation on the subscription line. The Société Nationale Française de Gastro-Enterologie (SNFGE) subscription will appear in the Digital Rights lines through Wiley's licensing partner. Membership revenues have held steady.

Total costs were £128,604 reflecting the savings were made from the move to online-only. After deducting the ACPGBI member revenues and the publisher's overheads (at 5% of revenues, excluding ACPGBI members) the profit to be shared is £172,001 and a payment of £86,001 is due to ACPGBI.

Baljit Singh

Journal Representative – September 2021

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Guidelines Committee Update

Members: Stéphanie Breukink (Chair), Akash Mehta, Emre Sivrikoz, Gaetano Gallo, Gianluca Pellino, Ionut Negoii, Jos Kleijnen, Luis Sánchez-Guillén, Mark Bremholm Ellebæk, Rosa Jiménez Rodríguez, Samson Tou, Triantafyllos Doulias, Willem Bemelman, Yasuko Maeda **Y-ESCP:** Emre Sivrikoz, Ionut Negoii, Luis Sánchez-Guillén, Rosa Jiménez Rodríguez **Demitting office in 2021:** Willem Bemelman

The following guidelines were completed and published during the last year:

Lynch syndrome, based on gene and gender (ESCP, EHTG)

T. T. Seppälä, A. Latchford, I. Negoii, A. Sampaio Soares, R. Jimenez-Rodriguez, L. Sánchez-Guillén, D. G. Evans, N. Ryan, E. J. Crosbie, M. Dominguez-Valentin, J. Burn, M. Kloor, M. von Knebel Doeberitz, F. J. B. van Duijnhoven, P. Quirke, J. R. Sampson, P. Møller, G. Möslein.

The guidelines have been finalized and accepted for publication in BJS (British Journal of Surgery).

The authors have been elaborated with an extensive Delphi process in a collaborative project between ESCP and the EHTG (European Hereditary Tumor Group).

[Guideline web page](#) | [Guideline PDF](#)

Gabriela Möslein

COVID-19 pandemic: resuming normal colorectal services (ESCP)

This European Society of Coloproctology guidance focuses on a proposed conceptual framework to resume standard service in colorectal surgery. The proposed conceptual framework is a schematic and stepwise approach including: in-depth assessment of damage to non-COVID-19-related colorectal service; the return of service (integration with the COVID-19-specific service and the existing operational continuity planning); safety arrangements in parallel with minimizing downtime; the required support for staff and patients; the aftermath of the pandemic and continued strategic planning. This will be dynamic guidance with ongoing updates using critical appraisal of emerging evidence.

[Guideline web page](#) | [Guideline PDF](#)

Yasuko Maeda, Gianluca Pellino, Carolynne J. Vaizey

EAES SAGES Guidelines COVID-19 recommendations:

ESCP's Guideline Committee has chosen not to write our own COVID-19 recommendations but to join forces and to collaborate with EAES and SAGES, and we endorse their joint recommendations regarding surgical response to the COVID-19 crisis. We are aware that these recommendations are not all evidence-based due to restricted time and that they are subject to change and update. However, they are well-balanced and formulated according to currently available scientific evidence and expert opinion from the global surgical community.

Stéphanie Breukink

Management of diverticular disease (ESCP)

J. K. Schultz, N. Azhar, G. A. Binda, G. Barbara, S. Biondo, M. A. Boermeester, A. Chabok, E. C. J. Consten, S. T. van Dijk, A. Johanssen, W. Kruis, D. Lambrichts, S. Post, F. Ris, T. A. Rockall, A. Samuelsson, S. Di Saverio, D. Tartaglia, A. Thorisson, D. C. Winter, W. Bemelman, E. Angenete

The guidelines were published online in July 2020 in *Colorectal Disease*.

[Guideline web page](#) | [Guideline PDF](#)

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Eva Angenete and Johannes Schultz

TaTME: Transanal total mesorectal excision

The TaTME Guidance Group representing ESCP, in collaboration with the ASCRS, ACPGIBI, ECCO, EAES, ESSO, CSCRS, CNSCRS, CSLES, CSSANZ, JSES, SACP, SAGES, SBCP, Swiss-MIS.

The guidance statement supported by the ESCP in collaboration with a number of other European, American and Australasian scientific societies has been published in *Colorectal Disease*. The current statement forms the basis for further iterations and suggestions of amendment. Danilo Miskovic stepped down as co-chair, and at the next meeting a suitable replacement candidate will be chosen. Danilo will remain an active member of the group.

[Consensus web page](#) | [Consensus PDF](#)

Danilo Miskovic and Roel Hompes

European Society of Coloproctology guidance on the use of mesh in the pelvis in colorectal surgery

Colorectal Disease

Yasuko Maeda 1, Eloy Espin-Basany 2, Kim Gorissen 3, Mia Kim 4, Paul-Antoine Lehur 5, Lilli Lundby 6, Ionut Negoii 7, Gregor Norcic 8, P Ronan O'Connell 9, Tero Rautio 10, Bart van Geluwe 11, Gabrielle H van Ramshorst 12, Andrea Warwick 13, Carolynne J Vaizey. The steering committee includes: Y Maeda, PA Lehur, L Lundby and C Vaizey.

The guideline has been published in *Colorectal Disease*.

[Guideline web page](#) | [Guideline PDF](#)

Yasuko Maeda

This spring we submitted one guideline:

Faecal Incontinence

Joint multidisciplinary European Clinical practice guideline for faecal incontinence ESCP/ UEG / ESNM / ESPCG: This project is financially supported by the UEG Activity Grant programme of €30,000 and was submitted to the UEG journal in May 2021.

Stéphanie Breukink

There are currently four ongoing developments of new guidelines:

Guideline Diagnosis and Treatment of Perianal Fistula

Led by Kevin Gottgens, Lillian Reza, Phil Tozer and David Zimmerman.

The guideline development team is formed; the research questions and outcomes are formulated, the searches are currently being performed.

David Zimmerman and Phil Tozer

Social media guideline

Steering committee: Rosa Jiménez Rodríguez and Luis Sánchez-Guillén (Chairs), Richard Brady, Julio Mayol, Gianluca Pellino and Des Winter.

Update: The guideline has been divided into three groups (as presented in our last meeting).

There is a Senior Surgeon (Des Winter, Julio Mayol and Richard Brady) in each group.

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There is one coordinator in each group (Gianluca Pellino, Luis Sánchez-Guillén and Rosa Jiménez Rodríguez) in each group.

The call to include more members was done through the website and the groups are now defined.

Timeline; to be finished by the end of 2021

[Luis Sánchez-Guillén and Rosa Jiménez Rodríguez](#)

[Guideline for management of pilonidal disease](#)

The Executive Guideline Development Group (e-GDG) currently consists of Asha Senapati and Dotun Ojo. The guideline development group has been formed and the outcomes and pico's will be formulated.

[Asha Senapati and Dotun Ojo](#)

["European Guideline on prevention, assessment and treatment of surgical site infections following digestive surgery – UEG, ESCP, EAES, and SIS-E consensus"](#)

This has been granted with €27,400 by the UEG in summer 2021.

[Other goals achieved:](#)

Our website has been updated together with Charlotte Vatcher and Vanessa McCourt of MCI.

[Goals for 2021/2022:](#)

Optimalisation of the implementation of the guidelines.

Aiming to collaborate more coming year with Y-ESCP for at least two applications for the UEG quality of care taskforce.

Stephanie Breukink

Guidelines Committee Chair – September 2021

[Research/Cohort Studies Committee Annual Report 2019](#)

Committee Chair: Charles Knowles (Chair); Tom Pinkney (Assistant Chair); Alaa El-Hussuna (Cohort Studies Chair, Education Representative & Trials Map); Audrius Dulskas (Cohort Studies); Dion Morton (Global Chair & Industry Representative); Dragomir Dardanov (Cohort Studies & UEG|ESSAT Research Representative); Erman Aytac (Research Communications Representative); Gabrielle van Ramshorst (Cohort Studies); Matteo Frasson (Journal Representative); Nikolaos Gouvas (Website); Oded Zmora (Trials Map); Pamela Buchwald (Global Reach & Deputy Industry Representative); Quentin Denost (Trials Map); Simon Ng (Global Chair); Steven Brown (Strategy); Sue Blackwell (PPI Representative);

Y-ESCP Members: Patricia Tejedor (Trials Map & Website); Zoe Garoufalia (Research Representative to CommComm)

When I wrote last year's report, I did not envisage writing a further COVID-affected report again this year. However, that is where we find ourselves – another year of restricted travel; another year of virtual meetings. This means that I have yet to meet most of our committee members in person. All this noted, 2021 has seen some recovery from the lockdown on research activity that I reported on in 2020 and many signs now that our portfolio of activities is returning to pre-COVID strength.

EAGLE, our first global RCT launched in 2019 but was hit hard by COVID because of its reliance on elective surgery workload. Fortunately, the flexible recruitment possible for EAGLE, conferred by the novel phased dogleg design,

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meant that it could be re-started in late 2020 in the far-East and other areas where health services had recovered from the first wave of COVID quickly. Thus, EAGLE is now randomising to its 10th phase with data collected to date on 1600 patients from 157 hospitals in 48 countries (and with 50 more signed up and waiting their phase and allocation sequence). While the disruption caused by COVID has significantly delayed EAGLE, it is noteworthy that it has reinforced the importance of new designs like the phased dogleg that can work better in real world situations than conventional parallel arm explanatory designs. EAGLE is now extending its wings (my annual EAGLE pun) to recruit several sites in South America. This ties in with the amazing work of the global committee covered below.

Our portfolio of cohort studies took a similar hit but is making a similar recovery. MASC has finished and is in write-up with data from 699 patients recruited in 123 centres from 32 countries. This study, which is a collaboration with our medical gastroenterology colleagues, has prevailed despite changes in GDPR and then COVID. The dataset is unique, offering a snapshot into the who, why and when of acute colectomy for IBD. DAMASCuS is also proving a profound success with data collected on near to 5,000 patients in over 40 countries at 280 hospitals. It is notable for its strong inclusion of US sites that I recall took much negotiation and struggles with IRBs at the outset back in 2018. The road to DAMASCuS has now been extended to SE Asia where a new study (East of DAMASCuS) is planned to compare Asian (predominantly right-sided disease) with classic Western sigmoid-predominant disease. This ties in with several aligned bolt-on biological studies of disease pathogenesis that are critical to understand a problem that is 'orphan' for investment compared to its societal impact.

Our industry funded parallel audits of two Robotic cohort studies (RESET and MIRCAST) will be back on track in Autumn with an exciting, allied snapshot into uptake of ERAS. It is an ambition of ResComm to support implementation science, especially where this relates to publications coming from the guideline committee. An audit of ERAS will hopefully trail blaze our ability to pose the question of how much our guidelines are adopted into practice in Europe (and beyond) against a basic set of key performance indicators.

Finally, PROPHER is also now due to launch with a new digital partner found to deliver the app required for longitudinal patient-reported outcomes. PROPHER will be our first high-quality prospective cohort study and will hopefully offer much insight into the current evidence void that is parastomal hernia management. It is also significant because the technological platform that has taken so long to finalise for PROPHER can be used for future similar study designs. I thank Tom Pinkney for his inspirational leadership of the cohort committee and welcome Alaa El-Hussana who has now stepped into this role.

Most of the above studies have benefitted from further strengthening of ResComm's global ambitions. The global committee will hopefully be confirmed as its own constituted committee at the Annual meeting in Barcelona in September and already has direct representation to the Executive from earlier this year. GlobalComm have organised a series of Webinars that have promoted education and allied research to the masses. Some of these have had staggering uptake with 10,000s of virtual attendees. Industry have recognised the power of ESCP to deliver research worldwide and have kindly funded these webinars with other funding following for specific research studies e.g. the recent contract with Ethicon to fund a global study on wound closure and SSI. The hard work of Dion Morton, Simon Ng and Pamela Buchwald have made all this possible with our many evolving worldwide partners.

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While much research may be paused, the general business of the research committee continues thanks to the active participation of our membership and the support of colleagues from Europe and across the globe. We continue to try and optimise our website and are currently working on criteria to select the best studies for the trials map. The paper of the month is the second most visited section of the research pages, and this continues with an initiative to link in with ACCRS by having their society contribute a couple of papers each year.

On behalf of the Research Committee, we would like to thank everyone who has participated in getting us to this point. I also congratulate Tom Pinkney and Pamela Buchwald on their recent election to the posts of Chair and Assistant Chair for 2022-2024. At the same time, I must thank those who have demitted office for their valuable service: Oded Zmora, Quentin Denost and Steve Brown. I must also thank our Industry partners for their ongoing support and forbearance as we struggle to get various sponsored studies back on track.

Thank you again for your support and I look forward to welcoming everyone to the 'Virtual Barcelona' annual meeting in September (and to a time when we can meet again in person).

Charles Knowles

Research Committee Chair – August 2021

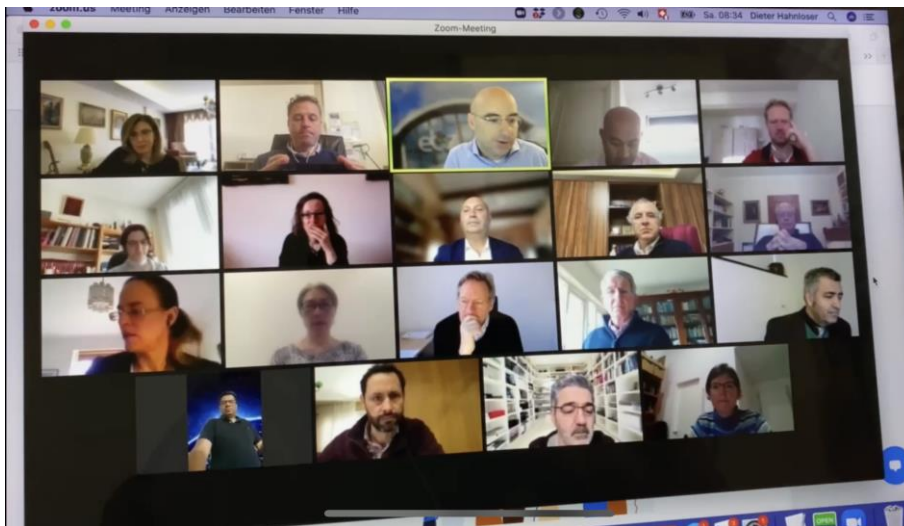
Education Committee Update

Education Committee Chair: Dieter Hahnloser, **Ass. Education Committee Chair:** Janindra Warusavitarne,
Members: Alvarro Garcia-Granero Y-ESCP, Alaa El-Hussuna (Research Representative), Antonino Spinelli (ex officio/ESCP Secretary), Baljit Singh, Cristian Blajut Y-ESCP, Danilo Miskovic, David Zimmerman, Edgar Furnée, Eloy Espin Basany, Ines Rubio Perez, Jasper Stijns Y-ESCP, Klaus Matzel, Marcos Gomez Ruiz, Mark Potter, Marek Zawadzki, Miguel Pera (ex officio/ESCP Treasurer), Monica Millan, Mostafa Shalaby Y-ESCP, Muhammad Imran Aslam, Roel Hompes, Samson Tou, Tina van Loon Y-ESCP

Alaa joined the Education Committee and **Janindra** was elected Assistant Chair. Welcome! Many thanks for **Pascal** Doornbosch for his hard work during the past year as a member of our great committee.

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The aims of the Education Committee remain unchanged...:

- To deliver high-quality, contemporary education for surgeons in training and practice, and for other allied healthcare professionals.
- To educate, disseminate and accredit to the highest standard in Coloproctology across Europe.

... **but**, due to the pandemic (and I will not mention it again in this report) we were not able to meet during the past year (but zoomed 5x) and could not organize our excellent hands-on ESCP training courses. Nevertheless, education went on, differently, on a high quality. ESCP has organized many different **webinars** which went viral globally and the **European School of Coloproctology** created innovative e-learning on robotic colorectal surgery. In addition, we produced for CREST®, the educational platform of the ASCRS, an outstanding educational **course on CME!**

Virtually Vilnius 2020 : Nice balance of scientific and educational sessions.

Over 3,000 delegates from 75 different countries worldwide enjoyed our one channel stream including standardized training videos on robotics, Kock pouch, SNM, advancement flaps and open anterior resection. We had several state-of-the-art talks in preparation for the EBSQ examination, short essentials for trainees and a lively discussion on training around the globe.

“Education Stream” at Virtual Barcelona 2021: short presentations and lots of interaction.

This year we will run [two streams](#), scientific and educational. Questions from the audience will be incorporated and discussed live by panels. We will discuss management of patients applying the latest guidelines, presenting challenging cases and how to solve them, show step-by-step videos of frequent operations and educate trainees on difficult emergency problems. We have big names debating on radiotherapy and meshes. A highlight will be the keynote on the future way of training, not just an experience. **We will meet, debate and discuss virtually in a new format. Do not miss!**

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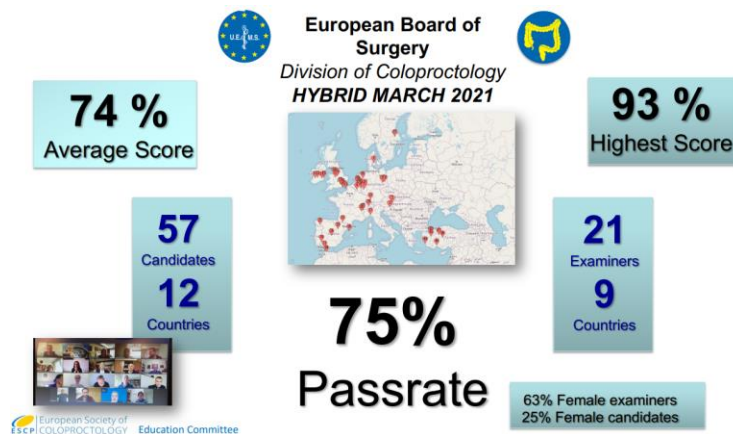
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Educational content on the ESCP website, ESCP resource library is always up to date.

The new format of the [resource library](#) is online including guidelines, presentations of past ESCP meetings, relevant papers from *Colorectal Disease* (updated every three-months) and chapters of the European manual of coloproctology. This is a great resource for training and continuous education for all. See also our new course on CME: everything you need to know.

European Board of Surgery Qualification (EBSQ) in Coloproctology: the one and only pan-European specialist certificate in Coloproctology.

In March 2021 we run the first hybrid examination in 9 countries at 16 different sites. The WRITTEN case and the ACADEMIC part were done all over Europe at the same time. The next day followed the GENERAL part by Zoom. 57 candidates from 12 countries were examined by 21 EBSQ specialist from 9 countries. 63% of examiners and 25% of candidates were female. **75% pass rate.** Congratulations! The next examination takes place in November. For more information check the website of [UEMS](#)



ESCP Fellowship Program: on hold, but not cancelled!

ESCP offers:

- 6 x six-month Robotic surgery fellowship
- 4 x three-month fellowships (including 2 x pelvic floor fellowships)
- 20 x two-weeks observerships
- 10 x pre-congress-placements
- Korean Society of Coloproctology (KSCP) exchange fellowship
- Japanese Society of Coloproctology (JSCP) exchange fellowship

Unfortunately, only some robotic fellowships could take place. However, all warded fellowships will be completed as soon as possible. New [fellowships](#) will be announced on our website.

Regional Events, Masterclasses can also be done in a hybrid way.

No Masterclasses took place in 2020. Thanks to a great effort from our Portuguese friends, we were able to successfully run the [9th ESCP Masterclass](#) in July 2021 as a hybrid event. Several global and regional

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masterclasses are planned in 2022. We will do our best to make these happen. For further details please refer to the REWG Report Section below.

European School of Coloproctology (ESC): Education and training all year around. Setting European standards.

The ESC is working on several educational programs. For further details please look at the ESC Report Section.

UEG Collaboration: strong and expanding

Several members of our committee represent ESCP in the education, scientific and research committees of the UEG. ESCP created a Proctology online course for UEG (online soon). Within [ESSAT](#) (European Society of Surgery of the Alimentary Tract) we strongly represent Colorectal Surgeons in UEG.

Dieter Hahnloser

Education Committee Chair – September 2021

Regional Events Working Group Update

Committee: Paul-Antoine Lehur (Chair until July 2021), Dieter Hahnloser (New Chair), Antonino Spinelli (*ex officio/ESCP Ass. Secretary*), Audrius Dulskas (*Research Representative*), Des Winter (*Programme Representative*), Klaus Matzel (*EU School Representative*), Roland Scherer (*Membership Representative*), Willem Bemelman (*President*), TBA (*Education Representative*)

He is the father of the ESCP Masterclasses and significantly helped to make this an outstanding European educational event. Thank you to Paul-Antoine, for all you did for ESCP and the Regional Events Working Group during the past years. We wish you all the best. *Dieter and your entire committee.*



Paul-Antoine Lehur (Chair)

ESCP Masterclasses: well-established educational events.

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ESCP spring and winter European masterclasses are well established educational events. During an entire day local and ESCP speakers present, debate and discuss current Coloproctology topics. Masterclasses are held during a national meeting all over Europe. To [apply](#) for a Masterclass check our [website](#).

Masterclasses 2020/21: cancelled, postponed and one hybrid Masterclass.

- Unfortunately, the Dutch Masterclass had to be cancelled again.
- The [9th ESCP Regional \(Spring\) Masterclass](#), on July 1st 2021, in Oeiras, a small town located in the Lisbon District, Portugal in conjunction with the Portuguese Society of Coloproctology's National Congress was a successful hybrid event. Thanks for Nuno Rama and his team for organizing this event.

Upcoming Masterclasses 2021/22: ESCP visits Paris and goes global.

- The [10th ESCP Regional \(Winter\) Masterclass](#) in Paris, France in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Société Française de ColoProctologie (SNFCP) is scheduled for November 18th 2021. **"From AIN to squamous cell carcinoma"**. Guillaume Meurette and his team look forward to seeing you in Paris.
- The following **Global Reach Masterclasses** were postponed and hopefully will take place in 2022!
 - 1st Global Reach Egyptian ESCP Masterclass in Cairo Egypt; in conjunction with the Egyptian Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, August 2022.
 - 2nd Global Reach South African ESCP Masterclass in Cape Town, South Africa; in conjunction with SASES 2022 meeting.

A great **thanks to all our sponsors**. Without their loyal contribution ESCP Masterclasses would not take place.

Paul-Antoine Lehur and Dieter Hahnloser
Regional Events Working Group Chairs – September 2021

The European School of Coloproctology Update

The European School of Coloproctology (ESC) of ESCP offers year-round education and training in Coloproctology for colorectal surgeons and trainees at different stages of their professional careers and promotes current knowledge and practice. The ESC provides various educational opportunities, including hands-on experiences. ESC/ESCP is responsible for designing the objectives and educational contents of these events and their execution. Support comes from education grants by various partners, including industries.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation over the last 18 months forced ESC to pause several events: all involving face-to-face meeting and hands-on training experience.

Laparoscopic CME programme:

The programme, which was ESC launched in December 2018, continued in 2019 and early 2020. The interest is high, and the participants came from various countries in Europe. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the LapCME course scheduled for 15-16 June 2020 in ORSI in Belgium needed to be cancelled and postponed. We plan to restart the course in early 2022.

Applications will remain open, and we will update the website with the new dates once they have been confirmed.

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The Laparoscopic CME programme consists of a two-day workshop with hands-on experience followed by a proctoring phase providing operative support in the participants' home institutions. For details, please see: <https://www.escp.eu.com/education/european-school-of-coloproctology/laparoscopic-cme-programme>

IPAA and continent ileostomy workshop:

A stand-alone workshop on pouch surgery, IPAA and continent ileostomy (Kock pouch and modifications) was first offered in November 2018, again took place on 14-15 November 2019 in Hamburg. The number of participants from multiple European countries increased. The 2020 workshop, scheduled for 5-6 November, needs to be cancelled. As the interest continues to be high, the next course is planned for 2022.

For details of the course, please see: <https://www.escp.eu.com/education/european-school-of-coloproctology/ipaa-and-continent-ileostomy>

“Berlin Days”: Comprehensive Workshops on Prevention of Parastomal Hernia, Proctology, TAMIS and a Core Subject/EBSQ Preparation Course:

The so-called 'Berlin Days' workshops offering hands-on experience and a variety of courses were planned over two days (Prevention of Parastomal Hernia, Proctology, TAMIS, EBSQ Preparation Course) needed to be cancelled. The potential for this course in 2022 is being explored.

Colorectal robotic surgery programme:

Further activities of the ESC include the work of the **Colorectal Robotic Working Group (CRS WG)**. Their activities are ongoing: the infrastructure, prerequisite for launching a structured, staged Robotic Training Pathway for colorectal robotic interventions, is completed.

<https://www.escp.eu.com/conference-and-events/robotic-colorectal-surgery-webinar/colorobotica-training-pathway?view=form>

The recent publications refer to some of their activities:

Tou S, Gómez Ruiz M, Gallagher AG, Eardley NJ, Matzel KE.
Do surgical skills affect outcomes? Colorectal Dis. 2020 Dec;22(12):1826-1829.

Zawadzki M, Gómez Ruiz M, Tou S, Jeffels A, Matzel KE. A proposed system for standardized terminology in minimally invasive surgery - a video vignette. Colorectal Dis. 2020 Dec;22(12):2346-2347

Gómez Ruiz M, Tou S, Gallagher AG, Cagigas Fernández C, Cristobal Poch L, Matzel KE
A prospective, multicenter study of the objective assessment of intraoperative robotic-assisted low anterior rectal resection performance with procedure-specific binary metrics and a global rating scale. submitted

The robotic training programme has been launched in Q3 and first trainees are included. The interest is high and the number of applicants already exceeds the current capacity of the programme.

In November 2020, a series of 4 Webinars about robotic colorectal surgery was started, followed by a second series, which began in June 2021 and will continue until December 2021. The faculty is international, the

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interest is high and the outreach global. The webinar recordings can be watched in demand in the public area for the ESCP website for 6 months after the event, after that in the ESCP member area.

12. November 2020: *Rationale and Setting up:* Samson Tou, Ellen van Eetvelde, Neil Mortensen, Marcos Gomez Ruiz, Klaus Matzel

17. December 2020: *General Concepts and Sigmoid Resection:* Marek Zawadzki, Carmen Cagigas Fernandez, Neils Thomassen, Roger Gerjy, Eloy Espin Basany

21. January 2021: *Low Anterior Resection:* Marcos Gomez, Jim Khan, Seon Hahn Kim, Shwan Amin, Daniel Perez

16. March 2021: *Complete Mesocolic Excision:* Roland Croner, Paolo Bianchi, Danilo Miskovic, Julio Garcia-Aguilar

17. June 2021: *Lateral lymph node dissection in rectal cancer:* Thilo Wedel, Takashi Akiyoshi, Ichiro Takemasa, Marcos Gomez, Samson Tou

16. September 2021: *It`s always good to have a plan B - if things go wrong:* Ellen van Eetvelde, Charles Evans, Roger Gergy, Philippe Rouanet, Dieter Hahnloser, Carmen Cagigas Fernandez

<https://www.escp.eu.com/education/robotic-surgery-webinars>

ESC aims to deliver a broad spectrum of educational content and non-virtual educational experiences like face-to-face meetings and hands-on workshops. Webinars will continue. Also, efforts have been made to developing virtual and hybrid formats of teaching events. We intended to allow flexibility for the provided format due to the pandemic situation.

These are exciting times for those interested to learn and teach.

Klaus E. Matzel

European School of Coloproctology Chair – September 2021

Membership Committee Update

Committee: Roland Scherer (Chair) + regional representatives

Western region: Donald Claeys, Jared Torkington (outgoing)

Central region: Frederic Ris, Martina Lemmerer

Eastern region: Alexey Moskalev (outgoing), Ugur Sungurtekin

Y-ESCP: Argyrios Ioannidis

Membership numbers: The number of ESCP members reached 1749 at the end of 2020 which is a decrease compared to the previous year (2004). In July 2021, membership was tracking higher with 1577 members compared to July 2020 at 1429; which is an increase of 9%. The target for 2021 is to reach 1800 members; which is an increase of 3% compared to 2020.

Due to the corona crisis and the cancellation of the annual face to face meeting in Barcelona, it will be a big challenge to keep the membership numbers.

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National representatives: National representatives are very active in promoting ESCP and related activities throughout the year. However, due to the cancellation of all national meetings in 2021, the promotional activities by face-to-face contact were very limited.

Communication in the three regions has improved by quarterly tele-conferences with the regional and national representatives and the chair of the membership committee in every region. We plan to continue these teleconference activities every three months. Moreover, the communications in the regions will be improved by WhatsApp groups and quarterly e-newsletters.

New national representatives will be chosen through elections coordinated by the ESCP Secretariat, for:

Country	National Representatives	Term ends	Incoming 2021
Austria	Irmgard Kronberger	2021	Felix Aigner
Azerbaijan	Aynur Safiyeva	2021	Yusif Aliyarov
Belgium	Albert Wolthuis	2022	
Bulgaria	Mihail Slavchev	2021	Martin Karamanliev
Czech Republic	Matej Skrovina	2022	
Denmark	Ole Thorlacius-Ussing	2021	Mark Bremholm Ellebæk
Egypt	Waleed Thabet	2021	Waleed Thabet*
Finland	Pirita Varpe	2023	
France	Emilie Duchalais	2023	
Germany	Stefan Fichtner-Feigl	2022	
Greece	Ioannis Papaconstantinou	2022	
Hungary	Tamas Mersich	2021	Balázs Bánky
Iceland	Jorunn Atladottir	2023	
Ireland	Rory Kennelly	2023	
Israel	Alon Pikarsky	2022	
Italy	Giuseppe Sica	2022	
Latvia	Andrejs Pcolkins	2023	
Lithuania	Tomas Poskus	2023	
Norway	Bjorn Steinar Nedrebo	2023	
Poland	Lukasz Dziki	2022	
Portugal	Nuno Figueiredo	2023	
Romania	Ciprian Duta	2022	
Russia	Armen Vardanyan	2023	
Serbia	Milica Nestorovic	2023	
Slovenia	Gregor Norčič	2021	Jan Grosek
Spain	Rosa M. Jimenez Rodriguez	2021	Héctor Guardalajara
Sweden	Najia Azhar	2023	
Switzerland	Michel Adamina	2022	
The Netherlands	Jeroen Leijtens	2021	Jeroen Leijtens*
Turkey	Mustafa Oncel	2023	
UK	Justin Davies	2021	Oliver Warren
Ukraine	Volodymyr Andriiets	2021	Andriy Beznosenko

*Waleed Thabet will stay in post for another 12 months as National Representative for Egypt

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*Jeroen Leijten will stay in post for another 12 months as National Representative for The Netherlands

Regional Representatives

Name	Country	Region	Term ends	Incoming 2021
Frederic Ris	Switzerland	Central	2022	
Martina Lemmerer	Austria	Central	2022	
Alex Moskalev	Russia	Eastern	2021	Aynur Safiyeva
Ugur Sungurtekin	Turkey	Eastern	2020	
Jared Torkington	United Kingdom	Western	2021	Rosa Jiménez Rodríguez
Donald Claeys	Belgium	Western	2022	

Membership Committee Activities 2021/2022

- 4 teleconferences including a planned TC in September
- Support the secretariat in membership matters
- Promotion of all ESCP events and activities including the virtual annual September meeting
- National Representatives elections
- Implementation of newly created National Representative's e-newsletters
- Effort to recruit Young ESCP members to join regular ESCP membership

Roland Scherer

Membership Committee Chair – September 2021

Communications Committee Update

Committee: Richard Brady (Chair), Antonio Sampaio-Soares (Research Y-ESCP Rep), Antonino Spinelli (*ex officio*/ESCP Ass. Secretary), Baljit Singh (Journal Rep), Debby Keller (*ex-officio*), Edgar Furnée (Education Rep), Erman Aytac (Research Rep), Frank McDermott (*ex officio*/Journal Representative), Gabriela Möslein (*ex officio*/ESCP Secretary), Gianluca Pellino (Y-ESCP), Goran Barisic (Membership Rep), Julius Orhalmi (Website), Mark Katory (Guidelines & Programme Rep), Peter Christensen (Global Outreach Rep), Yasuko Maeda (Guidelines Rep)

The ESCP Communication Committee (Comm Comm) continuously updates the membership on the educational and research activities of ESCP, and grows the footprint of our Society's impact and influence worldwide.

This year's communication committee report is produced against a change in secretariat and review and consolidation of the roles of many of our comms providers leading to more streamlined processes. Early lessons on the importance of online communication and providing our members with cutting edge developments in coloproctology during the pandemic in 2020 have helped inform our processes and there has been a return in 2021 to the traditional focus on coloproctology education, society developments and communication of the benefits of ESCP membership.

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The huge volume of content and achievement could not have been possible without the 100s of hours of incredible work of the committee's membership, our expanded and growing social media presence supported by a talented and international subcommittee, the support of our communication partner Grayling, our secretariat MCI, our website developers and of course our engaged and now global membership.

The current membership of the committee receives a representative from each of the ESCP main committees and therefore it holds a privileged position of having first overview of the incredible work of all our society's committees. The difficulty as chair is adequately recognising a year of communication output gems, acknowledging everyone's voluntary efforts and covering all our assets in such a short report.

As such I have chosen some of the 20/21 highlights as a flavour of this busy and growing committee's outputs.

Campaigns

The communications year is now traditionally punctuated by highly impactful ESCP campaigns on the wider hot topics in surgery, including this year's specific focus on ESCP's "#sustainable surgery" campaign. This major campaign in July engaged contributions from leaders in coloproctology and experts in sustainability. A concurrent online questionnaire received hundreds of global responses and has revealed significant insights on current beliefs and a lack of member education on sustainable practice in colorectal surgery. This is currently being written up for publication soon. This highly visible campaign resulted in high levels of online metrics (1438 online engagements) and readership (2.7 million reach) and has been picked up by the wider medical media (hippocratic press, Coloproctology News Medscape etc.). Later this year there will be a further focus on diversity in coloproctology, building wider on our award winning 2020 "Women in surgery" campaign. Educational months of focus

There were additional specific educational focus months with great contributions on perianal fistula, colorectal robotic surgery (IBD, exenteration, training and trainees/fellowships) and focused weeks exploring our global reach webinar outputs with expert coloproctology insights from areas outside of Europe, with increasing use of self-created video content from experts to support outputs.

A special addition this year was the "Colorectal Cutting Edge" series with contributions on digital Patient Reported Outcomes, telementoring in robotic surgery, transanal rectal transection with a single-stapled (TTSS) anastomosis and mesenteric principles and mesenteric-based colorectal surgery.

We have also supported our guideline committee in advertising or assisting promotion of various guidelines throughout the year, such as diverticular disease guidelines and **Guidance on the use of mesh in the pelvis in colorectal surgery** (ESCP) and also output from the ESCP's Enhanced Recovery Collaborating Group. Recently the committee have been hard at work providing promotion of our second virtual online Congress ESCP VIRTUAL 2021 (#ESCP2021).

Social media Subcommittee

This year we have consolidated the fantastic impact of the social media subcommittee. The ongoing output from this group has had consistent impact. It is no exaggeration that much of the success of the society's recent online reach remains as a direct result of their incredible commitment and efforts. The members are from diverse backgrounds and global locations and the main committee thank them for their energy and commitment. In 2021, we formalised the workings of the subgroup further, with increased membership to

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include representation from Australia, Asia and South America, and a chair who is represented on the main Communications committee. The members are Miguel Cunha Co-Chair (Portugal) Gianluca Pellino, Co-Chair (Italy), Yongbo An (China), Vittoria Bellato (Italy), Nagendra Dudi-Venkata (Australia), Cristián Gallardo (Chile), Zoe Garoufalia (Greece), Gloria Zaffaroni (Italy). These future leaders are invaluable in setting the agenda for the society's communications output.

As a result of an invitation from Neil Smart and Debby Keller, 2 of the group are now also represented on the Colorectal Disease Journal social media group to increase coordination of news releases and opportunities between our society and our journal.

Platforms

The communications committee delivers all the above information via a number of important communication conduits. These are growing and diversifying in response to members needs and use:

Instagram - our ESCP channel was launched in early 2020 and has grown rapidly with more than 500 followers and has supported the posting of news items since creation. This channel is exclusively managed by the SoMe subcommittee members.

Twitter - Our ongoing presence on this platform has continued success. We have recently passed 10k followers (1505 new followers/17% increase since august 2020) and have produced nearly 6000 tweets of output with high levels of user engagement with almost 50,000 twitter engagements. This channel and the Young ESCP account are the main outlet for our news items on Twitter.

LinkedIn - the society has a more formal profile on this media and its use is managed by Grayling and MCI with more major news items being shared here. There are more than 1000 members linked to the society's account.

Whatsapp – more than 240 participants as part of the Young-ESCP whatsapp account allows for instant messaging of issues that are relevant to young coloproctologists.

Wechat – This popular Chinese social media platform now has a dedicated ESCP channel run by social media subcommittee member, Yongbo An on behalf of the society, and growth is encouraging. Growth has been impressive and allows the society to engage a previously untapped huge community of global coloproctology.

The society app

App downloads have traditionally been above 2000 but in previous years was almost exclusively used and bolstered during the conference months when the app was a critical assistant to navigating the annual congress. In these days of virtual congresses, and with increasing maintenance and technology costs, the committee have been assessing the value for money proposition of the app and this year have been working with our secretariat MCI to develop alternative proposals for a mobile application linked to the society. This work is in development and will be completed during 2021/2022.

Website

We have seen a rapid rise in visitor growth to our website, with over 390k page views since August 2020. The committee have supported the development of the site and expansion to include new committees and

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campaigns. The website's ability to attract support from industry partners is a focus of a special working group is currently exploring this very subject and will suggest a direction for future focus. A 2021 review of website improvements undertaken by Edgar Furnee and Miguel Cunha is currently being implemented.

External relations

Throughout 2020/21, the committee has worked to cement our relationships internationally through cooperative communications, celebrating our linkage with global societies (such as with the ASCRS educational platform, led by Baljit Singh). In addition, ESCPs regular global reach webinars are supported heavily with comms focus. Future such events are planned, and we look forward to supporting their communications. Peter Christensen as the communications representative for the Global Reach committee allows us to coordinate, anticipate and support the new committee in its outputs.

In conclusion, 2021 has been a year of consolidating lessons learned from the impact of pandemic during 2020. Our committee continues to grow, support, and create impact for the society's outputs and provides key channels of information for global coloproctology. The metrics achieved during this period have been solid, considering the disruptive influence of changing secretariat and creating new and renegotiated relationships with all of our current partners and providers.

Despite the challenges, the communications committee has delivered the achievements of the society for a global audience and 2021/2022 will likely demonstrate the benefit of nurturing developments in new social media platforms and strengthening the social media subcommittee, whilst continually looking for efficiencies and improvements in our large and highly effective portfolio of communications assets.

Richard Brady

Communications Committee Chair – September 2021

Global Reach Committee Update

The Global Reach Committee was established in January 2020 with an aim to promote global collaboration in research and education between ESCP and other colorectal societies worldwide. The Committee currently consists of representatives from eight Southeast Asian colorectal societies (China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Taiwan) in addition to representatives from ESCP. Members of the Committee met twice monthly via teleconference to plan various educational and research initiatives. Since its establishment in January 2020, the Committee has already organised six educational webinars focusing on research promotion and engagement. Principal Investigators from ESCP's own or partnered research projects were invited to share their trial updates and encourage international participation.

The following is a list of educational and research activities organised by the Global Reach Committee in the year 2020/2021:

1st ESCP Global Reach Webinar: East Meets West

The 1st ESCP Global Reach Webinar was held on 24 July 2020 with 'East Meets West' as the main theme. There were two scientific sessions, one focusing on the preparation for the future waves of COVID-19 in China and Europe, while the other provided an update on the global evidence and perspective of transanal total mesorectal excision. Industrial partners including CONMED and Fresenius Kabi provided funding to support our webinar platform. The webinar was very well attended with over 21,000 viewers online, mostly from China.

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2nd ESCP Global Reach Webinar: ESCP Virtually Vilnius Meeting

The 2nd ESCP Global Reach Webinar was incorporated into the scientific programme of the ESCP Virtually Vilnius Meeting on 22 September 2020. In the first part of the session, speakers from China, Hong Kong, Italy, and the COVIDSurg Collaborative were invited to share their experience of coping with the COVID challenges. In the second part of the session, new insights about surgical training around the world in particular during the COVID pandemic were discussed.

3rd ESCP Global Reach Webinar: Achievements Through Collaboration

The 3rd ESCP Global Reach Webinar was held on 20 November 2020 with 'Achievements Through Collaboration' as the main theme. In the first scientific session focusing on safe anastomosis in colon surgery, Principal Investigators from various relevant international trials, including EAGLE, MIRCAST, and COLOR IV were invited to provide a trial update. Prof Dion Morton gave a great introduction talk about the EAGLE Study and successfully promoted the launching of the study in Southeast Asia. In the second scientific session, speakers from Asia and Europe discussed about consensus guidelines and recent research about watch and wait for rectal cancer. The webinar was financially supported by Ethicon and Panther Healthcare. A total number of 27,000 viewers were recorded online.

4th ESCP Global Reach Webinar: Translating Evidence into Practice

The 4th ESCP Global Reach Webinar was held on 19 March 2021 with 'Translating Evidence into Practice' as the main theme. There were two scientific sessions, one focusing on the controversial management of asymptomatic primary colorectal cancer in the presence of unresectable metastasis, while the other provided further updates about the EAGLE and PROPHER Studies. The webinar was also financially supported by Ethicon and Panther Healthcare. The Global Reach Committee conducted a web-based survey among the colorectal community on their management of asymptomatic colorectal primary in the presence of unresectable metastases, and the results were presented by Dr Surendra Mantoo on behalf of the Global Reach Committee in his literature review talk. This web-based survey may provide the basis for possible future research.

5th ESCP Global Reach Webinar: Myths and Evidence in Diverticular Disease – A global Perspective

The 5th ESCP Global Reach Webinar, which focused on the management of diverticular disease and relevant research, was held on 18 June 2021. Speakers from Asia and Europe first presented clinical guidelines and highlighted the differences in the management of diverticular disease between the East and the West. This was followed by updates of the SCANDIV and DAMASCUS Studies by their Principal Investigators. As the DAMASCUS Study mostly included patients from the Western countries only, and the fact that the presentation and management of diverticulitis could be quite different between the West and the East, it was discussed in the Global Reach Committee and all members unanimously agreed that an Eastern version of the study could be initiated in Asia (the East of DAMASCUS Study), so that we could compare the results of the two cohorts.

6th ESCP Global Reach Webinar: East of DAMASCUS

The 6th ESCP Global Reach Webinar, dedicated to the East of DAMASCUS Study, was held on 27 August 2021. The East of DAMASCUS Study is a snapshot collaborative audit study on diverticulitis management that will be launched in Asia in October 2021. It is a joint project between the DAMASCUS Lead and the Global Reach Committee. This webinar provided the background to the study, and details on how to join the study. All colorectal units in Asia are encouraged to participate in this study.

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In summary, it has been a very fruitful 18 months for the Global Reach Committee since its establishment. Looking forward, the Global Reach Committee will continue to strengthen our partnership with existing member societies, and to expand our membership by inviting more colorectal societies from the other parts of the world to join our collaboration. We will put more effort in promotion and delivery of research and education at an international level.

Dion Morton and Simon Ng
Global Reach Committee Co-Chairs - September 2021

Y-ESCP Committee Update

1) Census: Currently 392 members are part of Y-ESCP, most being “full members”, followed by “trainee members”; 83.2% are from Europe.

2) Dedicated Communication/SoMe channels:

WhatsApp group: 244 participants

Twitter account: 3,007 followers

Facebook page: 262 followers, estimated reach 2267 users

The ESCP Instagram profile and the ESCP WeChat profile are managed by Y-ESCP members.

The Whatsapp group is used to easily give diffusion to news/initiative of interest (meetings, courses); discussions on colorectal diseases or condition have also taken place.

The Twitter account is used to keep updated young members about ESCP initiatives of interest (fellowships, courses, etc).

From 2021 onward, a dedicated Y-ESCP newsletter will be delivered for initiatives that are of interest for this subgroup of members.

3) Participation in Committees:

Y-ESCP are represented in all committees but the newly established Global Reach Comm.

The SoMe Working Group, Subcommittee of the CommComm, is entirely composed of Y-ESCP.

Many Y-ESCP are also participating in the Cohort Studies Subcommittee.

4) Collaborations with other societies and entities

Y-ESCP is now part of the Friends of UEG, and initiatives are being discussed to involve Y-ESCP in UEG initiatives. Collaborations with Dukes’ club from ACPGIB are also being explored.

Two Y-ESCP members of the SoMe WG have joined the SoMe Editorial Board of Colorectal Disease, to ease bidirectional communication between the ESCP and the Journal.

5) Y-ESCP led or supported initiatives

Y-ESCP members have been producing content for an ESCP project: The ESCP Cutting Edge Series in Colorectal Surgery. This includes interviews with researchers that are leading the innovation in coloproctology. Content can be accessed on the Official ESCP channels

Y-ESCP actively contributed to the development and organisation of the website and of the ESCP App.

Executive Committee:

President: Prof Evangelos Xynos **President Elect:** Prof Klaus Matzel **President in Waiting:** Prof Eloy Espin Basany
Immediate Past President: Prof Willem Bemelman **Secretary:** Prof. Antonino Spinelli **Treasurer:** Dr Miguel Pera
Communications Committee Chair: Mr Richard Brady **Education Committee Chair:** Prof Dieter Hahnloser **Ass. Education Committee Chair:** Janindra Warusavitarné **Global Reach Committee Chair:** Prof. Dion Morton **Guidelines Committee Chair:** Associate Prof. Stéphanie Breukink
Journal Representative: Mr Baljit Singh **Membership Committee Chair:** Dr Roland Scherer **Programme Committee Chair:** Prof Des Winter **Ass. Programme Committee Chair:** Prof Gabriela Möslein **Research Committee Chair:** Prof Charles Knowles **Young ESCP Working Group Chair:** Dr Gianluca Pellino
UEMS Representative: Dr David Zimmerman

Together with CommComm members, the SoMe WG have published the ESCP Virtually Vilnius 2021 Report in Colorectal Disease.

Together with the Education Committee, a project is being planned to facilitate production of high-quality, ESCP-branded surgical videos.

The mentorship project will also be developed in the next months.

Together with the Guidelines and Education Committees, Y-ESCP members will produce informative and educational content from the ESCP Guidelines (as webinars, infographics, etc.).

6) Y-ESCP in-person meeting

During the last in-person congresses, a dedicated Y-ESCP session was organized, followed by a social event. This was an invaluable opportunity for Y-ESCP members to network and socialize. Unfortunately, this will be the second congress without dedicated Y-ESCP sessions and (obviously) dinner. These interactions cannot be replaced by Social Media; the hope is to meet soon, whenever the current circumstances will allow to do so.

Gianluca Pellino

Y-ESCP Committee Chair - September 2021