ESGE European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

General Assembly 2025 – Minutes

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2025

Time: 10.00 – 12.00 CEST

Venue: CCIB – Centre de Conventions Internacional de Barcelona, Spain, Room 115

Attendees: ESGE Governing Board, Representatives of ESGE Member Societies, ESGE Individual Members

1. Welcome, Apologies, and Approval of 2024 General Assembly Minutes (I. Gralnek)

I. Gralnek welcomed all ESGE members and thanked them for their continued engagement. The minutes of the General Assembly held on April 27, 2024, in Berlin (Germany) were approved and it was confirmed that the 2025 General Assembly has a quorum and thus, we can proceed.

2. President's Report (I. Gralnek)

a. ESGE Days 2025

- A notable 21% increase in total registrations was recorded, reaching 5,300 delegates in total.
- Over 4800 on-site registrations and over 550 hybrid online registration (Status Friday evening)
- Italy had the highest number of on-site participants; Ukraine led in online attendance.
- Abstract submissions exceeded 400 additional entries, with Spain and Italy submitting the most.
- Industry engagement grew substantially, featuring 79 exhibitors and 9 industry symposia.
- 60 Travel Grants, each worth €650, were awarded to top abstract submitters.

New Initiatives

- The Postgraduate Course, held onsite for the first time, was highly successful with 497 registrations
- ESGE introduced AI-powered translation tools in the main session rooms
- ESGE launched the ESGE Legacy Project to preserve and promote the society's impact in Collaboration with Spanish Association Against Cancer and supported by the Barcelona Convention Bureau

Executive Committee

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President Elect
C. Hassan, MD, Italy

Past President
H. Messmann, MD, Germany

Secretary General
R. Bisschops, MD, Belgium

Treasurer
M. Arvanitakis, MD, Belgium

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b. Membership Update

- ESGE membership surpassed 5,000 individual members.
- The society includes 41 national Member Societies.
- A growing trend towards younger demographics continues, supported by member society engagement and dual membership models.

c. Endoscopy Journal

- The Impact Factor of *Endoscopy* rose to 11.5 in 2025, reaffirming its status as the leading journal in gastrointestinal endoscopy worldwide.

2. Treasurer's report (M. Arvanitakis)

M. Arvanitakis presented the treasurer's report from the fiscal year running from January 1 to December 31, 2024. ESGE showed a positive balance with an increase in the income from membership. ESGE Days 2024 showed a profit due to the sponsorship and exhibition and increasing registrations. The financial report was approved.

3. Secretary General's Report (R. Bisschops)

a. The ESGE Executive Committee for the term 2025–2027, elected at the ESGE Governing Board meeting, December 6, 2024 was presented:

- President: Cesare Hassan (Italy)
- Secretary General: Marianna Arvanitakis (Belgium)
- President-Elect: Raf Bisschops (Belgium)
- Treasurer: Tomas Hucl (Czech Republic)
- Past President: Ian Gralnek (Israel)

Thanks were extended to Prof. Helmut Messmann for his outstanding service as ESGE Councillor and in Executive and Presidential roles from 2014–2025.

b. ESGE received 2 applications for ESGE Society Membership:

- Algerian Society of Digestive Endoscopists
- Saudi Gastroenterology Association

Both societies' representatives were present and stood for approval of their societies' applications at the General Assembly.

b. Individual Membership Councillors

- The following Individual Membership Councillors completed their term 2023-2025 on the ESGE Governing Board:
  - Ivo Boskoski (Italy) and Lorenzo Vicente Zuniga (Spain)

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- Newly elected Individual Membership Councillors (Term 2025–2027) per online voting process in February 2025:
- Deirdre MacNamara (Ireland) and Enrique Vasquez Sequeiros (Spain)

c. Public Advocacy Chair

Michael Bretthauer (Norway) completed his term 2023-2025 as Public Advocacy Chair.

Public Advocacy Chair Candidates for 2025–2027:
- Urban Arnelo (Sweden)
- Alanna Ebigbo (Germany)
- Konstantinos Triantafyllou (Greece)

d. Guidelines Committee Chair

Konstantinos Triantafyllou (Greece) completed his term as Guidelines Committee Chair.

Guidelines Committee Chair candidates for 2025–2027:
- Philip R. Roelandt (Belgium)
- Tony C. K. Tham (Northern Ireland)

e. Member Society Councillors

The following MS Councillors completed their term 2023-2025:
- Enrique Rodriguez de Santiago (Spain)
- Tony C. K. Tham (Northern Ireland)

Member Society Councillors Candidates for the term 2025-2027:
- Marc Barthet (France)
- Torsten Beyna (Germany)
- Pradeep Bhandari (UK)
- Mahmoud Hallal (Lebanon)
- Mostafa Ibrahim (Egypt)
- Ioannis Papanikolaou (Greece)
- Hugo Uchima Koecklin (Spain)

All candidates were present and presented themselves to the General Assembly.

4. Elections and Voting Process (R. Bisschops)

Voting Process: Single Transferable Vote method was used, the process was explained. Eligible voters received personalized email ballots with detailed voting instructions.

Due to technical issues and delayed email delivery (internet connection), voting was reopened to ensure fairness to 12.30.
All persons entitled to vote (Governing Board Members and representatives of the Member Societies present at the General Assembly) were informed accordingly.

The online voting took place smoothly. The results can be found in the **appendix.**

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5. ESGE updates

a. Guidelines Committee Publications 2025

- Update Management of epithelial precancerous conditions and lesions in the stomach (MAPS III)
- Diagnostic work-up of bile duct strictures
- Endoscopic treatment for the management of post surgical complications
- Endoscopic management of biliary strictures
- Endoscopic management of acute necrotizing pancreatitis
- Sedation, analgesia and anesthesia in GI endoscopy
- Endoscopic procedures in pediatrics:ESGE-ESPGHAN update
- Quality assurance in reprocessing: Microbiological surveillance testing in endoscopy – ESGE-ESGENA update
- Survey on sedation: Position Statement
- CADe colonoscopy in CRC screening: Position Statement
- GPAT the Polypectomy assessment tool : Position Statement

b.Curricula Working Group Publications 2025

- Optical diagnosis of pre-cancer and early esophageal cancer
- Endoscopic therapy for esophageal neoplasia
- POEM Part 1 + Part 2
- Cholangioscopy (ERCP extension)
- Artificial Intelligence in GI endoscopy
- Acute UGI bleeding (in collaboration with EYE Committee)
- Luminal stenting RB
- Training in Sedation

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c. Quality Improvement Committee

- Performance measures for small-bowel endoscopy: a ESGE Quality Improvement Initiative – Update 2025 – *published*
- Performance measures for upper GI endoscopy: a ESGE Quality Improvement Initiative – Update 2025
- Performance measures for lower GI: a ESGE Quality Improvement Initiative – Update 2025
- Performance measures for EUS – Update 2025
- Performance measures for ERCP – Update 2025
- Standardization of Reports – The STAR project – Upper GI
- Standardization of Reports – The STAR project – Lower GI
- Standardization of Reports – The STAR project – Small bowel
- Standardization of Reports – The STAR project – EUS and ERCP
- Quality Markers in Sedation – ESGE Position Statement

d. Education Committee

- 35 fellowship grants available in 2025 for observational training.
- Application opens: January 2025; Deadline: June 1, 2025; Notification: August 31, 2025.

e. ESGE Endoscopy Camp 2025 – Milan

- September 12–14, 2025 for 80 ESGE Individual Members.
- Hands-on training based on ESGE-ESGENA Position Statement.

f. ESGE Academy

- ESGE Academy App released in 2025.
- Video Journal of the ESGE Academy launched at ESGE days 2025

g. Working Groups Updates

- Diversity and Equity Working Group: 16 mentor/mentee matches in 2025; position statements on diversity and ergonomics in collaboration with QI Committee.
- Green Endoscopy Working Group: Publication of E-SPARE; educational activities and environmental guidelines in endoscopy.

- Chair of Green Endoscopy Working Group, Enrique Rodriguez de Santiago completed his term 2023-2025.

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- Social Media Working Group: Campaigns for CRC and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness; increased sponsorship interest.

- Chair of Social Media Working Group, Manmeet Matharoo (UK), completed her term 2023-2025.

Raf Bisschops closed the General Assembly at 12.05.

Barcelona, April 5, 2025

Professor Ian M. Gralnek
ESGE President

Professor Raf Bisschops
ESGE Secretary General

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APPENDIX:

The online election was closed on 05.04. at 13.30. with the following results:

The **Algerian Society of Digestive Endoscopists** received the necessary majority and is approved as ESGE Member Society.

Saudi Gastroenterology Association received the necessary majority and is approved as ESGE Member Society.

Public Advocacy Committee chair:
Konstantinos Triantafyllou (Greece) received the most votes and is elected chair of the Public Advocacy committee for the term 2025-2027.

Guidelines Committee chair:
Tony C. K. Tham (Northern Ireland) received the most votes and is elected chair of the Public Advocacy committee for the term 2025-2027.

Member Society Councillors:
The following 5 candidates received the most votes and are elected as Member Society

Councillors for the term 2025-2027:
- Marc Barthet (France)
- Torsten Beyna (Germany)
- Pradeep Bhandari (UK)
- Mostafa Ibrahim (Egypt)
- Ioannis Papanikolaou (Greece)

Barcelona, April 5, 2025

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