Happy New Year!

On behalf of ESGE, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy 2022.

Let me take this opportunity to give you a review of 2021, as well as an outlook for 2022. First of all, I would like to thank my friend Mário Dinis-Ribeiro, who did a fantastic job as president from 2019 until April 2021. During his presidency the corona pandemic changed the world and influenced our daily life irrevocably. I would also like to say thank you to the Governing Board and the secretariat, led by Hilary Hamilton-Gibbs. With an outstanding team spirit and professional work ethic ESGE has been able to manage well through these challenging times.

Due to the pandemic we had to cancel ESGE Days 2020 in Dublin and change our plans for ESGE Days 2021 in Berlin. Despite these challenging times, however, we have been able to start some new projects. As new president, it is my primary aim to increase the number of ESGE members, since this will be the backbone of our society. By end of the year we will have almost 3500 members and we are still growing ...

Committees and working groups are the heart of our society and give us visibility with their incredible work – thanks to everybody for supporting them.

A number of guidelines and position statements on hot topics such as Covid 19, artificial intelligence and green endoscopy, have been published or are works-in-progress. These demonstrate our highly-relevant and vital contribution to the international field of endoscopy.

Thanks to our sponsors we have been able to support many young endoscopists with grants, continue our e-learning opportunities and improve our research projects. These activities make me optimistic for 2022.

This year we are increasing the numbers of online seminars significantly and for next year we plan weekly online seminars. Plus, we are increasing the ESGE portfolio with two newly-designed ideas: ‘Paper of the month’ and ‘Video and live session from expert centres’.

Last, but certainly not least, ESGE Days 2022 will be held next April 28–30 and is planned as a hybrid meeting. An excellent programme for all endoscopists from around the world has been developed, thanks to the great job of our scientific committee under the leadership of coordinator Marianna Arvanitakis. We expect at least 3000 participants in Prague, similar to 2019, and hopefully 3000 more online. These are challenging aims, but as a strong society with support from our active member societies, I am confident we can achieve them.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead and very much hope to greet you all in Prague!

Visit the official congress website, esge-days.org, for further information.
ESGE has developed a clear and comprehensive methodological framework for the development of competence standards for optical diagnosis in gastrointestinal endoscopy, focusing on the clinical consequences. This framework can be used to define easy-to-measure competence standards for optical diagnosis within gastrointestinal endoscopy. The development of such standards could be a first step in optimizing clinical treatment and and surveillance decisions within gastrointestinal endoscopy with the ultimate aim being able to incorporate them into ESGE certification for optical diagnosis.

**When will we see you again?**

Attend the following ESGE endorsed events and take advantage of the registration fee reduction as an ESGE individual member.

**24th Düsseldorf International Endoscopy Symposium 2022 – Hybrid event**

Feb 10–12, 2022  
Maritim Hotel Düsseldorf, Germany  
https://endo-duesseldorf.com/

**EURO-EUS 2022 – Endoscopic ultrasound meets oncology**

Mar 2–4, 2022  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain  
https://euro-eus.org/

**ENDO 2022, 3rd World Congress of GI Endoscopy**

May 13–May 15, 2022  
Kyoto International Conference Center, Kyoto, Japan  
https://worldendo2022.org/

Check the events calendar on esge.com for full details of all events of interest and the locations of ESGE booths.

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**New ESGE position statement**

Methodological framework for the development of standards for optical diagnosis in gastrointestinal endoscopy: ESGE Position Statement  
B. B. S. L. Houwen, C. Hassan, Y. Hazewinkel et al.  
Please read page 84–87 in this issue of *Endoscopy*.