



CALL FOR ESPES EUROPEAN REFERRAL PEDIATRIC MIS CENTER



ESPE is the main European Society of Minimally Invasive Pediatric Surgery, one of our tasks is to spread MIS in all Pediatric Surgeries in Europe and beyond. Since its foundation in 2010, our Presidents and Directives (experts in pediatric MIS) have organized Courses, Masterclasses and supported all Pediatric Centers that wanted to start or improve Minimally Invasive Pediatric techniques.

We want to further enhance the educational programs by enabling all members to attend Referral Centers where they can see a high level of MIS in neonate, pediatric patients and practice with dry simulators. In 2021 the ESPE Educational Committee in collaboration with the ESPE board and President elaborated a document to identify the main characteristics to be considered an European MIS Pediatric Reference Center . Every recognized Referral Center should promote courses and host Pediatric Surgeons (ESPE Members) from Europe and beyond in order to improve the use of MIS in pediatric. In the 2022 general assembly in Barcelona approved this project.

We now offer to all European Pediatric Surgery Units affiliated to ESPE the possibility of applying as an ESPE European Reference Center for Pediatric and Neonatal MIS.

To apply for this eligibility, each interested Pediatric Surgery Center must demonstrate a high level of expertise and experience in Pediatric MIS.

The main characteristics to obtain the eligibility are the following:

- Documented experience in MIS (laparoscopy, thoracoscopy,retroperitoneoscopy) at least of 15 years).
- Annual volume activities (last 10 years) : more than 250 MIS procedures performed every year with at least 10% of the procedures in infants under 10 kg of weight using laparoscopic, retroperiotoneoscopic or thoracoscopic procedures. (documented by official operatory registry)
- Surgical staff composed of at least 5 senior surgeons and 3 surgeons in training . At least 4 senior surgeons must be able to perform MIS procedures (documented by official operatory registry)
- The center must have at least one component that have organized minimum 2 International Courses/webinars endorsed by ESPE every year for at least 5 consecutive years
- The Center must have MIS training simulators and dedicated facilities
- The Center must have hosted at least one surgeon in training for Pediatric MIS in the last 5 year
- At least 4 surgeons of the staff have to be ESPE active members (regular payments of fee)

- At least one member of the staff must have served at least for one term in the ESPES EB
- At least one member of the Staff has to be lecturer at a recognized European Training Center (ex. IRCAD Pediatric Courses of Strasbourg , Leeds Training Center, Centro of Biotechnologies Cardarelli Naples,Aesculap Academie GMBH Berlin etc)
- Every Center must have the availability to perform robotic procedures

Every requirement ,supported by Official Operatory Registry (signed by Hospital Director) , must be documented and signed by the Director of the Pediatric Surgical Unit.

All the requirements will be first verified by the Educational committee and than approved by the ESPES board .

All the requested documents must be send to ESPES Educational Committe by e-mail to espes.reference.center@gmail.com within 29 february 2024 and will be evaluated within 30 april 2024.

The Centers with higher score will be elegible to become **European Center of Reference of ESPES for Pediatric and Neonatal MIS.**

If needed a visit onsite of the ESPES experts can be done to check the adherence to this protocol .

Once the elegibility was accomplished the Center will be Certified by ESPES Educational Committee and President.