



**European Society of Paediatric Endoscopic Surgeons**  
Founded in London 2010

**ESPES**

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25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. Bellinzona, Switzerland

## Spring 2021 Presidential Letter

Dear ESPES members,  
Dear colleagues and friends,

Spring 2021 has arrived and I hope all of you are doing very well. I would like to take the opportunity to update you about many interesting things that are going on in ESPES.

- 1) As previously announced, in January we launched the ESPES ped-LAP (Pediatric Laparoscopic African Project) a bilingual (English and French) virtual Master course. The project was created between the collaboration of ESPES and some African Societies of Pediatric Surgery interested in MIS and includes lectures, discussions and updated bibliography reviews of several topics in pediatric MIS. This project is possible thanks to the great organization of all members of the Executive Board and the support of several ESPES members experts in MIS and also thanks to the technical support of the Cardarelli Institute in Naples, Italy. From January until July 2021, a different topic will be presented every 3 to 4 weeks. To date, we have successfully performed 5/12 sessions with the continuous participation of 200 African pediatric surgeons (100 in the English sessions and 100 in the French sessions). So far we have received a great feedback of the Master. If you want to have more information about the program you can visit our ESPES website in the ESPES Ped-LAP section.
- 2) In January we opened the abstract submission and the early registration to our 11<sup>th</sup> ESPES Annual Congress previewed in Lugano Switzerland on 15th-17th September 2021. We really hope that the situation with the pandemic will be under control thanks to the vaccination programs and we will be able to perform our Congress in presence. Please remember that the abstract submission deadline is approaching, so we count on your contributions to have an interested and attractive scientific program. You will find all the information of the Congress in our ESPES website.
- 3) On 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021, thanks to the great collaboration and continuous support of IRCAD we will have our 1<sup>st</sup> ESPES Virtual Advanced Course in pediatric MIS as a continuity of our previous annual ESPES Masterclass project that was created several years ago by the IRCAD team, Prof. Philippe Montupet, Prof. François Becmeur, Prof. Ciro Esposito and I. You will find attached to this letter the scientific program.

This virtual course will be FREE for all ESPES active members that are up to date with their payment of the ESPES 2020 and 2021 membership. Other ESPES non-active members and non ESPES members will need to pay 80 Euro for the registration.

In addition, participants to this virtual course will benefit of an additional discount in the registration to the IRCAD course of pediatric MIS on 22-24 April, 2021

- 4) From 1<sup>st</sup> March until 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021, the submission of candidatures for President Elect and 3 Executive Members will be open. Remember that **only** ESPES ACTIVE members (up to date with the payment of their 2020 and 2021 membership) will be allowed to submit their candidature and will be allowed to vote.

You will find additional information of the elections in our ESPES website

- 5) ESPES exists thanks to you! Your financial support, through the payment of your annual membership is necessary to keep a healthy Society and to continue to offer you several benefits. Moreover, your contribution will help to maintain a low annual membership of 50 Euro/year to guarantee access to our Society to all pediatric surgeons interested in MIS in the world. So I strongly invite you to update your membership fees
- 6) Finally, on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 two of the main European Societies in pediatric MIS, strong pillars of our Society, GECl and SIVI will have a joint meeting in Naples, Italy. Registration for this meeting will be free of charge for all surgeons that will register to our 11<sup>th</sup> ESPES Annual Congress in Lugano, Switzerland. Moreover, the best 4 presentations (2 SIVI+ 2 GECl) will be presented in the ESPES Congress in Lugano.

As you can see, we can be proud that our Society continues to develop interesting events and projects. I would like to thank all members of the Executive Board for their continuous hard work and also IRCAD and the Cardarelli Institute for their continuous kind support.

Please feel free to contact our Honorary Secretary to [espes.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:espes.secretary@gmail.com) if you need further information or in case you have additional questions.

Hope to see you all in September in Lugano.

Sincerely,



Mario Mendoza-Sagaon  
ESPES President

