



European Society of Paediatric Endoscopic Surgeons
Founded in London 2010

ESPE

DECEMBER 2018 - ESPE'S PRESIDENT LETTER

Brussels, December 5th, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Members of the European Society of Paediatric Endoscopic Surgeons,

Dear Friends,

Winter is coming and the arrival of snow marks perhaps the time to awaken for some of you! Other will prefer to stay home close to a warm fire with a good book and a glass of good wine or spirit.

Last September we had a nice Congress in Brussels where 300 people, members of ESPE and friends of Pediatric Laparoscopy, met together. It was, I hope, a great event and a good opportunity to learn about MIS in children, to make new friends.

With the Executive Board, we are presently working hard to offer more benefits to members of the ESPE.

For that reason and because of our Society is growing more and more, the Board decided to create different Committees and ask for applications to join those Committees.

The first will be the **SCIENTIFIC Committee**.

This Committee will be led by Alessio Pini Prato.

Its tasks will be essentially the following:

1. Help the local organizer of the Annual Congress in the scientific organization, the selection of abstracts, ...
2. Stimulate members in order to publish their work. The idea is to help you practically (design, correction of English, ...) and even try to find an arrangement with some revues.
3. Organize, on behalf of ESPES, studies, prospective or randomized trials...

The Second will be the **EDUCATIONAL Committee**.

This Committee will be led by Erwin Van Der Veken

Its tasks will be essentially the following:

1. Endorse courses, workshops, if they follow the rules and need for excellence of the ESPES
2. Publish practical guidelines, parents information letters,... every material that members should be able to use in their own practice if they want
3. Put together learning courses in MIS (pre-congress program), on line exercises,...

The Third will be the **VIDEO Committee**.

This Committee will be led by Jozef Babala.

Its tasks will be the following:

1. Publish on the website videos from experts describing how they do MIS operations. Only videos of very high quality will be published.
2. Ask members to send some short videos about refinement of the technics, other methods, personal tips and tricks,... that will be added to the "main" video.
3. Publish videos about very new things.

Finally the Board will be involved in the big job transforming our ESPES website into a real “eLEARNING” platform.

For this purpose, a task force will be created in order to try to find some grants absolutely necessary if we are to have quality.

Last but not least we will also try to find money in order to help some of our low income countries members for the acquisition of MIS material. For that last purpose we are sure we can count on some of you, more fortunate.

Don't hesitate to add a donation to the official membership fees that you will be asked to pay for 2019: we will set it up on our website.

As President of the ESPES I assure you that I will put a lot of energy in the completion of those projects. If you are interested in joining one of the Committees don't hesitate to send your application to the Executive Assistant of the ESPES, Miss Gaïa Tamaro (info@espes.eu) . Committees will start working at the beginning of 2019.

Last but not least, even if ESPES is a nonprofit organization, money is needed in order to organize things, help local organizer of the annual congress, increase visibility, offer new services,...

Comparing with other societies the annual fees are really “ridiculously” low: 50€ for full members, 25€ for Associates(trainees) members, and reduced for those registering through our Partners Associations. **That's why it's so important that all of you pay their annual dues.** Our Treasurer will send the payment request at the beginning of January. Don't hesitate to stimulate friends and colleagues to join. The more we are the less we will have to pay!

Let me finally, in my name but also in the name of all the Board wish you all a marvelous and peaceful Christmas in the middle of your families and the best for 2019.

See you all next year in Vicenza, for ESPES 9th Annual Congress (September 11-13, 2019)!

Professor Henri Steyaert

PRESIDENT OF ESPES, The European Society of Paediatric Endoscopic Surgeons