



European Society of Paediatric Endoscopic Surgeons
Founded in London 2010



19th December, 2021. Bellinzona, Switzerland

PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

Dear ESPES members,
Dear colleagues and friends,

A new winter season is arriving and another year is ending. This 2021 was an interesting year, the Pandemic continued to be part of it and many important events occurred in our personal and professional lives. For ESPES, 2021 was a wonderful year as we achieved our main objectives with great success.

I will briefly update you on these objectives:

- a) Our virtual LAP (Laparoscopy African Project) Master in pediatric MIS from 22 January until 23 July concluded with success 12 bilingual sessions. Around 200 participants from different African Countries attended the course. This was also possible thanks to the support of several experts in pediatric MIS from ESPES, from the African Society of Pediatric Surgery, from the WOFAPS and from the association La Chaîne de l'Espoir. The exam of the course took place during the XI ESPES Congress in Lugano, Switzerland. Special thanks also to Prof. Ciro Esposito and the Cardarelli Institute of Naples for the technical and financial support of the Masterclass.
- b) In April thanks to the continuous support and collaboration with IRCAD and Prof. Jacques Marescaux we held the 1st ESPES Virtual advanced course on Pediatric MIS. The topics were related to MIS in esophageal atresia, in pulmonary congenital malformations and MIS/Robotics in pediatric urology. There were many participants from all around the world.
- c) The results of the 2021 elections for the new members of the Executive Board ratified our friend Prof. Juan de Agustin from Madrid, Spain for President Elect. The new 3 EB members elected are Prof. Laurent Fourcarde from Limoges, France, Prof. Sameh Shehata from Cairo, Egypt and Prof. Alexey Gusev from Moscow, Russia. We thank Prof. Henri Steyaert (BE) for his mandate as President - Past President and Maria Grazia Scuderi (IT), Carlos Giné (ES) and Naziha Khen Dunlop (FR) for their commitment in the EB on behalf of the Society during the past years.
- d) We were able to have in presence our XI ESPES annual congress in Lugano, Switzerland in September. The pre-congress courses as well as the Scientific Program were remarkable. There were around 230 participants from 26 Countries from Europe, Asia, Africa and North America.

During our GA important decisions were taken. One was the modification of the annual fees for membership. It was decided to maintain the low rate of 50 Euro, but to unify the same fees for all - trainees and full trained surgeons-. In addition, the reduced fees for trainees for the ESPES annual congresses and events will be maintained as before.

Another important information is that during the GA it was approved Maastricht, NL for the location for the 2022 ESPES Congress, but for organizational reasons and in agreement with Prof. Wim van Gemert, it was necessary to move the location of the 2022 congress to Barcelona, Spain (which was the second candidate). We thank Prof Marta De Diego and her team for the organization of the next ESPES Congress that will be held on September 28-30, 2022.

Moreover, the approved committees are now under re-organization. Our Honorary Secretary Prof. Maud Lindeboom is leading this project. The candidatures were received and the 3 committees will be soon ready to start working.

- e) The financial status of our Society is healthy and this is possible thanks to the great organization/administration of our treasurer Prof. Salvatore Fabio Chiarenza and the supportive team (Mrs. Annie Claude Plisson-Bruyere and Dr. Cosimo Bleve). The ESPES members continue to increase, in this year we reached almost 1200 registrations in our website including 93 members from different African Countries. Our ESPES Website is continuously updated thanks to the great job of our webmaster Prof. Jozef Babala.

With these results we can be happy, eager, enthusiastic and grateful for our Society, but all these achievements could not have been possible without the hard work, support and commitment of all members of the EB including our administrative Secretary Mrs. Annie Claude Plisson-Bruyere, the trust and support of all ESPES members and our partnership with the European MIS societies and, not less important, the industrial sponsoring. So thank you very much to everybody for the great team-work and support!

So what can we expect for the upcoming 2022?

Very soon you will receive:

- Additional information of the 2022 ESPES Congress in Barcelona. We expect to open early registration and abstract submission by mid-January.
- An update on the New ESPES Committees
- Information regarding the dates of the 2022 ESPES LAP Master in Pediatric MIS, that besides the African colleagues, will be also offered to Indian and Russian pediatric surgeons with interest in MIS
- The dates of the 2nd ESPES Virtual advanced course of Pediatric MIS that will be transmitted from IRCAD Strasbourg, France

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case someone will need additional information about our Society.

On behalf of all members of the Executive Board, I wish you wonderful Christmas holidays and a new 2022 year full of joy, peace, happiness and health.

Sincerely,



Mario Mendoza Sagaon
ESPES President