

Annual Report 2014-2015

European Society for Primary Care Gastroenterology, ESPCG

This report covers the time between the 19th WONCA Europe Conference in Lisbon held on July 2-5 2014 and the 20th WONCA Europe Conference that shall be held in Istanbul at October 22-25 2015.

ESPCG was established in 1996 and is operating actively in the following countries

- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- Greece
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Spain
- Sweden
- Turkey
- United Kingdom

The Mission Objectives of the ESPCG

- ESPCG exists to improve patient care by being the voice of primary care gastroenterology in Europe
- ESPCG is trying to create trust by working in an integrated way with secondary care, by recognizing differences between countries and giving the opportunity to join together, listen, share and learn from each others experiences
- ESPCG conducts research and shares opinions, develops publications
- The Society organizes workshops and encourages scientific collaborations in order to engage, unite and educate GPs around Europe

The ESPCG Executive Committee

During 2014-2015 the Executive Committee is formed by the following members:

Knut-Arne Wensaas (Norway), chairman
Martin Rasmussen (Finland), secretary
Lina Forssell (Sweden), treasurer
Niek de Wit (Netherlands), research officer
Jean Muris (Netherlands), educational officer
Foteini Anastasiou (Greece), communications officer

The ESPCG Steering Committee

The Committee is the governing body of the ESPCG and consists of appointed representatives from each of the national societies

Belgium: Louis Ferrant
Czech Republic: Bohumil Seifert
Denmark: Jon Zwisler
Estonia: Heidi-Ingrid Maaross, Marje Oona
Finland: Martin Rasmussen
Greece: Foteini Anastasiou, Christos Lionis
Italy: Pierluigi Fracasso
Netherlands: Jean Muris, Niek de Wit
Norway: Knut-Arne Wensaas
Poland: Malgorzia Palka
Spain: Juan Mendive
Sweden: Lars Agreus, Lina Forssell
Turkey: Mehmet Urgan
United Kingdom: Pali Hungin, Roger Jones, Greg Rubin, Richard Stevens

ESPCG's secretariat is managed by

Mrs Pauline Kent, Satellite PR and
Mrs Kirsty Mouldsley, Satellite PR

Meetings

The annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on July 3rd 2014 during the 19th Wonca Europe Conference in Lisbon

During the year the Executive Committee has held seven telephone meetings and two face to face meetings, one on January 19th 2015 in Amsterdam and one during the Spring meeting.

The Steering Committee met twice, during the 22nd UEG Week in Vienna Oct 18-22 2014 and during the ESPCG Spring Meeting that was held in Thessaloniki Greece in March 20-21, 2015, under the auspice of the Greek College of General Practice (ELEGEIA)

Affiliations

United European Gastroenterology (UEG)

ESPCG is a member Society of UEG, and ESPCG representatives hold the following positions in UEG

- General Assembly: Knut-Arne Wensaas and Pali Hungin
- Educational Committee (EC): We have one member on the EC. Our current member is Jean Muris serving for the period 01.01.2013-31.12.2016
- Scientific Committee (SC): We have one member on the SC. Our current member is Niek de Wit serving the period 01.03.2013-31.10.2017
- Public Affairs Committee: We don't have regular position on the PAC, Professor Roger Jones is an independent member accepted at the discretion of the PAC chairman, and holds this position for four years until 31.12.2018
- Future Trends Committee (FTC): This was a temporary committee. We had one member on the FTC, until the term of the committee was ended in 2014
- Forum of European Medical Gastroenterological Associations (fEGMA): this is a collaboration of the 10 member societies belonging to the medical block (EAGEN, EPC, ESPGHAN, ECCO, EHSO, ESDO, ESGAR, ESNM, ESPCG, ESP). ESPCG has been represented by our chairman Knut-Arne Wensaas.

ESPCG Activity overview

A. Educational Matters

UEG Educational Committee

Jean Muris is representing ESPCG at the UEG Educational Committee. Tasks of this committee are to prioritize funding for educational projects and to oversee e-learning.

E-learning

The ESPCG has revised the IBS e-learning module on the UEG website. This work has been led by Bohumil Seifert (Czech Republic).

E-learning module on *Helicobacter pylori* together with Opticare actively running in Spain, working on translation to English, possibly to other languages.

E-learning on Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease
Juan Mendive (Spain) has produced the e-learning module on GERD,
the program is published on the UEG website in August 2015.

B. Scientific matters

UEG Scientific Committee

Niek de Wit is representing ESPCG on the UEG Scientific Committee. The main task of the SC is to organize the annual scientific congress. This UEG week attracts over 12.000 clinicians annually, of which 1% is primary care based. Despite the low number of GP attendants the UEG Week is an important forum for scientific and professional exchange between primary and secondary care. In 2015 the ESPCG delegate has actively contributed to planning, abstract selection and staffing of the 2015 (Barcelona) and 2014 (Vienna) UEG week. ,

UEG week Vienna October 18-22 2014

WONCA Europe Conference Istanbul October 22-25 2015

ESPCG will organize two workshops “Colorectal Cancer Screening” (led by Bohumil Seifert, Czech Republic) and “Diagnostic discrimination between functional and organic bowel disease in primary care” (led by Niek de Wit, Netherlands). In addition Christos Lionis, Greece, will be in charge of a conference titled “Meeting diagnostic problems introduced by increased aminotransferases or imaging tests indicating liver steatosis”

C. Future Trends Committee (FTC) of UEG

ESPCG had participated actively in the FTC since 2010 with three consecutive representatives Foteini Anastasiou (Greece), Eirini Oikonomidou (Greece) and Lina Forssell (Sweden). ESPCG members worked with the projects of the committee, namely the “CRC in Europe” manuscript (FA), the “White Book of Gastroenterology” (LF) and the creation of three scenarios for the gastrointestinal health in Europe in 2040, a project presented during UEGW in 2014. This temporary Committee was terminated in 2014.

D. Public affairs Committee (PAC) of UEG

Heidi Maaros (Estonia) was stepping down from the Public Affairs Committee and Roger Jones (United Kingdom) was approved by the chairman of PAC as an independent member by nomination from ESPCG. Matters discussed whether representatives of ESPCG might have an active role in colorectal cancer screening.

E. Other

ESPCG Young Researchers Awards 2015

One of ESPCGs aims is to encourage research in Primary Care Gastroenterology. In 2015 ESPCG awarded two researchers: *Anna Karin Norlin* was awarded a personal grant of 5000 € for conducting a research study in Primary Care Gastroenterology and *Sverre Litleskare* was awarded a personal travel grant of 1000 € for attending the UEG meeting in Barcelona Oct 2015. Both scholarship winners are supposed to write a 1000-1200 word report on their project for the first issue of EuroDigest in 2016

Euro Digest

The first issue of Eurodigest was presented during UEG week in Vienna and was distributed to all attendees.

The 2015 issue of Eurodigest will be distributed to all 5000 delegates at the WONCA Europe conference in Istanbul. The Journal will have 40 pages including 17 articles.

Mendeley

During the year ESPCG decided to follow scientific and social media. A group at Mendeley free reference manager and PDF organizer was created. The aim is to create a page at Facebook and probably other social media in order to provide a direct and open communication with GP's around Europe.

The ESPCG web site (espcg.eu)

The web site has been renewed and updated by Satellite PR during the last year.

Educational Grants

The ESPCG receives financial support by the UEG in order to fulfill its scientific aims. Within the past year the Society received unrestricted educational grants from Danone, Reckitt, Thermo Fischer Scientific and Biohit.

Constitution

The ESPCG constitution will be revised during the following year.

September 23rd, 2015
Martin Rasmussen
Secretary