

President's report 2019

This report was presented during the General Assembly of the ESPA in Rotterdam on the 20th of September 2019.

1. TC Kester Brown

TC Kester Brown was a pioneer of paediatric anaesthesia in Australia and all over the world: he was and remains an inspiring person for all those who met him. He passed away a few months ago and an obituary written by Suellen Walker and Francis Veyckemans was published on the website of ESPA. The core message of it was:

“he was an example of a kind, scientifically curious man with sparkling eyes and a contagious smile. He made us feel part of a family, the one that cares for children under anaesthesia”.

2. Executive Board meetings

The ExBo met in Prague in March 2019 and the 18th October 2019 in Rotterdam. Moreover, teleconferences were monthly organized with the support of Guarant. These regular exchanges made it possible to share useful information and to take, when appropriate, important decisions. Last, Newsletters were regularly published and were read by more than 40% of the members. Following the proposal of Laszlo Vutskits, the ExBo decided to modify the mission statement of ESPA as follows.

New version: The purpose of ESPA is to promote education and research amongst practitioners of paediatric anaesthesia in Europe in order to provide safe and high-quality perioperative care and pain management in children.

Another important decision taken was to go back to paper posters that will be exposed during one day to give better exposure of the abstracts and to increase the opportunity for discussion at poster site between the presenter and the delegates.

The representatives of the Primex® company came to the ExBo meeting of October 18th to present their proposal for a financial and logistic support for education via the media (a format similar to “TedTalks” was discussed).

3. Membership

Following the proposal of Ehrenfried Schindler, it was decided in 2018 to create the associate membership of ESPA. The main principle is to enable the members of paediatric or national associations or societies members of the ACORNS to register to ESPA via their national group for a reduced fee while getting the same rights as normal active members. As this decision could have financial consequences for the ESPA, it was also decided to try this proposal for 2 years period starting in 2019. Scandinavia, Serbia, Estonia, France and The Netherlands proposed the associate membership to their members.

On September 5th 2019, there were 759 members of ESPA (vs 570 in 2018):

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
| active: | 209 + 83 reduced | 2018: 359 |
| associate (dual): | 322 | 133 |
| trainees: | 65 | 33 |
| affiliate: | 42 | 38 |
| Honorary members: | 8 | 7 |

4. Elections in 2020 and update of statutes

Elections of part of the ExBo will be organized in 2020. The ExBo proposes important changes in the election process that will be announced in the next few months by email and submitted to your e-vote.

Up to now, the active members of the ESPA were invited to vote for the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and other Exbo members. The ExBo will propose that the members shall from now on vote for the whole ExBo, and that the elected members determine among them who will do what. In addition, the ExBo will also think about the maximum number of times a member of the ExBo is allowed to hold a position in it: up to now, it is 2 x 2 years. Finally, the ExBo will perform the review of the statutes to be done every 10 years as foreseen in the statutes. A Newsletter and an invitation to vote electronically will be sent to all active and associate members during the forthcoming winter.

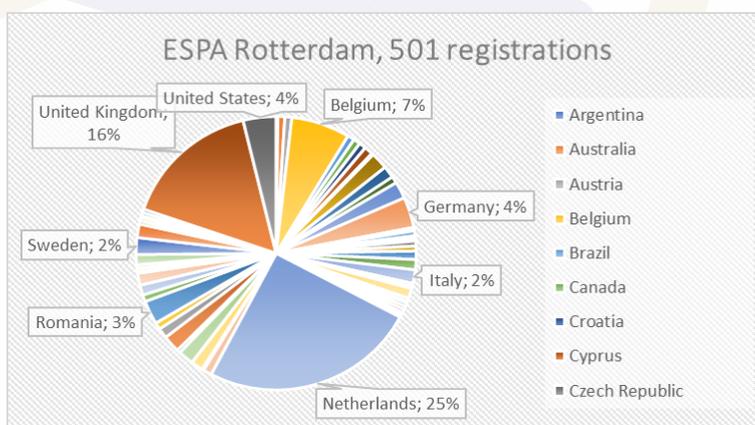
5. Report of ACORNS meeting of September 19th 2019: Dr Peter Frykholm

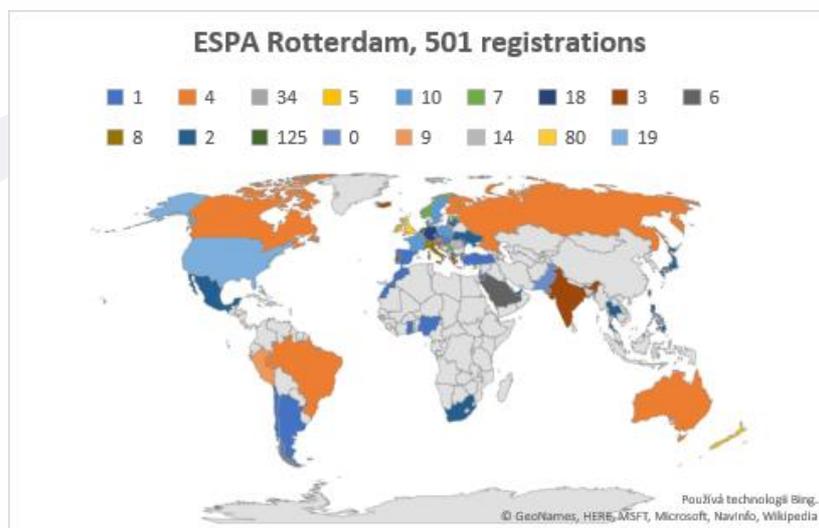
The meeting was very well attended as only a few members were missing. Some representatives shared their difficulties obtaining the permission to obtain associate membership to the ESPA via their National Societies. It seems that many Societies are afraid to recognize a paediatric anaesthesia group in their respective country. The President of the ESPA encouraged these members to contact the ExBo of the ESPA to help solve any misunderstanding by contacting the President of the Societies concerned.

This was followed by an open discussion on the creation of registries in ESPA in order to share experience and to get big numbers usable for quality improvement issues. The possible topics were: anaesthesia for oesophageal atresia and duration of preoperative fasting times (as already started in Germany, Swiss and Sweden). This will be discussed by mail during the next weeks.

6. Congress in Rotterdam

The attendance to the Congress in Rotterdam was excellent: 504 participants from 63 countries, despite the fact that many German and Dutch colleagues were unable to attend due to the unfortunate of the National Congress of the German and French national societies of anesthesia and Intensive Care.





The pre-congress workshops at Sophia's Children Hospital were very successful and attended by many international participants. The experience of using paper posters was very positive and will be continued with in Porto. Dr Jurgen de Graaff and all the Local Organizing Committee have to be congratulated for the excellent organization of this Congress and for choosing a nice and easily accessible venue. Dr Anneke Meursing was offered an Honorary Membership to ESPA during the opening ceremony.

7. Future Congresses

A Focus Meeting on Perioperative management of Mother & Child is organized with the ESA in Rome on the 15th and 16th October 2019. A common meeting with the APAGBI will be organized in London from May 13th to 15th 2020. The next ESPA Congress will be organized in Porto from October 22th to 24th 2020. No venue has been decided yet for 2021 but we try to organize a common Congress with ESPNIC in 2022.

8. Report of the Pain Committee

The Chairperson of the Pain, Committee is Dr Maria Vittinghoff. Following the publication of the first "Pain ladder" publication, she called in 2018 for new members for this working group. The members of the Pain Committee are: Maria Vittinghoff, Valeria Mossetti, Marzena Zielińska, Martin Hölzle, Francesca Opitz, Belen de Jose Maria, Dusica Simic, Vesna Colivic, Diana Butkovic, Stefan Heschl, Per-Arne Lönnqvist and Neil Morton. They decided to focus their work on the following issues:

- Hypospadias repair
- Cleft lip and palate repair
- Thoracotomy for non-cardiac surgery
- Nissen fundoplication (open/endoscopic)
- Correction of congenital hip dislocation.

Each subgroup of the Committee is currently finalizing the writing of its recommendations. Their publication is foreseen in 2020.

9. Education

The four E-learning modules set up by the Scandinavian Societies of Anaesthesia (T Lauristen and M Johansen) are freely accessible on the euroespa website for one year thanks to the help of E Schaffrath. A common agreement was found with the APAGBI to fund the creation of new modules but none has been set up so far. New projects on education in paediatric anaesthesia are in discussion.

10. Rotterdam Charity run

A Charity run was organized on Friday 20th at 7.30. More than 50 people participated and 530 euros were collected. The ESPA doubled the benefit and a cheque of 1060 Euro was given by Lonneke Staels and Jurgen de Graaff during the closing ceremony to the representative of the Stichting Harapan Paya association, Indonesia.

11. Some achievements

1. The statement on pre-anaesthetic fasting time for clear fluids of the APAGBI supported by ESPA (Pediatr Anesth 2018; 28:) was endorsed by the ESA (Eur J Anaesthesiol 2019; 36: 173-4) and also by the SPANZA (PediatrAnesth 2019; 29; and the Canadian Soc (Canad J Anesth 2019;)
2. The working group on sedation lead by Marzena Zielińska published the consensus statement on sedation by anaesthesiologist in Pediatric Anesthesia 2019, 29: 283-90. „ Safe pediatric procedural sedation and analgesia by anesthesiologists for elective procedures: a clinical practice statement from the ESPA. „ Zielinska M, Bartkowska-Sniatkowska A, Becke K, Höhne C, Najafi N, Schaffrath E, Simic D, Vittinghoff M, Veyckemans F, Morton N. Many thanks to her and all the group for this hard work.
3. The ESPA endorsed and promoted the 1st Congress on Pediatric Procedural Sedation (PROSA 2018) in Maastricht (The Netherlands), in November 28-30th, 2018.
4. The ESPA endorsed and promoted the Third Paediatric Resuscitation & Emergency Medicine (PREM) Congress, in Ghent (Belgium), in May 23-24th 2019. Dr. Jurgen de Graaff participated as an invited ESPA speaker at the ESPNIC2019 Congress in Salzburg in June 2019.
5. Dr Nicola Disma and Nada Sabourdin participated as invited ESPA speakers at EAPS2018 in Paris in October 2018. Dr. Jurgen de Graaff representing ESPA in the scientific committee of EAPS 2020 in Barcelona.

12. European Course of Paediatric Anaesthesia

The 2nd « Out of APRICOT » European Course of Paediatric Anaesthesia was organized in Vienna, immediately before the 2019 ESA Congress. There were four 4 PBLD sessions with theoretical lectures by ESPA members. There were 95 participants. It was very successful and the program for Barcelona 2020 is already finalized.

13. Work in progress

1. Thanks to the input of Nicola Disma and Torsten Lauritsen, and to the support of Professor Stefan De Hert, President of ESA, an ad hoc Task Force with members of ESA, ESPA and the National Anaesthesiologists Societies Committee of ESA (NASC) has been created to define the training requirements in paediatric anaesthesia in the European countries.

2. Following a meeting organized in Vienna during the ESA Congress, an International Task Force with members of ESPA, ESA, SPA and ESPA has been created to propose international guidelines on Pre-anaesthetic fasting in children. This group works under the direction of Peter Frykholm and aims at producing a text by the end of 2020.

14. **Presentation of Eva Cekalova**

Mrs Nela Hunsonka left the Guarant group a few weeks ago. After an interim period covered with great professionalism by Mr Ivo Miska, Mrs Eva Cekalova was appointed and started very successfully just before the Congress. Mrs Alena Krucayova will help us organize the Congress in Porto because Mrs Lucie Prichystolova will be very busy preparing the World Congress organized in Prague in September 2020.

15. **Final points**

The President finishes by forwarding the wish of all the members of the Executive Board of the ESPA that all members of the Society express their wishes and opinions about the Congress, the website and the Society itself. The Society also needs the input of young and enthusiastic colleagues to participate in committees and working groups.

16. **The new President**

Francis Veyckemans will leave his position of President and transfer the President's cap to Laszlo Vutskits at the end of the closing ceremony.

Next General Assembly: October 23 2020 in Porto.

Francis Veyckemans
September 2019