

### President report September 2023 – December 2024:

As ESPA has changed its statutes in September 2023, we have finished the longest financial year in ESPA history, prolonged to 18 months and finished by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. Along with this comes the obligation to hold a voting general assembly to discharge the board from their work over the past financial year within 3 months after ending the financial year. Therefore, the board has decided to hold an online general assembly on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 via Zoom with an integrated voting.

#### Annual congress:

The annual congress 2023 at the Cubex Center in Prague, Czech Republic from September 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2023 was successful with nearly 500 attendees from over 50 countries. It has been a conference with a large variety of lectures, over 100 abstracts for oral and poster presentations, interactive workshops, and problem-based learning sessions. We are thankful for the support from our colleagues from the Czech society of anaesthesiology who organised and held the well-attended ultrasound workshops.

30 attendees participated in our charity morning run of 6 km. The funded money will serve to enable young colleagues to apply for a grant to attend our next conference in Athens.

Our annual congress 2024 took place at the Megaron Congress center in Athens, Greece from September 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2024. Again, nearly 500 attendees from over 50 countries attended our congress. It has been a conference with a large variety of lectures, over 110 abstracts for oral and poster presentations, interactive workshops, and problem-based learning sessions. We are grateful for the support from our colleagues from the Hellenic Society of Anaesthesiology who not only helped us a lot to organize the well-attended ultrasound workshops. In addition, they underlined the importance of our congress by reducing the surgical program in greek pediatric hospitals to enable 35 national colleagues to attend the conference!

The SafeTots Initiative participated in co-organizing two sessions and the prospect of future even closer collaboration with ESPA. We are looking forward to future collaboration with this important initiative helping to achieve the same – high quality paediatric anaesthesia care for every child!

Our participants appreciate the networking character of these events, one important component of our success.

The charity morning hike of 6 km all the way up to Lycabettus Hill during sunrise was a real success with more than 50 attendees! The funded money will serve to enable young colleagues to apply for a grant to attend our next conference in Berlin.

Our congresses have been organized by our organizing team around Lucie and Jakub together with their team for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year – and we are happy to continue this collaboration in future events.

Our next conference will be held in Berlin from October 2nd until 4th 2025 and we, again, will gather leading experts, practitioners and partners to explore the latest advancements in paediatric anaesthesiology. 15 years after the transition from FEAPA to ESPA in 2010 and its constitutional congress in Berlin, we return to in this city of vibrant history and dynamic culture.

## Webinars

In June 2024 ESPA continued the successful cooperation with APAGBI by organizing a joint webinar about ventilation strategies at the interface of NICU and OR.

The ESPA webinar in November about Neuromuscular Monitoring and Reversal was very well attended as well and gave an excellent summary of recent developments in research and clinical practice.

In 2025 ESPA will organize three webinars. One additional educational online webinar will be held in collaboration with ESAIC by end of 2025, talking about regional anaesthesia techniques in paediatric anaesthesia.

As usual our webinars have been and will in future be accessible for everyone for free after online registration. This fulfils one of the major goals of ESPA – bringing knowledge for high quality paediatric anaesthesia and up-to-date research results to every anaesthetist providing anaesthesia to children.

## Collaborations

By end of January 2024 ESPA has signed a memorandum of understanding with ESAIC which is an important milestone to the future of our society! We have concluded a close collaboration on 5 major items to work over the coming years until 2026:

- One educational event about paediatric anaesthesia
- Collaboration on Guidelines
- Active Cooperation of the ESAIC and ESPA Chairs of Research Committees to Set up a perioperative paediatric anaesthesia consortium
- Defining entrusted professional activities (EPA) in Paediatric Anaesthesia
- Inclusion of centers of excellence in Paediatric Anaesthesia in the Exchange Program organized by ESAIC

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On May 27, 2024, during the ESAIC Congress 2024 in Munich, ESPA officially endorsed the Glasgow Declaration on Sustainability in Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care. The ESAIC Glasgow Declaration on Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care signed at Euroanaesthesia 2024, focuses on sustainable practices in medication use, energy consumption, and waste management. By fostering a culture of sustainability, the aim is to empower healthcare professionals to adopt eco-friendly practices, contributing to a healthier planet for all. This endorsement represents our unwavering commitment to a greener future.

ESPA organized ESPA dedicated sessions during past ESAIC congresses and will continue to do so in future conferences.

The topic of paediatric regional anaesthesia has become very important in achieving high quality paediatric anaesthesia and thus ESPA decided to cooperate with RA-UK, the UK-Division of the European Society of Regional Anaesthesia (ESRA), and the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (APAGBI). Within RA-UK you can now find the Paediatric Ultrasound-Guided Regional Anaesthesia section of the RA-UK Website. This resource as result of this collaboration provides up-to-date guidance on the performance of ultrasound-guided regional anaesthesia in children, initiated mainly by Babette Clinck, Nadia Najafi, Annabel Pearson and Catalina Stendall. The content is available free of charge for everyone on the website [www.ra-uk.org](http://www.ra-uk.org). The paediatric section of the website contains a wealth of information on how to perform the 7 Plan A paediatric blocks: axillary block, femoral block, popliteal block, rectus sheath block, lateral quadratus lumborum block, penile block and caudal block. In near future this collaboration will be expand to a wider collaboration, other blocs and important tools for daily OR work.

After a complete crash-down of our video-archive of ESPA conferences since 2012 we are happy to have recovered at least the original footages of the congresses from 2018 on – thanks to the tremendous effort of our technical staff. In consequence ESPA has decided to rebuild our complete digital infrastructure and to keep our content on our own servers instead of using external services with resulting dependency. The recordings of the main lectures are available for members in our video archive: <https://www.euroespa.com/members-zone>.

ESPA continues providing full access to all our members to the journal Pediatric Anesthesia as well as to EJA via the associate membership of ESAIC.

## Publications

With the December Issue of Anaesthesia Critical Care & Pain Medicine the Second part of the ESPA pain ladder initiative has been published. The group around Maria Vittinghoff and Per-Arne Lönnqvist have put a lot of effort in this second edition of one of the most downloaded documents of ESPAs homepage and we are all happy about and

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we congratulate the authors on achieving this publication.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352556824000857>

### **ESPA membership fees 2025**

We are proud to be able to not have to increase our membership fee in 2025. In 2024 we have had 743 active members. One of the key points to this increase is the associate membership, offered to numerous national societies since 2018. ESPA decided to continue this associate membership and to extend it in 2024.

I am proud to serve this fabulous society and help spreading knowledge about high quality paediatric anaesthesia in Europe.



Michael Brackhahn, ESPA President.

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