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December 2025 NEWSLETTER

The European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology

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PRESIDENT'S WORD

December 22, 2025

Dear Members and Friends of ESPA,

The year 2025 is coming to an end—a wonderful opportunity to look back together on our achievements and milestones that we, as the European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology (ESPA), have reached.

Our Highlights of 2025:

- **New Guideline:** A team led by Arash Afshari and Francis Veyckemans, together with ESPA and ESAIC, has launched a groundbreaking guideline on neuromuscular monitoring in children and the guideline will be published soon. This sets a European standard for safety and quality in pediatric anesthesia.
- **Learning Path Pediatrics:** In close collaboration with ESAIC, a comprehensive learning path for pediatric anesthesia was developed, making knowledge and practice accessible to young anesthetists and for deepening existing knowledge across Europe. This can be booked via the ESAIC website.

- **Annual Congress in Berlin:** Our annual congress was a great success—with 584 participants from 53 countries. The exchange and networking were inspiring and demonstrate the international appeal of our society.
- **Fellowship Framework:** The working group for developing a framework for a Europe-wide fellowship in pediatric anesthesia, initiated and driven by Ehrenfried Schindler, has finished its work and waits for publication. This creates new perspectives for further education and specialization.
- **Knowledge Platform Regional Anesthesia:** Together with RA-UK and in close cooperation with APAGBI, CPAS, and SPANZA, an innovative knowledge platform for regional anesthesia in children is being created—a milestone for international collaboration and knowledge transfer.
- **International Cooperation IAPA:** The international cooperation IAPA, which began in 2012 and was revived in 2018, is being brought back to life. ESPA, SPA, APAGBI, CPAS, SPANZA, ASPA, and many other pediatric anesthesia societies worldwide will hold a joint congress in 2028 - a sign of global collaboration and shared goals.

Thanks and Outlook:

All these successes would not have been possible without your commitment, expertise, and passion for pediatric anesthesia. On behalf of the entire board, I sincerely thank you for your dedication and support.

Let us look forward to the new year together with confidence and anticipation—with new projects, exciting developments, and a firm commitment to further improving the care of children across Europe.

I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, relaxing holidays, and a good start to 2026

With warm regards,

Michael Brackhahn
ESPA President

ESPA CONGRESS 2026

We are pleased to share an update on the 16th European Congress on Paediatric Anaesthesiology - it will take place from **24 to 26** September 2026 and will be hosted at the **Meliá Avenida de América in Madrid**.

The venue is easily accessible and offers excellent facilities for both scientific sessions and networking. It provides an ideal setting for meaningful exchange, discussion, and collaboration among colleagues.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to Madrid for three days of inspiring science and engaging conversations. Further details on the programme, registration, and practical arrangements will be shared soon.

ESPA CONGRESS



ESPA MEMBERSHIP 2026 RENEWAL

As we look ahead to 2026, we are pleased to confirm that **ESPA membership fees will remain unchanged for the coming year.**

This is an excellent opportunity to join **ESPA** or renew your membership and continue to benefit from everything the Society offers. Membership includes, among other advantages:

- Access to the **Pediatric Anesthesia Journal**
- Reduced registration fees for the **ESPA Congress 2026**
- Full access to the **ESPA Video Archive**, and more

To join or renew, please visit the [ESPA Membership Platform](#) and secure your membership for 2026.

If you are part of an **ESPA Joint Membership**, please contact your national society. Your renewal will be managed by your national society in coordination with the **ESPA Secretariat**, and you will be informed once your membership has been renewed.

We look forward to welcoming you as an **ESPA member** in 2026 and continuing our work together.

OTHER EVENTS

2026 Annual Meeting,
presented by IARS and SOCCA
May 1-3, 2026, Montreal
<https://meetings.iars.org/>



Euroanaesthesia 2026
June 6-8, 2026, Rotterdam
<https://euroanaesthesia.org/2026/>



38th Congress of the Scandinavian Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine (SSAI)
June 10-12, 2026, Reykjavík
<https://ssai2026.is/>



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