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September 2026 NEWSLETTER

The European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology

ISSUE #45



WELCOME WORD 2026

Connecting Paediatric Anaesthesiologists

Dear colleagues,
dear members of the European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology (ESPA),

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the first ESPA newsletter of the year. A new year always brings new energy and fresh perspectives—and 2026 offers many developments that make us proud and inspire us to move forward together as a strong European community.

With best regards,

Michael Brackhahn
ESPA President

ESPA LEADERSHIP CHANGES AND BOARD ELECTIONS

During the first meeting of our newly assembled Executive Board, **Nicola Groes Clausen** was elected as the new President of ESPA. I warmly congratulate her on this election and look forward to supporting her in an advisory role as *Past President* over the next two years. Nicola's leadership, dedication, and vision will continue to shape the future of our society.

We are equally pleased to welcome **Ignacio Malagon** as our new Treasurer and **Nadia Najafi** as the Honorary Secretary. We greatly appreciate their willingness to take on these responsibilities and are excited about the new energy they bring to the Board.

At the end of the business year, we also bid farewell to two highly valued colleagues who stepped down as planned:

Jürgen de Graaff, completing his term as Past President, and **Peter Frykholm**, who served ESPA for many years with extraordinary commitment as Treasurer.

Their contributions have been instrumental to the growth and development of our society, and we thank them most sincerely for their dedication.

Furthermore, **Jacob Karlsson** and **Ivana Budic** stepped down from their roles on the Executive Board at their own request. We extend our warm thanks to both for their engaged work and the collegial spirit they brought to our shared efforts.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome our newly elected Board members: **Marieke Voet, Alexander Buzath, Nicola Disma and Robert Frithiof.**

We are excited to work with you and look forward to the fresh perspectives and expertise you will bring.

STRATEGIC DECISION: CONGRESS PLANNING THROUGH 2028

As one of its first decisions, the new Executive Board agreed to continue planning and delivering the ESPA Congresses through **2028** in collaboration with our long-standing and trusted partner **Guarant**. We deeply value this reliable partnership and look forward to continuing our successful cooperation in the years ahead.

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our **Annual General Assembly** will take place by the end of May and will once again be held **virtually**, as last year.

The exact date will be announced **14 days in advance**, and all required documents for the annual financial report will be made available online in good time.

ESPA WEBINAR IN APRIL IN - COOPERATION WITH APAGBI

We are also excited to announce our **first webinar of the year**, which will take place on April 15, 2026 in cooperation with the **Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (APAGBI)**.

More information will follow shortly.

ESPA CONGRESS 2026 - MADRID

Preparations for our upcoming **ESPA Congress**, taking place **24–26 September 2026 in Madrid**, are progressing at full speed.

The **registration opens on Friday, 27 March 2026**.

We warmly encourage all members to register early – Madrid promises an inspiring meeting full of exchange, new insights, and vibrant European collaboration.

You can also find further details, including the registration link, at our ESPA Congress

website at <https://www.espacongress.com/>.

We will continuously inform you on all the updates.

Other important dates:

1 April 2026	Abstract Submission opening
6 July 2026	Abstract Submission deadline
12 July 2026	Early Bird deadline
27 July 2026	Notification about poster presentation
20 September 2026	Late Registration deadline



RECOMMENDED SURVEYS

The European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology (ESPA) is committed to supporting initiatives that enhance patient safety and the quality of care in pediatric anesthesia. As part of this mission, ESPA facilitates the dissemination of information on multicenter studies and international surveys by working closely with national societies. Today, we are pleased to announce two upcoming surveys and encourage all colleagues to take a closer look and actively participate in data collection efforts. Your contribution is essential in advancing knowledge and improving clinical practice across our field.

ESPA also warmly invites future researchers to engage with our society regarding planned studies. We are happy to support the promotion and coordination of projects that align with our shared goal of improving outcomes for children undergoing anesthesia.

DantrolenE MONitoring in anesthesia and intensive care (DEMON-Study)

Dear Colleagues,

Malignant hyperthermia (MH) remains one of the most severe complications in anesthesia and intensive care medicine, as it is almost uniformly fatal if not recognized and treated promptly and adequately. Clinical MH crises primarily affect children (Klingler et al., 2014). In accordance with the Helsinki Declaration on Patient Safety in Anesthesiology, the management of MH must strictly follow the recommendations of the professional societies. In addition to basic emergency measures, dantrolene is the only life-saving therapeutic agent available (Riazi et al., 2014).

To gain insight into anesthesiologists' personal experiences with MH as well as the current stocking status of dantrolene, we kindly ask you to participate in this online survey, supported by the Working Group on Pediatric Anesthesia and the Working Group on Neuroanesthesia of the German Society of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine (DGAI). This survey is also supported by additional international anesthesiology societies.

We would like to expressly encourage not only senior anesthesiologists but also residents and board-certified specialists to participate. The authors assure you of complete anonymity; no data will be collected that could in any way allow conclusions to be drawn regarding the identity of participants or their institutions.

We sincerely thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey.

Lead Coordinators:

Prof. Dr. Werner Klingler (Head, Malignant Hyperthermia Hotline Germany)

PD Dr. Sebastian Hafner (Chief of Anesthesia, Sana Clinic, Biberach District)

Additional Contributors:

Prof. Dr. Thomas Engelhard (Head of Pediatric Anesthesia, McGill University, Montreal, Canada)

Katharina Hapke (University of Ulm)

PD Dr. Sebastian Heiderich (Consultant, Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine, Hanover Medical School)

Prof. Dr. Peter Kienbaum (Senior Consultant, Anesthesiology, University of Düsseldorf)

Prof. Dr. Ernst Pfenninger (Former Head of Disaster Management, University of Ulm)

PD Dr. Jörg Thomas (Senior Consultant, Pediatric Anesthesia, Children's Hospital Zurich, Switzerland)

Please click the link or use the QR code to complete the survey: [DEMON-Study](#)



International e-survey on arterial cannulation in children

Arterial cannulation in children is frequent but can result in serious complications. Nonetheless, there are no universally accepted guidelines for arterial line placement in children, leading to diverse practices among clinicians and institutions. A decade ago, we conducted a similar survey among members of the Canadian Pediatric Anesthesia Society, the European Society of Pediatric Anesthesia, the Association of Paediatric Anaesthesia of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Società di Anestesia e Rianimazione Neonatale e Pediatrica Italiana (Tosetti S et al., *Paediatr Anaesth.* 2018 Jun;28(6):564-565).

With increasing evidence on the benefits and risks of arterial cannulation and the growing use of ultrasound, we intend to repeat this survey to assess whether practices have changed. This survey could provide valuable insights into current practices, potentially helping to develop standardized protocols.

Participation is voluntary and anonymous, safeguarding privacy and confidentiality. We will only collect IP addresses; however, participants wishing to stay in touch or ask questions may provide their email addresses. Any data published will be strictly anonymous. Ideally, we would like to send 3 reminders to participants, each 3 weeks apart.

Should you agree to distribute this survey, I would be grateful if you could provide the number of ESPA members registered as anesthesiologists or pediatric anesthesiologists.

The Department of Anesthesia at the Montreal Children's Hospital will fund the data collection and analysis. All data will be securely stored and accessible solely to the principal investigators.

This study has been approved by the IRB of the McGill University Health Center.

Please click the link or use the QR code to complete the survey: <https://redcap.link/343rdvnp>



CLOSING REMARKS

All these developments reflect the strength, dynamism, and dedication of our ESPA community.

Thank you for your continued trust, your support, and your commitment to paediatric anaesthesia across Europe.

With kind regards,

Michael Brackhahn, Past President.

Invitation to join ESPA as the Advisory Committee of Representatives of National Societies (ACORN)

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

We are progressing in the scientific and organizational preparation of the annual meeting of ESPA in the captivating city of Madrid.

ACORNS stands for Advisory Committee of Representatives of National Societies and consists of a group of paediatric anaesthetists who would like to represent their countries and/or National Societies within the ESPA platform. This group aims to exchange communication and information about education, research initiatives, national activities, guidelines, etc, between ESPA and National (Paediatric) Societies. The goal is to strengthen the connection and interaction between both parties at the European as well as the national level.

Through this Newsletter, we cordially would like to invite you and encourage you to join us for this initiative.

May we kindly request that you provide us with your contact email address if you are interested in this position?

We will have our **ACORN meeting on Thursday, 24 Sept 2026**. The agenda points will be shared with you, as well as the place of meeting, during the summer.

We are very excited to meet you in person and to welcome you to the ESPA congress and ACORN meeting in Madrid.

Nadia Najafi, Ivana Budic & Anne Laffargue

Also, on behalf of the entire ESPA ExBo members

ESPA MEMBERSHIP FEES 2026

We kindly remind you to renew your ESPA membership for 2026 to continue enjoying exclusive benefits, including:

- **Special Discount on the 2026 Congress** — Save on registration fees and join us for another outstanding event!
- **Enhanced Access to the Members' Zone** — including the *Pediatric Anesthesia Journal* and an extensive *Video Archive*.

To renew your membership and unlock these advantages, simply click here: [ESPA Membership Platform](#).

Thank you for being a valued member of ESPA. We look forward to sharing another year with you and sincerely appreciate your continued support.

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/>



SSAI 2026,

June 10-12, 2026, Reykjavik

<https://ssai2026.is/>



PROSA 2026,

September 10-11, 2026, Maastricht

<https://www.prosaconference.com/>

PROSA2026



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