

President's Report – ESPA 2025

Introduction

As the year 2025 draws to a close, it presents a valuable moment to reflect on the significant achievements and milestones of the European Society for Paediatric Anaesthesiology (ESPA). This year has been marked by remarkable progress across multiple areas, thanks to the collective dedication and expertise of our members and partners.

Highlights of 2025

Launch of New Guideline on Neuromuscular Monitoring

A major accomplishment this year was the development and forthcoming publication of a groundbreaking guideline on neuromuscular monitoring in children. Led by Arash Afshari and Francis Veyckemans, and created in collaboration with ESPA and ESAIC, this guideline establishes a new European standard for safety and quality in pediatric anesthesia.

Development of the Learning Path Pediatrics

In partnership with ESAIC, ESPA contributed to the creation of a comprehensive learning path for pediatric anesthesia. This initiative makes both foundational and advanced knowledge in pediatric anesthesia accessible to young anesthetists throughout Europe. The learning path can be booked directly via the ESAIC website, supporting ongoing education and professional development across the continent.

Annual Congress in Berlin

The annual ESPA congress held in Berlin was a resounding success, attracting 584 participants from 53 countries. The event fostered vibrant exchange and networking among attendees, underscoring the international reach and appeal of our society.

Completion of the Fellowship Framework

Significant progress was made in education through the completion of a framework for a Europe-wide fellowship in pediatric anesthesia. This project, initiated and led by Ehrenfried Schindler, has now concluded and awaits publication. The framework will open new avenues for further education and specialization within our field.

Creation of the Knowledge Platform for Regional Anesthesia

In close collaboration with RA-UK, APAGBI, CPAS, and SPANZA, ESPA has been instrumental in developing an innovative knowledge platform dedicated to regional

anesthesia in children. This milestone represents a significant advancement in international cooperation and the sharing of best practices in pediatric regional anesthesia.

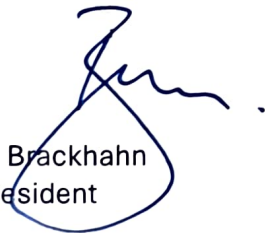
Revival of International Cooperation: IAPA

The international cooperation initiative, IAPA, which was established in 2012 and renewed in 2018, is once again being revitalized. ESPA, in partnership with SPA, APAGBI, CPAS, SPANZA, ASPA, and various other pediatric anesthesia societies worldwide, will convene a joint congress in 2028. This event will stand as a testament to global collaboration and the pursuit of common goals in pediatric anesthesia.

Gratitude and Outlook

These achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment, expertise, and enthusiasm of our members and partners. I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone for their dedication and support throughout the year. 2026 marks also the end of my presidency and I take this occasion to express my deep gratitude for having been enabled to serve our society over these past years. In March 2026 the next president will be assigned and announced right after the meeting on March 21st 2026.

Looking ahead, let us embrace the new year with optimism and anticipation. Together, we will embark on new projects, witness exciting developments, and continue our steadfast commitment to enhancing the care of children across Europe.



Michael Brackhahn
ESPA President