



#### **Trustees**

Chairman: Paul Rosen,  
John Bateson, Roberto Bellucci, José Güell, Till Staffeldt

#### **Executive**

President: Oliver Findl, President elect: Filomena Ribeiro, Secretary: Burkhard Dick, Treasurer: Thomas Kohnen

## **Notice to Members**

# **Annual General Meeting of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons**

**Sunday 10 September 2023 at 10:30 – 11:00 CEST  
Room A3 at the Messe Wien Exhibition & Congress Center, Vienna**

<b>Chairman: Paul Rosen, Chairman of the Trustees</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome by Chairman of the Trustees</b>	<b>Paul Rosen</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the last AGM (attached)</b>	<b>Paul Rosen</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>President's Report (attached) for questions</b>	<b>Oliver Findl</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Secretary's Report (attached) for questions</b>	<b>Burkhard Dick</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report (attached) for questions</b>	<b>Thomas Kohnen</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Adoption of updated byelaws (attached)</b>	<b>Paul Rosen</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Any other Business and date of next meeting</b>	<b>Paul Rosen</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Close of meeting</b>	

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the ESCRS

Date: Saturday 17 September 2022

Venue: MiCo, Milan, Italy

<b>1</b>	<b>PRESENT:</b> <b>Chair of the Trustees: Paul Rosen</b> John Bateson (Trustee) Roberto Bellucci (Trustee) Oliver Findl (President) José Güell (Trustee) Thomas Kohnen (Treasurer) Rudy Nuijts (Past President) Filomena Ribeiro (Secretary) Till Staffeldt (Trustee)  Gilly Burgess (Finance Director) Tom Ogilvie-Graham (Managing Director)	<b>MCI:</b> Vanessa McCourt
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> the minutes of the 2021 AGM were approved by all members present and there were no comments.	
<b>3</b>	<p>The Chairman of the Trustees, Paul Rosen welcomed members to the AGM; he introduced Oliver Findl as President, Filomena Ribeiro (Secretary) and Thomas Kohnen (Treasurer). He introduced the Trustees, Roberto Bellucci, José Güell and John Bateson and Till Staffeldt as non-medical Trustees.</p> <p>Paul Rosen noted that the AGM reports consisting of President, Secretary and Treasurer Reports were circulated to members in advance of the meeting, were therefore assumed read. Considering this the reports themselves will not be read out, instead questions will just be taken from members present. Paul Rosen invited Oliver Findl to comment before taking questions.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Presidents Report</b> Oliver Findl noted that the iNovation Day went very well and the feedback was very good. There had also been some initial feedback on sessions with Brad Fundingsland to enable them to understand what could be done better for next year's congress. He welcomed questions on last year's congress and on the report. There were no questions.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Secretary's Report</b> Filomena Ribeiro reminded members that the Secretary's report had been circulated to members in advance and welcomed any questions from those present. There were no questions.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Treasurers Report</b> Thomas Kohnen gave a brief summary on the Treasurer's report noting that there were a few financial issues over the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic however the finances now look back on track. He noted the Annual Congress is the main source of income for the society and the registrations and sponsorship has helped the finances return to the normal levels. Oliver Findl added that there were around 13,000 total delegates, including industry, with 8500 of those being healthcare providers, noting that these number had increased in comparison to Paris attendance. Thomas Kohnen noted that the full report had been previously circulated and welcomed any questions from those members present. There were no questions.	
<b>6</b>	Paul Rosen thanked the Executive and directors on behalf of the Trustees for their hard work and dedication. He also thanked the rest of the Trustees for their support. Oliver Findl thanked the support of the Council and the Trustees.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> The next AGM will be held in September 2023 in Vienna, Austria.	

## TRUSTEES' REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2023

The Trustees' report will be verbal at the AGM.

**Paul Rosen**

**ESCRS Chairman of the Trustees**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT AT AGM, VIENNA CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 2023

I have served the ESCRS in one capacity or another for many years and prior to taking up the role as President, I served as the Secretary. It has always been a pleasure to work with ESCRS and in particular with the dedicated members of the Executive, Trustees, Council, and Committee members.

### Congresses & events

Our 2022 Annual Congress was held in September in Milan. It is now the biggest ophthalmic conference in the world in terms of doctors attending. The total attendance included 7,175 doctors, 332 healthcare professionals, 697 nurses/technicians, and 4,803 industry representatives – from 129 countries in total - along with 867 doctors and healthcare professionals attending virtually. In addition to 5 main symposia, there were 104 wetlabs, 102 instructional courses, 4 research symposia, 378 free papers and 401 presented papers. Industry was very well represented with 219 exhibitors and 25 symposia.

Also, the first iNovation Day was held last year. The ESCRS iNovation<sup>®</sup> Day brought together clinical and business experts from across Europe and other parts of the world. Sessions focused on the most urgent clinical needs and barriers to success in anterior segment care and how the latest technology innovations may address those barriers and clinical needs within the next 5-10 years. Building on the considerable success of our first event, the 2<sup>nd</sup> iNovation Day is planned to be held on 8 September in Vienna.

The 27<sup>th</sup> ESCRS Winter meeting was held in Vilamoura from 10-12 March. 1,311 delegates attended the congress from 69 different countries: 86% being from Europe. The program was spread over 2,5 days and provided a variety of sessions such as didactic & basic courses, wetlabs, free papers and e-posters.

ESCRS also continues to participate in our affiliated society congresses. In 2022, 14 ESCRS sessions were organized throughout related meetings worldwide. And for 2023, 17 are planned.

### Annual report to members 2022 & new initiatives

ESCRS achievements and initiatives in membership, education, research, charity, and sustainability are among the many topics covered in the Society's 2022 annual report, which is available on [www.es CRS.org](http://www.es CRS.org). The 38-page report incorporates videos from ESCRS President Oliver Findl and President-elect Filomena Ribeiro as well as Education Committee Chair Rudy Nuijts and Research Committee Chair Burkhard Dick. The report presents data on a wide range of topics, including: • membership by country and type (national society, regular membership, and trainee); • titles and recipients of research awards; • attendance at the 2022 Annual Congress and Winter Meeting; and • donations to charitable projects, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and Ukraine. It also highlights the many new initiatives ESCRS developed, launched, and/ or refined in 2022, such as:

- The [ESCRS IOL calculator](#) is a web application for IOL power calculations that incorporates seven modern formulas simultaneously through real-time integration with partner tools (by web scraping or API integration).
- [Masterclasses](#): The Society laid the foundation for two 16-hour educational masterclasses in MIGS and complex cataract surgery in 2022. (See "ESCRS Update" on page 9 for the latest on this initiative.)

- ESCRS Mission Zero strives to reduce the carbon footprint of the ESCRS congresses, aiming to be carbon neutral during the 2023 Annual Congress in Vienna. At the 2022 Annual Congress in Milan, only 3.4% of waste was sent to landfills, 31% incinerated, and 64% recycled or reused. Leftover food was donated to Banco Alimentare-Siticibo, a charity in Lombardy working to encourage food security.
- Moving surgical simulator: Another new project that began to take shape in 2022 was the moving simulator initiative. ESCRS is providing a Surgical Cataract Simulator on loan to affiliated national societies that need better access to this equipment. The national society in that country will host the simulator to allow its membership time to complete a bespoke ESCRS curriculum. Through this project, ESCRS will intensify its role in providing hands-on skills training to hundreds of interested surgeons per country, which is of utmost importance to young ophthalmologists. The 2023 schedule for the simulator is as follows: • Romania: 6 June – 22 July • Ukraine: 2 August – 2 September • Austria: 7 September – 24 October. During its initial stay in Austria, the simulator will be at the ESCRS Annual Congress in Vienna. The simulator will then move to the Association of Austrian Ophthalmologists headquarters, which is also in Vienna.
- EyeSustain is a global coalition of eye societies and ophthalmologists to make ophthalmic care and surgery more sustainable, which was initiated in 2022 by ESCRS, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ASCRS), and the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO).
- Sustainable cataract packs. The SIDICS (Sustainability Index for Disposables in Cataract Surgery) Project is an ESCRS-led initiative aiming to create metrics to help cataract surgeons evaluate the overall sustainability of cataract packs (cat packs). The project kicked off with a workshop at the 2022 Annual Congress in Milan.
- Young Ophthalmologists for Sustainability (YOFS) was established in the summer of 2022, the YOFS are a team of ESCRS young ophthalmologists, each with the experience or motivation to make ophthalmology sustainable, from 10 different countries

The leadership of ESCRS continues to help our colleagues and their patients in Ukraine. Our thoughts are with our Ukrainian colleagues, their families, and their patients and ESCRS shall continue to do all that we can to support them. To date, we have purchased as well as co-ordinated the donation and delivery of over 2M Euros of surgical equipment and material, with the generous support of our industry partners and donations from sister societies. We have supplied 26 clinics or hospitals across Ukraine. In addition, we have again provided free Congress registration to Ukrainians, numerous travel bursaries and other support.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Congress of the ESCRS in Vienna will be a face-to-face event with the option to attend online. ESCRS 2023 will feature a wide range of new sessions and content for the upcoming Annual Congress, including an ESCRS Arena in the form of a boxing ring for very special sessions. Also new this congress are the Masterclasses in the fields of MIGS and Complex Cataract. There will be 50 exclusive student positions available on each Masterclass to conduct mentor guided didactic workshops, interactive live webinars, in-person case grand rounds and in-person wetlabs/drylabs. The goal is to improve practice patterns, clinical outcomes and significantly grow the number of patients treated in each field.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to the ESCRS 2023 Congress and hope that your stay in Vienna will be informative, educational, and enjoyable! I'd like to end by saying it is an honour to serve as your President. I am very proud to be the leader of this superb global community of cataract and refractive surgeons.

**Oliver Findl**  
**ESCRS President**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT AT AGM, VIENNA CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 2023

I am pleased to report that the ESCRS has had a very successful year since the 40th Annual Congress taking place in Milan last year. With the shared enthusiasm the Council, The Executive, the Trustees, our Managing Director and Finance Director as well as all committees and numerous members, have all pulled together to make this 41st Congress in Vienna, another great congress. ESCRS is committed to improving sustainability & prioritizing to improve the footprint at the ESCRS congress. Following the vision of our president Oliver Findl that for the upcoming congress we will have a congress with zero waste to landfills, zero net carbon emissions and inspire sustainability action from our event participants. ESCRS want to be a model and promoter of social responsibility and work collaboratively with all our partners. We have also managed to make many improvements, creating a stronger Society and better positioned to meet the needs of our members.

### **Council, Officers and Trustees**

Oliver Findl's term of office as President will conclude by the end of 2023 and Filomena Ribeiro will take over this position in January 2024. Her term of office will run until the end of 2025. Council elections are currently taking place and voting is open for all ESCRS full members up till 31 August. The newly elected Council members will be announced during the Annual Congress in Vienna.

### **Membership**

Membership of the ESCRS remains strong and the society currently has 6500 members, over 2200 of whom are trainees. There are 22 national societies, including new collaborations, which offer group membership. The participation and affiliation from the national societies are a huge asset to ESCRS, and I would like to acknowledge the value ESCRS places on our partnership with these organizations. We are actively looking at how we can enhance our support to Members and how we can encourage more clinicians to join us.

### **Congresses**

The 40th Congress of the ESCRS took place as a hybrid meeting, from 16–20 September 2022. Nearly 14,000 delegates attended the Congress, of which 867 joined online. The 27th ESCRS Winter meeting was held in Vilamoura from 10-12 March earlier this year. Both events were appreciated by our Industry partners and our delegates, and we give thanks for their continued support. The upcoming annual congress in Vienna is taking place from 8-12 September. Like last year, a key focus for the congress is sustainability with "Mission Zero" an ESCRS commitment and plan to integrating social and environmental sustainability into our society, events, and activities.

### **Publications**

The Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery (JCRS) is the official journal of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) and the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS). Published in a print journal monthly in its current form since 1996, the JCRS is a preeminent peer-reviewed monthly ophthalmology journal that publishes high-quality articles on all aspects of anterior segment surgery. The journal offers open-access publishing in addition to the print journal. The JCRS publishes Full-length Articles that report on completed clinical research, Laboratory Science research, Review/Update articles, short report Correspondence articles, and Letters to the Editors. The journal receives approximately 1,200 submissions each year and has an impact factor of 3.528. JCRS ranks #25 out of 61 in Ophthalmology and #54 out of 211 in Surgery.

*EuroTimes* continues to be published 10x/year in print; the content is also available online, through the ESCRS homepage, the eTimes weekly email blast, the EyeContact podcast, and posts on many social media platforms. Circulation in 2022 was around 33,000 copies/issue. *EuroTimes* has been undergoing a redesign to improve the reader experience.

## Research

Over the past year, the ESCRS Research Committee has put in place the ETCF trial, a pan-European clinical trial that will explore outcomes of DMEK in combination with cataract surgery. In addition, four new Pioneer Research Awards were put in place focusing on ocular surface grading (CAMERA), Clinical study on the functional and morphological course of patients with intraocular lens opacification (IOLxgcg), pre-operative treatment of blepharitis (ANTISEPSIS) and Development and Validation of a Novel Machine Learning-Based Intraocular Lens Power Formula for Cataract Surgery Combined with Endothelial Keratoplasty. At the same time, the committee has awarded six new Systematic Research Awards on a wide range of research topics, including retinal detachment after cataract or lens replacement surgery.

The MERoV Study (Monofocal Extended Range of Vision) and the CaMPoL Study (Cataract, age-related Macular degeneration and POLarization perception) were completed in the past year, while the PCME-SNP (PCME is associated to genetic alterations of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP)), MYOPRED Study (Influence of posterior Vitreous detachment on retinal detachment after lens surgery in myopic eyes), METACOR Study (Modelling the corneal Microbiome to improve identification of Pathogenic Microorganisms) and the EPICAT Study (Effectiveness of Periocular drug Injection in CATaract surgery) moved toward completion.

Finally, the first Digital Research Award call, through the Digital Research Special Interest Group took place in 2022, with two submissions selected. Details of the winning submissions will be announced at the annual meeting in Vienna.

## Registries

In 2022, the number of registries operated by the ESCRS grew to three with the addition of the European Registry of Childhood Cataract (EURECCA) – a registry focused on collecting paediatric cataract surgery outcomes. It joins EUREQUO (the European Registry of Quality Outcomes for Cataract and Refractive Surgery) and the European Cornea and Cell Transplantation Registry (ECCTR). The ESCRS Registries contain data on more than 4 million surgeries and represent one of the richest ophthalmology datasets in Europe. The Registries Steering Group continues to work to add additional data sources, with the Portugal Cataract Registry joining EUREQUO and preliminary discussions with a new German registry project. The Registries Steering Group has also created three task forces: an international task force, a PROMS task force, and an industry task force to support the future development of the registries focusing on best practices, patient-reported outcomes (PROMS) and how we can increase involvement of industry in these data aggregation projects.

## Education

In addition to the education offered at the annual meetings, the ESCRS continues to develop its educational resources for members and delegates. Use of ESCRS iLearn and ESCRS On Demand continues to grow. The iLearn Cornea portal was successfully re-accredited for another 2 years by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME). Students can claim one CME point per successful module completion. The portal covers corneal physiology, biomechanics, imaging, diseases and surgeries as well as keratoplasties. Other resources include ESCRS Podcast channel, EyeJC (ESCRS journal club), EuroTimes Eye Contact expert studio interviews, Video of the Month, Video Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, 'Techniques from the Experts' videos and Young Ophthalmologists' videos. Landmark journal articles and JCRS case studies are also available. All of these are accessible on the ESCRS Player and via the Education Portal on the ESCRS website.

- The ESCRS supports young ophthalmologists by awarding bursaries for trainees presenting a free paper or poster at the Annual Congress and Winter Meeting, and by annually awarding clinical Observerships. In 2023 ESCRS directly supported Ukrainian trainees with clinical bursaries, as well as offering free registration to the 2023 Annual Congress and free membership to all Ukrainian colleagues.

- The fourth EBO-ESCRS FEBOS-CR (Fellow of the European Board of Ophthalmology Subspecialist in Cataract and Refractive Surgery) exam will be held once again during the 2023 Annual Congress, after a few years cancellation due to the pandemic.
- One of the ambitions of the society for the past few years has been to develop its own guidelines. The ESCRS Guideline Development Groups are now close to completing both the Cataract and Refractive guidelines and we anticipate publication in late 2023/early 2024. A great deal of effort has gone into this initiative which was the brainchild of Rudy Nuijts and the Society is very grateful to everyone who participated.
- We are delighted that hybrid and personal academies and national society meetings are once again thriving to allow ESCRS committee members to educate and share knowledge with a wide global audience. ESCRS has taken part in 14 academies in 2022 with 17 taken place and/or still scheduled for 2023.

I should also like to mention that, on governance, a considerable amount of work by the Trustees, the Executive and the Council of Management has resulted in a long overdue update to our byelaws. In addition to improving our governance by, for example, clarifying election processes, increasing transparency, and reducing periods in office, the update should assist Members in understanding how the Society works. In conjunction with the update, the General Purpose Committee, which I chair, will actively and regularly review the byelaws along with committee structures and composition.

I am happy to report that ESCRS continues to be a very active Society, always looking to develop current and new initiatives. I hope that all new initiatives, and others in the pipeline, will ensure that we continue to meet the needs and expectations of our members and delegates.

**Burkhard Dick**  
**Secretary**

## TREASURER'S REPORT Covering 2022

I am pleased to report on the approved financial statements for 2022, which have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

The financial result for 2022, before investment returns, showed major improvement in comparison to 2021, as the Annual Congress continued its recovery towards pre-pandemic participation levels. The Society's investment portfolio incurred losses in 2022, as markets were challenged by global events. The Society nonetheless remains in a healthy financial position.

### 2022 results

Total income for 2022 amounted to €13,647,365 (2021: €7,715,874). The Annual Congress was held as a hybrid meeting, with delegates joining in person in Milan or online. Recovery in participation levels from delegates and industry meant that overall, Congress income increased to €11,928,376 (2021: €5,806,177). Publications income reduced to €919,036 (2021: €1,184,813). The remainder of the Society's income derived from membership fees and miscellaneous items.

Total expenditure in 2022 amounted to €13,768,772 (2021: €10,427,079) with expenditure on charitable activities accounting for 98.9% of the total. Congress expenditure accounted for 57.8% of total expenditure, at €7,962,401 (2021: €5,782,420). Publications accounted for 13.2% of total expenditure while Education and Research activity combined accounted for 25.6%.

The overall deficit before losses on investments for 2022 was therefore €121,407 (2021: €2,711,205). A loss of €1,637,337 on the Society's investment portfolio was recorded in 2022 (2021: gain of €1,881,626), taking the overall deficit transferred to reserves in 2022 to €1,758,744. Total reserves at 31 December 2022 were €18,851,930, including restricted funds of €83,029.

### Appointment of auditors

The directors have agreed to reappoint Crowe UK as auditors to the Society.

### **Thomas Kohnen**

**Treasurer**

### **Summary accounts for the years ended 31 December 2020 through 2022 (Excluding gains/losses on investments)**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Annual Congress & Winter Meeting	87.4%	75.3%	66.9%
Publications	6.7%	15.4%	21.5%
Membership	2.7%	5.2%	9.4%
Other Income	3.2%	4.1%	2.2%
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Annual Congress & Winter Meeting	57.8%	55.5%	44.7%
Publications	13.2%	17.8%	15.6%
Research	12.3%	10.7%	16.3%
Education	13.3%	12.8%	20.1%
Membership	1.0%	1.2%	1.6%
Other	2.4%	2.0%	1.7%