



The European Society for Organ Transplantation

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

About the European Society for Organ Transplantation

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The European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT) was founded nearly 40 years ago and is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in organ transplantation.

Facilitating a wealth of international clinical trials and research collaborations over the years, ESOT remains committed to its primary aim of improving patient outcomes in transplantation.

With a community of transplant professionals from around the world, ESOT is an influential international organisation and the facilitator of the biennial ESOT Congress. ESOT attracts the foremost transplantation experts to work in its committees and sections, and has an impressive track record in supporting research, supporting extensive education and promoting changes in European policy.

Our Mission

To improve outcomes for patients with terminal organ disease by means of transplantation, organ regeneration and substitution.



Our Vision

- To promote sustainable scientific advancement through multidisciplinary communities of healthcare professionals
- To deliver first-class education, training and career advancement opportunities to all healthcare professionals, with specific training programmes for low-income countries
- To work with partner organisations, professional bodies and competent authorities to improve public and institutional awareness of organ donation and the latest research in the field
- To develop and promote policies for equitable access to transplantation and related therapeutic strategies

Membership

ESOT offers a range of membership options for transplantation professionals, tailored to suit an individual based on their specific profession and stage of career. Becoming an ESOT member provides educational, networking and financial benefits, with memberships lasting for 12 months. ESOT were proud to support over 1,000 members from 64 countries in 2021. Countries with the highest number of members were the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Germany, Belgium, United States, France, Greece and Austria. In 2021, ESOT launched a new membership platform to provide better networking and opportunities for its members, offering 12 month subscriptions across various membership types.

President's Address



Luciano Potena

Dear Colleagues,

Despite the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, ESOT has continued to strive to ensure the delivery of high-quality education and cutting-edge science and to foster collaboration and engagement with our stakeholders.

In these essential times of reflection and learning from the past 2 years, collaboration is, more than ever, crucial to guaranteeing a sustainable future for transplantation. Engagement with the entire multidisciplinary transplant community has always been a high priority for our society. And as a broad community of healthcare professionals, academics, patients and industry, we can build a stronger and more sustainable future.

In 2021, we revised the ESOT vision and focused on developing key areas, including policy and advocacy, an extensive portfolio aimed at advancing research and science activities and a comprehensive educational offering. However, while ESOT has asserted itself as the leader in transplantation, we are also in a state of constant development and growth. And for this purpose, we are aware that our society needs to create more opportunities for young professionals, increase our diversity and inclusion capacities and, most importantly, ensure that patients always remain at the heart of all we do.

We are, of course, very proud of our achievements, but we cannot rest on our laurels; we need to continue to challenge ourselves. From what we already know, such growth can only be achieved through ESOT members' continuous and most valuable commitment, as well as the support of the ESOT team. And for this, I would like to extend our most sincere thanks to all those who make it happen! Naming each and every single individual would be too long, but I am sure you will recognise yourself in this acknowledgement.

Looking into 2022, ESOT will continue to implement our society's strategic goals and is committed to communicating, involving and collaborating with its broad community as a priority toward better access and care to transplantation in the future.

I hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report and will take pride in contributing to the advancements of ESOT.

Yours sincerely,

Luciano Potena

Introduction

In 2021, a number of large investments were made with the view of fostering the long-term impact of ESOT and increasing the society's global influence in becoming the voice of transplantation and a leading 'authority' in our field. These investments included:

Community Engagement

In early 2021, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided that ESOT Congress 2021 would be held as a hybrid meeting. The ESOT Congress was one of the first medical congresses hosted in a hybrid format in Europe after the start of the pandemic. This decision was based on the commitment to fulfil its mission and ensure the community could continue to network, learn and exchange.

In line with the digital impact of the pandemic that required ESOT to shift its business model in 2020, a large investment was made into the hiring of a professional communication agency to support the developments of ESOT and the new Marketing & Communication department of ESOT. This newly established area of expertise within ESOT led to the society pursuing a soft rebrand. This rebrand has now been fully integrated in all ESOT platforms and tools, including the society's journal, *Transplant International*.

New Leadership and Publisher For Transplant International

Transplant International is the premier journal publishing the key basic science and clinical developments in organ replacement medicine. The aim of Transplant International is to serve as a forum for the exchange of scientific information in the form of original high-quality papers in the field of transplantation. Clinical and experimental studies, as well as editorials, letters to the editors and, occasionally, reviews on the biology, physiology and immunology of transplantation of tissues and organs, are published. The publishing time for the latter is approximately 6 months, provided major revisions are not required. Papers submitted to the journal are subject to a thorough double-blind peer review model.

Since 1 January 2022, the journal has been Gold Open Access in partnership with Frontiers, a newly appointed publisher. Frontiers worked closely with ESOT's leadership committees and stakeholders to transition the journal, including its extensive archive of articles dating back to 1988. All articles are made immediately, permanently and freely available to access, read and download worldwide. Authors will retain copyright, and published articles will be compliant with Plan S.



Thierry Berney

We were also delighted to appoint Dr Thierry Berney as Editor-in-Chief of *Transplant International*, who started his mandate in September 2021.



Funding of a Pan-European and Multi-organ Registry

ESOT is dedicated to the pursuit of clinical and research excellence and improving patient outcomes. Its core mission is to promote the sharing of scientific information and building of evidence-based international practice, policies and medical guidelines. To this aim, ESOT has decided to strengthen its engagement in the collection of data on organ transplantation and has launched a platform to host pan-European registries on transplant recipients and living donors.

Sections and Committees



European Cell Therapy and Organ Regeneration Section (ECTORS)

ECTORS was established in August 2018 as a dedicated section for transplant professionals working on and interested in cellular therapies and organ reconditioning and repair. ECTORS builds on the Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Solid Organ Transplantation (MiSOT) Consortium that was established in 2009.

Their mission is to provide a forum for discussing and stimulating novel developments in the fields of cellular therapies in organ transplantation, organ regeneration and the generation of new organs from stem cells and biomaterials.



European Cardio Thoracic Transplant Association (ECTTA)

ECTTA is the forum for experience exchange on the treatment of patients with end-stage heart and lung failure, aiming to improve outcomes for these patients.

Their ambition is to foster scientific growth, exchange programmes, develop collaborative projects and enhance funding opportunities dedicated to European heart and lung transplantation programmes.



European Donation and Transplant Coordination Organisation (EDTCO)

EDTCO aims to support healthcare professionals to provide clinically effective programmes on organ and tissue donation, procurement and transplantation.

EDTCO intends to contribute to the following: Increasing organ and tissue availability; ensuring the high quality and safety of organs and tissues intended for transplantation; optimising the safety of living donors and care for deceased donors and their relatives; and optimising potential recipient care and follow-up from the perspective of clinical coordination.



European Kidney Transplant Association (EKITA)

EKITA is the Organ Expert Section of ESOT on kidney transplantation in Europe, providing a forum for kidney transplantation professionals to exchange scientific information and views aimed at providing the best service to European patients.

The idea to have a separate section for renal transplantation evolved gradually, and the Kidney Committee of ESOT was founded in 2011 at the 15th ESOT Congress in Glasgow, UK. The name was changed 2 years later to EKITA and, since then, it has served as a section of ESOT.



European Liver and Intestine Transplant Association (ELITA)

ELITA, previously known as the European Liver Transplant Association (ELTA), is a section of ESOT representing expertise on liver and intestinal transplantation in Europe.

ELITA aims to provide a forum for those working in the field of liver and intestinal transplantation to exchange scientific information and views related primarily to providing the best service for patients in Europe requiring liver transplantation.



European Platform on Ethical, Legal and Psychosocial Aspects of Organ Transplantation (ELPAT)

Consisting of over 160 experts, ELPAT strives to inform the general public about new developments in the ethical, legal and psychosocial aspects of organ transplantation. For this reason, ELPAT is not only aimed at professionals, but establishes communications where lay people can find information. ELPAT became an official section of ESOT in 2008.

Sections and Committees



European Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (EPITA)

The aim of EPITA is to provide theoretical education and in-person training to scientists, physicians, surgeons and technicians who have interest in the field of beta cell replacement therapy and regenerative medicine. EPITA covers new technologies in islet isolation and transplantation, 3D bioprinting, organoid applications and stem cell-derived therapies.



Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation (VCA):

The ESOT VCA section fosters the scientific and clinical development of vascularised composite allotransplantation (VCA) in Europe and serves as a platform for scientists and clinicians for the exchange of information between ESOT and the VCA community.

VCA represents ESOT as a scientific, educational and clinical entity in the development of VCA and collaborates with other sections of ESOT to endorse ethical, scientific and clinical principles. The section looks to promote the advancement of VCA in Europe through the enhancement of education, communication and funding opportunities.



Education Committee

The aim of the ESOT Education Committee is to coordinate ESOT's efforts to advance multidisciplinary education for transplant professionals at all career levels and to contribute to their professional development.

2021 marks the reorganisation of the Education Committee to reflect the multidisciplinary nature of the society and enhance a stronger interaction with all ESOT sub-groups.

The Education Committee defines the ESOT educational strategy; its tasks include:

- Designing and implementing the ESOT educational programme in accordance with the educational strategy
- Developing a biennial educational calendar in coordination with the ESOT Council, the Sections and Committees, and the ESOT team
- Acting as the point of contact for all ESOT educational initiatives, collecting and reviewing the proposals of new educational activities in coordination with the ESOT Council
- Overseeing and supporting educational initiatives organised by the ESOT sections and committees
- Working closely with the Division of Transplantation of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) on projects relevant to its purposes and responsibilities, including exams, preparatory courses and accreditation processes

The current composition of ESOT Education guarantees a transversal approach to the education programmes.

Sections and Committees



Basic Science Committee

The Basic Science Committee promotes scientific issues and transplantation research within ESOT.

Founded in 2003, the Basic Science Committee’s core activities include dedicated basic science meetings, symposia and courses at the biannual ESOT Congress and a basic science grant programme. The Basic Science Committee promotes:

- Basic science on transplantation in Europe
- Translation of innovation into clinical activity
- Communication between basic scientists and clinicians
- Collaboration between laboratories in Europe



European Transplant Allied Healthcare Professionals (ETAHP) Committee

The ETAHP Committee represents European nurses and allied healthcare professionals (AHPs) who wish to promote evidence-based transplant care in order to improve the health and well-being of organ transplant candidates and recipients.

The mission of the ETAHP Committee is to connect nurses and AHPs in the field of organ transplantation in order to optimise transplant care management.

The primary goals of the ETAHP Committee are:

Addressing the main concerns of organ transplant candidates and recipients through person-centred care

Increasing awareness for lifestyle challenges and health promotion

Increasing consensus in transplant management pre- and post-transplant care

Promote the interprofessional collaboration between transplant team members by creating awareness of each other’s expertise



Young Professionals in Transplantation (YPT)

YPT is the network for young transplant professionals of ESOT, representing all young transplant clinicians and scientists who are beginning a career in transplantation and organ donation.

YPT was formed in 2011 to help junior professionals on their path to successful careers in transplantation. In close collaboration with the Education Committee of ESOT, YPT is currently constructing a comprehensive database of educational content, including resources, grants, scholarships, courses and training opportunities. It also serves as a bridge between senior clinicians and researchers and junior professionals to provide advice and mentoring for a successful career in transplantation.

In order to establish an international collaboration between young clinicians and researchers, YPT is creating a network of qualified transplant centres to promote clinical and scientific exchange programmes throughout Europe.

Community

 **6,300 followers**

 **2,800 followers**

 **700 followers**

 **2,200 followers**

 **ESOT App 3,200 unique subscriptions**

The ESOT Twitter Ambassador Programme is dedicated to the promotion of the ESOT brand through Twitter, with 25 official ambassadors from 15 countries. The group organised 20 #ESOTchat events over the course of 2021.

ESOTchat →



Governance

Executive Committee

- President: Luciano Potena
- Secretary: Umberto Cillo
- Treasurer: Olivier Thaunat
- President-elect: Gabriel Oniscu
- Past-President: Vassilios Papalois
- Chief Executive Officer: Devi Mey

Councillors

- Chloë Ballesté Delpierre
- Ekaterine Berishvili
- Ioannis Boletis
- Frank Dor
- Ina Jochmans
- Nicos Kessarlis
- Geir Mjoen
- Hanne Scholz

Section and Committee Chairs

- ECTTA Chair: Robin Vos
- ELITA Chair: Constantino Fondevila
- EKITA Chair: Lucrezia Furian
- EPITA Chair: Steve White
- EDTCO Chair: Sandor Mihaly
- ELPAT Chair: Hannah Maple
- ECTORS Chair: Marlies Reinders
- VCA Committee Chair: Fadi Issa
- Basic Science Committee Chair: Nina Pilat
- Education Committee Chair: Luca Toti
- ETAHP Committee Chair: Anna Forsberg
- YPT Committee Chair: Hannah Esser

ESOT Foundation Chair

Luciano Potena

Transplant International Editor-in-Chief

Thierry Berney

Centre for Evidence in Transplantation (CET) Director

Liset Pengel

ESOT Patient Inclusion Initiative

ESOT works with transplant patient organisations throughout Europe to foster cooperation and dialogue between patients and healthcare professionals to ensure patient representation and participation in ESOT activities and promote health and quality of life among the transplant population.

Activities aim to achieve these goals, and we welcome the contribution and participation of all transplant professionals, patient organisation representatives and individual patients and caregivers.

Find out more →

European Transplant Patient Organisations (ESOT-ETPO) Alliance

The ESOT-ETPO alliance is a collaborative entity that aims to bring together healthcare professionals and people with transplants.

The mission of the ESOT-ETPO alliance is to promote realistic medicine in organ donation and transplantation. The alliance aims to achieve this by empowering people with transplants, encouraging and facilitating a meaningful dialogue between patients, organ donors and their families, caregivers and transplant professionals to ensure their views and experiences are represented.



ESOT Patient event at the ESOT Congress 2021

European Transplant Patient Organisations (ESOT-ETPO) Alliance

The 90-minute Patient Inclusion Initiative event, held the day before the opening of the ESOT Congress 2021 in Milan, was attended by more than 100 people both online and in-person. Entitled ‘When every small step is a step forward: Being physically active after solid organ transplantation’, the session was chaired by Fiona Loud, Policy Director for patient support charity Kidney UK, who had a transplant 15 years ago, and Colin White, National Advocacy & Projects Manager with the Irish Kidney Association. Attendees heard the inspirational stories of two patients, and also from a specialist physiotherapist who reviewed the evidence on exercise in transplant patients and from a physical therapist on how to get started and maintain activity.

ESOT Congress

The ESOT Congress, which takes place every 2 years, serves as a premier platform for researchers from across the globe to present their organ transplantation research.

The 20th ESOT Congress was a hybrid event, taking place in Milan and online. The meeting brought together more than 1200 onsite and 1475 online delegates and delivered world-class science, from ground-breaking abstract-based presentations to Think Tank sessions full of debate and discussion.

The event provided a great opportunity to network once again – both online through the virtual platform and for those onsite in Milan – helping to foster collaboration and future partnerships.

The preparation for this hybrid meeting required novel technologies, creative imagination and tremendous collaboration. These qualities are reflected every day in the ESOT community, and we hope that the congress inspired transplant professionals to improve the lives of patients across the world.

The congress was divided into five distinct domains that focused on the most relevant topics in organ transplantation. Sessions and abstracts were separated into these specific domains, allowing delegates to follow specific topics and map their congress journey. The domains were:

- Emerging approaches and technologies
- Precision medicine
- Present and future transplant practice
- Regenerative medicine (cell biology)
- Value-based care

ESOT CONGRESS COMMITTEES

ESOT Congress Chairs:

Maria Rosa Costanzo, Umberto Cillo

Scientific Programme Committee:

- Luciano Potena and Raj Thuraisingham (Co-Chairs)
- Christian Benden, Ugo Boggi, Stephan Ensminger, Christine Falk, Anna Forsberg, Amelia J. Hessheimer, Martin Hoogduijn, Sarah Hosgood, Ina Jochmans, Julie Kerr-Conte, Katja Kotsch, Pascal Leprince, Fiona Loud, Dominique Martin, Robert Minnee, Rainer Oberbauer, Gabriel Oniscu, David Paredes, Stephen Pettit, Jacopo Romagnoli, Faouzi Saliba, Stefan Schneeberger, Dimitrios Stamatialis, Luca Toti



ESOT CONGRESS 2021 FACTS & FIGURES

Participants

1,200

Onsite participants



1,475

Online participants



Press & Social

4,412

Total posts using #ESOTcongress

14,375,433

#ESOTcongress audience reach

645

Articles in the press



74 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Top 10 countries represented:

Italy	284
United Kingdom	224
Germany	180
France	162
Netherlands	160
Spain	156
United States	139
Switzerland	77
Sweden	66
Belgium	61

Industry

30+



Sponsors and exhibitors

14 INDUSTRY SYMPOSIA



Scientific Programme

19 Congress tracks

5 Congress domains

1,220 Abstracts submitted

994 abstracts presented

96 Late-breakers presented

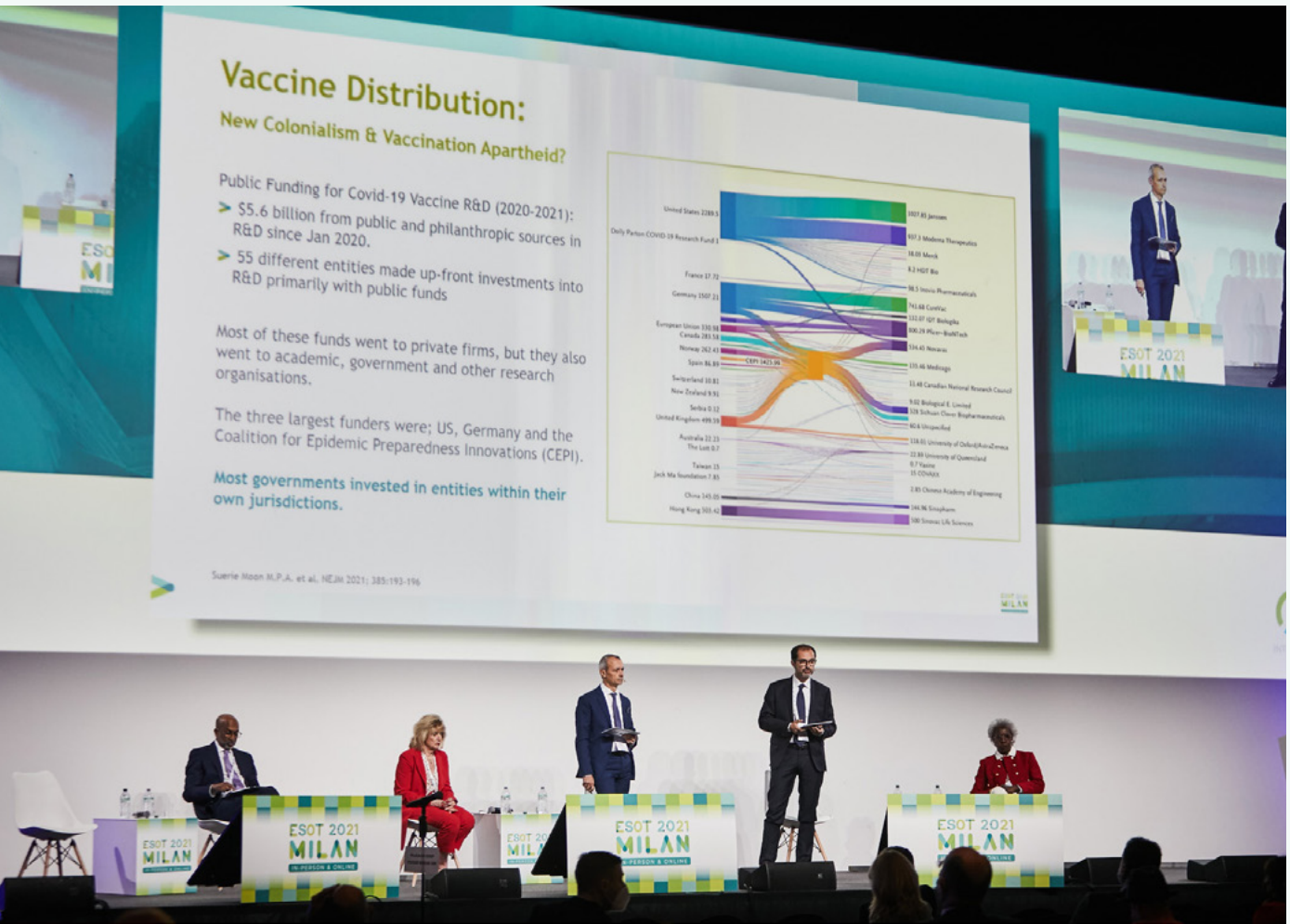
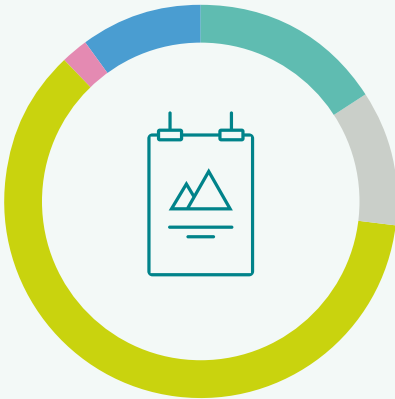
850+ Speakers

830 Presentations

3 Hands-on sessions

Abstract breakdown by domain:

- Emerging approaches and technologies: 16%
- Precision medicine: 11%
- Present and future transplant practice: 61%
- Regenerative medicine: 2%
- Value based care: 10%



↑ ESOT Congress 2021 Opening Ceremony
← Maria Rosa Costanzo (ESOT Congress Co-Chair)
↓ Umberto Cillo (ESOT Congress Chair)



Activity Reports

ESOT Hackathon 2021

The first edition of the ESOT Hackathon concluded on 9 October with six finalists competing for the award.

We believe that technology can help patients, empowering them to make the right decisions in their new lives. This belief was behind the Hackathon initiative, which aimed to source innovative approaches to improve the well-being and quality of life of transplant patients.

After an initial kick off in July, eight projects were selected to benefit from a series of coaching sessions from top experts in innovation. They were guided over the summer through business modelling, design thinking and pitching, with the opportunity to speak with the experienced coaches throughout the process.

On Saturday, 9 October, which also marked European Day for Organ Donation and Transplantation, the six finalists presented their concepts in front of an expert jury, and three were awarded a prize.

The winner of the ESOT Hackathon 2021 was awarded to the 'New Life' project, presented by Karam Vincent, Wojtek Polak, Justyna Gołbiewska, Christophe Duvoux and Eric Buleux. The project aims to develop an app for pre- and post-transplant patients, linking the transplant professional and patient platforms together to create an open network. Collecting subjective data from patients, such as quality of life, and linking it with objective data will allow for a patient-centred approach. The app will also provide patients with the tools to manage their transplant journey. It will include a social network, patient education, patient-directed surveys and personal organisation schedules (such as medication and appointment schedules).

Second prize was awarded to 'Living Airlines', with 'TRIE' picking up third prize. The event was organised by ESOT with the support of Chiesi, EIT Health, and in partnership with Blue Health Innovation Centre.

HESPERIS Course 2021 [online]

HESPERIS is a unique course on organ transplantation, providing an excellent platform for individuals who are entering the field and who wish to further their career. The 2021 edition of HESPERIS, held online, counted 48 participants from 21 countries, who attended the 11 live sessions throughout the duration of the course. The course provided participants with essential knowledge in five key areas of transplantation – immunology, indications, organ donation, recipient management and regenerative medicine.

The course included lectures by experienced transplant professionals accompanied by extensive readings, as well as self-assessment quizzes and an online forum. As the course was fully asynchronous, participants could learn at their own pace and according to their schedule. Participants gained an extensive view of transplantation and were able to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to implement in their own transplant centres.

European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

In December 2021, ESOT were delighted to announce that, moving forward, the society will be collaborating with EPHA.

EPHA is a member-led organisation made up of public health non-governmental organisations (NGOs), patient groups, health professionals and disease groups, who work to improve health and strengthen the voice of public health in Europe.

ESOT looks forward to working alongside EPHA in the future to support their vision and advocate for better health across Europe.

European Medicine Agency (EMA)

ESOT were also pleased to announce that the society will be involved in EMA's activities and will be listed as part of the healthcare professional organisations published on their website. EMA is a decentralised agency of the European Union (EU) responsible for the scientific evaluation, supervision and safety monitoring of medicines in the EU.

Once again, ESOT looks forward to all the exciting opportunities this involvement will bring to our community in the future.



Education

ESOT strives to support transplant professionals at all career levels and are eager to foster knowledge on transplantation care and professional development opportunities.

In addition, ESOT plans its educational activities in accordance with the core principles of the ESOT Patient Inclusion Initiative. Therefore, the society aims to get people with transplants involved in activities aimed at the education of fellow patients, organ donors and their families, caregivers and transplant professionals.

The ESOT educational programme includes ‘Courses and Masterclasses’, ‘Professional Development’ and ‘Online Education’.

Courses and Masterclasses:

- Hesperis (foundation course)
- Basic Course in Liver Transplantation (foundation course)
- HLTP – The Hepatologist in a Liver Transplant Programme (foundation course)
- LiDO – Live DOnor Nephrectomy Masterclass
- International Donor Surgery & Organ Perfusion Masterclass
- SPLIT Liver Masterclass

Professional Development:

- Academia course
- The ESOT Mentorship Programme
- Professional development workshops

Online Education Through Transplant Live (Tx Live):

Tx Live is fully accredited and is ESOT’s online education platform. It serves the community with specialised courses, broader resources from key ESOT events (such as the ESOT Congress and Transplantation Learning Journey [TLJ]), webinars on hot topics and podcasts of general interest.

In 2021, the platform was reorganised to better serve the educational needs of the transplantation community and act as the ‘go-to’ e-learning platform for all professionals in our dynamic field.



Research

ESOT Registries Platform

ESOT is dedicated to the pursuit of clinical and research excellence and improving patient outcomes. One of the society’s core missions is to promote the sharing of scientific information and building of evidence-based international practice, policies and medical guidelines.

To this aim, in 2021, ESOT strengthened its engagement in the collection of data on organ transplantation and launched a platform to host pan-European registries on transplant recipients and living donors.

Sharing best practice and improving patient outcomes and quality of life are the ultimate goals of the ESOT Registries platform. This will be achieved by providing the transplant community with a solid set of data to analyse from different points of view. ESOT will issue annual reports on the collected data and will publish aggregated data anonymously, openly and transparently, providing the community with conclusions and anonymised, aggregated raw data.

The hosted registries will allow individual contributors to compare their own data with the aggregated data, accessible at any time via personalised tableaux, thus directly serving national and local communities.

The European Commission supports the development of the ESOT Registries platform and contributes to its preparation.

ESOT Guidelines

ESOT is strongly committed to increase efforts towards the transparent and rigorous production of guidance documents in the field of solid organ transplantation.

To support these efforts, ESOT has implemented a new task force dedicated to this endeavour. As such, the group will:

- Select cutting-edge topics
- Apply a sound, independent and rigorous methodology
- Ensure a global perspective
- Apply a strict meritocratic process to select members of the guidelines’ drafting groups
- Strictly monitor conflicts of interest of panel members

The taskforce is overseeing high-profile activities, such as the TLJ Consensus Conference taking place in November.

European Transplantation and Innovation Consortium for Risk Stratification in Kidney Transplant Patients (EU-TRAIN)

EU-TRAIN is a project that aims to develop a risk assessment system for kidney transplant patients.

A new robust tool for assessing the risk of rejection, graft function decline and graft loss in kidney transplant patients will significantly help long-term graft survival in end-stage renal diseases, a critical issue that has not improved in the past 15 years.

ESOT is one of the primary supporters of this EU-funded project and is responsible for sharing information, updates and news regarding the project’s progress and outcomes.

Research

VANGUARD

The VANGUARD project aims to generate a vascularised and immune-protected bioartificial pancreas that can be transplanted into non-immunosuppressed patients. It combines advanced tissue engineering strategies, such as 3D organoid generation, hydrogel design, bioartificial organ assembly and CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing.

COVID-19 Vaccine Studies

This resource provides easy and quick access to important information on COVID-19 vaccines for transplant professionals in two categories – general COVID-19 vaccine studies and COVID-19 vaccine studies in relation to transplantation. ESOT continues to add new information and studies to this library when they become available, updating it with latest insight in this changing arena.

Position Statement: Solid Organ Transplantation and COVID-19

This document represents a position statement by which ESOT and the ESCMID Study Group for Immunocompromised Hosts (ESGICH) aim to provide guidance to clinicians involved in the care of solid organ transplant recipients on managing the risk for COVID-19 infection in the current pandemic scenario and advocate for public health policies directed toward the protection of this particularly frail population. With the support of the Centre for Evidence in Transplantation, a panel of experts from both societies reviewed the current literature focusing on the effectiveness of immune response following SARS-CoV2 vaccination, the interaction with immunosuppressive medication and the role of antiviral therapies in this context.

EU4Health – Building Resilience Against crisis: a systematic and global approach to adVance organ Safety and supply in Transplantation (BRAVEST)

ESOT will coordinate a European funding research project under the EU4Health programme. The project aims to analyse the factors that have influenced the organ procurement processes before, during and after the onset of the SARS-CoV2 pandemic as a paradigm of the resilience of the donor procurement network in ensuring safety and continuity of supply in organ donation.

Casting light on HOS-t-cytomegalovirus interaction in Solid organ transplantation (HORUS)

HORUS offers a unique opportunity for research and clinical teams from eight European countries (France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands) and two industrial partners to work closely together to better characterise the host-cytomegalovirus (CMV) interactions in solid organ transplantation recipients. HORUS will set up the first European consortium associating experts in the field to build a representative European cohort of SOT recipients, including clinical, biological, immunological, gene expression, viral kinetics and deep viral genome characterisation, and to use innovative models to improve our understanding of the development of a CMV immune response in the context of immunosuppression.

Grants and Fellowships

A range of ESOT awards and grants are available to support and foster research in transplantation.

Awards

As part of its commitment to advancing education and research in transplantation and to reward excellence, ESOT offers an Awards Programme. A range of awards are available at the ESOT Congress, at ESOT courses and at meetings organised by ESOT sections and committees, including:

Congress awards and bursaries:

- ESOT Leonardo Da Vinci Transplant Research Innovation Award
- Stronger Together PRO Award
- ESOT-SITO Award
- ESOT-IPTA Joint Paediatric Award
- ESOT Full Bursary
- ESOT Registration Bursary

ESOT awards:

- The Sir Peter Morris Award
- The Henrik Ekberg Award

Other awards:

- ECP Immunomodulation Award in Solid Organ Transplantation

Grants

The ESOT Grants Programme aims to promote the education and career development of European transplant professionals. By visiting European transplant centres and participating in ESOT educational programmes, participants are provided with state-of-the-art opportunities for scientific exchange and collaboration.

In 2021, ESOT was pleased to launch the new Global Grants initiative to support the education and career development of its international members. The range of ESOT grants include:

- ESOT Educational Scholarship (20 scholarships at €1000 each)
- Sevdia Hassan Study Scholarship (10 scholarships at €2000 each)
- ESOT Transplant Fellowship (two fellowships [basic and clinical] at €55,000 each)
- ESOT Global Grants (10 grants [five educational and five travel] at either €1000 or €2000 each)



Nicola De Stefano



Marc Reynaud

Grants and Fellowships

2021 Grant Recipients

ESOT Educational Scholarships

- 1. Nicola De Stefano
- 2. Alessandro Parente
- 3. Julia Hofmann
- 4. Angus Hann
- 5. Luca Del Prete
- 6. James Ashcroft
- 7. Mikhail Nozdrin
- 8. Elmira Tenchurina
- 9. Felipe Alconchel
- 10. Lara Aygen Oezbay
- 11. Jack Martin
- 12. Joris Blondeel
- 13. Michaela Orlitova
- 14. Jeevan Gopal
- 15. Yuly Paulin Mendoza Jaimes
- 16. Saskia Bos
- 17. Felix Julius Krendl
- 18. Alberto Calleri
- 19. Marco Maria Pascale
- 20. Nikolaos-Andreas Anastasopoulos

ESOT Study Scholarships

- 1. Elena Crespo
- 2. Wacław Hołowko
- 3. Pankaj Chandak
- 4. Lente Lerink
- 5. Jan Van Slambrouck
- 6. Francesca Romano
- 7. Riccardo Cirelli

ESOT Educational Global Grants

- 1. Huda Al-Taee
- 2. Maksim Vasilenka
- 3. Hassina Mohammed
- 4. Francisca van der Schyff
- 5. Devprakash Choudhary
- 6. Luis Garcia Covarrubias
- 7. Vladimir Tennak
- 8. Thozama Siyotula
- 9. Amirali Mashhadiagha

ESOT Transplant Fellowships

- 1. Tess Van Meerhaeghe (Basic)
- 2. Daniele Pievani (Clinical)

Publications

Publishing scientific papers and recommendations is a core activity for the ESOT community.

Recent ESOT publications, including those that stemmed from the outcomes of TLJ 2.0 workstreams, are as follows:

It is not only extending donor criteria: it is extending the donor pool.
A cross-sectional survey from the European Society of Organ Transplantation
Nuria Masnou, Maria Irene Bellini, Liset H. M. Pengel, Giuseppe Feltrin, TLJ 2.0 Working Group
Expanding the Donor Pool
First published: 2 February 2021 Transplant International – PubMed

Managing immunosuppressive therapy in potentially cured post-kidney transplant cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer): an overview of the available evidence and guidance for shared decision-making
Rachel Hellemans, Liset H.M. Pengel, Sylvain Choquet, Umberto Maggiore, for ESOT Workstream 3 of the TLJ (Transplant Learning Journey) project
First published: 19 June 2021 Transplant International – PubMed

Building a bridge between patients and transplant healthcare professionals – A descriptive study
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