



The European Society for Organ Transplantation

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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 has been dedicated to pursuing excellence in organ transplantation ever since.

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. It has an impressive track record in supporting research, extensive education and promoting changes in European policy.

Our Mission

To improve outcomes for patients with terminal organ disease through 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 the latest research in the field



To develop and promote policies for equitable access to transplantation and related therapeutic strategies

President's Address



Luciano Potena

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of my colleagues at ESOT, I am proud to share some of the society's key achievements and milestones that took place over the past year as we strive to improve outcomes for patients with terminal organ disease through transplantation, organ regeneration and substitution.

As well as developing this revised ESOT vision, we have been able to resume many of our traditional education activities that had to be put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. Three major milestones helped define this new vision: The Transplantation Learning Journey (TLJ) 3.0, publication of the **ESOT Action Day Think Tank manifesto** and the kick-off for **BRAVEST**, the first EU-funded scientific project led and coordinated by ESOT.

The TLJ 3.0 consensus meeting was a landmark moment, taking place in Prague from 13-15 November. Initiated by the **Guidelines Task Force**, this multidisciplinary group of professionals, representing the ESOT Council and Transplant International Editorial Board, coordinated nine working groups and framed methodology to guide the production of **ESOT Consensus documents, guidelines and recommendations**. Over 250 attendees from 27 countries attended TLJ 3.0 and achieved a consensus on 168 statements and clinical practice recommendations that will be published in Transplant International. This huge community effort should be celebrated, and it will shape future clinical practice in transplantation.

The ESOT Manifesto is the tangible output from the call to action that was launched at the ESOT Congress 2021 in Milan. Here, we highlighted widespread disparities relating to race, ethnicity, socio-economic status and place of residency, all amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. To address these themes, a session was held on 28 April – which also marked the 40th anniversary of ESOT – and a consensus was reached on a set of recommendations and actions to improve service delivery and sustainability in organ transplantation across the continent. Since then, these recommendations were further developed and recognised by the EU political agenda in a session organised at the European Health Forum in Gastein. With the set of actions outlined in this crucial report, ESOT has asserted itself as a key stakeholder in advocating for improved equity in access to transplants and high-quality post-transplant care.

BRAVEST is an EU4Health-funded project and involves major organ procurement organisations and competent authorities from across Europe. Through analysis of the factors that have influenced the organ procurement processes before, during and after the onset of SARS-CoV-2, we aim to gather the evidence required to develop guidelines and propose sustainable innovative actions. These will be directed at improving the resilience of the donation and transplant systems and networks, ultimately increasing the accessibility to transplantation for all patients with end-stage organ disease.

We were able to take advantage of reduced travel restrictions to resume the majority of traditional ESOT in-person educational and scientific meetings, including our education flagships HESPERIS and ACADEMIA. On top of this, we continued a robust series of online events. Across 2022, ESOT organised 10 in-person meetings and 12 webinars, allowing relationships to be built, knowledge exchange to be developed and high-quality education content to be disseminated.

These activities both allowed us to reunite our community and reframe the value of ESOT membership. Our inclusive, diverse and multidisciplinary community is the fuel of ESOT, allowing us to maintain our constant state of development and growth.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the entire ESOT community for making this year's achievements possible. Of the many achievements we have seen this year, I would particularly like to thank those who have made the most of our grant opportunities and those who have been dedicated to supporting our policy initiatives. We also celebrate the first-class engagement within our community, which has enabled the proactive and effective development of scientific content, as well as those who have welcomed and enjoyed the huge variety of content available on Transplant Live, ESOT's online education platform.

Our mission is centred around improving the quality of life and outcomes of patients. We cannot fulfil this mission completely without advocating for the right to access healthcare, by standing firm on our values of cooperation, integration and democracy.

As you will see in this report, 2022 has marked a gearshift for the growth of our society in terms of accountability, scientific solidity and international visibility. These achievements are the result of an intense groupwork that is rooted in the tremendous professionalism and commitment of the ESOT team, guided by the new ESOT CEO, Devi Mey. I am immensely grateful to Devi and her team for their dedication and support to ESOT in guiding the society.

In 2023, we will continue to develop ESOT's key strategic goals, while now looking forward to the 21st ESOT Congress in Athens. From 17 to 20 September, we will unite once again at ESOT's flagship event, with a terrific scientific programme in a landmark location that represents the birthplace of modern European civilisation.

We have faced many challenges in the last few years, but challenges and innovation are experienced on an everyday basis in transplantation, from clinical practice to the on-the-bench basic research. I hope you will enjoy reading this Annual Report and continue to proudly support the progress of transplantation by contributing to the fulfilment of the ESOT vision.

Yours sincerely,

Luciano Potena

Sections



European Cell Therapy and Organ Regeneration Section (ECTORS)

The mission of ECTORS 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.

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 MiSOT (Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Solid Organ Transplantation) Consortium that was established in 2009.



European Cardio Thoracic Transplant Association (ECTTA)

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

Their ambition is to foster scientific growth, provide 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 in providing clinically effective programmes on organ and tissue donation, procurement and transplantation.

The goals of EDTCO include increasing the availability, quality and safety of organs and tissues for transplantation, optimising the care of both living donors and the relatives of deceased donors and optimising donor recipient care and follow-ups 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 very best service to European patients.

The idea to have a separate section for renal transplantation evolved gradually. The Kidney Committee of ESOT was founded in 2011 at the 15th ESOT Congress in Glasgow, UK. The name was changed to EKITA 2 years later, 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 provides a forum for those working in the field of liver and intestinal transplantation to exchange scientific information and views to provide 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 field of ethical, legal and psychosocial aspects of organ transplantation. For this reason, ELPAT is not only aimed at professionals, but establishes communications where everyone can access this information. ELPAT became an official section of ESOT in 2008.



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 VCA in Europe and serves as a platform for the exchange of information between scientists and clinicians within ESOT and the VCA Community.

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

Committees



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 to contribute to their professional development.

In 2021, the Education Committee was reorganised to further reflect the multidisciplinary of the society and enhance a stronger interaction with all ESOT subgroups.

The Education Committee defines the ESOT educational strategy. Their 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 Team, ESOT Council, sections and committees
- Acting as the point of contact for all ESOT educational initiatives whilst collecting and reviewing proposals for 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.



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 offering a basic science grant programme, dedicated basic science meetings, symposia and courses at the biannual ESOT Congress. The Basic Science Committee promotes:

- Basic science in 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 an effort to optimise transplant care management.

The primary goals of the ETAHP Committee are to:

- Address the main concerns of organ transplant candidates and recipients through person-centred care
- Increase awareness of lifestyle challenges and health promotion
- Increase consensus on transplant management in pre- and post-transplant care
- Promote interprofessional collaboration between transplant team members by creating awareness of each other's expertise



Young Professionals in Transplantation (YPT)

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

Formed in 2011, YPT assists 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, researchers and junior professionals to provide advice and mentoring for a successful career in transplantation.

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

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 Kessarīs
- 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

Community

Membership

We wouldn't be where we are today without our existing ESOT members who have joined us on our mission to improve the outcomes of patients with terminal organ disease.

With the benefits of being able to actively support policy initiatives and participate in governance elections, ESOT membership allows individual voices to be amplified within the community and values shared decision-making. With unlimited access to learning materials, ESOT members are provided with a platform to boost their careers and enhance their progression within the field.

Within our tight-knit community of ESOT members, we are able to provide close connections to an international transplantation community. Our members make up a diverse network of colleagues, peers and, most importantly, friends within the field, and we look forward to fostering more great relationships in the years to come.

ESOT were proud to support approximately 1000 members from 64 countries in 2022. The countries with the highest number of members were the United Kingdom, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Austria, Romania and France. In 2022, ESOT launched a series of new membership benefits, including discounts on Article Processing Charges, a PRO Transplant Centres Map and a Solidarity Programme.

Membership benefits



Unrestricted access to Transplant Live



Discounts on all ESOT events and courses



Discount on APCs for *Transplant International**



Access to the annual ESOT grants programme



Free affiliation with ESOT sections and committees**



Access to our protected membership feed



Access to ESOT directory and pro map



Actively support ESOT policy initiatives



Participate in ESOT governance elections***



Access to exclusive webinars

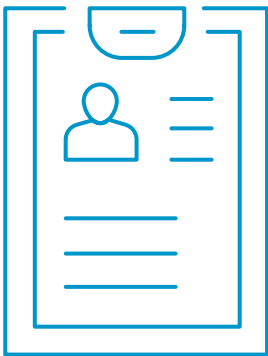
*Article Processing Charges.
**Except for ELITA affiliation, which has an additional cost.
***International members cannot vote in governance elections.

ESOT Patient Inclusion Initiative

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

We always welcome the contribution and participation of all transplant professionals, patient organisation representatives and individual patients and caregivers.

Find out more →



The ESOT-European Transplant Patient Organisations (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.



Awards, Grants and Fellowships

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



Awards

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

- Sir Peter Morris Award (ACADEMIA)
- Henrik Ekberg Award (ACADEMIA)
- Paolo Muiesan Award for the Best Case Study Presentation (HESPERIS)

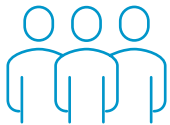


Grants

The ESOT Grants Programme aims to promote the education and career development of European transplant professionals. Visiting European transplant centres and taking part in ESOT education programmes provides participants with state-of-the-art opportunities for scientific exchange and collaboration.

The range of ESOT grants include:

- ESOT Educational Scholarship (20 scholarships of up to €1000 each)
- Sevda Hassan Study Scholarship (10 scholarships of €2000 each)
- ESOT Transplant Fellowship (2 fellowships – basic and clinical – of €55,000 each)
- ESOT Global Grants (10 grants – 5 educational and 5 travel – of either €1000 or €2000 each)



2022 Grant Recipients

ESOT Educational Scholarships

The ESOT Educational Scholarships provide a fantastic platform for young transplant professionals. A total of 20 scholarships are available, allowing recipients to attend ESOT courses and events.

We congratulate the following recipients:

- Shadab Abadpour
- Sumoyee Basu
- Hanne Beeckmans
- Silvia Caregari
- Rhys Evans
- Eloisa Franchi
- Barbora Hagerf (Voglová)
- Fayyad Jaradat
- Jacopo Lanari
- Monika Młynarczyk
- Domiziana Pedini
- Inés Perezpayá
- Lorenzo Petagna
- Evelien Quint
- Marta Sablik
- Ahmed Saleh
- Bojana Šimunov
- Romy Steiner
- Stijn van de Laar
- Diana Wu

Sevda Hassan Study Scholarships

The Sevda Hassan Study Scholarships allow recipients to travel and acquire new knowledge and skills, which can be used for their career progression and to enhance the progress of their institution. The duration of the programme is between 2 months and 1 year.

We congratulate the following recipients:

- Sandica Bucurica
- Daria Diehtiarova
- Oleg Godik
- Igor Gumennyi
- Mykhailo Kozhanov
- Gvantsa Metskhvarishvili
- Maksym Rzhaniy
- Oleksii Voroniak

ESOT Transplant Fellowships

There are two ESOT Transplant Fellowships available: A Basic Science Fellowship and a Clinical Fellowship. These allow two young professionals to acquire knowledge and skills by working in a European institution for a full year.

We congratulate the following recipients:

- Madita Buch (Clinical)
- Samuel Kennedy (Basic Science)



ESOT Global Grants

ESOT Global Grants are awarded to international members who wish to attend an ESOT course, masterclass or visit a European Centre to gain specific knowledge and skills important for their career progression.

Educational

We congratulate the following recipients:

- Wenshi Jiang
- Jixiang Liao
- Seyed Ali Moosavi
- Shams Zehri

Travel

We congratulate the following recipients:

- Houying Cheng
- Sanju Sobnach
- Jihua Wu

ESOT Political Action

ESOT Manifesto

Tackling Inequalities in Organ Transplantation: A Pathway Forward

The development of this crucial report followed a session held at the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) in September 2022, as well as a Think Tank dedicated to the topic of inequality in transplantation, which was held during the very first ESOT Action Day in April.

ESOT recognises that significant disparities exist in organ transplantation across Europe and will continue to strive to dilute these disparities. Representing our commitment to overcoming current challenges and tackling inequality in organ transplantation in Europe head-on, this report provides a state-of-play overview of organ transplantation in Europe and sets out five core actions that European stakeholders and ESOT must prioritise.

European stakeholder actions

1. Governments and health authorities to include patient organisations and representatives in the development process of national initiatives and legislation on organ transplantation
2. Governments and health authorities to collaborate with key stakeholders to create a universal standard to support healthcare professionals (HCPs) and European transplant centres in delivering consistent transplant services across the EU, ensuring equity of access to transplantation and improving HCP/patient awareness and training

ESOT actions

1. ESOT to launch data-driven registries and initiate an international call for data, specifically:
 - i. Using new approaches in data gathering, such as the integration of data across various disciplines
 - ii. Attaining greater longitudinal data around inequities according to the sex of donors and recipients in organ transplantation
 - iii. Gathering patient-driven data (i.e. patient-reported outcomes) to inform patients on realistic experiences and reduce fear among patients and families/caregivers
2. ESOT to work with patient associations in establishing a multilingual and culturally competent transplant patient information portal aimed at improving patient education and awareness using real-world evidence
3. ESOT to develop an HCP communication guide promoting shared decision-making and bridging the inequality gap for access and education in organ transplantation between developed and less-developed countries within the EU

We hope our community and stakeholders will join us as we strive to deliver solutions that improve awareness and education for HCPs and patients, ultimately increasing transplant equity across Europe.

Join us in our mission and help spread this vital message and, together, we can deliver a brighter future for organ transplantation.

EHFG 2022

In collaboration between ESOT and Takeda.

Organ donation is one of the truest acts of solidarity. Yet policies and practices in donation, transplantation and aftercare still differ across Europe, resulting in unequal transplantation access and disparate patient outcomes. The European Health Union recognises the importance of striving for equity in access and quality of care, no matter where patients live.

Building upon the EU Action Plan on Organ Donation and Transplantation (2009–2015), this session explored what needed to be done and by whom to facilitate equity, efficiency, quality and safety for all patients so that nobody is left behind. An EU-wide data framework, patient literacy, national policies and clinical practice guidelines can help ensure a successful transplantation journey.

Our speakers encompassed patients, clinicians, data experts, national officials and EU policymakers to create a fully transparent session.

Transplantation Forum

Transplantation transforms the lives of patients. However, some patients will never get the chance to receive a new organ. What does the future of transplantation hold? Will there be new techniques to meet the demand for organs? Is there an opportunity for improved organ selection and matching? What ethical considerations should be made?

Additionally, a patient’s journey does not end after transplantation. Patients require lifelong treatment and are at risk of other new diseases. How can we ensure consistency and equality in the aftercare of transplant patients?

The forum provided a picture of the developments taking place in transplantation in Sweden and on an international basis through the participation of decision-makers, healthcare professionals, patients and companies.



EU Projects

ESOT embark on a number of EU funded projects that reflect the society’s mission to improve outcomes for patients with terminal organ disease by means of transplantation, regeneration and substitution. By working with competent authorities and partners, these projects look to enhance public, healthcare professional, political and institutional awareness of transplantation, as well as develop and promote policies that improve equitable access and patient outcomes across the field.

EU-TRAIN

The EU-TRAIN (EUropean TRANSplantation and INnovation Consortium for Risk Stratification in Kidney Transplant Patients) project 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.

Visit the EU-TRAIN website →

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.

Visit the VANGUARD website →

BRAVEST

The BRAVEST (Building Resilience Against crisis: a systematic and global approach to adVancE organ Safety and supply in Transplantation) project is coordinated by ESOT under the EU4Health Programme. The project aims to analyse factors that have influenced the organ procurement processes before, during and after the onset of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic as a paradigm of the resilience of the donor procurement network in ensuring safety and continuity of supply of organ donation.

Visit the BRAVEST website →

HORUS

The HORUS (Casting light on HOst-cytomegaloviRUs interaction in Solid organ transplantation) project unites solid organ transplantation experts, computational data scientists, virologists and immunologists in a fully operating European network consisting of 25 partners.

Solid organ transplantation is the optimal treatment for end-stage organ failure. However, the immunosuppressive drugs used to prevent graft rejection increase the risk of opportunistic infections. Among these infections, cytomegalovirus (CMV) leads to the most frequent morbidity and can lead to mortality. The ambitious but realistic goal of HORUS is to improve our understanding of CMV/host interactions in the context of immunosuppression, with a particular focus on:

1. The characterisation of signatures associated with the control of CMV replication after transplantation
2. The characterisation of signatures associated with evolution toward a difficult-to-treat CMV disease and poor outcome during CMV replication
3. The discovery of new specific immunomodulatory molecules promoting CMV control while maintaining the prevention of acute rejection

Altogether, HORUS will enhance personalised clinical prevention and the treatment of CMV disease, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

Visit the HORUS website →

Research Projects

ESOT started building a platform to host pan-European registries in January 2021, leveraging on the experience of its section, ELITA, which had been successfully coordinating the European Liver Transplant Registry since 1985.

The platform was thought of as modular, scalable and able to receive information on different organ transplants – a one-stop solution for European national and local authorities to contribute data and share best practice with the community.

Timeline

- **January 2021:** Launch of project
- **February 2021:** European Pancreas and Islet transplantation Registry (EPITR) Scientific Committee start work on the development of a pancreas and islets transplant registry
- **December 2021:** Dendrite Clinical System selected as the technical partner to design, develop and implement the platform
- **April 2022:** ESOT Council approves the governance of the registries project
- **April 2022:** First General Assembly

Governance

The ESOT registries platform will serve a variety of stakeholders, including competent national authorities, national, regional and local transplant registries, national and international scientific review committees, transplant centres and individual professionals, patients and donors (families) and the general public. To take into consideration all voices of the transplant community, the ESOT Council has put substantial effort into establishing inclusive governance of the registry project.

The General Assembly represents data contributors and acts as an advisory body. It ensures that the registries can comply with the existing legal, scientific and ethical regulations, and it advises the Steering Committee on developing the strategy and establishing new registries.

The Steering Committee is responsible for developing the strategy of the ESOT registries platform and submitting it to the General Assembly. It promotes the registries platform and invites new contributing members to the General Assembly. It supervises the budget and finances and reports to the General Assembly.

The Scientific Committees are composed of renowned professionals in the field of transplantation. They are responsible for defining the set of variables to collect and the expected outcomes of the registry. A Scientific Committee is created as soon as the Steering Committee approves the proposal for a new registry.

ESOT Registries Task Force

- ESOT President 2021–2023: Luciano Potena
- ESOT President Elect 2021–2023: Gabriel Oniscu
- ESOT Treasurer 2019–2023: Olivier Thaumat
- Councillor 2021–2025: Geir Mjoen
- Chief Executive Officer: Devi Mey
- General Manager – ESOT Registries: Vincent Karam
- Scientific Advisor: Daniele Roppolo

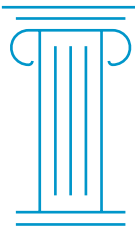
Partnerships

By partnering with ESOT, organisations can unite with us in our vision and commitment to advancing research and clinical practice in the field of organ transplantation. Direct engagement with ESOT’s global community allows partners to maximise their presence in the field of transplantation.



ESOT offers opportunities across four focus pillars where the partnership can have the greatest impact on achieving better health outcomes for our patients.

The four pillars are



Events & Education
(including the ESOT Congress)



EU Public Affairs



Research & Science



Community & Patients

Our plan is designed to improve and change how we operate, while building on our journey to remain the leading organisation in organ transplantation.

Transparency, dialogue and openness are at the core of our engagement plans, and we hope to continue to foster the discussions we have already started with our most valued partners.

Task Forces

ESOT Guidelines

ESOT is strongly committed to increasing 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 the conflicts of interest of panel members

ESOT Guidelines Task Force

- ESOT Secretary 2021-2025: Umberto Cillo
- Councillor 2019-2023: Ina Jochmans
- Education Committee Vice-Chair: Liset Pengel
- Transplant International Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Nuria Montserrat
- Transplant International Executive Editor: Nazia Selzner

Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs)

ESOT actively engages in the publication of high-quality, evidence-based guidance documents to support best practice in solid organ transplantation.

CPGs are statements that include recommendations intended to optimise patient care, lead to better clinical outcomes and improve cost-effectiveness. Furthermore, they provide the opportunity to identify areas requiring further research and serve an educational scope. CPGs are informed through a systematic review of evidence and an assessment of the benefits of alternative care options.

The ESOT manual for clinical practice guidelines and other guidance document formalises the processes associated with the preparation of ESOT CPGs, including the selection of topics for new guidelines, writing and reviewing approval, dissemination and updating. Moreover, it defines the governance of the process.

Infectious Disease

Infectious diseases have always been a significant threat in the management of solid organ transplant recipients, often counterbalancing our efforts to control alloimmune responses to prevent organ rejection. However, in recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic, outbreak of new multidrug resistant pathogens and availability of new antimicrobial agents have enhanced the need for close interaction between the community of transplant physicians, surgeons and infectious disease specialists. In the context of ESOT's efforts to foster greater multidisciplinary, we identified the need to convene a group of experts to work together in forming a strategy for assessing unmet needs and gaps related to infectious diseases in solid organ transplantation. Therefore, the ESOT Council established a transversal task force of transplant professionals and infectious disease specialists to deliver activities in transplant infections.

The scope of this task force will be to assist ESOT and its sections and committees in planning and conducting activities focused on preventing and treating infectious complications in organ transplant recipients. The portfolio of this task force will include, but will not be limited to, ongoing projects in the transplant infectious disease setting.

These comprise the update of and dissemination of activities related to:

- The COVID-19 position statement
- The educational and scientific projects related to new CMV treatments coming to the market
- The identification of needs for specific guidelines or position documents about clinical controversies in transplant infectious disease management
- The related collaboration with industry in this setting

Infectious Disease Task Force

- Infectious Disease Task Force Chair: Paolo Grossi
- Infectious Disease Board Members: José Maria Aguado, Gregor Bond, Saskia Bos, Hannah Kaminski, Oriol Manuel, Berta Saez-Gimenez, Ines Ushiro-Lumb
- EKITA Board Member 2021-2025: David Cucchiari
- ETAHP Chair (liaison): Anna Forsberg
- Education Committee Chair 2021-2024 (liaison): Luca Toti

Education

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

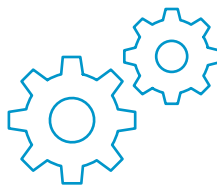
In addition, we plan our educational activities in accordance with the core principles of the ESOT Patient Inclusion Initiative. The society strives to involve people with transplants in activities aimed at the education of fellow patients, organ donors and their families, caregivers and transplant professionals.

The ESOT Education Programme includes courses and masterclasses, opportunities for professional development and online education.



Courses and masterclasses:

- 1. HESPERIS (foundational course)
- 2. Basic Course in Liver Transplantation (foundational course)
- 3. HLTP – The Hepatologist in a Liver Transplant Programme (foundational course)
- 4. LiDO – Live DOnor Nephrectomy Masterclass
- 5. International Donor Surgery and Organ Perfusion Masterclass
- 6. SPLIT Liver Masterclass



Professional development:

- 1. ACADEMIA course
- 2. ESOT Mentorship Programme
- 3. Professional development workshops



Online Education through Transplant Live (Tx Live):

Tx Live is ESOT’s fully accredited online education platform. It serves the community with specialised courses, broader resources from key ESOT events (such as the ESOT Congress and 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.

Activity Reports

HESPERIS Course 2022
4–5 April 2022 | Rome, Italy

The 2022 edition of HESPERIS involved a blended format with a variety of online preparatory materials, followed by 2 days of in-person learning in Rome. A total of 43 participants attended from 14 countries for a deep dive into organ transplantation. The course provided participants with essential knowledge in five key areas of transplantation – immunology, indications, organ donation, recipient management and regenerative medicine. Following the course, attendees were invited to submit and present clinical cases for discussion on the main topics covered. Congratulations to Michaela Orlitová who was awarded the exclusive ‘Paolo Muiesan Award for the Best Case Study Presentation’ for the most impactful discussion.



ACADEMIA Course 2022
6–8 April 2022 | Rome, Italy

The ACADEMIA course provided participants with intensive training on some of the key skills necessary to succeed in research, publishing and professional interactions. A total of 22 transplant professionals from 11 countries attended the course in Rome, aiming to further their knowledge on how to conduct rigorous research, get published, effectively present their work and refine their communication skills. Topics of focus included systematic reviews, statistics, effective presentation skills and communication with patients. The edition included a special workshop on communicating with patients run by Pisana Ferrari, a patient advocate and communication specialist, and Alessandra Grossi, a health communication and medical ethics specialist. Congratulations to Beat Moeckli, winner of the ‘Henrik Ekberg Award for the Best Presentation’, and Manuela Almeida, Giulia Bencini, Felix Krendl, Mikhail Nozdrin and Marco Maria Pascale, winners of the ‘Sir Peter Morris Award for the Best Systematic Review’.



**International Transplant Science (ITS Meeting)
15-18 May 2022 | Berlin, Germany**

The second ITS meeting was jointly organised by ESOT, the American Society of Transplantation (AST), and The Transplantation Society (TTS). The meeting, which hosted almost 200 participants from 24 countries, served as an international platform for scientific discussions on the latest ground-breaking discoveries in the field while providing an excellent opportunity to present cutting-edge research to the scientific community. Scientific sessions tackled hot topics in transplantation, such as mechanisms of tolerance, biomarkers, big data and artificial intelligence. The programme also included panel discussions that illuminated various burning topics concerning conflicts and problems related to gender, such as challenges for female scientists.



**The 10th NICE/EPITA Islet Isolation
and Beta Cell Replacement Workshop
19-21 June 2022 | Oslo, Norway**

The 10th NICE/EPITA Islet Isolation and Beta Cell Replacement Workshop welcomed 77 attendees in Oslo. The workshop provided theoretical education and in-person training to scientists, physicians, surgeons and technicians who have an interest in the field of beta cell replacement therapy and regenerative medicine. Participants focused on improving their knowledge on islet isolation and transplantation and learned novel techniques, all whilst networking with like-minded peers and renowned experts.

**LiDo Masterclass
29 June-1 July 2022 | Rotterdam,
The Netherlands**

Our world-renowned LiDO Masterclass on live donor nephrectomy was held in a blended format, with online preparatory activities provided to participants, followed by a 3-day in-person programme. We welcomed 12 participants from 9 countries in total. Designed according to education-on-demand principles, the masterclass involved the mentoring of participants by internationally recognised leaders in the field in a state-of-the-art skills lab facility within a leading European transplant unit. The masterclass also involved a variety of short, interactive, theoretical lectures on living donation as well as practical sessions on various operation techniques, including tips and tricks for live donor nephrectomy.

**The 4th Basic Course in Liver Transplantation
27-29 May 2022 | Warsaw, Poland**

The 2022 edition of the Basic Course in Liver Transplantation course welcomed early career professionals who specialised in clinical liver transplantation and fostered active participation and communication throughout. Developed by experts of ELITA, the programme included a combination of state-of-the-art lectures, case discussions and interactive presentations. With a central theme of clinical liver transplantation, participants discussed new and current topics in the field whilst guided by internationally recognised leaders in the field.



**The 3rd ECTORS Meeting
29-30 September 2022 | Rotterdam,
The Netherlands**

The 3rd ECTORS Meeting showcased the latest thinking and research developments within regenerative medicine in transplantation. Attendees received updates on key topics within the field, including immunomodulatory cell therapy, the introduction of cell therapy in machine perfusion, organoid research and the latest developments in clinical regeneration.

Part of the meeting was hosted at the prestigious Erasmus Medical Center, providing both an academic atmosphere and the opportunity for participants to visit active organ reconditioning and organoid culture laboratories.



The 5th Hepatologist in a Liver Transplant Programme (HLTP) Course
24-25 October 2022 | Rome, Italy

The HLTP Course was jointly organised by ELITA and the Italian Association for the Study of the Liver (AISF). The 2-day course helped to expand liver transplantation knowledge for hepatology trainees and young specialists through educational lectures, case discussions and interactive presentations. The programme largely focused on the management of acute and chronic decompensated liver disease, emerging and challenging indications for liver transplantation, surgical and innovative techniques to deal with donor shortage and the long-term management of liver transplant patients.

TLJ 3.0
13-15 November 2022 | Prague, Czech Republic

Over 250 attendees from 27 countries joined ESOT for the third edition of TLJ, a leading international event. With the aim of shaping the future clinical pathway of transplantation, a number of educational sessions, consensus sessions and voting sessions were carried out in order to produce methodologically solid and robust consensus guidance documents for clinical practice. The meeting provided a unique opportunity for the scientific and transplant community to collaborate and debate using their extensive knowledge and personal experiences. A total of 168 powerful recommendations were made, which can now be harnessed to direct future research and clinical practice in the field.



Transplant International

The spirit of Transplant International is characterised by anticipation of the developments lying ahead and the attempt to grow through generated opportunities. In an increasingly digital world and amid growing concerns for the environment, we adopted a paperless format years before our competitors.

We have taken advantage of the potential offered by digitalisation and designed a journal with a completely novel appearance – with animated covers as a hallmark. Open science, embodied in the FAIR acronym (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, Reusability), is not only a self-serving principle but has become a requirement from academic institutions to their scholars. Also, and more compellingly, most funding agencies increasingly demand that scientific outputs resulting from public financial support be made freely available.

We strongly believe that these changes are here to stay and that all scientific research will be published open access in the near future. In line with all these important changes and to further adapt to these challenging times, we have selected a new publisher and opted to move to gold open access in 2022. This change was very well adopted by the community and resulted in close to 250 carefully peer-reviewed high-quality articles published in regular or special issues in 2022.

Visit Transplant International →



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key sponsors throughout 2022



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