



The European Society for Organ Transplantation

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Executive Summary

2025 was a year of **consolidation and forward momentum** for ESOT. **Building on recent strategic developments**, the Society reinforced its role as a **leading voice in transplantation** across Europe while broadening its influence in education, research, and policy engagement.

Throughout the year, ESOT focused on strengthening what works while laying the groundwork for future growth. This dual approach allowed the Society to remain stable in a complex healthcare environment while continuing to evolve in areas that matter most to its members and the wider transplant community.

Key highlights include the successful delivery of ESOT's flagship congress, which brought together a diverse, multidisciplinary audience and showcased cutting-edge scientific developments. Participation in educational programmes increased significantly, supported by the expansion of flexible and accessible learning formats. ESOT also sustained its investment in young professionals through targeted initiatives, fellowships, and mentorship opportunities, helping to build the next generation of transplant leaders.

At the same time, ESOT deepened its engagement with European and international stakeholders. The Society contributed actively to discussions on organ donation policy, ethical standards, and equitable access to transplantation. These efforts further positioned ESOT as a trusted partner in shaping the future of transplant care.

Membership remained stable, with continued diversification across regions, disciplines, and career stages. This reflects ESOT's growing inclusiveness and its ability to remain relevant to a broad professional community.

Digital education and hybrid learning formats played a central role in this progress, improving accessibility and enabling wider participation across geographic boundaries.

Looking ahead, ESOT will focus on strengthening its scientific leadership, expanding its digital ecosystem, and reinforcing its advocacy role at the European level. The Society is well-positioned to respond to emerging challenges while continuing to deliver value to its members and to patients.

In alignment with the six Strategic Drivers of its new roadmap, ESOT made meaningful progress across several key areas:

Science & Research

ESOT initiated the expansion of pan-European transplant recipient and living donor registries, laying the foundation for stronger data-driven insights and collaboration. The Society also delivered important research findings and consensus guidelines, prominently featured at the ESOT Congress 2025, reinforcing its scientific leadership.

Organisational Change

Significant steps were taken to strengthen internal governance, with a focus on transparency, efficiency, and strategic alignment. Improvements in data infrastructure were also introduced, enabling better benchmarking, performance tracking, and future evaluation of impact.

Trusted Care, Shared Care

ESOT reaffirmed its commitment to equitable access to transplantation across Europe. Advocacy efforts and awareness campaigns emphasised shared care models and patient-centred approaches, supporting more integrated and inclusive healthcare systems.

Education & Knowledge Sharing

The ESOT Congress 2025, held in London, marked a milestone with record participation and strong scientific engagement. In parallel, the Centre of Preceptorship was launched, and new hybrid learning formats were introduced, making high-quality education more accessible and adaptable to diverse needs.

Policy & Advocacy

ESOT strengthened its engagement with European institutions and other international stakeholders. These efforts focused on promoting harmonised policies, raising awareness of transplantation as a public health priority, and contributing to evidence-based decision-making.

Global Transplant Health

The Society advanced its commitment to global collaboration by expanding partnerships beyond Europe and encouraging knowledge exchange across regions. These initiatives support greater solidarity, capacity building, and shared progress in transplant medicine worldwide.

ESOT at a glance

As a highly influential international organisation, ESOT fosters an inclusive and collaborative environment, ensuring that fairness, equality, and social responsibility remain at the core of its mission. Through groundbreaking research initiatives and multidisciplinary collaborations, ESOT is committed to expanding access to high-quality transplantation care for all, regardless of background or geography. The society actively works to shape policies that promote ethical practices, equitable organ allocation, and patient-centred approaches. ESOT is also the driving force behind the biennial ESOT Congress (The International Transplant Congress*), bringing together approximately 3,500 global experts to exchange knowledge and discuss the latest scientific advancements.

Beyond its role in research and education, ESOT remains a champion of social responsibility, advocating for equitable access to transplantation and working to reduce healthcare disparities. By working closely with leading experts, policymakers, and healthcare professionals, ESOT continues to lead the way in transplantation with fairness, integrity and inclusivity.

Mission, vision, values

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

Governance & Leadership

ESOT's governance structure reflects its commitment to transparent, collaborative, and expert-driven leadership. At the heart of this structure is the ESOT Council, a multidisciplinary body that unites key figures from across the organisation.

The Council comprises the Executive Committee, elected Councillors, and the Chairs of ESOT's 12 scientific sections and committees, ensuring broad representation across all domains of transplantation science and practice. This inclusive model fosters strategic alignment, encourages knowledge exchange, and supports informed decision-making across all ESOT activities. Through regular meetings and coordinated efforts, the Council plays a vital role in shaping the society's direction, championing its mission, and guiding its growth and innovation.

Executive Committee (from September 2025)

- **President:** Olivier Thaunat, France
- **Past president:** Gabriel Oniscu, Sweden
- **Secretary:** Ekaterine Berishvili, Georgia/Switzerland
- **President-elect:** Umberto Cillo, Italy
- **Treasurer:** Frank Dor, The Netherlands
- **CEO:** Devi Mey, Italy

Councillors (from September 2025)

- Roberta Angelico, Italy
- Amedeo Carraro, Italy
- Anna Forsberg, Norway
- Speranta Iacob, Romania
- Sandra Lindstedt, Sweden
- Malgorzata Nowosad, Poland
- Nina Pilat, Austria
- Annemarie Weissenbacher, Austria

Transplant International Editor-in-Chief [no voting rights]

- Thierry Berney, Switzerland

Sections & Committees



The 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 generation of new organs from stem cells and biomaterials. [Learn more about the board](#)



The European Cardio Thoracic Transplant Association (ECTTA)

ECTTA is the forum for experience exchange on treatment of patients with end-stage heart and lung failure. Our aim is to improve outcomes for the patients. [Learn more about ECTTA.](#)



The European Donation and Transplant Coordination Organisation (EDTCO)

EDTCO aims to support health care professionals to provide clinically effective programmes on organ and tissue donation, procurement and transplantation. [Learn more about EDTCO.](#)



The 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. [Learn more about EKITA.](#)



The European Liver and Intestine Transplant Association (ELITA)

The European Liver and Intestine Transplant Association (ELITA), previously known as the European Liver Transplant Association (ELTA), is a section of ESOT. Its membership represents the expertise on liver and intestinal transplantation in Europe. [Learn more about ELITA.](#)



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

ELPAT is a European platform that brings continuity and progress in European research and dialogue on “Ethical, Legal and Psychosocial Aspects of organ Transplantation”. ELPAT currently consists of over 160 experts from more than 25 European countries. [Learn more about ELPAT.](#)



The 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. Topics that will be covered is new technologies in islet isolation and transplantation, 3D bioprinting, organoid applications, and stem cell derived therapies.

[Learn more about EPITA.](#)



Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation (VCA)

The intention of the ESOT VCA Section is to foster the scientific and clinical development of Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation (VCA) in Europe and to serve as a platform for scientists and clinicians for information exchange between ESOT and the Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation Community. [Learn more about the VCA.](#)



Education Committee

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

[Learn more about the EC.](#)



Basic Science Committee

The Basic Science Committee promotes scientific issues and transplantation research within ESOT. An active basic science community and an efficient translation of innovation into the clinic are crucial for the future of transplantation medicine. [Learn more about the BSC.](#)



The European Transplant Allied Healthcare Professionals (ETAHP) Committee

The European Transplant Allied Healthcare Professionals (ETAHP) reaches out to allied healthcare professionals throughout Europe in order to ensure the best care possible for all transplant patients, with the aim to optimize patient outcomes. [Learn more about ETAHP.](#)



Young Professionals in Transplantation (YPT)

The Young Professionals in Transplantation (YPT) is the Network for Junior Transplant professionals of ESOT, representing all young transplant clinicians and scientists who are beginning a career in transplantation and organ donation. [Learn more about the YPT.](#)

Membership Overview



1395 active members



551

6,7 % Baby Boomers Years born: 1946-1964

34,2 % Generation X Years born: 1965-1976

47,1 % Millennials Y Years born: 1977-1995

11,6 % Generation Z Years born: 1996-2012



634



210

34,8 % Surgeon

19,9 % Physician

16,8 % Clinician

8,4 % Scientist

5,3 % Transplant

Coordinator

50,4 %

Activity is Both
(Clinical & Research)

35,1 %

Activity is Clinical

14,5 %

Activity is Research



79%



62%



44%



15%



13%



12%



9%



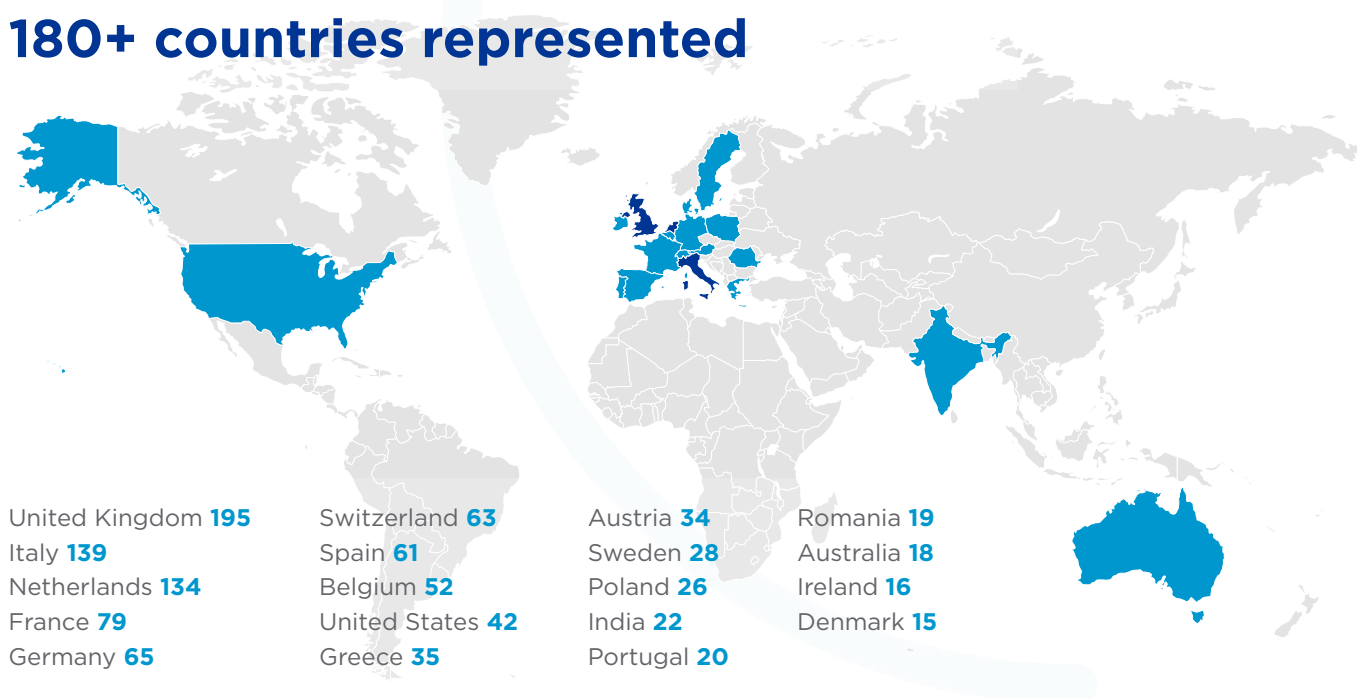
7%



Multiorgan

30%

180+ countries represented



ESOT Congress & Events 2025

The 2025 events programme marked a **significant advance** in ESOT's approach to **scientific exchange and professional engagement**. By combining a flagship congress with an expanded range of educational and digital activities, the Society enhanced its role as a year-round platform for **collaboration, learning, and innovation**.

The **ESOT Congress 2025**, held in London, brought together a global community of transplantation professionals, strengthening ESOT's position as a leading platform for scientific exchange, innovation, and collaboration. Alongside a high-impact scientific programme, the congress achieved broad reach, recognised excellence, and created a meaningful local legacy.



Key Metrics

The congress demonstrated significant scale and international reach:

- **3,192 delegates** representing **91 countries**
- **1,655 abstracts submitted**, with **385 oral presentations**
- Engagement supported by **56 industry partners** and **14 sponsored symposia**
- Over **1,300 media articles**, reinforcing global visibility
- Social media reach exceeding **1.78 million individuals**

These figures reflect both the scientific strength of the programme and the continued growth of ESOT's international profile.

Awards and Recognition

The Congress recognised excellence across research, clinical innovation, and collaboration:

- **Leonardo Da Vinci Award** awarded to **Dharesh Raj Amarnath** (United Kingdom) for impactful research on Pre-donation cardiac arrest is associated with modest graft survival benefit in liver transplantation and to **Sumoyee Basu** (United Kingdom) for her study on T-cell regulatory loss precedes emergence of de novo donor-specific antibodies.
- **Stronger Together PRO Award** awarded to **IKEM, Prague**, recognising outstanding institutional scientific performance. Medizinische Universität Innsbruck received the runner-up award
- **ESOT & IPTA Marius Renard Award** awarded to **Kristina Andrijauskaite** (USA) for leading work in paediatric transplantation

ECP Immunomodulation Award awarded to Anna Marianne Weijler (Austria), recognising innovation in immune modulation research.

In addition, ESOT reinforced its commitment to equity and talent development through **40+ bursaries**, including a dedicated programme supporting professionals from low- and middle-income countries

Legacy Project: “Be a LonDonor”

A central pillar of the congress was its focus on delivering a sustained local impact through the “Be a LonDonor” legacy initiative.

Targeting East London - an area with high transplant need but comparatively low donor registration - the programme combined public engagement, education, and community-led initiatives to drive long-term behavioural change

Key outcomes include:

- A targeted awareness campaign reaching **over 140,000 individuals** during the congress period
- Delivery of a **Community Open Day**, engaging local organisations and the public
- Launch of a **public design competition** to create a permanent installation honouring organ donors
- Implementation of a **student research programme**, generating insights into barriers to organ donation within local communities

The initiative reflects ESOT’s broader commitment to translating scientific leadership into societal impact. With each donor able to save up to nine lives, increasing awareness and participation remain critical to improving transplant outcomes

ESOT Congress 2025 delivered strong scientific engagement, global visibility, and tangible community impact. By combining high-quality research with strategic outreach and legacy initiatives, the congress extended its value beyond the event itself, contributing to long-term progress in transplantation and patient outcomes.

Other ESOT Events and Programmes 2025

In addition to its flagship congress, ESOT continued to deliver a broad and evolving portfolio of educational and community-driven activities throughout 2025. These initiatives reflect the Society’s commitment to continuous engagement, combining scientific excellence with practical training, interdisciplinary exchange, and inclusive community building.

Together, they form an **integrated ecosystem** that supports professionals across all stages of their careers and across the full spectrum of transplantation.

At a Glance

- Total non-congress activities delivered: **35**
- Participants reached across all programmes: **1900+**
- Countries represented: **140+**
- Webinars and online sessions: **26**
- Specialised working group and initiative-led events: **6**

Collectively, ESOT’s non-congress activities in 2025 strengthened its role as a year-round platform for education, collaboration, and professional development.

These initiatives enabled the Society to:

- Reach a broader and more diverse international audience
- Support learning across all career stages
- Promote interdisciplinary exchange and shared practice
- Strengthen engagement within its core communities

They also contributed to a more resilient and adaptable model of engagement, combining the depth of in-person experiences with the scalability of digital learning.

In-person events for 2025

EPITA Symposium 2025	26 Jan - 28 Jan 2025	Innsbruck_Igls, Austria
HESPERIS Course 2025	14 Sep - 16 Sep 2025	Valencia, Spain
ELPAT Congress 2025	9 Oct - 11 Oct 2025	Seville, Spain
ELITA SPLIT LIVER Masterclass 2025	27 Oct - 28 Oct 2025	Groningen, The Netherlands
Living Donation Kidney Transplantation Specialty Symposium by EKITA	7 Nov - 8 Nov 2025	Prague, Czech Republic
ITS Meeting 2025	16 Nov - 19 Nov 2025	San Diego, CA

Online events for 2025

14 Jan	ESOT Mentorship Programme 2025: Workshop on effective mentoring practices
23 Jan	WEBINAR: Desensitisation in kidney transplantation: Improving Patient Awareness
4 Feb	WORKSHOP: The Science of ECP in Transplantation (German)
6 Feb	ACADEMIA online Workshop – Assessing the evidence: systematic reviews in transplantation
18 Feb	WORKSHOP: When CMV Infection Becomes Difficult to Treat
25 Feb	WORKSHOP: The Science of ECP in Transplantation
10 Mar	Professional Development Workshop “Your Career, Your Way: Building Your Personal Path”
11 Mar	WORKSHOP: Photophérèse en transplantation d’organes solides
9 Apr	ACADEMIA Online Workshop – Statistics for Non-statisticians
17 Apr	WORKSHOP: La Fotoferesi nel trapianto di organo solido: basi scientifiche e prospettive terapeutiche
24 Apr	Webinar: Transplant Patient Journey Around Infectious Diseases
5 May	Professional Development Workshop “The researcher’s toolkit: building projects, securing grants and maximising impact”
6 May	State of the Art Cardiothoracic Machine Perfusion Approaches
	Part of ESOT Congress Machine Perfusion Webinar Series
13 May	ACADEMIA Online Workshop – Qualitative Research: Methods for a Person-centered Approach
22 May	Drawing the future of liver perfusion
	Part of ESOT Congress Machine Perfusion Webinar Series
4 Jun	Breathing life into kidney and pancreas preservation
	Part of ESOT Congress Machine Perfusion Webinar Series
10 Jun	Transition from Paediatric to Adult Care: State of the Art and Ongoing Projects
	Part of ESOT Congress Education Workshop
3 Nov	WEBINAR: Latest Updates on Post-Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorders (PTLD)
9 Dec	WORKSHOP: Complex scenarios in the management of CMV infection in solid organ transplantation
15 Dec	WEBINAR: Best of ESOT Congress 2025, Vol 1
17 Dec	WEBINAR: Chronic Lung Allograft Dysfunction Today: Gaps, Challenges, and Future Directions in Lung Transplant Care
18 Dec	WEBINAR: Best of ESOT Congress 2025, Vol 2

Research, Publications & Scientific Output



ESOT Grants Programme

The ESOT Grants Programme continues to support high-quality research across the field of transplantation, enabling innovation, collaboration, and the development of early-career investigators.

Key figures

- Number of grants awarded **33**
- Total funding distributed **€ 178.000,00**
- Countries/institutions represented **16**



ESOT Transplant Fellowships

There are two ESOT Transplant Fellowships available: one Basic Science Fellowship and one 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:

1. Evgenia Preka, France (Clinical)
2. Miki Scaravaglio, Italy (Basic Science)

"Honoured to receive the ESOT Transplant Fellowship and excited for the opportunity to contribute to improving transplant outcomes while building new collaborations in the transplant research community."

Miki Scaravaglio



ESOT 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 two months and one year.

We congratulate the following recipients:

1. Caroline Dudreuilh, United Kingdom
2. Rianne van Rijn, The Netherlands
3. Alvaro Assis de Souza, The Netherlands
4. Grigorie-Alexandru Nastase, Romania
5. René Novysedlák, Czech Republic

"Excited and grateful to receive the ESOT Sevda Hassan Study Scholarship! This opportunity is a major step in expanding my expertise in liver transplantation and bringing innovative practices back to my home country. Looking forward to learning from top experts and making a real impact!"

Alex Nastase



ESOT Educational Scholarships

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

We congratulate the following recipients:

1. Laura Mazilescu, Germany
2. Miriam Manook, United Kingdom
3. Marleen Jacobs, The Netherlands
4. Mirela Chitul, Romania
5. Nikolaos-Andreas Anastasopoulos, United Kingdom
6. Eugenia Rosso, Italy
7. Rishanki Agarwal, United Kingdom
8. Tarique Sabah, United Kingdom
9. Avishek Majumder, United Kingdom
10. Mohamed Elzawahry, United Kingdom
11. Eleonora Nieddu, Italy
12. Yooyun Chung, United Kingdom
13. Merima Odobašić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
14. Nikolaos Koliakos, Belgium
15. Marco Pascale, Italy
16. Syeda Gul Bahar, United Kingdom
17. Marta Maistri, Italy
18. Viktor Domislovic, Croatia
19. Azra Ribić-Mrkonja, Bosnia and Herzegovina
20. Maksim Vasilenka, Belarus



ESOT Global Grants

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

Educational

We congratulate the following recipients:

1. Luis Garcia Covarrubias, Mexico
2. Battsetseg Gonchigjav, Mongolia
3. Zafar Ahmed Khan, South Africa

Travel

We congratulate the following recipients:

1. Thozama Siyotula, South Africa
2. Devprakash Choudhary, India
3. Amirali Mashhadiagha, Iran

"As a transplant surgeon from the renowned Department of Renal Transplant Surgery at PGIMER Chandigarh, receiving the ESOT Global Grant marks a significant milestone at the outset of my journey here at PGIMER. It reaffirms my commitment to advancing paediatric and multiorgan transplantation through international collaboration and innovation. The opportunity to train with Nicos Kessaris is both an honour and a source of inspiration. I am excited to engage with the vibrant ESOT community and to bring back valuable insights that can help shape the future of transplantation in India and beyond."

Devprakash Choudhary

Guidelines

ESOT's guidelines programme is built on a **robust and transparent methodology** designed to **ensure scientific integrity, consistency, and broad expert consensus**.

Each initiative follows a structured process, beginning with the establishment of a dedicated steering committee and the definition of key clinical questions using the PICO framework.

This is followed by a comprehensive systematic review of the available evidence and formal grading of its quality. Draft recommendations are developed through iterative expert discussion, workshops, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring that diverse perspectives are incorporated. Final recommendations are refined through consensus procedures, including Delphi rounds and formal voting, before undergoing review and approval. All outputs are ultimately prepared for publication, ensuring accessibility and impact across the global transplant community

Key Figures 2025

- **8 major guideline and consensus initiatives** advanced
- **100+ international experts involved** across steering committees and working groups
- **20+ countries represented**, reflecting a truly global collaboration
- **Multiple stakeholder formats** including workshops, surveys, webinars, and consensus meetings

Key Guidelines and Consensus Initiatives we worked on in 2025

Controlled Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death (cDCDD)

A major milestone was the continued development of the **cDCDD Consensus**, covering adult and paediatric pathways, normothermic regional perfusion (NRP), and the definition of death in organ donation. This work reflects a highly coordinated international effort and a rigorous multi-stage development process

Chronic Lung Allograft Dysfunction (CLAD) Guidelines

Significant progress was made on the **CLAD Guidelines**, addressing prevention and treatment strategies following lung transplantation. Development included systematic evidence review, expert working groups, congress workshops, and webinars to ensure both scientific depth and community engagement

Post-Transplant Immunosuppressive Protocols in Kidney Transplantation

This consensus document focuses on optimising immunosuppressive strategies in kidney transplantation, addressing variability in clinical practice and supporting more standardised, evidence-based approaches to long-term graft management.

Pancreas Transplantation for Type 2 Diabetes

A new consensus initiative was launched to evaluate the role of pancreas transplantation in patients with type 2 diabetes. The project follows a structured methodology including PICO development, systematic evidence review, and consensus-building activities, with recommendations progressing toward publication.

Position and Strategic Papers

Advancing Xenotransplantation in Europe

This position paper outlines ESOT's perspective on xenotransplantation as a strategic research priority. It highlights the need for sustained investment, coordinated research efforts, and ethical oversight to support the development of safe and scalable solutions to organ shortage.

Artificial Intelligence in Transplantation

The AI position paper explores the growing role of artificial intelligence across the transplant pathway, from donor-recipient matching to predictive analytics and clinical decision support. It addresses both opportunities and challenges, including data governance, validation, and clinical integration.

Ethical and Global Frameworks

The INTEGRITY Project

The **INTEGRITY Project** aims to develop an international ethical framework for research in deceased donation and transplantation. Through global collaboration, workshops, and public consultation, the project supports transparency, ethical consistency, and responsible research practices.

ESOT-Lancet Commission on Transplantation

The **ESOT-Lancet Commission on Transplantation** represents a major strategic initiative, bringing together global experts to define a long-term vision for transplantation.

The Commission addresses critical themes including access, innovation, and global collaboration, with the goal of positioning transplantation as a core component of sustainable health systems and global health priorities.

The scope of ESOT's guidelines and consensus activities in 2025 reflects both scientific depth and global reach. By combining rigorous methodology with broad international collaboration, ESOT continues to deliver high-quality guidance that supports clinical practice, informs policy, and advances transplantation worldwide.

Operational and Technical Guidance for Developing a Transplant Programme in the Balkans

A practical roadmap for policymakers, healthcare leaders, and clinicians. It addresses the key pillars for building and scaling transplant capacity in the region, from governance and training to infrastructure, public trust, and cross-border collaboration. This milestone underscores ESOT's commitment to equitable, ethical, and sustainable transplantation across the Balkans and to empowering local professionals to lead that change. [[Download here](#)]

Partnerships & Collaborations

In 2025, ESOT continued to strengthen its collaborative model through a portfolio of sponsored projects developed in partnership with scientific leaders, clinical experts, and industry stakeholders. These initiatives support the Society's strategic priorities by advancing research, improving clinical practice, and addressing unmet needs across the transplantation pathway.

Partnership Highlights

Advancing Transplantation Through Strategic Collaboration

In 2025, ESOT strengthened its role as a trusted partner for collaboration across the transplantation ecosystem. By working closely with industry, clinicians, and researchers, the Society continues to translate shared expertise into tangible impact for patients.

Two flagship collaborations focused on **targeted immune modulation** and **post-transplant infectious disease management** illustrate how strategic partnerships can drive progress across science, education, and policy.

Extracorporeal Photopheresis (ECP)

Allograft rejection remains a leading cause of long-term graft failure and patient morbidity. While conventional immunosuppressive therapies have improved short-term outcomes, they are associated with significant risks, including infection, malignancy, and organ toxicity.

The ESOT-Therakos collaboration focuses on **Extracorporeal Photopheresis (ECP)**, an established immunomodulatory therapy that offers a more targeted approach to immune regulation.

Over a multi-year programme, the collaboration has delivered:

- International **webinars and expert workshops**
- A curated **online evidence repository**
- **Research awards** to stimulate innovation
- **Survey-based research** to identify clinical gaps

The initiative highlights key priorities for the field, including the need for high-quality randomised evidence, standardisation of clinical protocols, and improved awareness and access.

By bringing together clinicians, researchers, and policymakers, this collaboration supports the transition toward safer, more precise immune modulation strategies in transplantation. *Project supported by Therakos*

Enhancing post-transplant care

Post-transplant infections, including Cytomegalovirus (CMV) and multidrug-resistant organisms, remain a major driver of complications and mortality following transplantation. Through its collaboration with Takeda, ESOT has developed a comprehensive programme that moves beyond clinical management to address the full patient journey.

The initiative is structured around two core pillars:

- **Person-centred care**, including the multilingual *My Life My Health* toolkit and Train-the-Trainer workshops
- **Advanced education and certification**, supporting clinical excellence in infectious disease management

The current portfolio reflects a balanced approach, combining guidelines development, data generation, education, and real-world impact initiatives.

Advancing Clinical Knowledge and Guidelines

Several projects focused on strengthening the evidence base and supporting the development of consensus-driven clinical guidance.

The **Infectious Disease Management initiative** aims to address transplant-specific infections through a Europe-wide survey and the development of consensus recommendations. By identifying gaps in current clinical practice, the project will inform future guidelines and contribute to improved patient outcomes. *Project supported by Biotest and Takeda*

Similarly, **ENGAGE III** builds on previous phases to address antibody-mediated rejection (ABMR). Through literature review, data analysis, and expert consensus, the project will deliver updated evidence and recommendations to support clinical decision-making in a complex and evolving area of transplantation. *Project supported by Hansa, Sanofi, Chiesi*

The **European PTLTD Survey and Knowledge Review** further contributes to this effort by mapping current practices and identifying unmet needs in the management of post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorders. The project is expected to inform future guideline development and standardisation of care across Europe. *Project supported by Pierre Fabre*

Targeted Disease Awareness and Education

ESOT continued to invest in disease-specific education and awareness campaigns to support improved clinical practice.

The **Chronic Lung Allograft Dysfunction (CLAD) initiative** combines educational webinars, guideline updates, and awareness activities. By integrating scientific updates with practical learning formats, the project aims to enhance understanding of CLAD and support clinicians in optimising patient management.

In parallel, the expansion of educational formats across projects, including webinars, reflects ESOT's commitment to accessible and continuous professional development. *Project supported by Sanofi*

Addressing Health Equity and System-Level Challenges

A key development in 2025 was the launch of the **Health Equity Project: Bridging Inequities in Transplantation**. This initiative addresses disparities in access to transplantation through a combination of research, stakeholder engagement, and practical tools.

Activities include multi-country workshops (“Equity Labs”), the development of a digital self-assessment tool for transplant centres, and the creation of a European transplant equity atlas. Together, these outputs aim to support data-driven policy recommendations and enable local-level change.

By combining hands-on training with preparatory educational resources, the initiative contributes to the development of a skilled and connected transplant workforce across Europe. *Project supported by Chiesi and Takeda*

Alignment with strategic drivers

Project / Initiative	Science & Research	Organisational Change	Trusted Care, Shared Care	Education & Knowledge Sharing	Policy & Advocacy	Global Transplant Health
Enhancing post-transplant care	✓ Clinical studies & survey data	✓ Structured programmes & certification	✓ Person-centred care approach	✓ Training, toolkit & certification	✓ Policy summit & consensus papers	✓ Europe-wide implementation & equity focus
ECP (Extracorporeal Photopheresis)	✓ Evidence gaps & research agenda	✓ Need for protocol standardisation	✓ Safer, targeted immune modulation	✓ Webinars, workshops, repository	✓ Address access, cost & adoption barriers	✓ International collaboration & dissemination
Infectious Disease Management	✓ Evidence generation & consensus	✓ Data collection & benchmarking	–	✓ Guidelines & education outputs	✓ Inform policy recommendations	✓ Broad dissemination of best practices
CLAD Awareness & Education	✓ Clinical knowledge development	–	✓ Improved patient management	✓ Webinars & guideline updates	✓ Standardisation of care	✓ Global access via digital formats
ENGAGE III	✓ Literature review & recommendations	–	✓ Improved treatment strategies	✓ Dissemination webinars	–	✓ Shared clinical knowledge
European PTLT Survey	✓ Mapping practice & gaps	✓ Structured data collection	✓ Reducing variation in care	–	✓ Basis for future guidelines	–
Health Equity Project	✓ Evidence on disparities	✓ System-level insights	✓ Equity in access to transplantation	✓ Workshops & tools	✓ Policy recommendations	✓ Scalable model beyond Europe
Centre of Preceptorship	–	–	✓ Improving care through training	✓ Hands-on education	–	✓ Cross-border knowledge exchange

Transplant International

Transplant International is the **official journal** of the European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT) and serves as a **leading platform for the dissemination of high-quality scientific research in organ replacement medicine**.

The journal publishes original clinical and experimental studies across the full spectrum of transplantation, including organ reconditioning, regenerative medicine, bioengineering, and artificial organs. Through a rigorous double-blind peer review process, *Transplant International* ensures scientific excellence while fostering the timely exchange of knowledge within the global transplant community. Committed to inclusivity and diversity in science, the journal actively promotes equitable participation and continuously works to eliminate bias across all stages of publication.

Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief

Thierry Berney, Switzerland

Deputy Editors-in-Chief

Maria Irene Bellini, Italy

Oriol Bestard, Spain

Nina Pilat, Austria

Stefan Schneeberger, Austria

- **2** statistical editors
- **2** assistant social media editors
- **7** executive editors
- **50** associate editors
- **5** editorial fellows



Top 10 papers for 2025 impact factor

New Treatment Options for Refractory/Resistant CMV Infection	<u>38</u>	Review*
European Society of Organ Transplantation (ESOT) Consensus Statement on Prehabilitation for Solid Organ Transplantation Candidates	<u>34</u>	Guideline*
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[Visit the *Transplant International* website](#)

EU-Funded Projects

ESOT participates in several EU-funded projects aligned with the society's mission to improve outcomes for patients with end-stage organ disease by means of transplantation, organ regeneration and substitution. In collaboration with competent authorities and partners, these initiatives aim to raise awareness among the public, healthcare professional, and policymakers, while advancing policies that promote equitable access and better patient outcomes across the field.

BRAVEST

Building Resilience Against crisis: a systematic and global approach to adVance organ Safety and supply in Transplantation

The BRAVEST project is coordinated by ESOT under the EU4Health Programme under European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA). 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

Casting light on HOst-cytomegaloviRUS interaction in Solid organ transplantation

Solid organ transplantation (SOT) is the standard treatment for end-stage organ failure, but immunosuppression increases the risk of cytomegalovirus (CMV), a major cause of morbidity and mortality.

The HORUS project, funded by Horizon Europe under HADEA, unites 25 European partners to improve understanding of CMV-host interactions and clinical management. It will identify biomarkers of CMV control and severe disease, establish a European longitudinal SOT cohort, and develop predictive signatures for infection risk and outcomes.

Combined with mechanistic studies, HORUS aims to enable personalised prevention and treatment of CMV, improving transplant patient outcomes.

[Visit the HORUS website](#)

HORUS

LEOPARD

Liver Electronic Offering Platform with ARTificial intelligence-based Devices

The LEOPARD project, funded by Horizon Europe under HADEA, seeks to enhance liver transplantation outcomes by creating and validating an AI-based predictive algorithm, considering recently identified predictors, which surpasses current models in stratifying both decompensated cirrhosis (DC) and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients by mortality/dropout risks on the waitlist.

Additionally, the project will develop calculators for DC and HCC candidates to aid in patient prioritisation, as well as integrate predictive signatures from OMICs/radiomics to improve risk-assessment accuracy. At its core, the LEOPARD project aims to improve patient outcomes by ensuring timely transplantations, harmonising European prioritisation schemes and advocating for equitable access to liver transplantation (LT) to significantly reduce mortality on the waitlist.

[Visit the LEOPARD website](#)

LEOPARD

EuroKEP

EUROpean Kidney paired Exchange Programme

The EURO-KEP project, funded by EU4Health under HADEA, aims to expand access to living donor kidney transplantation by strengthening kidney exchange programs (KEPs) across Europe.

It brings together policymakers, clinicians, and optimisation experts to support the development of national KEPs and enable international exchanges. EURO-KEP will deliver an EU-wide matching IT platform, harmonised guidelines, and a sustainable operational framework, validated through simulations and pilot exchanges.

[Visit the EuroKEP website](#)



Acknowledgements

In 2025, ESOT didn't just move forward, we set a new pace. From research to policy, education to ethics, our work is shaping the future of organ transplantation across Europe and beyond. Thank you for standing with us.

Together, we're building a more connected, equitable, and sustainable transplant community.



Acknowledging Our Volunteers

ESOT extends its sincere gratitude to the many dedicated volunteers whose time, expertise, and commitment have been instrumental to the Society's work throughout 2025. From contributing to scientific committees and organising events to advancing educational programmes and strategic initiatives, their collective efforts have played a vital role in shaping our activities across Europe and beyond.

This spirit of collaboration and shared purpose lies at the core of ESOT's mission, and we are proud to recognise the invaluable contribution of our volunteers in advancing the field of transplantation.

Sponsors and Partner Societies

ESOT warmly acknowledges the support of its sponsors and partner societies throughout 2025. Your collaboration has been essential to the delivery of our scientific, educational, and advocacy activities.

We particularly recognise the role of our partner societies in fostering a vibrant and connected transplantation community. Through the continuous exchange of experience, knowledge, and expertise, these partnerships strengthen our collective impact and contribute to the advancement of transplantation across Europe and beyond.

We deeply value the trust placed in ESOT and the shared commitment to excellence, progress, and improved patient outcomes. We look forward to continuing this collaboration in the years ahead.

Thank You to the ESOT Team

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the ESOT Team, whose professionalism, dedication, and shared values have underpinned our work throughout 2025. This has been a year of continued progress and impact, made possible by a team that consistently demonstrates excellence and a strong sense of purpose.

Guided by principles of respect, trust, transparency, empathy, and collaboration, the team has delivered across a wide range of initiatives with integrity and consistency. Their commitment remains central to advancing ESOT's mission and supporting the wider transplantation community.

Our Members

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our members for their continued trust and commitment to ESOT. The renewal of your membership reflects not only confidence in the Society's direction, but also a shared dedication to advancing the field of transplantation.

As we look ahead, it is this collective commitment that will shape the future of our community. Your engagement, expertise, and willingness to contribute drive progress, foster innovation, and strengthen collaboration across borders and disciplines.

Together, we are building a resilient and forward-looking network, united by a common purpose: to improve outcomes and transform the lives of patients through transplantation. We look forward to continuing this journey with you.



Stay connected with ESOT

Scan to explore ESOT's work,
connect with our community,
and stay up to date.

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