



# The European Society for Organ Transplantation

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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# About the European Society for Organ Transplantation

**The European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT) was founded over 40 years ago and has been dedicated to pursuing excellence in organ transplantation ever since.**

With a global community of transplant professionals, ESOT is an influential

international organisation and the facilitator of the biennial ESOT Congress. It attracts the foremost transplantation experts to work in its Sections and Committees. ESOT has an impressive history of supporting research, providing 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 advancements 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

## Bylaws

New bylaws were recently submitted and approved during the ESOT General Assembly on September 17, 2023. These regulations represent an important milestone in our organisation's governance structure and demonstrate our commitment to improving operational efficiency. We are excited to share that the approved bylaws are now easily accessible to all stakeholders on the ESOT website. This transparent dissemination highlights our dedication to open communication and ensures that all members and interested parties can easily review and familiarise themselves with the latest governing principles to guide our collective journey forward.



# President's Address

## Looking Forward as a Society

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**As ESOT President, I am honoured to present a vision for the society that we will develop between 2023–2025 and beyond. As part of this vision, my focus over the next two years will be on several key areas.**

### Science and Research

Science is a core activity for ESOT, and research generated by our membership has driven innovation through cutting-edge projects and collaborations. To continue the breakthroughs in transplantation medicine, we need to continue fostering a culture of collaboration, aiming to create a network of centres of excellence to provide the collaborative infrastructure for future research. We also need to consider how we map the future, drive research priorities and shape European Union (EU) funding initiatives. One of the key missions of my presidency is to create a task force to complete the delivery of our ambitious Registries project as part of the EU digital health strategy.

### Promote International Collaboration

Collaboration is the cornerstone of progress in the complex world of organ transplantation. Over the next two years, we will actively seek to expand and strengthen our network of international collaborations and partnerships. In a world that is increasingly global and collaborative, we can make our mark by placing transplantation firmly on the political agendas, promoting our fundamental principles and becoming a global reference in the field.

### Guiding with Clear Principles

Guidelines are the roadmap to excellence. ESOT will continue to develop position papers and guidelines that set the highest standards in organ transplantation and cover issues impacting clinical

practice. These guidelines will serve as a valuable resource for healthcare practitioners, ensuring that every patient receives the best possible care.

### Translating Innovation into Clinical Practice

Innovation is the lifeblood of progress in healthcare. ESOT aims to bridge the gap between groundbreaking research and real-world clinical practice to facilitate the translation of innovative techniques and technologies, ensuring benefits to patients globally. ESOT should take a leading role in three key areas: constructing and advising on the policies and governance of frontier developments, providing the skills and education to use them and sharing best practices to integrate them in day-to-day care – a mission for the next edition of the Transplantation Learning Journey (TLJ).

### Restructuring for the Future

These ambitious goals can only be delivered by a strong organisation that creates engagement. We will restructure our society to be more inclusive, agile and forward-thinking, to widen participation, create advisory boards and embrace new ways of working that will keep us in sync with the times and enable sustainable development.

### Embrace Diversity

Last but not least, in our pursuit of progress, we need to recognise the immense value of diversity and inclusion within our organisation. I am committed to fostering an environment that welcomes individuals from all backgrounds and experiences. By harnessing the collective wisdom of diverse voices, we can better address the unique challenges and opportunities in organ transplantation.

ESOT is poised to lead by example as a modern, agile and inclusive organisation that places patients at the heart of all we do. Together, we will drive positive change and elevate the

standards of organ transplantation care across Europe and the world. Our success will be determined by our ability to engage everyone, influence policies and be a transparent and accountable organisation. As we embark on this transformative journey, we will be guided by our core values of accountability, transparency and integrity, innovation and excellence, trusted care and inclusivity.

Together, we will shape the future of organ transplantation, advancing science and improving the lives of countless patients across the globe. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility, and I look forward to working with all of you to achieve our shared goals. Together, we are ESOT!

**Gabriel Oniscu**

# ESOT Strategic Plan

In the last quarter of 2023, during the ESOT Congress in Athens, we launched the development of the ESOT Strategy to guide our future efforts. To further refine and strengthen our strategic direction, we have established six dedicated task forces focusing on critical areas: Education, Research and Science, Organisational Change, Trusted Care and Shared Care, Outreach and Advocacy, and Global Transplant Health.

Throughout 2024, these task forces will diligently enhance our strategies to ensure that ESOT remains at the forefront of transplantation science and practice. By the end of the year, we will celebrate the milestone of our 100th ESOT Council meeting, during which we will finalise our strategic plan for 2025-2029.



# Council

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## Executive Committee

- Gabriel Oniscu  
ESOT President 2023-2025
- Olivier Thauinat  
ESOT President-elect 2023-2025
- Umberto Cillo  
ESOT Secretary 2021-2025
- Frank Dor  
ESOT Treasurer 2023-2027
- Luciano Potena  
ESOT Past President 2023-2025
- Devi Mey - Chief Executive Officer

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## Councillors

- Chloë Ballesté Delpierre  
2021-2025
- Ekaterine Berishvili  
2021-2025
- Amedeo Carraro  
2023-2027
- Anna Forsberg  
2023-2027
- Maria Speranta Iacob  
2023-2027
- Ina Jochmans  
2023-2027
- Geir Mjoen  
2021-2025
- Annemarie Weissenbacher  
2023-2027

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## Section and Committee Chairs

- Cristiano Amarelli  
ECTTA Chair 2023-2025
- Emin Baris Akin  
EKITA Chair 2023-2025
- Giacomo Germani  
ELITA Chair 2023-2025
- Julie Kerr-Conte  
EPITA Chair 2023-2025
- Nuria Masnou Burralló  
EDTCO Chair 2023-2025
- Hannah Maple  
ELPAT Chair 2021-2024
- Sandra Lindstedt  
ECTORS Chair 2023-2025
- Maria Kaiser  
BSC Chair 2023-2025
- Luca Toti  
Education Committee Chair 2021-2024
- Marleen Van Buren  
ETAHP Chair 2023-2025
- Fadi Issa  
VCA Chair 2021-2023
- Dilan Dabare  
YPT Chair 2023-2025

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## ESOT Foundation Chair

- Luciano Potena

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## Transplant International Editor-in-Chief

- Thierry Berney

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## Centre for Evidence in Transplantation (CET) Director

- Simon Knight
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# Sections



## 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 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 Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Solid Organ Transplantation (MiSOT) Consortium, established in 2009.



## The European Cardio Thoracic Transplant Association (ECTTA)

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



## The 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, as well as optimising donor-recipient care and follow-ups from the perspective of clinical coordination.



## 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 opinions to provide the best service to European patients.

The evolution of renal transplantation becoming its own separate domain occurred gradually. The Kidney Committee of ESOT was founded in 2011 at the 15th ESOT Congress in Glasgow, United Kingdom. The name was changed to EKITA two years later and has since served as a section of ESOT.



### **The 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 space for those working in the field of liver and intestinal transplantation to exchange scientific knowledge to optimise treatment for patients in Europe.



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

ELPAT is a European platform that brings continuity and progress to European research and dialogue on 'Ethical, Legal and Psychosocial Aspects of Organ Transplantation'. ELPAT joined ESOT as an official section in 2008.



### **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.

EPITA covers innovative 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, clinical and educational development of VCA across Europe and serves as a platform for the exchange of information between scientists and clinicians within ESOT and the VCA Community.

Through collaboration with other sections of ESOT to endorse ethical, scientific and clinical principles, this 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 and professional development for transplant professionals at all career levels.

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



## 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 biennial ESOT Congress. The Basic Science Committee promotes:

1. Basic science in transplantation in Europe
2. Translation of innovation into clinical activity
3. Communication between basic scientists and clinicians
4. Collaboration between laboratories in Europe



### **The 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 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 young transplant professionals within the ESOT community, representing transplant clinicians and scientists who are initiating their careers in transplantation and organ donation.

Formed in 2011, YPT assists junior professionals on their path to successful careers in transplantation. The YPT Committee have developed a comprehensive overview of active transplant centres, a multi-purpose tool for all ESOT's stakeholders. Benefits of this tool range from finding opportunities for training and mentorship programmes for young professionals to helping patients find a professional in their country.

# Community

## Membership

We owe our current success to our dedicated ESOT members, who have joined us in our mission to improve the outcomes of patients with terminal organ disease.

ESOT membership offers the benefits of actively supporting policy initiatives, participating in governance elections and promoting shared decision-making. Members have unlimited access to learning materials, providing a platform to advance their careers and progress within the field.

Our tight-knit ESOT community provides close connections to an international transplantation network. Our members form a diverse network of colleagues, peers and friends within the field, and we are excited to continue fostering these valuable relationships.

In 2023, ESOT proudly supported approximately 1,500 members. With members from 60 nations, the countries with the highest number of members were the United Kingdom, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Belgium and Switzerland.

ESOT established new Memoranda of Understanding in 2023 to enhance collaboration with European National Transplant Societies and other societies interested in transplantation and organ donation.

## 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.

## Engagement

It is crucial for ESOT to collaborate with other transplant societies and organisations that operate in similar areas of interest. These partnerships help build strong networks and synergies which, in turn, enhance our collective ability to advance transplantation science and improve patient outcomes. By working together, we can share knowledge, pool resources and address the complex challenges faced

in organ donation and transplantation. Such collaborations enable us to leverage diverse expertise and perspectives, driving innovation and facilitating the development of best practices.

ESOT is committed to strengthening these relationships to ensure a united and effective approach to advancing the field and supporting those impacted by transplantation.

# ESOT Patient Inclusion Initiative

ESOT collaborates closely with transplant patient organisations across Europe, fostering cooperation and open dialogue between patients and healthcare professionals. Highlighting the role of patients in ESOT's initiatives is essential to advancing health and quality of life among the transplant population.



We always encourage and value 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 designed to unite healthcare professionals and individuals with transplants.

The mission of the ESOT-ETPO alliance is to promote realistic medicine in organ donation and transplantation. The alliance seeks to achieve this by empowering transplant recipients and fostering meaningful dialogue among patients, organ donors and their families, caregivers and transplant professionals, ensuring that their perspectives and experiences are fully represented.

### Spotlight

Gathering for the ESOT Congress 2023 last September was a truly inspiring experience. Being surrounded by individuals who share your passion and having the opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas can ignite a fire within you to pursue greater heights of knowledge and innovation.



Take a moment to read the reports of our Workshops below:

- **Workshop 1:** Staying healthy. [Visit here](#)
- **Workshop 2:** Living your life after transplantation. Patient-centred approach and peer support network. [Visit here](#)

### The Steering Committee

ESOT leaders and patient representatives together form the core group responsible for the development and implementation of the patient inclusion initiative:

- Peter Carstedt (Sweden)
- Pisana Ferrari (Italy)
- Anna Forsberg (Sweden)
- Daniel Gallego (Spain)
- Nichon Jansen (The Netherlands)
- Fiona Loud (United Kingdom)
- Hannah Maple (United Kingdom)
- Gabriel Oniscu (Sweden)
- David Paredes Zapata (Spain)
- Colin White (Ireland)

# Education



ESOT aims to support transplant professionals at all career levels by fostering 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 designing and delivering 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.

Transplant Live is ESOT's fully accredited online education platform. It serves the community with specialised courses, broader resources from key ESOT events, webinars and podcasts.

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.

# Awards and Grants

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 a diverse awards programme.

A number of awards are available at the ESOT Congress, as well as at other courses and meetings organised by ESOT's Sections and Committees. These include:

- **ESOT Leonardo Da Vinci Transplant Research Innovation Award** (presented at the ESOT Congress)
- **Stronger Together PRO Award** (presented at the ESOT Congress)
- **The ESOT Legacy Award** (presented at the ESOT Congress)
- **Paolo Muiesan Award** for the Best Case Study Presentation (presented at HESPERIS Course)

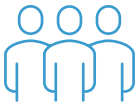


## Grants

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 includes:

- **ESOT Educational Scholarship** (20 scholarships of up to €1,000 each)
- **Sevda Hassan Study Scholarship** (10 scholarships of €2,000 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 €1,000 or €2,000 each)



## ESOT Grants Programme 2023 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:

1. Shadab Abadpour
2. Rhys Evans
3. Bojana Šimunov
4. Sumoyee Basu
5. Fayyad Jaradat
6. Hanne Beeckmans
7. Romy Steiner
8. Lorenzo Petagna
9. Diana Wu
10. Barbora Hagerf (Voglová)
11. Eloisa Franchi
12. Jacopo Lanari
13. Domiziana Pedini
14. Evelien Quint
15. Silvia Caregari
16. Marta Sablik
17. Inés Perezpayá
18. Stijn van de Laar
19. Ahmed Saleh
20. Monika Młynarczyk



## 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. Samuel Kennedy (Basic Science)
2. Madita Buch (Clinical)



## 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. Gvantsa Metskhvarishvili
2. Maksym Rzhaniy
3. Sandica Bucurica
4. Mykhailo Kozhanov
5. Daria Diehtiarova
6. Oleg Godik
7. Oleksii Voroniak
8. Igor Gumennyi



## 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. Wenshi Jiang
2. Shams Zehri
3. Seyed Ali Moosavi

### Travel

We congratulate the following recipients:

1. Sanju Sobnach
2. Houying Cheng
3. Jihua Wu

# Partnerships

Commercial partnerships with industry and academic institutions are a core component of the ESOT model and provide a unique platform for collaborative working across all sectors of organ transplantation.

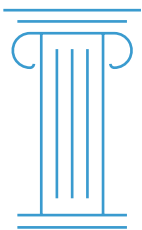


The plan outlines our vision within five focus pillars where ESOT can have the greatest impact on achieving better health outcomes for patients by striving to remain a fully accountable organisation for the lives, human rights and well-being of everyone involved in transplantation.

The five pillars are Research & Science, Education, Policy & Advocacy, Community & Membership and Congress. 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.

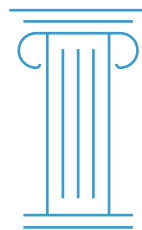
## The five pillars are



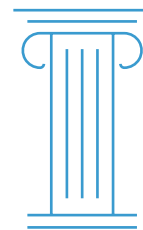
**Research &  
Science**



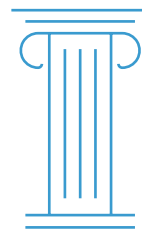
**Education**



**Policy &  
Advocacy**



**Community &  
Membership**



**Congress**



# 2023 Activity Reports

## ESOT Virtual

### Online

ESOT Virtual is a comprehensive digital resource platform that hosts a vast repository of our webinars and ESOT Congress recordings. This virtual library serves as an invaluable tool for transplant professionals. It enables them to stay updated with the latest advancements and best practices in the field of transplantation.

## ESOT Mentorship Programme

### Year-long, online and at ESOT Congress

The ESOT Mentorship Programme aims to provide transplant professionals with the opportunity for close interaction and expert guidance at a key stage of their career. The programme welcomes mentors and mentees from all disciplines, and participants can apply to work with expert mentors selected on the basis of their specialty and areas of interest.

In addition to the individual mentor-mentee sessions, participants can take advantage of a wealth of resources, including professional development workshops and in-person networking opportunities.

- Countries: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom

- Mentee Hassina C. Mohammed (Trinidad and Tobago) with Mentor Giuseppe Feltrin (Italy)
- Mentee Louisa Steines (Germany) with Mentor Carmen Lefaucher (France)
- Mentee Julia Hofmann (Austria) with Mentor Maria Kaiser (United Kingdom)
- Mentee Ramona Lucia Berinde (Spain) with Mentor Lorna Marson (United Kingdom)
- Mentee Mindaugas Kvietkauskas (Lithuania) with Mentor Stephen Clark (United Kingdom)

*“Joining ESOT has been fundamental to my professional becoming, but being part of this mentorship experience has been absolutely instrumental in shaping my perspectives and fuelling my potential.”*

## YPT Podcast Series

### Online

Our innovative podcast series is aimed at complementing the renowned ESOT Transplant Live education programme. Informing our global audience by covering subject areas that are not easily delivered in a traditional lecture format, the podcasts provide a platform for more conversational and engaging teaching methods.

## 12th EPITA Symposium and 41st AIDPIT Workshop

22-24 Jan 2023 | Innsbruck, Austria

The 12th EPITA Symposium, held in January 2023, was a significant event in the field of pancreatic islet transplantation, attracting participants from across the globe. The symposium saw great engagement through a total of 78 submitted abstracts, showcasing the latest research and developments in the field.

- Registrations: 167
- Participating Countries: 18
- Submitted Abstracts: 78

The symposium recognised outstanding contributions through various awards:

- Best Oral Presentations: Three awards were granted for the best oral presentations during the session titled 'Six of the best - oral presentations'
- Best Poster Presentations: Three awards were granted for the best poster presentations
- Clinical Case Study: One award was presented for a notable clinical case study

The 12th EPITA Symposium not only highlighted cutting-edge research and clinical practices but also fostered international collaboration and knowledge exchange, setting the stage for future advancements in pancreatic islet transplantation.



## HESPERIS Course 2023

20-22 Apr 2023 | Budapest, Hungary

### Foundational Course

HESPERIS is a comprehensive course on organ transplantation, ideally suited for physicians, surgeons and scientists entering the field of transplantation. The course consists of a three-day in-person programme, which includes lectures on hot topics in transplantation, guided group discussions and interactive case study presentations. In this dynamic and interactive live environment, participants will have the chance to meet faculty and gain first-hand knowledge from some of the most experienced professionals in the field.

HESPERIS Course 2023 faculty and topics were diverse. In this edition, time was dedicated to topics related to cardiothoracic organ transplantation, transplant anaesthesia and value-based care. Other topics of focus included transplant immunology, indications, organ donation, preservation, recipient management and regenerative medicine.

HESPERIS Course 2023 also included a wide range of online preparatory materials and lectures. Participants were encouraged to take advantage of them in order to prepare for the in-person portion of the course and to select the topics they wish to delve into depending on their needs and expertise. The online programme and activities were not a requirement, but rather an additional resource made available to participants. The European Board of Transplant Medicine of the Division of Transplantation of the UEMS recommends HESPERIS as a preparatory course for the Exam on Transplant Medicine.



The course provided participants with an advanced introduction to the most relevant aspects of transplantation and promoted a multidisciplinary approach to transplantation that participants will be able to acquire as a practical model they can implement in their own transplant centres.

- Registrations: 46
- Participating countries: 20

*“An excellent opportunity to network with like-minded individuals across Europe and around the world.”*

*“The lectures gave me more understanding about the management of highly sensitised patients and encouraged me to improve my clinical practice and decisions in this population.”*

## International Transplantation Science (ITS) Meeting #ITSmeeting 2023

30 Apr-3 May 2023 | Niagara Falls, USA

The ITS meeting, 2023, a collaborative effort by ESOT, the American Society of Transplantation (AST) and The Transplantation Society (TTS), was a significant event in the transplantation community, held in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Managed by TTS this year, the event attracted a total of 143 participants and 35 pre-congress participants from 18 countries, highlighting the global interest and participation in transplantation science.

- Registrations: 143
- Pre-congress participants: 35
- Participating countries: 18
- Total abstracts submitted: 121

ITS 2023 offered valuable insights into the latest advancements in transplantation science and fostered international collaboration. The meeting underscored the importance of such global gatherings in advancing the field and improving patient outcomes.

## EDTCO Congress 2023

16 Sept 2023 | Athens, Greece



The EDTCO Congress 2023 marked a significant milestone in the field of organ donation and transplant coordination.

Under the tagline 'EDTCO Organ Donation Congress: A New Era in Donor Coordination', the event brought together experts, practitioners and stakeholders from across the globe to discuss and explore advancements in donor coordination. The congress featured a diverse range of sessions, including keynote speeches, panel discussions and workshops. Key topics included innovative donor-management strategies, advancements in organ preservation, ethical considerations in organ donation, and the impact of new technologies on donor coordination.

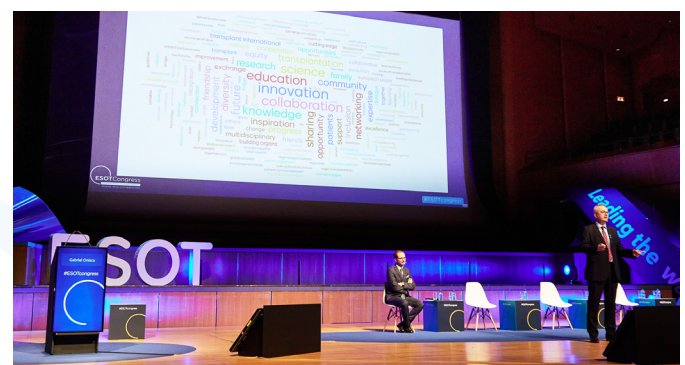
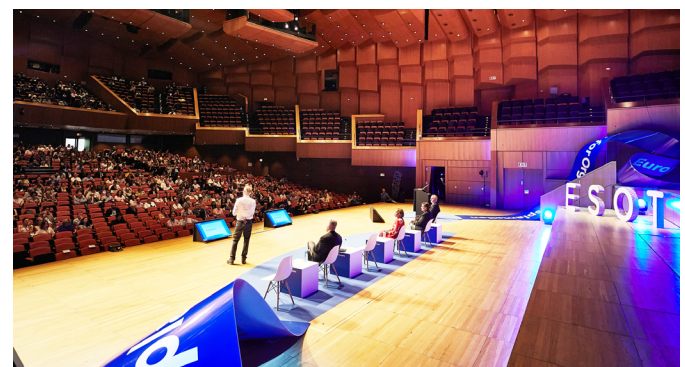
## ESOT Congress 2023

17-20 Sept 2023 | Athens, Greece

Under the overarching theme of 'Disruptive Innovation, Trusted Care', the ESOT Congress 2023 was held in the birthplace of civilisation, Athens, from 17-20 September. Participants attended onsite and online from over 80 different countries, providing networking opportunities and knowledge exchange on a truly global scale.

As we shift into a technologically driven world, the congress immersed delegates into the latest opportunities and challenges across the field of transplantation. Through a multi-disciplinary approach, the congress featured the latest research and innovation from prominent scientists and physicians, offering attendees a unique opportunity to connect science with medicine.

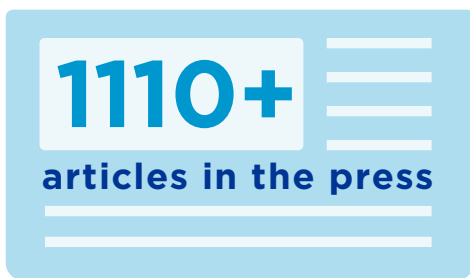
[Read the ESOT Congress 2023 Congress Review](#)



# The ESOT Congress in numbers

**2826**  participants

**1110+**  
articles in the press



**1800+**  
total posts using  
#ESOTcongress

**1.1 million+**  
#ESOTcongress  
audience reach



**48** industry  
partners



**19** industry-  
sponsored  
symposia

 Abstracts  
submitted **1657**

 Abstracts  
presented **1113**

 Late-breaking  
abstracts  
presented **82**

**5** congress  
domains



**5** machine perfusion  
and preservation labs

**80+**  
countries  
represented



## Top 10 countries represented:

1. United Kingdom
2. Greece
3. France
4. Italy
5. The Netherlands
6. Germany
7. South Korea
8. USA
9. Spain
10. Switzerland

# 2023 Annual Accounts

## Accounting Policies in Respect of the Valuation of Assets and Liabilities

### General Information

The financial statements have been prepared according with the Dutch generally accepted accounting principles and are denominated in Euro. The financial statements have been prepared by applying the historical cost convention. Unless disclosed otherwise in the accounting principles for the specific balance sheet item, assets and liabilities are presented at face value.

Income and expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis. Profit is only recognised when realised on the balance sheet date. Losses originating before the end of the financial year are taken into account if they have become known before preparation of the financial statements.

### Accounts Receivable

Upon initial recognition, the receivables are valued at fair value and then valued at amortised cost. The fair value and amortised cost equal the face value. Provisions deemed necessary for possible bad debt losses are deducted. These provisions are determined by individual assessment of the receivables.

## Accounting Policies in Respect of Result Determination

### Net Turnover

The net income shown in the profit and loss account is the revenue from sponsors through a support foundation and grants received from third parties net of value added tax.

### Direct Costs

The direct costs are recognised at cost.

### Other Operating Expenses

Expenses are based on the historical cost convention and attributed to the financial year to which they pertain.

Amsterdam, June 2024

G.C. Oniscu

President of the  
Executive Committee

F. Dor

Treasurer

[View the 2023 Financial Statements](#)

# Policy and Advocacy

## Tackling Inequalities in Organ Transplantation

It is ESOT's aim to eliminate inequalities in organ transplantation across Europe. To achieve this, ESOT calls on policymakers, health authorities and medical professionals to join forces in setting stronger objectives for equitable access and sustainability in organ transplantation.

Across Europe, widespread inequalities exist within the organ transplantation pathway in several core areas, including access to treatment, healthcare professional knowledge, reporting and data collection and patient awareness. While the EU Action Plan on Organ Donation and Transplantation (2009–2015) made strides to address these inequalities, the initial rise in transplantation rates observed after its initiation has plateaued in recent years, with some countries even experiencing a decrease. Renewed action is therefore urgently needed to drive fair and sustainable improvements in organ transplantation throughout Europe.

As a result, ESOT launched a manifesto at the end of 2023: *'Tackling Inequalities in Organ Transplantation: A Pathway Forward'*. This document set out ESOT's vision for transforming the organ transplantation landscape between 2024–2029, aligning with the next term in the European Parliament.

[Read the manifesto](#)

## Santander Summit

9–10 Nov 2023 |  
Santander, Spain

The Santander Transplant Summit was a significant milestone in the field of organ donation and transplantation. The Organización Nacional de Trasplantes (ONT), under the auspices of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, hosted the summit.

The summit focused on the theme 'Towards Global Convergence in Transplantation: Sufficiency, Transparency and Oversight', and ESOT played a crucial role in the event by sponsoring and actively participating in discussions that tackled the foremost challenges in transplantation.

The summit advocated for transplantation to be recognised as a priority in healthcare and emphasised the importance of data sharing to enhance global practices. The discussions at the summit also involved a critical review of the current landscape of donation and transplantation, identifying pressing challenges, formulating effective solutions and shaping the future direction of transplant activities worldwide. The insights and consensus achieved during the summit have been encapsulated in a statement that offers guidance and recommendations for future initiatives in the field of transplantation.



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## Transplant Awareness Days

ESOT proudly supports major international awareness days dedicated to organ donation and transplantation, as well as healthcare and wellbeing. These observances are crucial in raising awareness about the importance of organ donation, supporting the healthcare needs of those awaiting transplants and enhancing the lives of transplant recipients.

ESOT recognises the impact these days have on the broader community, including the families and friends of patients. Through various events and initiatives, ESOT continues to promote education, encourage donor registrations and support ongoing advancements in transplantation science, underscoring our commitment to improving outcomes for all those affected by organ transplantation.

# Research and Projects



## ESOT Guidelines

ESOT is deeply committed to improving the quality and accuracy of guidance documents related to solid organ transplantation. To achieve this goal, ESOT has established a dedicated task force responsible for selecting cutting-edge topics crucial to the field's progress.

The task force uses a rigorous and independent methodology to ensure that the guidance remains credible and applicable globally. The group also follows strict selection criteria for members of the guidelines' drafting groups, ensuring that only the most qualified and unbiased experts are involved. To maintain the impartiality and integrity of the guidelines, the task force monitors any conflicts of interest among panel members. This initiative reflects ESOT's commitment to setting new standards in the development of transplantation guidelines and its leadership in the field.

### [Visit the ESOT Guidelines webpage](#)

## ESOT Registries

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 practice with the community.

In September 2023, the Committee of Ministers of the [Council of Europe](#) issued a [recommendation](#) to member States on establishing national harmonised organ transplant registries to facilitate international data sharing. In particular, it recommends that the *"governments of member states promote the development and maintenance of national transplant registries with a view to facilitating harmonisation of the said registries and international data sharing"*. ESOT welcomes this recommendation and gladly makes its registries platform available to transplantation centres, competent authorities and ministers.

ESOT is a member of the [European Health Coalition](#), a network that aspires to health and care systems centred on people and patients. To make this vision a reality, the European Health Coalition has put forward [nine recommendations](#) focusing on four priority areas (Digital Transformation, Health System Integration, Boosting Research and Innovation, and Access to Innovation). The ESOT registries are in line with all these recommendations, particularly the following ones concerning data and digital health:

- Enable the collection of standardised, high quality and relevant health data in a secure manner to improve healthcare delivery, enhance research and drive greater healthcare system efficiency.
- Build a positive ecosystem fostering greater coordination and collaboration on artificial intelligence (AI) across the EU and between different disciplines to enhance the trustworthy and ethical use of AI in healthcare.

### [Visit the ESOT Registries webpage](#)

# Task Forces

## 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 as 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 CPGs and other guidance documents 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.

### The members of the Task Force for Guidelines:

**2021-2023:** Umberto Cillo (Italy), Ina Jochmans (Belgium), Nuria Montserrat (Spain), Liset Pengel (The Netherlands), Nazia Selzner (United States)

**2023-2025:** Sophie Alain (France), Saskia Bos (Belgium), Umberto Cillo (Italy), Eleonora De Martin (France), Carmen Lefaucheur (France), Ionut Nestor (Romania), Gianluca Rompianesi (Italy), Nazia Selzner (United States), Robin Vos (Belgium)

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## 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 and surgeons with infectious disease specialists.

In the context of ESOT's efforts to foster greater multidisciplinary care in this area, 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 cytomegalovirus (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

### The members of the Task Force for Infectious Disease:

Jose Maria Aguado (Spain), Gregor Bond (Austria), Saskia Bos (Belgium), David Cucchiari (Spain), Paolo Grossi (Italy), Nassim Kamar (France), Hannah Kaminski (France), Oriol Manuel (Switzerland), Berta Saez-Gimenez (Spain),

Ines Ushiro-Lumb (United Kingdom), Sophie Alain (France).

#### With Liaisons

Anna Forsberg (Sweden), Luciano Potena (Italy), Luca Toti (Italy)

# EU-Funded 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 collaborating 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

*EUropean TRAnsplantation and INnovation Consortium for Risk Stratification in Kidney Transplant Patients*

The EU-TRAIN 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

*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. 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*

The HORUS 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, 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](#)

# HORUS

## LEOPARD

*Liver Electronic Offering Platform with ARTificial intelligence-based Devices*

The LEOPARD project 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

# Transplant International

*Transplant International* is the official journal of ESOT. *Transplant International* aims to be the premier journal publishing the key basic science and clinical developments in organ replacement medicine, including all aspects of transplantation, organ reconditioning, cell therapy, regenerative medicine, bioengineering and artificial organs.

The aim of the journal is to serve as a forum for the exchange of scientific information in the form of original and high-quality papers in the field of transplantation. Clinical and experimental studies, as well as editorials, letters to the editors and, occasionally, reviews on the biology, physiology and immunology of transplantation of tissues and organs, are published.

Publishing time for the latter is approximately six months, provided major revisions are not needed. Papers submitted to the journal are subject to a thorough double-blind peer-review model.

**[Visit the \*Transplant International\* website](#)**

## Editorial Board

### Editor-in-Chief

Thierry Berney, Switzerland

### Deputy Editors-in-Chief

Nuria Montserrat, Spain

Oriol Bestard, Spain

Stefan Schneeberger, Austria

Maria Irene Bellini, Italy





# ESOT Congress

THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPLANT CONGRESS®

#ESOTcongress

London 29 June – 2 July 2025



Nurturing a sustainable  
transplantation journey

[esotcongress.org](https://esotcongress.org)

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