

AUTUMN PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Friends,

Let me first of all say some words about our last congress that took recently place in Vicenza. We were again over 300 attendees what proves that this Society has found its place in the agenda of Pediatric Surgeons. As President I hope that you had a fruitful meeting on a scientific point of view. Good news is that we received 8 papers to be reviewed and send to Frontiers in Pediatrics. Hard work for the scientific committee! If some of you wants still to try to publish a paper with the help of ESPES about what you presented in Vicenza it's not too late; contact quickly the scientific committee. Vicenza was, on a social point of view, an outstanding success! What beautiful nights we had in Vicenza and Venice! Just wonderful. So many thanks again to Fabio Chiarenza who put together this great congress.

The congress is just behind us... and it's time to speak about Vienna 2020! You know that, due to the fact that IPEG/ESPES will join EUPSA the dates of the congress were fixed in JUNE (usual EUPSA congress month). For that reason abstract submission is open right now! As President I'm convinced that ESPES members will do their really best in order to show that EUROPE is one of the leaders in the field of Minimal Invasive Pediatric Surgery. **Submission and selection will be common with IPEG. ESPES members are asked to send their abstracts trough the ESPES website.**

On November 15 my wife and I organize a Grant Evening in Brussels. The idea is to raise money for the equipment of a simulation lab in Brussels Children's Hospital but also to raise money in order to transform the ESPES website in a real E-learning platform. Let us imagine: you, young pediatric surgeon you want to learn "augmented reality surgery" or "robotics". We know that all hospitals, even University ones, will not have the ability to buy all the new techniques appearing every year. Why not try to use ESPES in order to put together structured courses about special fields? Coming back to "augmented reality" we could imagine first a theoretical part that the candidate can follow at his own rhythm through the E-learning platform (theory, exercises, webinars,...). This part will be organized by an "ESPES augmented reality expert group". After that the candidate could go to a simulation lab were this technic is available and finally, if necessary, go to one of the animal labs that some of us have over Europe. Combining those 3 facilities we will probably offer interested people a great opportunity to learn special techniques in an integrated fashion. In Europe we have the chance that everything is close by.

So, how can you help?

Come to Brussels the 15th of November ! There will be a great Gala Dinner with auction of Contemporary art.

More important : Ask people you know who is interested in Contemporary Art to join. If they are not able to come to Brussels no problem: ask them to provide a phone number or an E-mail address. The auctioneers will contact them during the gala Dinner.

If you can interest a Society they could brand their Society name on the walls of the future simulation lab and on the E-learning ESPES platform.

Finally you can also stimulate people just to DONATE directly through the ESPES website.

Last but not least don't forget to pay your membership fee for 2020!

All information about this great event is available at Kekeli.voumadji@huderf.be

Don't hesitate to look regularly to the ESPES website where all information about the evening will be added day by day. Or go to www.childeasy.org where information will also appear very soon (in particular the catalogue of art works).

As President I will work hard to offer ESPES members always more scientific opportunities in the field of MIS. I'm sure the new board and the committees will be committed too.

Before ending this letter I have also to inform you that we have to elect our new honorary secretary in 2020. Isabela Draghici will end her duty after the Vienna congress.

The honorary secretary's job is of main importance in a Society. Job of the secretary is to take care of all administrative work (with the help of our administrative assistant), to second the President in his tasks, to answer to a lot of questions members have about the society all over the year, to ensure that we follow the constitution and many other tasks. This job has major importance for the continuity and the development of ESPES.

We will inform you by e-mail and on the website about everything concerning this election process. Hope that we will have outstanding candidates like for the other board members this year.

I wish you all a nice and colorful autumn.

Henri Steyaert
President of ESPES

IMPORTANT DATES:

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:	open this week.
GRANT EVENING:	15 th of NOVEMBER 2019
VIENNA CONGRESS:	JUNE 12/13 2020