



RULES AND REGULATIONS

UPDATED AS OF OCTOBER 2018



ESPGHAN

List of Abbreviations

AGM –	Annual General Meeting
AHP –	Allied Health Professionals
AM –	Annual Meeting
DOI –	Declaration of Potential Conflict of Interest
EPP –	Education Partner Programme
ESPGHAN –	European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
FISPGHAN –	Federation of International Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
GI –	Gastrointestinal/Gastroenterology
GS –	General Secretary
JPGN –	http://journals.lww.com/jpgn/pages/default.aspx
LWW –	Wolters Kluwer
MC –	Management Committee
NASPGHAN –	North American Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
PAC –	Public Affairs Committee
PGHN –	Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology And Nutrition
SC –	Scientific Committee
SIG –	Special Interest Group/s
UEG –	United European Gastroenterology
WCPGHAN –	World Congress of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
WG –	Working Group/s

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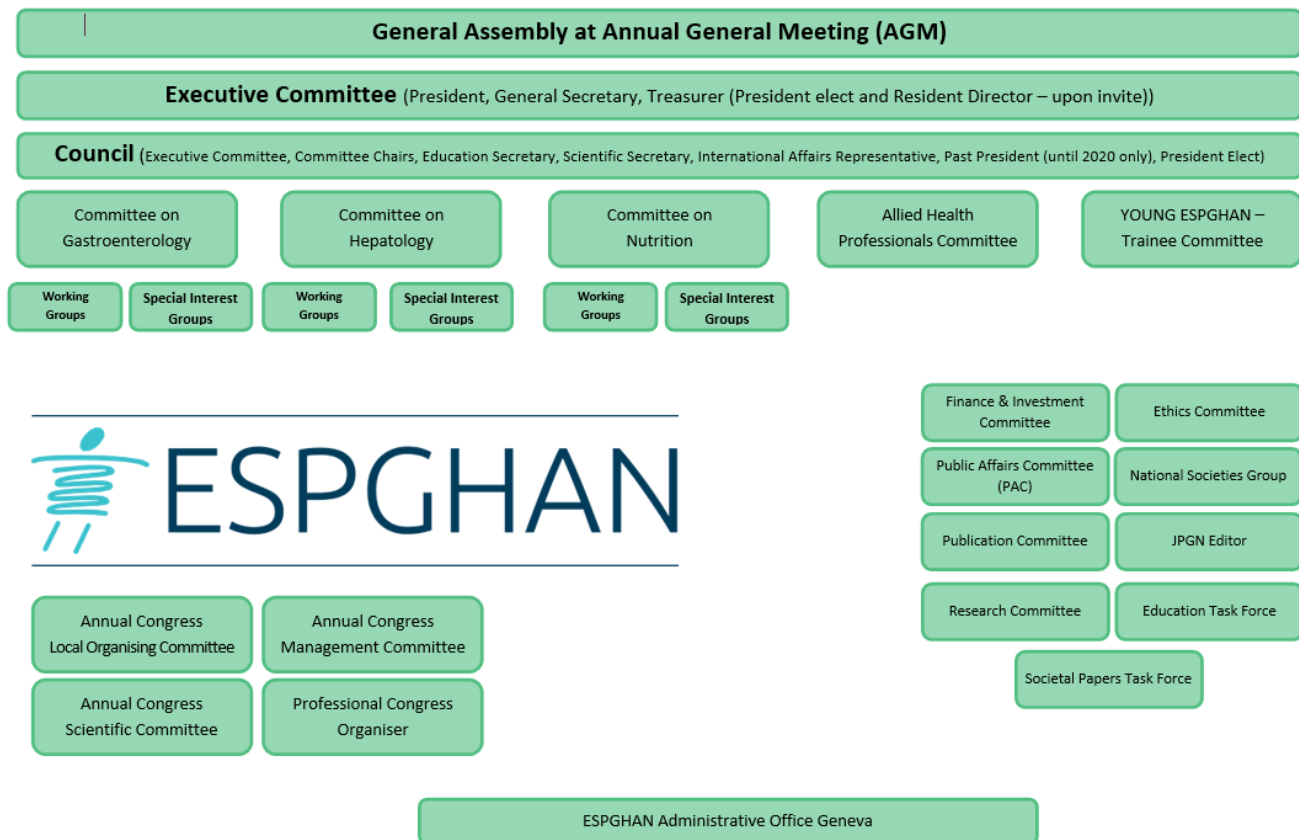
Article 1 - Object

The present internal rules & regulations (here-after referred to as the “Rules & Regulations”) complement the requirements laid down in the Constitution of The European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (here-after referred to as the “Society” or ESPGHAN) and provide guidance for the actions of the Society and its bodies. These Rules & Regulations can be modified by a decision of the ESPGHAN Council.

Most recent changes to the Rules & Regulations were adopted by the ESPGHAN Council at the Transition Council Meeting, June, 2018.

Article 2 – General Structure - Overview Terms - Positions - Important Deadlines

ESPGHAN Structure (2018)



All positions within ESPGHAN run from Annual General Meeting (AGM) to AGM.

	Position	Term in years	Re-Election	Conditions	Nomination / Application Procedure	Voting Rights at Council
Executive Committee	President	3 years	not possible	full member, previously served on Council (not in the last year preceding election)	Candidates for a Council Position should submit a letter of intent for the position they are applying for including motivation, former roles within ESPGHAN and vision for the future.	
	General Secretary	3 years	1 year	previously served on Council	Proposed in writing to the General Secretary by any five members, who are not serving at that time in the Council by January 7 th of the respective year; elected by anonymous electronic ballot of all full ESPGHAN members in good standing.	yes
	Treasurer	3 years	3 years + 1 year	previously served on Council	For each position, a supporter can write only one letter of support. Should multiple candidates for the same position have the same sponsor, the letters will be disqualified. The candidates will have two weeks to submit a letter from a different supporter.	yes
Council	Education Secretary	3 years	not possible		Please note that, if running for any council position, candidates should refrain from sending promotional emails to all/multiple members until the nomination has been discussed and approved by Council. As a general rule, emails addressing all members of ESPGHAN should only be sent via the Office, after approval of the Executive Committee.	yes
	Scientific Secretary	3 years	not possible			yes
	International Affairs Representative	3 years	not possible		For Membership voting on Council positions, candidates will be permitted to submit only five letters of support to be reviewed by the Membership. Voting will take place, in general, from March 1 st until 15 days before the AGM, in accordance with the ESPGHAN Constitution. This is applicable for all Council Positions.	yes
	Chair of Gastroenterology Committee	3 years	not possible*		Nominated by respective committee and appointment to Council shall be approved by a majority vote of all ESPGHAN members in good standing; Committee chairs are to be permitted a three year term on Council and as chair of the committee regardless of committee membership terms; Candidates for committee chairs should be put forward not later than the end of their fourth year of membership in the committee by February 1 st of the respective year. In exceptional cases, at the discretion of the Committee, members of the Committee may be considered later than the fourth year	yes
	Chair of Hepatology Committee	3 years	not possible*		Only one term as Committee Chair is permissible. Members who have served as chair on a Committee can re-apply to the role of Committee Member, after a hiatus of 5 years, but cannot re-apply for the role of Committee Chair.	yes
	Chair of Nutrition Committee	3 years	not possible*			yes
	Chair of Young ESPGHAN Committee	3 years	not possible		*In the case of simultaneous turnover in Chairs from the GI, Nutrition and Hepatology Committees, special dispensation can be made to ensure only one chair steps down at the end of the ESPGHAN year, which runs from AGM to AGM. Ideally, only one chair from the GI, Nutrition and Hepatology Committees should step down in one year of transition. EC and Council will have the responsibility to make this decision, based on	yes
	Chair of Allied Health Professionals Committee	3 years	not possible			yes

					the will of the chair and respective Committee to extend their tenure beyond three years.	
		Chair of the Local Organising Committee	1 year	not possible	Appointed and officially approved by local National Society or equivalent national professional body during bidding process.	no

	Position	member of Council	Term in years	Re-Election	Nomination / Application Procedure
	Ethics Committee Chair	no	3 years	3 years	nominated by respective committee and needs to be approved by Council
	Publication Committee Chair	no	Past President		Past President
	Public Affairs Committee Chair	no	3 years	3 years	nominated by respective committee and needs to be approved by Council
	Finance & Investment Committee Chair	no	Treasurer		Treasurer
Editors					Proposed in writing to the General Secretary by any five members, who are not serving at that time in the Council by January 7 th of the respective year; The Council shall elect an Editor for 5 years and he/she will not be eligible for re-election except under extraordinary circumstances. In the case of no new nominations, Council shall select a candidate.
	JPGN Editor	no	5 years	only possible under extraordinary circumstances at the discretion of Council	A supporter can write only one letter of support. Should multiple candidates for the same position have the same sponsor, the letters will be disqualified. The candidates will have two weeks to submit a letter from a different supporter.

Important Deadlines

The ESPGHAN year and annual budget runs from January to December.

Recurrent yearly deadlines are as follows:

Date	Deadline
7 th of January	All applications for open Council positions need to be received by the Association Administration Office until the 7 th of January of the respective year.
1 st of February	Committees need to put forward their nominations for committee chairs to be considered for Council position until the 1 st of February in the respective years.
12 th of September	Proposals for the organisation of ESPGHAN educational events to be held in the upcoming year need to be submitted to the Association Administration Office until the 12 th of September each year.
1 st of October	Financial requests to be included in the ESPGHAN budget for the upcoming year need to be submitted to the Association Administration Office until the 1 st of October each year.
1 st of November	The deadline to submit bids to hold Annual Meetings is set to the 1 st of November.
31 st December	All members actively involved in ESPGHAN, i.e. holding official positions within ESPGHAN, or applying for a position within ESPGHAN, are required to complete/renew declarations of interest (DOI) on the ESPGHAN website (add link) after being appointed and again annually by the 31 st of December of each year. These forms are visible to the public.

Article 3 - Executive Committee (EC)

The Executive Committee (EC) manages the day to day administration of the society and supervises the Association Administration Office. The EC consists of the following persons:

1. The President.
2. The General Secretary.
3. The Treasurer.
4. The President Elect (by invitation).
5. Resident Director (by invitation).

The Past President and Resident Director can be invited to participate in the EC meetings as a guest.

The EC holds teleconferences, usually monthly and whenever deemed necessary, and it may hold physical meetings, as determined by the President after consultation with the other EC members.

Roles of EC Members

President

The President is invested with the following tasks:

- a. The President acts as the representative of the Society for all legal actions and in all aspects of civil life and financial expenses. He/she can formulate, under the same circumstances, all appeals.
- b. The President can delegate another Council member to replace him/her, as determined by Council ruling with a relative majority. Those delegations persist until they are suspended. The President can delegate specific tasks to other members of the Council or the Society but remains responsible for all delegated tasks.
- c. The President can reach agreement only with Council's authorization ruling with a relative majority.
- d. The term of presidency starts at the end of the annual congress in the year following her/his election as President-Elect.
- e. The President presides over all meetings and general assemblies. In case of absence or illness, he/she is replaced by the General Secretary.
- f. The President is the signatory, jointly with the Treasurer, of all documents of a financial and legal nature.
- g. The President is responsible for the conduct of votes for the position of General Secretary.
- h. The President holds a position on the Publication Committee.
- i. The president chairs the Management Committee (MC) for the Annual Meeting (AM).
- j. The President holds a position in the AM Scientific Committee (SC).
- k. The President chairs the Selection Committee of the Distinguished Service Award.
- l. The President represents ESPGHAN at the United European Gastroenterology (UEG) medical block.

President Elect:

The President-Elect is invested with the following tasks:

- a. Assumes his/her role immediately after the election for one year.
- b. During the one year period, the single most important activity for the President Elect is to observe the Society by working closely with the current presidential officers and key Council members to ensure a smooth transition between Presidents takes place.
- c. In addition to any specific tasks the governing documents may assign, it is the responsibility of the President Elect to anticipate what the Council's duties will be for the forthcoming year.
- d. Is a non-voting member of the EC (by invitation) and of the Council.

Past-President

The Past -President is invested with the following tasks:

- a. Responsible for advising and assisting the President on matters of importance to the Society.
- b. Holds the position of Chair on the Publication Committee.
- c. Holds a position on the Public Affairs Committee.
- d. Represents the Society in its relation with the European Academy of Paediatrics /UEMS.
- e. Is a non-voting Council member for one subsequent year after the presidency has lapsed (until May 2020).

General Secretary

The General Secretary (GS) is invested with the following tasks:

- a. The GS is responsible for the conduct of day-to-day ESPGHAN activities. The GS consults with the Council and keep the Council informed.
- b. The GS has an essential and coordinating role between the Council, the members, the committees.
- c. The GS is responsible for the smooth functioning of the Association Administration Office including the services provided to the members.
- d. The GS is responsible for the conduct of votes for the Council positions, other than for the position of General Secretary itself, for which the President is responsible. The GS will receive nominations and in conjunction with the Association Administration Office and will organise the ballot. The GS can delegate this task to another Council Member if there is a conflict of interest.
- e. The GS reviews the official reports of the AGM and of Council and, all writings concerning the operation of the Society, including the monthly newsletter, except for those concerning the accountancy.
- f. The GS prepares the agenda of the AGM.
- g. The GS prepares the agenda of Council Meetings and the logistics of Council Meetings in conjunction with the Association Administration Office.
- h. The GS receives the applications for the organisation of Annual Meetings.
- i. The GS liaises with the Association Administration Office to collect membership applications and present them to the Council twice a year.
- j. In the absence of the President, the GS shall preside at all meetings and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the president or the Council members.
- k. The GS is responsible for the coordination of all society publications.
- l. The GS holds a position in the MC for the AM.
- m. The GS, along with Association Administration Office, will be responsible for storing and archiving all relevant documents.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is invested with the following tasks:

- a. The treasurer is responsible for the finances of the Society including the collection of membership subscription fees.
- b. The treasurer ensures that the budget is respected and keeps a regular accountancy of all operations carried out.
- c. Submits a detailed budget to the Council for the upcoming year Council at the Autumn Meeting, annual accounts of the preceding year Council at the Winter Meeting and year-to-date reports of the ongoing year at the Summer Meeting.
- d. Reports at the AGM and requests approval for the budget and annual accounts.
- e. The treasurer checks and carries out the financial analysis of all requests from committees and other ESPGHAN related groups.
- f. The treasurer carries out any payment and receives any sum due to the Society.
- g. The treasurer chairs the Finance & Investment Committee.
- h. The treasurer holds a position on the Publication Committee.
- i. The treasurer holds a position in the Management Committee for the AM.

Resident Director

The Resident Director is invested with the following tasks:

- a. Ensures the society can function administratively from Switzerland
- b. Holds signatory authority in Switzerland and will execute, on behalf of ESPGHAN, administrative and/or legal undertakings in Geneva on written request from the Executive Committee.

The Resident Director will form a part of the Executive Committee, upon invite, and will serve for a term of three years. Re-election by Council is possible for one further three year term. In the case of invitation to attend Council Meetings, the Resident Director would have non-voting status.

Changes to tasks in all above ESPGHAN EC positions can be approved by the President.

Article 4 - Council

ESPGHAN shall be governed by a Council in accordance with decisions reached by the General Assembly at the AGM. The Council has extended power for the managing and processing of the business of the Society and is authorized to carry out any action which is not reserved to the General Assembly or the President by the Statutes. The Council interprets and applies the Constitution.

In addition to the functions and powers mentioned below, the Council shall also have the power to:

- a. Formulate and propose policies for approval at the AGM in order to promote ESPGHAN objectives.
- b. Set priorities, adopt pro-active plans and final positions;-
- c. Co-ordinate the work of main committees and groups.

The Council of the Society consists of the following persons:

1. President
2. General Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. President Elect (non-voting)
5. Past President (non-voting , for one subsequent year after the presidency has been concluded; until May 2020)
6. Nine Council members including
 - a. Gastroenterology Committee Chair
 - b. Hepatology Committee Chair
 - c. Nutrition Committee Chair
 - d. Young ESPGHAN Committee – Committee for Trainees and Young Investigators Chair
 - e. Allied Health Professionals Committee Chair
 - f. Education Secretary
 - g. Scientific Secretary
 - h. International Affairs Representative
 - i. Organiser of the next AM (non-voting)

4.1 Roles of Council Members

Education Secretary

The Education Secretary is invested with the following tasks:

- a. Coordinate the curriculum from the Committees with the aim of harmonising training requirements for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (PGHN). throughout Europe, and establishing clearly defined standards of knowledge and skill for tertiary PGHN.
- b. The Education Secretary in consultation with the EC is in charge of assembling the educational events / Education Partner Programme (EPP) to be submitted to Council for approval.
- c. Be the link person for developing training throughout Europe in collaboration with other Societies.
- d. He/she will interact directly with the UEG on educational initiatives and e-learning together with the e-learning editor.
- e. Together with the e-learning editor appointed by the Council take the lead on e-learning projects aiming to develop an e-learning network.

Scientific Secretary

The Scientific Secretary is invested with the following tasks:

1. The scientific programme for the ESPGHAN AM.
 - a. Chair the AM Scientific Committee (SC), the other members being the local organiser and the chairs of the Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Nutrition, Young ESPGHAN and AHP Committees and the President. The President Elect is invited to attend as a non-voting guest. The Scientific Secretary shall coordinate proposals from the local organiser (state of the art lecture), from the Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition Committees (keynote lectures, symposia and working group meetings), from Council and from other society members. With the assistance of the congress organiser (PCO), the Scientific Secretary shall obtain suggestions from the local organiser and from the Committees nine months before the meeting, at the latest.
 - b. The Scientific Secretary shall submit all proposals to the Council at the Autumn Council meeting.

- c. The Scientific Secretary shall present to the Council, in agreement with the local organiser, the names of the proposed chairpersons for the sessions at the ESPGHAN AM.
 - d. The Scientific Secretary shall receive confirmation before the Autumn Council Meeting from the Committee Chairs on the Working Groups (WG) and the Special Interest Groups (SIG) who wish to meet during the ESPGHAN AM.
 - e. The Scientific Secretary shall coordinate satellite symposia, review their programmes, encourage that chairs of satellite symposia are not employed by industry.
 - f. The Scientific Secretary shall prepare sessions of oral presentations/posters (approved by the Council at the Winter Council meeting) and ensure that adequate room and attention is provided to abstract presentations, without undue interference of other parallel activities.
2. Liaise with the PCO to inform them of Council decisions and ensure Compatibility between the programme and venue.
 3. Other meetings
 - a. Coordinate ESPGHAN's scientific contribution at other meetings to which the Society is invited, based on suggestions from the Committee chairs.
 - b. Act as liaison for the United European Gastroenterology Week (UEGW) programme.

International Affairs Representative

The International Affairs Representative is invested with the following tasks:

- a. Be in charge of the development of ESPGHAN's international strategy to be discussed and approved by Council.
- b. Prepare the European Regional Schools and International School Scientific programmes together with the local organisers, which includes (but is not limited to):
 - i. Working with the local organiser to prepare an application (including a proposed programme and budget) for such events within the ESPGHAN Education Partner Programme.
 - ii. Being the ESPGHAN contact person for the local organisers.
- c. Be the liaison person in Council for the National Societies.

Committee Chairs

The Committee chairs are invested with the following tasks:

1. Coordinate all activities planned and completed by the committees and their associated WG's / SIG's.
2. Be the responsible contact person for Council and EC for all matters concerning the respective committee.
3. Attend Council meetings and provide reports on behalf of the committee.
4. Attend the SC meetings for the annual meetings.

4.2 Council Meetings

The Council will convene at least three times per year:

Winter Council Meeting (2nd Weekend in February, Geneva)				
day 1 - Thursday	11:00 - 19:00	8h	Abstract Selection Meeting / SC Meeting	SC, PCO, Association Administration Office
day 2 – Friday	08:00 - 10:30	2,5h	MC Meeting	EC, Scientific Secretary, Local Organiser, PCO, Office
day 2 – Friday	11:00 - 19:00	8h	Strategy Day*	EC, Council, WG/SIG Chairs, Opinion Leaders e.g. Past Presidents, PCO, Association Administration Office
day 3 – Saturday	08:00 - 18:00	10h	Council Meeting	EC, Council, PCO, Association Administration Office
day 4 – Sunday	08:00 - 14:00	6h	Council Meeting	EC, Council, Association Administration Office
			<i>* Every third year to be held by President Elect</i>	
Summer Council Meeting (May, before Annual Meeting, venue of Annual Meeting)				
day 1 - Tuesday	08:00 - 18:00	10h	Council Meeting	EC, Council, Association Administration Office
Autumn Council Meeting (October, before UEG Week, city/venue of UEG Week)				
day 1 - Friday	08:00 - 13:00	5h	SC Meeting	SC, PCO, Association Administration Office
day 1 - Friday	14:00 - 19:00	5h	Council Meeting	EC, Council, PCO, Association Administration Office
day 2 - Saturday	08:00 - 18:00	10h	Council Meeting	EC, Council, Association Administration Office

Other Council meetings may be convened at the request of the President of the Society, including Council transition meetings when new Council members have been elected.

Logistics and Organisation

The Winter Council Meeting is held in Geneva. The Summer Council Meeting is held at the venue of the AM and the Autumn Council Meeting is held in conjunction with the UEGW. The meeting room, hotel and all other logistics are organised by the Association Administration Office, in conjunction with the GS.

Logistics for all Geneva based meetings are organised by Geneva Head Office.

Refund of Expenses

Winter Council Meeting:

The Society will cover the costs of flight (economy fare), hotel and meals for the Council members and guests from the evening before the meeting takes place until the morning of the day following the meeting. Should the total costs be less expensive for a member to fly home on the Sunday rather than the Saturday, the Society will cover the extra night at the hotel.

Summer Council Meeting:

Meeting room, hotel and all other logistics are organised by the Association Administration Office in conjunction with the PCO. The Society will cover the registration fee, costs of flight (economy fare) and hotel for the Council members from the evening before the Council meeting takes place until the morning of the day following the end of the AM

Autumn Council Meeting:

Should the Council member be an invited guest to the UEGW, the UEGW will cover the travel, registration and hotel costs. If not, the Society will cover the costs of flight (economy fare), hotel and meals for the Council members and guests from the evening before the meeting takes place until the morning of the day following the meeting. Should the total costs be less expensive for a member to fly home on the Sunday rather than the Saturday, the Society will cover the extra night at the hotel.

UEG Week:

Should any Council Member be interested in attending UEG Week in its entirety, ESPGHAN will cover the costs of registration, hotel costs and meals for the duration of the week. This reimbursement is subject to the Council Member attending the entire scientific programme schedule during the Congress.

Attendance of Council/Committee Meetings

The term of Office of Council members who do not attend two consecutive meetings will have their Council member/Committee member status rescinded by the President. In cases of exceptional circumstances, the case will be assessed and will be at the discretion of the President.

The Council Meetings should focus on the topics as detailed below:

FOCUS	Winter (February)			Summer (May)			Autumn (October)		
	previous year	reports		current year	reports		upcoming year	reports	
		oral	written		oral	written		oral	written
finances	> year to date budget	yes	No	> year to date budget > financial report on previous year	yes yes		> year to date budget > budget outlook upcoming year	yes Yes	yes yes
education	> EPP report on previous year > report on non EPP events from previous year > e-learning report on previous year	yes yes yes	yes yes yes	> year to date EPP > year to date e-learning	yes no	no	> outlook EPP upcoming year > discussion on suggested non EPP events > outlook e-learning	yes Yes Yes	no no no
committees	> committee end of year reports	yes	yes	> committee progress year up to date	yes	yes	> committee outlook upcoming year	Yes	no
constitution	> if applicable			> if applicable			> if applicable	Yes	no
Annual Meeting	> report on previous year's Annual Meeting > update upcoming one(s) > bids for future congresses (if applicable)	yes yes yes	no	> update current one > update upcoming one(s)	yes yes	no	> update upcoming one(s)	Yes Yes	no no
Society Management	> applications for positions within ESPGHAN > DSA Award Applications > R&R Update (if applicable) > Ad Hoc Topics	yes yes yes yes	yes	> update on membership applications > review AGM agenda > DSA Award Winner > R&R Update (if applicable) > Ad Hoc Topics	yes yes yes yes	yes	> update on membership applications > upcoming available ESPGHAN positions > R&R Update (if applicable) > Ad Hoc Topics	Yes Yes	no no no no
Society Publications	> update	yes	yes	> update	yes	yes	> update	Yes	no
Public Affairs	> report on previous year > outlook upcoming year	yes yes	yes	> report on previous year > outlook upcoming year	yes yes	no yes	> progress report year to date	no	yes
JPGN	> report on previous year	yes	no		yes	yes		no	no
International Affairs rep.	> report on previous year	yes	yes	> progress report year to date	yes	no	> Summary on progress & outlook upcoming year	yes	no

written reports (annual report)	End of year reports: GIC, NUT, HEP, AHP, Young, Education Secretary (incl. E-learning), International Affairs Rep., JPGN		Ethics, National Societies, PAC, Publication Summarised Update: GIC, NUT, HEP, AHP, Young		Summarised Update: GIC, NUT, HEP, AHP, Young incl. Budget expenditure so far and budget requests for coming year		
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Written reports for all Council Meetings need to be submitted to the Association Administration Office at the latest two weeks prior to the respective Council meeting.

4.3 Expenses and Rules for Financial Compensation

Council members, as well as any other member of the Society, cannot receive any salary as a compensation for their work within the Society.

Reimbursement of expenses is possible on the production of acceptable invoices. As a general rule, only economy fares will be refunded, and officers are asked to look for the cheapest possible fare. Travel Expenses for the attendance of meetings related to one's role within ESPGHAN will generally be refunded up to the following maximum amounts:

Travel Refund	
Attendees within same country*	300,00
Europe	500,00
Middle East	700,00
USA / Canada East Coast	1.500,00
USA / Canada Midwest	1.500,00
USA / Canada West Coast	2.000,00
Asia	2.000,00
Australia	2.000,00
North Africa	1.000,00
Central and South Africa	1.500,00

*No travel refunds and accommodation costs covered for local attendees living at the city of the meeting.

Claims need to be submitted within 30 days after the meeting in order to be refunded. All members holding a position within ESPGHAN need to submit their annual Declaration of Interest form in order to be eligible to receive refunds for expenses related to their position.

ESPGHAN meetings need to be registered with the Association Administration Office prior to the meeting in order for expenses to be covered by ESPGHAN. Expenses for travelling to non-ESPGHAN meetings related to one's role within ESPGHAN need to be announced to the office prior to the meeting.

Article 5 - Committees

All committees will act in accordance with the Missions and Rules set out for each respective Committee.

5.1 Committees on Gastroenterology / Hepatology / Nutrition

Mission

The Committees on Gastroenterology / Hepatology / Nutrition are standing committees of the Society. The work of the Committees aims at promoting child health by:

- a) Writing and publishing authoritative commentaries of clinical and scientific relevance on pertinent questions in the area of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (PGHN).
- b) Providing advice on matters related to PGHN to ESPGHAN and other scientific societies, regulatory bodies, non-governmental organisations, industry and other interested parties.
- c) Contributing to the exchange of scientific information, and to promote high quality research and training in paediatric gastroenterology, by organising workshops and scientific meetings, training courses, and other suitable approaches;
- d) Providing guidance on teaching in PGHN, on the organisation of practice in care and education, practical approaches to diagnosis and treatment and other questions of relevance.

The strength and authority of the ESPGHAN Committees depend on their unbiased and independent decision making. The comments and actions of the Committee are led only by scientific arguments and by its best understanding of the interests of children.

The Committees are part of ESPGHAN and are answerable to the Council of the Society with regard to its membership, publications and other activities. The rules and standing orders of ESPGHAN, and its Council, supersede all the Committees might wish to impose. The Committees aim at close interaction with the other activities, the other Committees, Council, and the membership of ESPGHAN.

Committee Members

The Committees are composed of a chairperson, a secretary and up to ten additional members, i. e. a total of up to twelve members.

The Allied Health Professional Committee (AHP) and the Young ESPGHAN Committee each propose one member to be approved by voting (majority decision) of all other members of the Committee.

Open positions on the committee need to be advertised to all members via the monthly electronic newsletter five months before the term of office commences and at least twice. Candidates for appointment as new members of the Committees should be full ESPGHAN members, and are required to submit a CV and a list of scientific publications to the Committee.

Individuals considered for appointment will be chosen by the committees and proposed to the Council of ESPGHAN by the acting chair of the committee. Appointments of all Committee members need to be confirmed by the ESPGHAN Council.

For the Committee of Gastroenterology; The Committee will consist of a minimum of six core members plus one representative of AHP and one representative of Young ESPGHAN.

Up to four positions will be open to the Working/Special Interest Groups for direct representation on the Committee. Applications from nominees of WG/SIGs must be accompanied by a letter of support from the chair of the WG/SIG (or if the WG/SIG chair is applying, from another member of the WG/SIG) confirming the nomination has occurred by consensus of the members of the WG/SIG. Serving GIC members will vote on these applications based on importance and priority for WG/SIG to have direct representation. If no consensus is found, the positions will be eligible for an open call to all ESPGHAN members.

Officers and members of the Committee are required to submit a written declaration on potential conflicts of interest upon joining the Committee and again at the beginning of every calendar year, and to declare any potential new conflicts of interest as they may arise. These written declarations will be kept by the Association Administration Office for reference.

All members of the committee have full voting rights.

The Committee may, on an ad hoc basis, call on the services of experts in particular areas. These experts would not become full members of the Committee.

The members of the Committee and all ad hoc experts involved in the activities of the Committee are obliged to respect full confidentiality of discussions and all written material exchanged. No material and no oral information shall be distributed outside of the committee membership unless expressly agreed to by the chairperson.

Manuscripts will be regarded as strictly confidential until accepted for publication, unless expressly agreed otherwise by the chairperson.

Chairpersons and Secretaries

The chairpersons of the Committees are nominated by the Committees, approved by the Council of ESPGHAN and confirmed by ballot by the ESPGHAN membership for a period of three years and will represent the committee as a Council member. A re-election after the three years is not possible.

Nominations need to be announced to the Association Administration Office until the 1st of February of the respective year in order to be put forward to the Council during the Winter Council Meeting. Candidates for committee chairs should be put forward not later than until the end of their fourth year of membership in the committee. The online ballot should usually be open from the 1st of March until 15 days before the next AGM, in accordance with the ESPGHAN constitution, with the new Council members announced during that AGM.

The chairperson will carry final responsibility for all decisions and actions of the committee. The chairperson will act as the spokesperson of the Committee in interactions with third parties, unless agreed otherwise. Although the Committee will generally act based on consensus or majority decision, in exceptional circumstances the chairperson's action might need to be taken.

After consultation with the Committee, the Chairperson proposes to the ESPGHAN Council a secretary to be appointed for a period of three years. The secretary will act as the vice-chairperson and take over the chairperson's function in the event that the chair is unable to fulfil her/his duties, until the chair can resume her/ his responsibilities or a new chairperson is appointed.

The secretary will keep minutes and other relevant records of the activities of the Committee and, at the end of his term of office, hand these documents over to the next secretary. Copies should be sent to the Association Administration Office for archiving purposes. The Secretary will support the Chairperson to produce all relevant reports as outlined in Article 4.2 to be lodged with the Association Administration Office.

Terms

The term of office for all committee members is three years and runs from AGM to AGM. Every officer can be re-elected once. This means that the maximum term of each individual officer is six years.

For AHP and Young ESPGHAN representatives the term of office is generally limited to three years max to facilitate more rapid turn-over and exposure of more AHP and Young ESPGHAN members to this position. If no replacement can be found after three years an exceptional re-election is possible.

If the chair or secretary reaches a period of 6 years membership in the committee during their mandate, they should continue as chair or secretary until the three year term of the respective position ends. The chairperson and the secretary will stay in office until their successors have been appointed, even if their term has expired, unless the EC nominates an interim officer.

If an officer has stepped down for a period of three years, he/she may postulate again. An officer that has to step down from one committee can postulate to become an officer in another committee.

Meetings

The committee will usually meet three times per year, with one of these meetings to be held at the Annual Meeting. If a Committee is to hold a Strategy Day, this should take place in Geneva, Switzerland. The secretary will be responsible for sending out invitations, a proposal for the agenda, and for writing minutes. The minutes will be approved at the following Committee meeting and signed as a true record upon approval. The costs of the meetings and attendance will be covered from the budget allocated by the Council to the Committees. Failure to attend two consecutive meetings in full will constitute a breach of Committee responsibilities and as such, the membership of the Committee should be revoked. Exceptions can be considered, and the outcome will be determined by a Committee vote.

Finances

The Committee will accept donations and sponsorship only on the condition that its independence is conserved, and no conflicts of interest are anticipated.

The committees are asked to submit their planned annual budget for the upcoming year until the 1st of October of the preceding year. The finances of the Committee will be administered by the treasurer of ESPGHAN together with the Association Administration Office. The treasurer of ESPGHAN together with the Association Administration Office will provide a report on the Committee's finances on an annual basis.

Reporting

Please see article 4.2

5.2 Young ESPGHAN - Committee for Trainees and Young Investigators

Mission

The Young ESPGHAN Committee is a standing committee of the European Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN). The work of the Committee aims to:

- a. Contribute to the exchange of scientific information, and to promote high quality research and training in PGHN, by organising workshops, scientific meetings, training courses and disseminating any other suitable resources and opportunities for trainee members in collaboration with the education committee.
- b. To represent the interests of trainees within the Council and society.
- c. Provide advice on matters related to trainees and training within the fields of PGHN to ESPGHAN in liaison with the education secretary.
- d. Shortlist and propose to the Council trainee representatives in the ESPGHAN scientific committees (Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Nutrition) as well as in the ESPGHAN education committee and the e-learning editorial board as necessary. These trainee representatives should actively participate in the activities of the relevant committees and report annually to the trainee committee.
- e. Work closely with the education committee and e-learning editorial office to improve training and organize and participate in educational resources and events.
- f. Contribute where appropriate and encourage suitable trainee members to be involved with WG's.

The Young ESPGHAN Committee is part of ESPGHAN and is answerable to the Council of ESPGHAN with regard to its membership, publications and other activities. The Committee aims to have close interaction with the other activities and the overall membership of ESPGHAN.

The Young ESPGHAN Committee will encourage trainee members to present research at ESPGHAN, UEG Week and World Congress meetings in order to qualify for, and progress to, full membership of ESPGHAN.

In collaboration with the Association Administration Office, the Young ESPGHAN Committee will keep a register of trainees and the length of their membership and will remind trainee members of the term of their membership.

Members

The Young ESPGHAN Committee is composed of a chairperson, a secretary and up to three additional members, i.e. a total of up to five members. The Committee members should be represented in the three disciplines of PGHN, and should be multi-professional.

Open positions on the Young ESPGHAN Committee need to be advertised to trainee members at least 5 months before the term of office commences and at least twice. Candidates for appointment as members of the Young ESPGHAN Committee are required to submit an expression of interest and a supporting statement to the chair of the Young ESPGHAN Committee. The Individuals considered for appointment will be chosen by the committees and proposed to the Council of ESPGHAN by the acting chair of the committee. Appointments of all Committee members need to be confirmed by the ESPGHAN Council.

Officers and members of the Young ESPGHAN Committee are required to submit a written declaration on potential conflicts of interest upon joining the committee and again at the beginning of every calendar year, and to declare any potential new conflicts of interest as they may arise. These written declarations will be kept by the Association Administration Office for reference.

All members of the committee have full voting rights.

The Young ESPGHAN Committee may, on an ad hoc basis, call on the services of experts in particular areas. These experts would not become full members of the committee.

The members of the Committee and all ad hoc experts involved in the activities of the Committee are obliged to respect full confidentiality of discussions and all written material exchanged. No material and no oral information shall be distributed outside of the committee membership unless expressly agreed to by the chairperson.

Manuscripts will be regarded as strictly confidential until accepted for publication, unless expressly agreed otherwise by the chairperson.

Chairperson and Secretary

The chairperson of the Young ESPGHAN Committee is nominated by the committee and approved by the Council of ESPGHAN and confirmed by ballot by the ESPGHAN membership for a period of three years and will represent the committee as a Council member. A re-election after the three years is not possible.

Nominations need to be announced to the Association Administration Office until the 1st of February of the respective year in order to be put forward to the Council during the Winter Council Meeting. The online ballot should usually be open from the 1st of March until 15 days before the next AGM, in accordance with the ESPGHAN constitution, with the new Council members announced during that AGM.

The chairperson will carry final responsibility for all decisions and actions of the committee. The chairperson will act as the speaker of the Committee in interactions with third parties, unless agreed otherwise. Although the Committee will generally act based on consensus or majority decision, in exceptional circumstances the chairperson's action might need to be taken.

After consultation with the Young ESPGHAN Committee, the chairperson proposes to the Council a Secretary to be appointed for a period of three years which may be renewable once. The Secretary will act as the vice-chairperson and take over the chairperson's function in the event that the chair is unable to fulfil her/ his duties, until the chair can resume her/ his responsibilities or a new chairperson is appointed.

The Secretary will keep minutes and other relevant records of the activities of the Young ESPGHAN Committee and, at the end of his/her term of office, hand these documents over to the next secretary. Copies should be sent to the Association Administration Office for archiving purposes. The Secretary will support the Chairperson to produce all relevant reports as outlined in Article 4.3 to be lodged with the Association Administration Office.

Terms

The term of office for all committee members is three years and runs from AGM to AGM. Every officer can be re-elected once for an additional term of three years. This means that the maximum term of each individual officer is six years.

If the chair or secretary reaches a period of six years during their mandate, they should continue as chair or secretary until the three year term of the respective position ends. The chairperson and the secretary will stay in office until their successors have been appointed, even if their term has expired, unless the EC nominates an interim officer.

If an officer of the Young ESPGHAN Committee reaches the five year limit on his/her trainee membership within ESPGHAN in general the transition to full member will not affect his/her position on the committee.

An officer that has to step down from one committee can postulate to become an officer in another committee.

Meetings

The Young ESPGHAN Committee will usually meet at least once yearly, preferably twice yearly, with one of those meetings usually held at the AM of ESPGHAN. The Secretary will be responsible for sending out invitations, a proposal for the agenda, and for writing minutes. The minutes will be approved at the following Committee meeting and signed as a true record upon approval. The costs of the meetings and attendance will be covered from the budget allocated by the Council to the Committees.

Finances

The Committee will accept donations and sponsorship only on the condition that its independence is conserved, and no conflicts of interest are anticipated.

The committees are asked to submit their planned annual budget for the upcoming year until the 1st of October of the preceding year. The finances of the Committee will be administered by the treasurer of ESPGHAN together with the Association Administration Office. The treasurer of ESPGHAN together with the ESPGHAN office will provide a report on the Committee's finances on an annual basis.

Reporting

Please see article 4.2.

5.3 Allied Health Professionals (AHP) Committee

Mission

The AHP Committee is a standing committee of ESPGHAN. The work of the Committee aims at promoting high quality practice in the field of PGHN by:

- a. Contributing to the exchange of scientific information and promoting high quality research and training in PGHN, through the organisation of workshops, scientific meetings, training courses and any other suitable approaches and resources identified for AHP's.
- b. Providing advice on matters related to Allied Health within the field of PGHN to ESPGHAN and other scientific societies, regulatory bodies, non-governmental organizations, industry and other interested parties.
- c. Contribute to writing and publishing authoritative commentaries of clinical and scientific relevance on pertinent questions in the area of PGHN.
- d. Shortlisting and proposing AHP members to the Chairs of the ESPGHAN Committees of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Nutrition and Education for their selection as AHP representative, every three years. AHP representatives will contribute and be actively involved in the work of the Committees and where appropriate identify expert AHP members to be involved with specific ESPGHAN working-groups.

The strength and authority of the ESPGHAN AHP Committee depends on its independence. The comment and actions of the Committee is led only by scientific arguments and by its best understanding of the interest of children.

The AHP Committee is part of ESPGHAN and is answerable to the Council of ESPGHAN with regard to its membership, publications and other activities. The rules and standing orders of ESPGHAN, and its Council, supersede anything which the Committee might wish to emplace. The Committee aims for close interaction with the other activities and the membership of ESPGHAN.

Members

The AHP Committee is composed of a chairperson, a secretary and three additional members, i.e. a total of up to five members. The Committee members should represent the three disciplines of PGHN, and should be multi-professional. Additional Committee members may be required, as AHP membership within ESPGHAN increases, after approval from Council.

Open positions on the committee need to be advertised to all AHP members at least five months before the term of office commences and at least twice. Candidates for appointment as new officers or members of the AHP Committee are required to submit an expression of interest and a supporting statement to the chair of the AHP Committee. The ESPGHAN AHP membership will elect the Committee member by electronic voting. Individuals considered for appointed will be chosen by the committees and proposed to the Council of ESPGHAN by the acting chair of the committee. Appointments of all Committee members need to be confirmed by the ESPGHAN Council.

Except in exceptional circumstances, only two Committee posts will usually be advertised and appointed to in any one year, so as to maintain continuity of the Committee.

Officers and members of the AHP Committee are required to submit to the AHP Committee a written declaration on potential conflicts of interest upon joining the committee and again at the beginning of every calendar year, and to declare any potential new conflicts of interest as they may arise. These written declarations will be kept by the ESPGHAN Administration Office for reference.

All members of the committee have full voting rights.

The AHP Committee may, on an ad hoc basis, call on the services of experts in particular areas. These experts would not become full members of the Committee.

The members of the Committee and all ad hoc experts involved in the activities of the Committee are obliged to respect full confidentiality of discussions and all written material exchanged. No material and no oral information shall be distributed outside of the committee membership unless expressly agreed to by the chairperson.

Manuscripts will be regarded as strictly confidential until accepted for publication, unless expressly agreed otherwise by the chairperson.

Chairperson and Secretary

The chairperson of the AHP Committee is nominated by the committee and approved by the Council of ESPGHAN and confirmed by ballot by the ESPGHAN membership for a period of three years and will represent the committee as a Council member. A re-election after the three years is not possible.

Nominations need to be announced to the office until the 1st of February of the respective year in order to be put forward to the Council during the Winter Council Meeting. The online ballot should usually be open from the 1st of March until 15 days before the next AGM, in accordance with the ESPGHAN constitution, with the new Council members announced during that AGM.

The chairperson will carry final responsibility for all decisions and actions of the committee. The chairperson will act as the speaker of the Committee in interactions with third parties, unless agreed otherwise. Although the Committee will generally act based on consensus or majority decision, in exceptional circumstances the chairperson's action might need to be taken.

After consultation with the AHP Committee, the chairperson proposes to the Council a Secretary to be appointed for a period of three years, which may be renewable once. The Secretary will act as the vice-chairperson and take over the chairperson's function in the event that the chair is unable to fulfil her/ his duties, until the chair can resume her/ his responsibilities or a new chairperson is appointed.

The Secretary will keep minutes and other relevant records of the activities of the AHP Committee and, at the end of his/her term of office, hand these documents over to the next secretary. Copies should be sent to the ESPGHAN Administration office for archiving purposes. The Secretary will support the Chairperson to produce all relevant reports as outlined in Article 4.3 to be lodged with the ESPGHAN Administration Office.

Terms

The term of office for all committee members is three years and runs from AGM to AGM. Every officer can be re-elected once for an additional term of three years. This means that the maximum term of each individual officer is six years.

If the chair or secretary reaches a period of six years during their mandate, they should continue as chair or secretary until the three year term of the respective position ends. The chairperson and the secretary will stay in office until their successors have been appointed, even if their term has expired, unless the EC nominates an interim officer.

The Chair will remain on the Committee for a further twelve months after the end of their three year term of office to provide continuity during this period of handover.

An officer that has to step down from one committee can postulate to become an officer in another committee.

Meetings

The Committee will usually meet at least twice yearly, with one of those meetings held at the AM of ESPGHAN where possible. The Secretary will be responsible for sending out invitations, a proposal for the agenda, and for writing minutes. The minutes will be approved at the following Committee meeting and signed as a true record upon approval. The costs of the meetings and attendance will be covered from the budget allocated by the Council to the Committees.

Finances

The Committee will accept donations and sponsorship only on the condition that its independence is conserved, and no conflicts of interest are anticipated.

The committees are asked to submit their planned annual budget for the upcoming year until the 1st of October of the preceding year. The finances of the Committee will be administered by the treasurer of ESPGHAN together with the Association Administration Office. The treasurer of ESPGHAN together with the Association Administration Office will provide a report on the Committee's finances on an annual basis.

Reporting

Please see article 4.2.

Article 6 –Working Groups & Special Interest Groups

6.1 Working Groups

A "working group" (WG) should be a forum of interactive discussion among ESPGHAN-members on a specific topic. A WG may also invite a limited number of non-ESPGHAN members where appropriate to support the goals and work of the WG.

The demand for creation should consist of a letter send by a “coordinating ESPGHAN-member” to the relevant Committee who should recommend the WG to Council for final approval.

The demand for the creation of a WG to the Committee should contain a plan of action:

1. Aim and objective of the WG
2. Methodology to be used.
3. Timeframe for WG to achieve the goal.
4. Expected number of members in the WG.
5. Expected number of meetings per year (meetings outside the AM are possible).
6. Reporting arrangements to Council.
7. Expected outcome.
8. Communication of outcome through the relevant Committee by preference by publication in JPGN.
9. All financial costs must be agreed in advance and will be financed via the relevant committee allowance.

The timeframe of a specific WG to achieve the “expected outcome” should ideally be restricted, and usually be no longer than three years, with a maximum of five years.

WG’s are expected to be self-supporting within the limits of the ESPGHAN rules for financial support from industry (see article 14).

Reporting

The coordinator should provide an annual written report to the relevant Committee chair, by September at the latest in the year preceding the ESPGHAN AM.

Within the framework of this document, the coordinator should also confirm if the WG would like to meet during the ESPGHAN AM. If the coordinator fails to do so, the WG will be considered as “not meeting during the next AM”

Outcomes

Based on the report, the Committee chair will decide on whether the WG is productive or not, and reports to the Council at the Autumn Meeting (during UEG Week) about the progression of each of its WG’s. The Committee Chair will advise Council and decide whether the WG should continue or not. If the WG is considered to be active, the Committee chair will inform the Scientific Secretary before the Autumn Council Meeting (during UEG Week) on the WG applications to meet at the AM. The final choice of the WG’s at the AM is the responsibility of the Scientific Secretary.

6.2 Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIG) address topics and issues that require work that extends for periods lasting longer than three years. Any ESPGHAN member with an interest in the respective topic may join a SIG.

- An SIG will be proposed by one or more interested members to the Committee to which the topic is related. The Committee will review the proposal and provide a suggestion to Council for decision.
- The SIG will have a Coordinator or a Steering Committee.
- The SIG will report to the relevant Committee.
- Several project-based WG’s may operate within a SIG.
- SIG will not have a separate budget. Any possible contributions from sponsors will be referred to the ESPGHAN Treasurer for consideration and, if agreed, will come from the relevant committee allowance.
- The SIG may establish relations with external bodies, with the agreement of the relevant Committee and of the Council.
- The SIG may develop educational activities, in agreement with the Education Secretary and the Council.
- The SIG may contribute to the Scientific Program of the AM (through the relevant Committee Chair).
- The SIG coordinator should provide an annual written report to the relevant Committee chair, by September at the latest in the year preceding the ESPGHAN AM. Within the framework of this document, the coordinator should also confirm if the SIG would like to meet during the ESPGHAN AM. If the coordinator fails to do so, the SIG will be considered as “not meeting during the next AM”.

- Based on the report, the Committee chair will determine on whether the SIG is productive or not, and reports to the Council at the Autumn Meeting (during UEG Week) about the progression of each of its SIGs. The Committee Chair will advise Council and decide whether the SIGs should continue or not. If the SIG is considered to be active, the Committee chair will inform the Scientific Secretary before the Autumn Council Meeting (during UEG Week) on the SIG application to meet at the AM.

Article 7 – Working Groups/Special Interest Group General Rules and Guidelines

Structure:

1. The Gastroenterology, Nutrition and Hepatology Committee will retain to have 'Working group's (WGs) and/or 'Special Interest Group's (SIGs). WGs are a forum of interactive discussion and are limited in time. SIGs are independent of time and they comprise a broader group of participants.
2. Members of the WGs/ SIGs must be members of ESPGHAN.
3. All WGs/SIGs should have terms of reference. They should be subject to an annual review process by the respective Committee under which they are functioning before January 1 (Nutrition and Hepatology) and 15th August (Gastroenterology) of each year. This will be facilitated by the annual report (financial and scientific report).
4. All WGs and SIGs decide on their own structure, but must have at least a chair and secretary. Larger WGs/SIGs could consider the formation of a core 'active group'. WG's and SIG's cannot be chaired by members of the ESPGHAN Council.
5. All WG/SIG chairs and secretaries must step down after a maximum of six years (three years with potential re-election for a further term). WG chairs and secretaries may be elected by the WGs and SIGs themselves, after which the elected nominee will be proposed to, and ratified by, the respective Committee for formal appointment. Each annual report should contain the names, dates of entry, possible re-election and mandatory exit. Exceptions to prolong terms of WG/SIG chairs and secretaries are at the discretion of the Council, upon recommendation by the respective Committee chair.
6. All WGs/SIGs must have an open component, such as an open meeting at the annual conference. Non-Members may join these open meetings but will have no voting rights, and will be encouraged to become ESPGHAN members.
7. Non-members may also be permitted to participate on a specific project, based on the contribution of specialist skills\knowledge, if cleared by the chair and the secretary of the WG/ SIG.
8. Proposals for new WGs and SIGs should be sent to the secretary of the respective Committee under which they propose to function (and copied to the administrative office) by July 1st. The respective Committee will then decide to recommend or not recommend the proposal to council at the autumn meeting for final approval.
9. Specific for Gastroenterology Committee (GIC): The chair (or secretary) for each WG/SIG will be expected to attend, as well as present on and discuss the past and future activities or requests of the group, at the annual strategy day in September each year. Other committees will have the freedom to organise any practical collaborations with the WG/SIG (such as invitation of the chair to a Strategy Day).
10. Specific for Gastroenterology Committee (GIC): Unless there is a representative of the WG/ SIG in the GIC, every WG/ SIG will have a responsible GIC member who will be the liaison between the GIC and the WG/SIG. The annual report should be sent to that responsible GIC member, the GIC Chair, the GIC Secretary, and the Association Administration Office before the 15th August.
11. After each annual ESPGHAN meeting, the website content of the WG/ SIG should be updated with new chairs, secretaries and members, as appropriate.

Article 8 – Other Committees

The function of the Committees not part of Council is to advise ESPGHAN on all matters within the scope of their mandate. The Committees work on referrals from any member, officer, committee member via their Secretary and also to proactively identify issues and priorities. They meet on an ad hoc basis but at least once a year, preferably at the AM, and report, in writing to the Council.

8.1 Ethics Committee

Function and purpose

The Ethics Committee is to advise ESPGHAN on all matters pertaining to the ethical aspects and implications of the ESPGHAN constitution, and its scientific, educational and advocacy activities (for example conflicts of interest, relations between ESPGHAN members and external organisations). The Committee will work on referrals from any member, officer, committee member via the Secretary. It will meet ad hoc but at least once a year and report, in writing, to the Council.

The Ethics Committee's function and purpose are:

- To advise the membership through the Council on all ethical issues relating to the field of PGHN.
- To consider specific ethical issues raised by the members of ESPGHAN or at the request of the Council.
- To prepare position statements on ethical issues on behalf of the society.
- To initiate and inform debate on ethical issues within the society.
- To liaise with outside agencies at the request of the Council.

Members, Chairpersons and Terms

The Committee is composed of a chairperson and four additional members (to include one representative from AHP Committee and one representative from the Young ESPGHAN Committee), i.e. a total of up to five members.

Open positions on the Committee need to be advertised to all members at least five months before the term of office commences and at least twice. Candidates for appointment as new members of the Ethics Committee should provide a short statement (200 words) indicating the reason for applying and any relevant experience upon application.

The ESPGHAN membership will elect the Committee members by electronic voting by simple majority.

The term of office for all Committee members is three years and runs from AGM to AGM. Every officer can be re-elected once for an additional term of three years. This means that the maximum term of each individual officer is six years.

The chairperson of the Ethics Committee is nominated by the Committee and approved by the Council of ESPGHAN.

The chair shall have tenure for three years commencing from the date of election and will be eligible for re-election for a period of three years.

If the chair reaches a period of six years during their mandate, he/she should continue as chair until the ongoing three year term of the respective position ends.

In order to prepare for succession planning, a vice chair will be appointed a year before the term of office of the chairman, who will then become chair. Nominations need to be announced to the Association Administration Office until the 1st of February of the respective year in order to be put forward to the Council during the Winter Council Meeting.

The chair shall have authority to invite or co-opt other members of the society or individuals outside the society to advise the committee on specific issues within their field of expertise.

Additional members may also be co-opted such as to recognise the broad representative balance of specialist interests of the society. Co-opted members will normally serve a term of three years, renewable for a single further term of three years by agreement with the chair.

Finances

All committees are asked to submit their planned annual budget for the upcoming year until the 1st of October of the preceding year. The finances of the committees will be administered by the treasurer of ESPGHAN together with the Association Administration Office. The treasurer of ESPGHAN together with the Association Administration Office will provide a report on the committee's finances on an annual basis.

Reporting

Please see article 4.2.

8.2 Finance and Investment Committee

Function and purpose

This Committee has the following tasks:

- To be informed of as well as comment on the annual financial report of the Treasurer (except the Home Secretary, who advises on aspects of Swiss Law). These comments must be presented to Council by the Treasurer in his/her report.
- To be informed of the overall financial situation of the Society.
- To advise the Treasurer about general plans for investment of financial assets which are not required for the daily activity of the Society.
- To review financial matters as requested by the executive, Council or members.

Members, Chairpersons and Terms

- The Finance and Investment Committee is composed of:
 - The Treasurer (chairs the Committee).
 - The Home Secretary upon invite (Task description/mandate is outlined in the ESPGHAN Constitution)
 - The Past Treasurer.
 - One member proposed by the Council and to be approved by the membership via electronic voting for a period of three years (with one possible re-election).

The committee shall have the power to invite advisors if considered necessary.

Additional members may also be co-opted such as to recognise the broad representative balance of specialist interests of the society.

8.3 Public Affairs Committee (PAC)

The PAC coordinates the relations between ESPGHAN and public structures, international agencies, other scientific societies and any other stakeholder, with the aim to raise awareness and to contribute to the solution of problems related to PGHN.

Function and Purpose

Raising awareness among the public and relevant organizations for issues and challenges in the area of PGHN, in particular on child health, conditions of clinical practice and research, in particular by – but not limited to:

- Interacting with the media.
- Interacting with the European Commission and the European Parliament, including, but not limited to, EMA and EFSA.
- Interacting with International Agencies e.g. WHO, CODEX ALIMENTARIUS.
- Interacting with patient associations and with other professional and scientific organisations.
- Interacting with affiliated and other scientific societies (e.g. FISPGHAN, UEG etc.).

These interactions will always be discussed with and performed in agreement with the ESPGHAN EC.

Members

The committee will consist of twelve core members including;

- The ESPGHAN President
- Additional one member of the EC.
- The ESPGHAN representative at the PAC UEG.
- The ESPGHAN representative to the European Medicines Agency
- Three additional members nominated by Council.
- One representative from the ESPGHAN Committees (GIC, Hepatology, Young ESPGHAN, AHP, Nutrition) to act as liaison with the respective European institutions for each speciality and to represent the interests of each Committee.

Individuals with a particular expertise may be invited to participate on an “ad hoc” basis.

The Chair, and the secretary (acts as deputy chair), will be elected by the Committee members and need to be approved by Council. The tenure of membership shall be three years from the date of election and is renewable once.

Meetings

The PAC has face to face meetings at least twice a year, one at the AM and the other in Geneva. If necessary, the Chair may convene additional meetings during the year. Moreover the PAC organises at least two teleconferences a year.

Finances

The Committee will accept donations and sponsorship only on the condition that its independence is conserved, and no conflicts of interest are anticipated.

The committees are asked to submit their planned annual budget for the upcoming year until the 1st of October of the preceding year. The finances of the Committee will be administered by the treasurer of ESPGHAN together with the Association Administration Office. The treasurer of ESPGHAN together with the Association Administration Office will provide a report on the Committee's finances on an annual basis.

Reporting

Please see article 4.2.

8.4 Publication Committee

The Joint Publication Committee is a joint committee with NASPGHAN. It includes, from ESPGHAN its the Past President, the President, the Executive Treasurer and the ESPGHAN Editor. The publication committee is co-chaired by the two Past Presidents of ESPGHAN and NASPGHAN. It meets once a year on the occasion of the JPGN strategy day.

Function and Purpose

Its function is to:

- Define JPGN editorial policy in collaboration with the NASPGHAN publication committee.
- Define JPGN strategy in collaboration with the NASPGHAN publication committee.
- Approve the financial report from the ESPGHAN JPGN Editorial Office.
- Maintain relations with counterparts in the NASPGHAN Publication Committee.
- Maintain relations with the Publisher.
- Oversee the selection process and propose the name of the new Editor to the Council.
- Oversee the renewal of the JPGN publisher contract in collaboration with the NASPGHAN publication committee and present its recommendation to the ESPGHAN Council for approval.

Meetings

It meets at least once a year during the ESPGHAN AM together with a representative from the Publisher, and the NASPGHAN Editor if available.

Reporting

Please see article 4.2.

Article 9 - Society Meetings & Meetings Registry

All ESPGHAN Society Meetings (i.e. EC Meetings, Council Meetings, Committee Meetings, Sub-Committee Meetings, Face-to-Face Meetings for Society Publications etc.) need to be registered with the ESPGHAN Administration management Office. An according meeting registration form is made available on the ESPGHAN website. A list of all registered upcoming meetings will be published on the website.

Travel expenses and other refunds will only be applicable to pre-registered meetings.

Article 10 – Affiliated Societies and ESPGHAN Representatives

Endorsement of non-ESPGHAN events

This article concerns the organisation of scientific meetings initiated by members and International meetings under the Aegis of ESPGHAN or using the ESPGHAN logo.

No party, organization or society, foreign to ESPGHAN is allowed to use the ESPGHAN brand name or the ESPGHAN Logo for the organization of scientific meetings, educational materials or e-learning projects unless approved by the Council. Prior to any

endorsement the Council will review the Scientific or Educational content and may request changes prior to agreeing endorsement. Any use of the ESPGHAN logo, independent of the ESPGHAN website, in conjunction with commercial interest is strictly prohibited.

1. All projects for scientific meetings under the aegis of ESPGHAN, and initiated by members, must be addressed to the Scientific Secretary at least nine months before the proposed event.
2. The program is proposed by the organisers. It is to be included in the application form (available on the ESPGHAN website or from the Association Administration Office).
3. Financial issues
 - a. To advertise meetings, insert links in the website, announce initiatives in the newsletter costs money and time to the Society. As both parties (organiser and ESPGHAN) become involved in the promotion and success of meetings it is reasonable that the Society may also have some benefit of the financial result of each endorsed meeting.
 - b. Therefore, for meetings from members' initiative, Council has approved that following acceptance of applications a fee proportional to the size of the expected meeting should be applied:
 - i. Meetings of expected attendance of less than five hundred participants: **Fee:** ten x Regular registration cost (minimum €2,000)
 - ii. Meetings of expected attendance of more than five hundred participants: **Fee:** fifteen x Regular registration cost
4. For International meetings by other societies the ESPGHAN logo can be used only if ESPGHAN is involved in the organisation of that meeting, is part of the scientific committee of the meeting and Council has approved.
5. Meetings organized primarily for commercial reasons, e.g. meetings organised by professional congress organizers without supervision and control of a reputable non-profit medical or scientific society, will not be endorsed by ESPGHAN.
6. The Scientific Secretary and relevant Committee Chairman (if appropriate) will make a recommendation to Council, based on the information provided, to be validated.
7. The Council will refuse the label ESPGHAN if the above conditions are not respected.

Promotion of non ESPGHAN events and non ESPGHAN endorsed events on ESPGHAN website

ESPGHAN does not market any non-ESPGHAN or non-ESPGHAN endorsed events on its website except the World Congress and the UEG-Week.

Endorsement of non-ESPGHAN publications

ESPGHAN does not endorse non-ESPGHAN publications.

FISPGHAN and World Congress

ESPGHAN is a founding and full member of Federation of International Societies for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (FISPGHAN). According to FISPGHAN bylaws it is represented in the FISPGHAN Council by the President and by another member (the Past President if not decided differently).

ESPGHAN contributes to the FISPGHAN budget with an annual fee of currently USD 5,000.-.

ESPGHAN is represented in the SC of the FISPGHAN Congress by representatives from the GI Committee (two, one for endoscopy), Hepatology Committee and Nutrition Committee, and by a member designated to coordinate the presence of ESPGHAN in the WG's.

ESPGHAN Representatives

The Council will appoint representatives of the Society to other organisations as deemed necessary, which may include the UEG, ECCO, EAP, CODEX ALIMENTARIUS, CESP, WHO, and others.

The Society will consider refunding reasonable expenses (economy transport, registration fees and accommodation as required for the appropriate level of representation) to these representatives unless their expenses can be covered from other sources. UEG representatives will be refunded for attending UEG meetings from the UEG.

Article 11 - Finances & Annual Budget

The treasurer together with the Association Administration Office will assemble the annual budgets.

All budget requests from committees / sub-committees / officers have to be submitted until the 1st of October of the preceding year. Budget requests need to be submitted by the chairs or editors of the respective committees, sub-committees or editorial boards.

The proposed annual budget will be discussed and approved during the Autumn Council Meeting. Exceptions to these rules are at the discretion of the EC. Allocated annual funds for committees that are not spent on the respective activity within the respective year cannot be used for any other activities within the respective year and cannot be transferred to the following year.

The treasurer controls all financial transactions carried out in relation to ESPGHAN.

An annual audit of the finances of the previous year will be contracted to an external audit company and the results will be presented to the Council during the Summer Council Meeting.

The annual budget of the current year and the financial audit of the previous year will be presented to the membership during the AGM.

Article 12 - Members

Membership procedures for admission to ESPGHAN

Applications for all categories of membership as defined in the Constitution should be made in writing to the GS by 31st of March or 30th of September. Any applicant to be considered for membership must have an active clinical and/or research interest in PGHN. The proposal should be supported in writing by a full or emeritus ESPGHAN member who is not serving at that time on the Council. Each proposal shall be accompanied by the curriculum vitae and list of publications and a meaningful documentation of clinical work in PGHN to an extent as defined by the constitution.

The Council will have the duty to consider the applications, and to give to the membership details of those candidates whom they recommend for membership. The membership has the final decision over the admission of a member by electronic ballot, without having to justify any refusal.

Membership Criteria

Full Member: The applicant for full membership should have a significant track record in PGHN, and at least five (5) years full time post-training experience/employment and may apply for full membership without the requirement of personally presenting a paper to the society.

Trainee Member: Trainee members shall be members with less than 10 years' experience in PGHN; trainee membership lasts up to five years; after that period, to remain in the Society, trainee members should apply for full membership. An age limit for applicants of forty years old will be applicable. Special dispensation will be given for applicants who began their training at a later stage.

AHP Member: Allied Health Professional (AHP) Members shall be members of medically related professions allied to PGHN. This shall include, but not be limited to nurses, dietitians, researchers and another affiliated profession.

Corresponding Members: Corresponding members shall be full members of other FISPUGHAN-related societies or non-European members not fulfilling the criteria of Full Membership, but actively involved in Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

Emeritus Members: Emeritus members shall be members in good standing who have retired from active practice. They will be entitled to complimentary membership of the Society but will not have voting rights. Members may apply to become emeritus members in writing to the Secretary.

Membership Fees

The membership fee amount is determined by the Council and approved by the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The deadline for the payment of fees is the 31st December of the respective year. Members applying before March 31 shall be asked to pay their membership fees at the beginning of July once their membership gets active. Those applying before September 30 shall be asked to pay their fees before the end of the respective year (31st December) once their membership gets active. Reminders for unpaid fees shall be sent out one and half months before the AM, and again two months before the end of the year. This applies to all members regardless of the date their membership got active. Members who risk being barred from the Society (those owing three+ years of membership fees) will be sent individual letters signed by the President warning them of the situation and asking them to pay. Members who persist in not paying their annual fees will be debarred from the Society if agreed by Council.

Annual membership fees for 2017 - 2019 are as follows:

- i. Full Membership including JPGN online and hard copies: € 150.
- ii. Full Membership from Group B including JPGN online and hard copies: € 120.
(information on Group B available on <http://www.who.int/hinari/eligibility/en/>).
- iii. Allied-Health Professional Membership including JPGN online and hard copies: € 60.
- iv. Trainee Membership including JPGN online and hard copies: € 60.
- v. Corresponding Membership including JPGN online only: €150.
- vi. Corresponding Membership Group B receiving JPGN online only : € 120.
- vii. Emeritus Membership including JPGN online and hard copies: € 70.
- viii. Emeritus Membership not including JPGN: No Charge (optional JPGN online access € 45).
- ix. Special Cases requiring reduced fees will be reviewed by the Treasurer when necessary.

Half Term membership fees for 2017 – 2019 are currently as follows:

- i. Full Membership including JPGN online and hard copies: € 75.
- ii. Full Membership Group B including JPGN online and hard copies: € 60.
- iii. AHP Membership including JPGN online and hard copies: € 30.
- iv. Trainee Membership including JPGN online and hard copies: € 30.
- v. Corresponding Membership including JPGN online only: € 75.
- vi. Corresponding Membership Group B including JPGN online only: € 60.
- vii. Emeritus Membership including JPGN online and hard copies: €35.
- viii. Emeritus Membership not including JPGN: no charge (optional JPGN online access € 25).

Article 13 – Annual Meeting

ESPGHAN AM's are organised at the initiative of ESPGHAN and approved by the AGM. The overall programme will be arranged by the organiser of the next meeting together with the Scientific Committee and in consultation with the Executive Council and the Council. An objective of the Society is to encourage the inclusion of recent and not necessarily completed research work at the annual scientific meeting.

Final profits from the AM must be split as follows: 90% to ESPGHAN and 10% to local organiser for a non-profit purpose in line with the goals of ESPGHAN defined in the ESPGHAN constitution, supporting either research, clinical or educational activities. The local organiser, after consultation with the LOC and the national PGHN society, should determine an organisation with a documented non-profit status to which the 10% share can be transferred. The 10% will be transferred after a letter signed by the local organiser and the president of the national PGHN has been approved by ESPGHAN Council. The local organiser will be personally responsible that the use of the funds for non-profit purposes following the ESPGHAN constitution is documented and reported to ESPGHAN by the end of the calendar year.

13.1 Bidding for Organisation of the Annual Congress

Proposals for organising the annual scientific meeting and the local organiser should be made in writing, to the congress organising Office (PCO) by the 1st of November following a call for proposals for a specific year published by the society. The application should be approved by the relevant national society. An agreement between the LOC Chair and the local/national society in relation to the 10% surplus payment must be included as part of the application process. The PCO will screen applications based on venue size, accessibility to both the venue city and the venue itself, hotel rooms available etc. in an application form provided by the PCO. Only applicants deemed appropriate will be contacted to bid. A shortlist of potential destinations shall be given to the

GS by the 7th of January. All bids will be handled and assessed by the PCO and the assessment and suggestions will be provided to Council and voted by ESPGHAN members at the AGM.

13.2 Reimbursement of Faculty Members during the ESPGHAN AM

ESPGHAN will invite speakers to present state-of-the-art lectures, keynote lectures and presentations at Post Graduate Courses and Symposia. Financial support will be provided from the AM budget as detailed below and the following rules apply:

Travel Expenses for Invited Speakers - AM & AHP or Postgraduate Courses

Refund of travel expenses as detailed below:

Country	Max. travel refund for economy flight
Local speakers*	300,00 €
Europe	500,00 €
Middle East	700,00 €
US/Canada East Coast	1.500,00 €
US/Canada Midwest	1.500,00 €
US/Canada West Coast	2.000,00 €
Asia	2.000,00 €
Australia/New Zealand	2.000,00 €
North Africa	1.000,00 €
Central & South Africa	1.500,00 €

*No travel refunds and accommodation costs covered for local speakers living at the congress city destination.

Keynote and State of the art Speakers from overseas (outside Europe) will be reimbursed for an economy or business class flight up to 3.000 € max.

In order to receive a refund of travel expenses claims need to be submitted to ESPGHAN within thirty days of the event.

Additional Financial Support - Invited Speakers – AM, AHP and Post Graduate Course

- Complimentary registration to the respective course and the AM.
- Up to three nights' accommodation (single occupancy) at the headquarters hotel.
- Invitation to the President's Dinner.

Additional Financial Support - Invited Speakers - AM & AHP or Postgraduate Courses

- Complimentary registration to the respective course and the AM.
- Up to four nights' accommodation (single occupancy) in the headquarters hotel.
- Invitation to the Presidents' Dinner.

Financial Support - Chairpersons – Annual Meetings

- No travel expenses are refunded.
- No complimentary registration to the AM.
- No accommodation at headquarters hotel.
- Invitation to the President's Dinner.

Financial Support - Chairpersons – AHP or Postgraduate Courses

- No travel expenses are refunded.
- No complimentary registration to the respective course.
- No accommodation at headquarters hotel.
- Invitation to the President's Dinner.

Financial Support – Learning Zone Tutors –

One session

- No travel expenses are refunded
- Complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting
- Two (2) night accommodation (single occupancy) in the headquarters hotel
- Invitation to the President's Dinner

Two Sessions

- Travel expenses
- Complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting
- Three nights accommodation (single occupancy) in the headquarters hotel
- Invitation to the President's Dinner

Financial Support - Clinical Cases

- Complimentary registration to the AM.
- Invitation to the President's Dinner.

Financial Support - Parents and Patients Association Symposium**Speakers:**

- Invitation to the Welcome/Opening reception
- No travel expenses are refunded
- No complimentary registration to the AM

Patient & Parent:

- One complimentary registration to the AM
- Invitation to the Welcome/Opening reception.
- No travel or accommodation included

(Other benefits will include free exhibitor space for up to four people, one reduced Scientific badge at EUR 200.00)

Financial Support – NASPGHAN JPGN Editor:

- Complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting
- Invitation to the Presidents Dinner

Financial Support – NASPGHAN President:

- Complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting
- Invitation to the Presidents Dinner

Financial Support – FISPGHAN President:

- Complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting
- Invitation to the Presidents Dinner

Financial Support – LASPGHAN President:

- Complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting
- Invitation to the Presidents Dinner

Financial Support – APPSPGHAN President:

- Complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting
- Invitation to the Presidents Dinner

Financial Support – Council Members:

- Travel Expenses up to EUR 500.- (economy flights).
- Complimentary registration to the AM.
- Accommodation for all nights (double occupancy) at headquarters hotel.
- Invitation to the President's Dinner.
- One invitation to the Members' Dinner.

Financial Support - Local Organizing Committee (LOC):

- Ten complimentary registrations (for those who are not speakers).
- Ten invitations to the President's Dinner.

Financial Support - LOC Chair of the following AM:

- Complimentary registration to the preceding AM.
- Invitation to the President's Dinner.
- One Invitation to the Members' Dinner.

13.3 Organisation of Symposia at the Annual Congress

At AM's, up to twelve symposia can take place.

The GI Committee will select the topics of five-six symposia, the Committee of Nutrition will select (one-three) and the Committee of Hepatology will select (one-three). The three committees will select and propose to the AM SC preferred topics from the suggestions of the ESPGHAN members. Council may also suggest topics for Symposia to the AM SC.

Members who would like to propose a symposium should send a letter or an e-mail to the chairman of the committee to which the topic is related, at least eleven months before the AM. The committees will select the topics and propose two chairpersons for each symposium, primarily based on the indications of the members putting forth the proposals. The list of symposia, as proposed by the committees will be considered by the AM SC and be given final approval by the ESPGHAN Council at the Autumn Council Meeting. Official invitations to speakers will be sent after the Autumn Council Meeting by the congress organiser of the AM.

The selected chairs of each symposium will interact, in cooperation with the AM SC, in order to determine the scientific program. Two hours will be allowed for each symposium.

Satellite Symposia

The programme of a satellite symposium must be of general scientific content. The satellite symposium programme must be submitted to the organisers in advance of the event and approved by ESPGHAN (ESPGHAN president or a Council member assigned by the President, preferably the chair of the scientific committee) .

The chairperson of the satellite symposium should not be employed by or otherwise dependent on the sponsoring company but be a health care professional or academician not employed by a company related to the symposium. This includes former or retired employees. The chairperson has a responsibility to oversee that the messages and conclusions presented during the symposium are based on available scientific data. The sponsor should inform the chairperson(s) of this responsibility. In addition, the holder of a satellite symposium and the chairperson are jointly responsible for adhering to the assigned time slot of the symposium.

13.4 Rules for the Organisation of AHP & Postgraduate Courses in Connection with the Annual Congress

AHP and Postgraduate Courses organised during the AM should follow the following rules:

- They should take place in the same venue as the AM.
- The scientific programme needs to be confirmed by the SC and the Council.
- The budget needs to be confirmed by the MC.
- The logistics (e.g. meeting rooms, AV, registration) will be handled by the PCO of the AM if no other agreements have been taken.

As a general rule, speakers for the post graduate courses should aim to have a 50/50 balance of speakers from the main programme and unique speakers. This will be dependent on topic and choice of speakers and will be reviewed upon submission of the respective programmes.

Article 14- Relationship with Industry

1. ESPGHAN accepts support from outside sources including industry, for educational, scientific and professional activities. Such support is subject to the principals outlined in this document.
2. ESPGHAN will not explicitly endorse any product or company.
3. The ESPGHAN logo may not be used in a way that indicates or suggests ESPGHAN endorsement of a particular product, brand or company or of a company's policies unless explicit consent is given by ESPGHAN.
4. ESPGHAN is responsible for deciding on its own educational, scientific and professional objectives, priorities and contents.
5. ESPGHAN is responsible for appointing any persons or organisations that may influence or evaluate its activities.
6. Any educational and scientific activity receiving commercial/industry support must have a clear and explicitly stated purpose in keeping with the Mission of ESPGHAN (article 2 of the Constitution), and be documented.
7. Acceptance by ESPGHAN of an unrestricted grant from industry does not imply that ESPGHAN will use its influence to support the company's interests beyond the specific arrangement itself.
8. ESPGHAN must sign an agreement defining the relationship, its duration and the responsibilities of the respective parties.

Article 15 - Education Partner Programme

The ESPGHAN Education Partner Programme (EPP) was launched in 2015. Based on the 2015 adopted ESPGHAN Code of Conduct, the EPP has been developed and implemented to ensure the on-going evolution of an up-to-date, independent, high quality educational programme for health care professionals. The dedicated support and financial commitment from our founding partners helps in enhancing support for ESPGHAN's educational activities.

EPP Main Goals

- The main goals of the partnership are to further develop and foster sustainable and trustworthy relationships between ESPGHAN and its key industry partners, who invest in and support public good and public trust.
- ESPGHAN aims to secure educational grants to support ESPGHAN's EPP activities such as Summer Schools, International Schools, Young Investigators Forum and Master Classes, with the aim to provide activities that are of high value to participating health care professionals, and support best standards of paediatric health and medicine.
- It is the objective of ESPGHAN to deliver educational activities under conditions that protect the credibility and integrity of both ESPGHAN and its key industry partners.

Collaboration between ESPGHAN and EPP Partners

Within the programme all EPP partners will be treated equally and transparently. Although the EPP will be affiliated to specific educational activities, no EPP partner will be permitted to control or influence the choice of organisers, the meeting venue, the content of programs, and the selection of the speakers and delegates or of candidates to receive educational support in the form of journal subscriptions or society membership.

Each EPP partner will pay to ESPGHAN an educational grant of €53.000 per EPP year. EPP partners will be invoiced by ESPGHAN before the end of the first month of the EPP year with a requirement of payment within one calendar month.

Meetings

ESPGHAN will hold two EPP Meetings per year with all EPP Partners in Geneva. The first meeting will be held in late September and the second will be held in February.

Article 16 - Rules for the Organisation of ESPGHAN Educational Events

Finances

The Education Partner Programme provides the financial framework to organise educational events. The annual EPP budget will be decided during the Autumn Council Meeting. The ESPGHAN Council will decide which events should be included in the upcoming Education Partner Programme. In order to qualify for EPP the course chair needs to submit an event application to the Association Administration Office until the 12th of September of the preceding year. The course chairs will be informed on the approval of their application after the Autumn Council Meeting. Non-EPP events may be funded by ESPGHAN, pending Council approval.

The financial handling of all ESPGHAN educational events is supervised by the ESPGHAN treasurer and handled by the Association Administration Office. Any income generated from ESPGHAN educational events must be paid to ESPGHAN and all expenses related to ESPGHAN educational events will be paid directly by ESPGHAN. Any surplus generated by an ESPGHAN educational event will remain within the ESPGHAN Budget.

ESPGHAN reserves the right to hold other Educational Events outside of the EPP. This may be in collaboration with one or all EPP Partners and/or other sponsors. These Educational Events must follow the ESPGHAN educational activities Code of Conduct. These additional events will be funded outside of EPP and the sources of funding will be acknowledged at the events. All payments and contractual agreements between additional sponsors relating to educational events must be made directly through, and handled by, the Administrative Office, and not through the local organiser.

For all ESPGHAN events, budgets for social/networking events should not exceed 10% of the entire budget allocated. Exceptions require Treasurer pre-approval. Course chairs can also apply to additional non-commercial/ public funding sources (e.g. UEG training support).

Scientific Programme

The scientific programme will be drafted by the course chair / organiser and approved by Council. It is expected that a programme/syllabus put together by the faculty will be available for distribution to all participants at the time of the course.

Faculty and Course Chair

- Each event should consist of five to seven Faculty members that are ESPGHAN Members.
- Faculty should not receive any honorarium for their teaching activities, nor should the organisers for their efforts.
- Faculty should be transparent about financial relationships that could potentially influence educational activities.

Venue

- Each Venue should be preferably within one hour driving distance from the airport.
- It should be hospital or university based lecture halls or Hotel based conference rooms, preferably in a residential environment in order to facilitate close relations between delegates and faculty members.
- Venues located within industry facilities related to infant food, medical food, or pharmaceutical or medical device companies should be avoided.

Cooperation with a Destination Management Company (DMC)

A DMC must be appointed should the number of participants exceed 50 (excluding faculty). In case of a cooperation the tasks of the DMC will include but are not limited to:

- Research appropriate venue, hotel and social programme
- Draft a detailed and reliable cost break down for all services included
- Provide a detailed contract/agreement to the PM
- Work closely with the PM and the LOC on any financial and organizational aspect

The DMC admits to running all supplier contracts past the PM for approval.

Language

All ESPGHAN Educational Events are held in English.

Event Application

In order to apply for an ESPGHAN Educational Event the Course Chair needs to be an ESPGHAN Full Member.

- The Course Chair needs to be elected and approved by Committee/National Society/Working Group/SIG/YIF Faculty.
- The application process requires an application prior to each planned ESPGHAN Educational Event by the Course Chair before the 12th of September each Year.
- The application needs to be submitted together with the application form, including a preliminary budget and programme draft.
- The application will be reviewed by the EC and presented to the Council during the Autumn Council Meeting. After final approval by the Council, the Course Chair will be notified by the Association Administration Office about Educational Event approval and Budget given by the ESPGHAN Council.

- Ad hoc applications are generally not accepted, and all planned educational Events need to be submitted with the respective application and documents. Rare exceptions can be made, after consultancy with the treasurer.
- As a general rule, the following schools will take place annually: two x GI events, one x Nutrition event, one x Hepatology event, one x Young Investigator Forum, one x European Regional School.
- ESPGHAN will, as a general rule, place a registration fee of at least EUR 100 on all EPP events except for AHP schools and YIF (EUR 50.00).

If the number of applications exceed budget, events will be selected and scored on criteria including (but not limited to):

- Topic/educational/scientific content (quality, relevance, demand).
- Accessibility of city/country (close to international airports).
- Venue (cost, location within airport transfer distance).
- Overall costs (including catering, social programme etc.).

Attendance of events by Members and Non-Members

- ESPGHAN Members may attend two courses throughout the Educational Year. Any applications exceeding two events will be delegated to the EC for approval.
- Priority for attendance at events will be given to ESPGHAN Members.
- Travel expenses will be reimbursed up to 300€ for Summer Schools, Young Investigator Forum, Eastern Summer Schools and Young ESPGHAN Mentorship Programme.
- For other educational events travel expenses will not be covered. However, rare exceptions can be made. Justification must be included in the application process and approved by the Council.
- For Non-Members, priority will be given to European Delegates (incl. Israel and Turkey).
- Non-Members are limited to one event. If a non-member would like to attend future events, they must apply and be accepted as an ESPGHAN Member. One more event can be allowed during the process if an application has already been submitted.
- A member who subscribed but did not attend without justification will be banned from attending other courses.

Reporting

It is the responsibility of the Education Secretary to report on all educational events at Council Meetings (See Article 4.2). Information for reports will be made available via the Association Administration Office and the Course Chair. Event reports will be available on the website in a designated event area. It is the responsibility of the Organiser of the event to ensure evaluation forms are submitted within two weeks, post event.

Article 17 - E-Learning

E-Learning Editor

The E-Learning Editor will liaise with the Education Secretary for all content and initiatives concerning E-Learning modules. The Editor will provide a progress and budget report on request to the Education Secretary for dissemination and presentation at the relevant Council Meetings.

Article 18 - Rules for Societal Publications (Guidelines & Position Papers)

Societal publications are published in the name of ESPGHAN and represent the official opinion and recommendations of ESPGHAN about specific childhood health issues. In accordance with the ESPGHAN Code of Conduct, Societal Publications should focus on scientific, clinical or public health issues, not on commercial products or services. All Societal publications should be published in JPGN and are posted on the ESPGHAN website. When other organisations are involved, publication in JPGN should be preferred or a joint publication with another journal representing the other organisations.

Working groups/Special Interest Group (WG/SIG) may also develop manuscripts that report on their work/research, reviews of current information, or opinions. Such manuscripts are not considered “Societal Papers” and may be published under the responsibility of the authors, generally in the JPGN, but will not be posted on the ESPGHAN website. The ESPGHAN name must not appear in the title and a disclaimer should be added to the publication stating that “Although this paper is produced by the ESPGHAN WG/SIG XXX it does not necessarily represent ESPGHAN policy and is not endorsed by ESPGHAN”.

Definitions

There are two types of Societal Publications:

An **ESPGHAN Guideline** is a comprehensive document that addresses specific clinical research questions and abides by the rules of evidence based medicine (EBM) for guideline development.

An **ESPGHAN Position Paper** addresses a topic for which guidance is necessary but due to limited scientific evidence, the recommendations are based on expert consensus. Voting is encouraged when appropriate, but is not a necessity. .

ESPGHAN Guidelines and Position Papers are published on behalf of the Society, in the JPGN, are listed on the ESPGHAN website, and include the ESPGHAN name in the title. These represent the official position of ESPGHAN and are published after a detailed peer review and approval by ESPGHAN Council.

Societal Publications include the following disclaimer: ***“ESPGHAN is not responsible for the practices of physicians and provides Guidelines and Position Papers as indicators of best practice only. Diagnosis and treatment is at the discretion of the health care provider”.***

Proposals for a Guideline or Position Paper

Committees/WG/SIG intending to produce a Guideline or Position Paper should submit a proposal (see submission forms on the website) to the ESPGHAN Secretary, who will coordinate a review of the proposal by Council. Proposals of a WG/SIG should first be reviewed by the respective Committee Chair who may involve the Committee. The proposal should define the topic, the research questions addressed, the professionals involved, the literature search strategy, the method of consensus development, the proposed group(s) to be involved in the consensus process, the proposed journal for publication (preferably JPGN), any financial requirements. All proposed collaborators should upload a current declaration of of interests (DOI) on the ESPGHAN website. The ESPGHAN office will check on the completeness of the DOIs so that they are available for Council review.

The Council’s response will be within two weeks. This may include recommendations on refinement of the research questions or the involvement of other groups. However, if significant issues arise the review might take more time. Council approval of the proposal is mandatory if the name of ESPGHAN is to appear in the publication title.

Proposals for all societal papers will have a timeframe of two years from acceptance as a societal paper to submission for publication. If two years have expired and the paper has not been submitted for publication, Council will review the progress and circumstances and decide whether to continue with the papers development or terminate the proposal.

Topics addressed

ESPGHAN guidelines or position papers should address pertinent topics of high relevance for clinical practice, policy or research and should aim to arrive at conclusions that are helpful for practice. They should not focus on or promote commercial products or services and should avoid citing commercial brand names. A mere repetition of previously published information will usually not justify the publication of a Societal paper.

Selection of involved professionals

The selection of involved professionals should be based on their qualification in the field to be addressed. A mixed composition with respect to area of expertise, gender, and geographic location is recommended.

Methodology

For ESPGHAN Guidelines a systematic literature search in at least three databases is mandatory. ESPGHAN may agree to appropriate requests for funding external outsourcing of the literature search and data extraction in evidence tables. For ESPGHAN Position papers a systematic review of the literature published during the five preceding years in at least one database (e.g. PubMed), but preferably with more than one database, based on a predefined search strategy with key words is recommended. Key papers published prior to those five years which are cited in manuscripts retrieved or known to the experts involved should also be considered. At least two members of the lead authors should review all manuscripts considered. Guidelines should use the GRADE system to classify the level of evidence and the strength of recommendations.

Consensus development

For all Societal publications that include statements and recommendations, the authors should reach a consensus. For Guidelines, this can be done using the Delphi process. This can be done with an electronic platform provided by ESPGHAN (currently Clinical Guidelines Services, <http://www.guideline-services.com>). The results of the voting process should be disclosed in the manuscript (or as supplementary information). Only statements and recommendations reaching 80% agreement will be accepted.

Review process

The manuscript, once agreed upon and approved by the lead authors / GDG as well as the respective Committee/SIG/WG, should be submitted as a Societal paper on the JPGN platform. The General Secretary (GS) invites at least two anonymous reviewers who are experts in the field but have not been involved in the development of the respective manuscript. The reviews are shared with the authors who revise the manuscript.

The revised manuscript and external reviews are then submitted for Council review on the JPGN platform. This will be applicable also for joint documents published elsewhere. All Council members are requested to submit comments and vote either as “approve”, “minor concerns raised”, “major concerns raised”, or “reject”. Those without sufficient expertise in the area can declare that they abstain. Council should aim to complete the process within four weeks. No response from a Council member will be regarded as acceptance.

Authors will upload a revised manuscript on the JPGN platform and the reviewers will be re invited to seek their approval.

If any Council member votes for “major concerns raised” or “reject”, a discussion will be held (usually by telephone) to resolve the issue involving Council members who have not abstained. In the case of continuing disagreement, the President, GS and JPGN Editor will make a final decision. If the authors disagree with the review decision they can submit the manuscript to another journal, but not as an ESPGHAN document i.e. the name ESPGHAN may not appear in the title.

When the manuscript is “approved” the manuscript is forwarded for publication, only after the Office has ensured that all DOI s are uploaded on the ESPGHAN website.

Review of Joint ESPGHAN-NASPGHAN Societal papers

The ESPGHAN and NASPGHAN editors take turns as lead to coordinate the review of joint papers on the JPGN platform. The review process is similar and simultaneous for both societies (4 reviewers). All comments are forwarded to the authors for revision. According to NASPGHAN protocol, a joint publication will be advertised on the ESPGHAN website for membership consultation after acceptance by Council.

Article 19 – JPGN

The Society will edit a journal by an elected representative in order to further the purpose of the Society, i.e., the general policy of the Journal shall be decided by the Council. The Council shall elect an Editor for five years and he/she will not be eligible for re-election except under extraordinary circumstances.

1. A candidate for an Editor may be proposed to the Council in writing to the General Secretary the 7th of January in the year of electing an Editor.
2. Five to ten members of the Society will be elected by the Council in agreement with the Editor for the Editorial Board, which will meet annually at the time of the AGM.
3. The Editor shall attend the Council meeting once a year.
4. The Journal of the Society may be shared on equal terms with other society/ies who have the same purpose. Under such circumstances the editorial boards should meet annually.

The following rules apply:

1. The Editor in chief is entitled to administer directly the allocated budget received from ESPGHAN and Wolters Kluwer (LWW).
2. Income to the Editorial Office is composed of an annual amount from LWW stated in the contract) and an allowance from ESPGHAN.
3. The Editor-in-Chief position is based on application after a specific call from the Society. The Editor is assisted by the Managing Editor of ESPGHAN. ESPGHAN Council appoints the Managing Editor, and he/she is responsible for all technical aspects and day to day activities within the journal.
4. The Editor in Chief must present a financial report to Council, through the Treasurer. Requests for revision of the allowance must be justified prior to the presentation of the annual budget by the Treasurer at the Winter Council meeting. The annual budget of the Society will include the approved allowance.
5. The allocated budget as mentioned above shall be used at the discretion of the Editor in Chief for all relevant expenses of the Journal, except for the following:
 - a. Annual Strategy Meeting of the Publication Committee, which is covered by LWW;
 - b. Attendance to the annual ESPGHAN Strategy day and Winter Council meeting for annual report, covered by the ESPGHAN Council budget.

Article 20 - Awards and Grants

Please Note: Awards and Grants are given only to ESPGHAN Members except award relating to the Annual Meeting.

20.1 Charlotte Anderson Travel Grant

Purpose

The Travel Grant is intended to support the expenses of up to €5,000 Euros of a Young Investigator who wishes to travel and visit another unit either for the purposes of learning a new technique, carrying out a short project or observing a different system at work. The Travel Award will not be available to attend meetings or conferences.

Eligibility:

The applicant must be an ESPGHAN Member and a young investigator with interest in PGHN who has spent less than ten years in training

Application:

The Application form should be sent to the Association Administration Office along with a short CV and a brief description of the project.

Application forms can be obtained from either the Association Administration Office or downloaded from the website.

The deadline for applications is December 31 of the year preceding that of the Grant (This deadline can be extended with the accord of the Council).

Reporting:

The Grant will be presented at the ESPGHAN AM every year. Successful applicants are required to provide a detailed written report on the achievements made, signed by the supervisor of the host institution, and a statement on the use of the finances provided

within one year after having received the award. Funds will only be released after the receipt of the above-mentioned report and financial statement incl. copies of the according receipts. Exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of the treasurer.

Selection:

Applications will be considered at the Winter Council Meeting of the Society and the Grant will be awarded following this Meeting.

20.2 ESPGHAN International Exchange Grant

Purpose

The purpose of the grant is to support the sharing of knowledge and expertise amongst ESPGHAN members by stimulating international collaboration. This award is not made for attendance at courses / schools / symposia or conferences. The award value is up to €3,000 which is provided to help cover travel and accommodation costs. This is on the assumption that sponsorship and/or the home unit covers other costs.

Eligibility

The applicant has to be an ESPGHAN Member (any type). The award is made to young investigators / clinicians (with less than ten years in the sub-speciality) who wish to acquire appropriate clinical or research skills not available to them in their country of origin.

Appropriate skills' may include any techniques / expertise not available in the home institution. Examples include: an exchange visit to acquire specific diagnostic / therapeutic endoscopy skills, to learn a relevant laboratory technique, to learn how to set up / provide a specific service model (e.g. impedance, manometry, national registry or biobank).

Awards are only made if the sponsor is a current ESPGHAN member.

Eight Grants will be awarded per year

Application

Applications may be made at any time but must be made in writing and sent to the Association Administration Office.

1. A standard application form signed by the representative of the "host" institution and the institution that will be visited must be completed.
2. A letter of intent Letter of intent should include a brief description of the planned project / visit and likely benefit to the applicant and/or host institution.
3. A current CV.
4. Deadline: any time throughout the year.

Selection:

Members of the ESPGHAN Council will review all applications. The review process is coordinated by the GS. Each member will review the application independently. The applicant will receive notification no later than six weeks after receipt of application.

Reporting:

Within one month of completion of the period of study, a one-page summary of the exchange and its achievements must be returned to the ESPGHAN Association Administration Office for publication on the ESPGHAN website. This report needs to be signed by the supervisor of the host institution in order for ESPGHAN to release the funds. A statement on the use of finances addressed to ESPGHAN Treasurer is to be provided also within one month after having completed the study period. Funds will only be released after the receipt of the above-mentioned report and financial statement incl. copies of the according receipts. Exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of the treasurer.

20.3 The ESPGHAN-NASPGHAN Travel Grant

Purpose

The Travel Grant is intended to support the expenses of up to \$ 5000 (or EU 5000) of a Young Investigator or Trainee who wishes to travel and visit a unit in the US (for European applicants) or Europe (for US applicants) either for the purposes of learning a new technique, carry out a short project or of observing a different health system at work. Provisional approval for the visit/project should be obtained prior to the application from the applicant's own department and the department to be visited.

The Travel Award will not be available to attend meetings or conferences and will be awarded on alternative years to a US or European applicant. Funding will be awarded alternately from ESPGHAN or NASPGHAN as appropriate.

Terms

Applications may be made by any Investigator or Member, but priority will be given to a Young Investigator or Trainee member who has completed their training in Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology or Nutrition within the last ten years. The Application form should be sent in with a letter of support from the relevant Heads of Departments, a CV, a brief description of the planned project or visit and the likely benefit to the applicant and/or their host institution or patient population.

Funding

Funding will be awarded alternately from ESPGHAN or NASPGHAN as appropriate and will be paid directly to the successful applicant. If the applicant is unable to take part in the visit/exchange for any reason, the sum in full must be returned to the awarding society and the head of the department of the successful applicant must guarantee that this happens. Additional funding will not be provided to supplement these visits.

Selection Process

The applications will be considered by the respective Councils for each of their member applicants. The Council members may make the decision themselves or appoint a selection committee with relevant experience. Members of the Selection Committee are not eligible to apply for the award. Members should not participate in the evaluation of an applicant if they work at the same institution as the applicant, or have worked with the applicant at the same institution in the recent past. Members should not participate in the evaluation of an applicant if there is any conflict of interest.

Application

The applicant must send the completed application to the Association Administration Office by 30 May of the year that travel award is funded by ESPGHAN. The application must include:

1. A completed application form.
2. Applicants' curriculum vitae (max. three pages).
3. Brief description of proposed project or visit and the likely benefit to the applicant and/or their host institution or patient population.
4. Budgetary details on how the money will be used to finance the visit.
5. Two letters of recommendation are requested:
 - a. One from the host institution giving the necessary permission for the visit; and
 - b. One from the unit to be visited which should include agreement for the visit and indicate what support will be provided to ensure the exchange will be successful.

This latter letter should specify the time available for supervision, research opportunity (if relevant), space, equipment etc.

Reporting

The award winner will be required to submit a written report (including an accounting of how the award monies were spent) of their visit to both Councils within six months of the completion of their visit and present a written report of the outcome to the AGM at the annual meetings of their respective Society.

20.4 Research & Networking Grants

Purpose

ESPGHAN wishes to promote research activities and networking among centres at an international level. A funding opportunity is offered to members who wish to propose such projects that must involve more than one and preferably more than two countries.

The funding provision is for five projects of up to a maximum of €50,000 each. An application must be sent to Association Administration Office before 15 July each year. The proposal will be evaluated by a panel appointed by Council and a decision will be made by 30 October each year. The nature of the networking between the centres can range from interactive educational events, clinical networks, etc., and should be aimed at promoting clinical excellence and the furtherance of knowledge. We urge members to be innovative, interdisciplinary and inclusive at an international level. Proposals that are relevant to, or arise from, ESPGHAN activities, e.g. validation of guidelines, clinical networks for testing treatment regimens/disease management, etc., will be particularly welcomed.

Terms

1. The main applicant should be an ESPGHAN Member.
2. Collaboration must involve more than one country.
3. Collaboration between two or more ESPGHAN members in different centres is encouraged and will be considered in the selection process.
4. Non-ESPGHAN members may form part of the proposed network, but only in collaboration with ESPGHAN members.
5. Collaborative activities arising from the funding should be conducted in English.
6. An application for funding of this, or a similar, project has not been made to another body.
7. A budget will be submitted by the main applicant and will include details for each collaborating centre.
8. The funding can be extended over two years but annual reports on activity are required to be made in writing to the relevant AGM of ESPGHAN by the main applicant.
9. The funding of the project will be handled through the main applicant's Institution.
10. An official application form (available from the ESPGHAN web site) must be filled in and accompanied by the required documentation as listed on the application form.
11. Submissions should be made by email to Association Administration Office.
12. In the event of a publication arising from the research carried out as part of this grant, ESPGHAN should be credited with the following sentence:

“This work was supported by an ESPGHAN Networking Grant”

It is understood that the funds will be returned if the conditions above are not adhered to.

Any queries should be addressed to the GS.

Successful applicants are required to provide a detailed written report to the ESPGHAN Secretary on the achievements made and a statement on the use of the finances provided within one year after having received the award, and if the project is still on-going at this time yearly thereafter until the project supported by ESPGHAN is completed.

20.5 ESPGHAN Annual Meeting Young Investigator Awards (YIA)

Purpose of Awards

To support expenses for Young Investigators (including AHP, Trainees and Scientist) who have had an abstract accepted for presentation at the ESPGHAN AM, UEG Week and/or WCPGHAN. The grant will be up to 1,000 EURO, and may vary depending on the number of applicants, if the applicant has received a grant before, if the applicant comes from the conference host country, and if the applicant comes outside of Europe. The award can be used to cover registration, accommodation at the conference and /or return transport to the conference, up to the value of the award.

Terms

1. Medically qualified applicants should be in a training position, i.e. have not qualified in PGHN, nor have achieved a staff position.
2. Medically qualified applicants should have spent less than ten years in specialist training. Allowance will be made for breaks in training (e.g. military service, pregnancy).
3. Applicants should not be well established funded researchers.
4. All applicants should be the person presenting the original work (oral or poster presentation) and this will be checked in the programme.
5. All applicants should be sponsored with a letter from a full member in good standing (i.e. without any outstanding dues) of the Society.
6. All applicants should declare if they have applied for grants elsewhere.
7. Full ESPGHAN members are not eligible for this award, but other membership categories may apply if they fulfil the other criteria.
8. Applicants who have received three previous awards are not eligible.
9. Applicants from regions close to the conference may receive a reduced award due to lower travel costs.
10. The treasurer will decide on the available budget and hence the number of awards that can be provided with the approval of Council.
11. In case the number of applications exceeds the number of awards available, the treasurer may at his/her discretion either select from those applications that fulfil all criteria on a first come first serve basis (but may give priority to applicants that are in particular need e.g. from low income countries), or may adjust funding to maximise attendance. Those who have received one or two awards previously may be given a reduced award.

12. All applicants should submit a short CV with their application and send the complete application to the ESPGHAN Association Administration Office for the attention of the Treasurer prior to the deadline for applications which will be set at least 1 month prior to the AM
13. For reimbursement, the Treasurer (via Association Administration Office) must receive original or copy of air or train ticket, original or copy of hotel bill and a copy of the receipt of the registration fee.

20.6 UEG Week Young Investigator Award

Purpose of Awards

To support expenses for Young Investigators (including AHP, Trainees and Scientist) who have had an abstract accepted for presentation at UEG Week. The grant will be up to 1,000 EURO, and may vary depending on the number of applicants, if the applicant has received a grant before, if the applicant comes from the conference host country, and if the applicant comes outside of Europe. The award can be used to cover registration, accommodation at the conference and /or return transport to the conference, up to the value of the award.

Terms

1. Medically qualified applicants should be in a training position, i.e. have not qualified in PGHN, nor have achieved a staff position.
2. Medically qualified applicants should have spent less than ten years in specialist training. Allowance will be made for breaks in training (e.g. military service, pregnancy).
3. Applicants should not be well established funded researchers.
4. All applicants should be the person presenting the original work (oral or poster presentation) and this will be checked in the programme.
5. All applicants should be sponsored with a letter from a full member in good standing (i.e. without any outstanding dues) of the Society.
6. All applicants should declare if they have applied for grants elsewhere.
7. Full ESPGHAN members are not eligible for this award, but other membership categories may apply if they fulfil the other criteria.
8. Applicants who have received three previous awards are not eligible.
9. Applicants from regions close to the conference may receive a reduced award due to lower travel costs.
10. The treasurer will decide on the available budget and hence the number of awards that can be provided with the approval of Council.
11. In case the number of applications exceeds the number of awards available, the treasurer may at his/her discretion either select from those applications that fulfil all criteria on a first come first serve basis (but may give priority to applicants that are in particular need e.g. from low income countries), or may adjust funding to maximise attendance. Those who have received one or two awards previously may be given a reduced award.
12. All applicants should submit a short CV with their application and send the complete application to the ESPGHAN Association Administration Office for the attention of the Treasurer prior to the deadline for applications which will be set at least one month prior to the AM.
13. For reimbursement, the Treasurer (via Association Administration Office) must receive the original air or train ticket, the original hotel bill and a copy of the receipt of the registration fee.

20.7 Distinguished Service Award

Purpose

To recognize an individual who has given a major contribution to the development of paediatric gastroenterology, hepatology or nutrition. It can be recognized as a whole life accomplishment, or celebrate a major recent achievement. The field may be basic science or clinical work.

Eligibility and standards

The recipient should be an ESPGHAN member at the time of nomination. The award will be given every year. There is no obligation to alternate the award between the three sub-specialities.

Criteria for selection include:

1. Outstanding scientific achievements related to paediatric gastroenterology and/or hepatology, and/or nutrition, usually documented by the candidate's publication and citation record.
2. Outstanding contributions to the standards, practice and training in the fields of paediatric gastroenterology and/or

- hepatology and/or nutrition.
- 3. Outstanding contributions to ESPGHAN as a society.
- 4. Personal integrity.

Solicitation of nominations

A nomination can be submitted by any ESPGHAN member. A call for nominations will be advertised on the website and in the Newsletter. The deadline for submission will be December 31st of the year preceding the AM

The following documents should be sent to the Association Administration Office:

1. Letter(s) of recommendation with support from five ESPGHAN members outside of the Council and the Selection Committee (maximum 2 pages) that identify the reasons for nomination, and the specific achievements of the nominee.
2. A characterisation of the candidate's achievements in another format accompanied by the nominee's bibliography and preferably also the citation record. (However a CV is not required).

Selection Process

The Selection Committee will consist of nine members:

1. President (Chair of Selection Committee).
2. Secretary.
3. Education Secretary.
4. Chairs of the three Committees of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, or deputies nominated by the respective chairs.
5. Three members, outside of the Council and the Committees, one selected by each Committee for three years.

The nominations will be reviewed by this Selection Committee. Members will not participate in the evaluation of an applicant if they work at the same institution as an applicant, or have an obvious conflict of interest. Each member of the Selection Committee is asked to score all applications and to submit the scores to the Association Administration Office (unless otherwise decided). Scores will be compiled and the results be made available to all members of the Selection Committee prior to a phone conference of the Selection Committee where the strengths and weaknesses of applications considered worthy for the award will be discussed, and consensus on the selection will be sought. If consensus cannot be achieved, a majority decision will be taken. No more than one award per year will be given. The selection should commence after to the winter Council meeting, where the nominees will be discussed and approved. Deadline for finalisation of scoring will be March 31st.

Those nominations considered worthy but not selected will be retained for consideration in the successive award selection procedures for three years, inclusive of the year of submission (three years of consideration in total).

Award recognition:

The recipient will be honoured by the President during the Presidents Dinner at the AM with a medal, certificate, and recognition in JPGN. Expenses will be provided to assist with attending the AM, including accommodation, complimentary registration and economy travel costs.

20.8 ESPGHAN Conference Awards

John Harries Award: Awarded to the best GI research presented at the ESPGHAN AM. Prize money of €2.500 is awarded to the recipient along with a letter of recognition and certificate.

Jean Rey Award: Awarded to the best Nutrition research presented at the ESPGHAN AM Prize money of €2.500 is awarded to the recipient along with a letter of recognition and certificate.

Alex Mowat Award: Awarded to the best Hepatology research presented at the ESPGHAN AM. Prize money of €2.500 is awarded to the recipient along with a letter of recognition and certificate.

Selection Process

1. Pre-selection of fifteen abstracts for GI, hepatology and nutrition with the highest score received upon completion of the abstract review process. Already during abstract submission process, applicants should be asked if the work is eligible for the selection process.
2. Among fifteen pre-selected abstracts, each Committee selects six abstracts for the Best Abstract Presentation Session (three sessions: one in GI, one in hepatology and one in nutrition).
3. The Selection Committee consisting of at least four experts from each field, named ad hoc by the Committee Chair and approved by other Committee members, will score the presented abstracts according to the following criteria: clinical/scientific input, methods, results, conclusions (0-2 points each = 8 points max.) and presentation (0-8 points).
4. The chair or the secretary of the relevant Committee reports to Council and the Association Management Office on the best abstract after the morning sessions on the final day (Saturday) of the AM at the latest.

Announcement of Awards and Grants

Awards and Grants winners will be announced in the ESPGHAN Newsletter. In addition to societal awards, UEG and international awards and achievements will also be announced via the Newsletter.

Article 21 – Website

The ESPGHAN website will be used as an information centre for Society members as well as non-members. The responsibility for keeping the website content up to date lies with the website editor together with the Association Management Office under supervision by Council, who work closely with the service provider that provides the technical service and expertise to maintain the website.

The public zone of the website shall contain:

1. The mission statement of ESPGHAN.
2. The constitution of the Society.
3. Rules and Regulations.
4. Contact details of the Society Council members and of the Association Administration Office.
5. Information on benefits of membership, and how to become a member of the Society.
6. Information on scientific meetings and educational events.
7. Society publications, Guidelines and position papers.
8. Information on Committees, WG's, SIG's.
9. Information on ESPGHAN Awards.
10. A link to the JPGN website.
11. A link to the e-Learning activities.
12. Information and link to the official AM website.
13. A link to other societies including FISPGHAN and UEG.
14. Other items as determined by EC.

The member's only zone of the website will allow members:

1. To pay their membership fees online.
2. To view newsletters.
3. To view past AGM minutes and related documents.
4. To search for other members contact details via a directory (with member's permission).
5. Access other items as determined by the EC.
6. View access to inventory of published and proposed guidelines and position papers.

The Council and Committee Members only zone will allow members to:

1. To access working documents and agendas for council/committee meetings.