

## **The *Helicobacter pylori* Special Interest Group of ESPGHAN**

### **Terms of references**

The “*Helicobacter pylori* Special Interest Group” (HP-SIG) is a group of paediatric gastroenterologists from ESPGHAN supported by some non-ESPGHAN experts in the field of *Helicobacter pylori* whose goals are to generate collaborative international research (clinical and basic) and to provide a prominent role with regards to current management of this infection in children. It was created in 1997, previously named “Paediatric Task Force for *Helicobacter pylori*” and renamed in 2007 “*Helicobacter pylori* Working Group of ESPGHAN” (HP-WG) until 2019.

The aims of the group are:

1. **Research:** To perform collaborative research of all types as agreed within the group, including registries.
2. **Guidelines:** To develop and update management guidelines and position papers on behalf of ESPGHAN regarding paediatric *Helicobacter pylori* infection.
3. **Advocacy:** To provide expert opinions and advocate for the benefit of paediatric patients when needed.
4. **Education:** To improve medical care of children with *Helicobacter pylori* infection, by promoting good clinical practice including various educational tools, lectures and publications.

### **HP-SIG Membership roles**

1. Members of the HP-SIG are either ESPGHAN members willing to contribute actively by leading or developing activities and contribute to the tasks of the working group or non-ESPGHAN members. Non-ESPGHAN members must be experts in the field of *Helicobacter pylori* infection working outside paediatric gastroenterology e.g. microbiology, epidemiology, pathology whose expertise and contribution are essential to the projects and tasks of the HP- SIG.
2. Membership requires *active* participation in group activities. The membership of those who have not participated in group activities for over two years (collaborative research, guidelines development etc), should be questioned.
3. Membership is not transferable, nor can observers vote by proxy for members. Sites that have had two members for more than 3 years prior to September 2017 when this clause has been agreed upon will continue to have two or more members until one member steps down.
4. Every member has one vote during ballots (voting for positions, new members, new initiatives etc).
5. Two meetings are organized every year. The first one will be held during the annual meeting of ESPGHAN (one part private for members, second part public for ESPGHAN members and invited non-ESPGHAN members). The second normally takes place the 2 days prior to the European Helicobacter and Microbiota Study group meeting.
6. Attendance of meetings and activities by observers may be allowed if cleared by the executive committee (see below). These may include participants and research coordinators in relevant studies. The EC and host will decide the fee for observers as they are expected to cover their expenses. Observer status does not confer

membership with the resulting rights and obligations as stated above. The arrangement of a meeting before/after the annual meeting (e.g. the launch of a new study) is allowed if cleared by the EC, but finances have to be covered by the organizers of this meeting.

### **Elections**

1. Up to four members of the HP- SIG will serve as an executive committee (EC). Each committee member will be elected by secret ballot for a term of 3 years. One of these members will be elected specifically for the role of Chair of the group. The newly formed EC will decide between themselves on other three positions (vice-Chair, Secretary and Financial Liaison). No member may serve more than two consecutive terms on the committee. Nominees for a position in the EC are required to submit a CV and a personal statement explaining why they should be elected to the HP- SIG (1-2 paragraphs).
2. New members will be elected by secret ballot by the HP- SIG members during the annual meeting. Nominees for membership are required to submit to the executive committee a CV and a personal statement why they should be elected to the HP- SIG (1-2 paragraphs) not later than two months before the annual meeting. Members are expected to vote primarily according to the perceived merit and geographic diversion.

### **Collaborative research**

1. Any member of the group may propose a research project by email to the EC before the meeting. If the project is acceptable for the EC, the frontal presentation during the annual meeting is expected.
2. The proposal must include the following (a template is provided):
  - a. Subheadings: *background and rationale, hypotheses, aims, explicit methods (design, eligibility criteria, outcomes, power calculation, statistical approach), and importance.*
  - b. A governance structure that must involve at least three centers for sustainability and transparency).
  - c. Authorship plan (in general balancing scientific merit, invested effort and number of included patients/samples from each site). In any case, each HP- SIG publication will include a full list of contributing members in an addendum to be listed as much as possible in PubMed.
  - d. The anticipated reporting standard of the final manuscript (e.g. CONSORT, STARD etc- see last clause of this section).
3. All participants to a project of the HP-SIG will remain the owner of their data.
4. The EC must ensure that every manuscript carrying the name of the HP- SIG is of sufficient merit, value and scientific rigor. This will be verified both at the time of the proposal submission and at conclusion of the study. Projects with only one manufacturer's product involved cannot be published as "ESPGHAN" manuscripts. All manuscripts including the HP- SIG name will be approved by the EC prior to submission.
5. In addition, each research project will be discussed in an annual meeting for allowing the entire group to vote for the study as a SIG paper. If such presentation is not feasible (e.g. desire to publish prior to the meeting or unavailability of the authors to present), the EC may decide on behalf of the group.

6. Governed by the above restrictions, author's list will include as a suffix "on behalf of the *Helicobacter pylori* Special Interest Group of ESPGHAN".
7. Research projects may be published in any journal according to the discretion of the co-authors.
8. All manuscripts carrying the name of the HP- SIG will be reported according to accepted standards to ensure that the final reports are of highest possible quality.

Examples:

CONSORT statement - checklist and flow diagram for reporting RCT.

SPIRIT statement - protocol items for intervention trials (good checklist for other studies also).

STROBE statement – reporting observational studies (cohort, case-control and cross-sectional).

CARE - checklist and flow diagram for reporting case reports and series.

STARD statement – checklist and flow diagram for reporting diagnostic accuracy.

TRIPOD statement – reporting diagnostic or prognostic modelling.

RECORD statement – reporting routinely-held health administrative data observational studies.

PRISMA - checklist and flow diagram for reporting SR and MA.

SQUIRE statement and checklist – reporting quality improvement studies.

### **Position papers and guidelines**

1. Position papers and guidelines will be established according to ESPGHAN rules and regulations following an open call to all members of the SIG.
2. Selection of members to participate in the projects will be decided (based on merit only) by the ad-hoc committees nominated by the HP- SIG.
3. The final voting reported in the manuscript will include the writing group and HP- SIG members. A pre-final version will be sent to all SIG members for comments.
4. Position papers and guidelines will be published in JPGN unless explicitly required otherwise.

### **Charter**

Any member of the HP- SIG can propose the modification of the charter to the EC. The members of EC will consider the possible modification of the charter. The discussion and voting about proposed changes of the charter will be held at the next annual meeting. The modification will be confirmed by absolute majority quorum of more than 2/3 of the members.

### **Member list as of December 2020**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of entry</b>	<b>Positions held</b>	<b>Dates held of these positions</b>
Kalach Nicolas	1998	Executive Committee (Chair)	09/2017
Homan Matjaz	2011	Executive Committee	09/2017
Tavares Maria	2016	Executive Committee	09/2020
Alarcon Teresa	2016	Member (Mic.)	

Barrio Josefa	2019	Member	
Bontems Patrick	1997	Member	
Cabral José	2016	Member	
Casswall Thomas	1999	Member	
Chong Sonny	1997	Member	
Cilleruelo Maria Luz	2014	Member	
Faraci Simona	2015	Member	
Iwanczak Barbara	1998	Member	
Kindermann Angelika	2007	Member	
Koletzko Sibylle	1997	Member	
Kolimarala Vinod	2015	Member	
Kori Michal	2012	Member	
Lehours Philippe	2018	Member (Mic.)	
Lopes Ana Isabel	2009	Member	
Martinez Gomez Maria Jose	1997	Member	
Megraud Francis	1997	Member (Mic.)	
Miele Erasmo	2014	Member	
Misak Zrinjka	2012	Member	
Michell Hazel	1997	Member (Mic.)	
Oleastro Monica	2011	Member (Mic.)	
Papadopoulou Alexandra	2013	Member	
Pehlivanoglu Ender	1997	Member	
Raymond Josette	2018	Member (Mic.)	
Rea Francesca	2015	Member	
Rogalidou Maria	2017	Member	
Roma Eleftheria	1997	Member	

Rowland Marion	1997	Member	
Shahinyan Tatevik	2018	Member	
Sustmann Andrea	2006	Member	
Sykora Josef	1998	Member	
Le Thi Thu Giang	2017	Data manager	
Ugras Meltem	2009	Member	
Urbonas Vaidotas	2012	Member	
Urruzuno Pedro	1997	Member	
Vuletic Biljana	2018	Member	
Werkstetter Katharina	2015	Data manager	
Yahav Jacob	1997	Member	