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Dear members of ESPGHAN, dear friends and colleagues,
The *European Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition* (ESPGHAN) is now a global player in our medical field. For many of us members, ESPGHAN is a community we trust. It is where we interact with our peer group and make professional friendships and collaborations. These strengths have made ESPGHAN a worldwide forum for gastrointestinal research, a bench marker for clinical standards and a powerful influencer of clinical education.

In these unsteady times, we need to ensure we nurture our younger colleagues to become even better gastroenterologists, nutritionists and hepatologists so we constantly improve the treatment of our patients. We need to face the challenges of the pandemic and the financial crisis. We need to be aware of the changing environment and open to thinking differently.

As ESPGHAN president, I will work with you and the Council to ensure that our society is fit for the future.

My goals

1. We need to work on public healthcare perception and increase awareness of gastroenterological, nutritional and hepatological conditions in childhood. Political decision makers should recognise the critical importance of a healthy gastrointestinal tract in childhood for optimal development into adult life.

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2. The current Covid19 pandemic has challenged our patients and our society. We can use the lessons learned from the pandemic to communicate differently to maintain our friendship, our science and our education and ensure we fully involve all our members in our work, our discussions and our publications.
3. We must build on the strengths of our members from all disciplines to ensure all their voices are heard in the interests of our patients, irrespective of different national systems and economies.

My experience

For the last 12 years I have been working in Hannover, Germany, leading a busy team of highly skilled and motivated health care professionals. I also hold a chair in Paediatric Hepatology at the University of Birmingham, UK, making me truly European.

My participation in ESPGHAN originates from these roots. From 2007-2011 I enjoyed developing further the Young Investigator Forum together with Deirdre Kelly, Louisa Mearin, Alan Philips, Yigael Finkel, Lizzy de Ridder and Nikhil Thapar. This unique experience, complemented by teaching at several Eastern European Summer Schools, has taught me much about the varied strengths of our European continent which will help me to work further on an integrated European perspective of our specialty.

From 2011-2016 I was an elected member of the ESPGHAN Hepatology Committee, and from 2013-2016 served as the Chair of the Committee and council member for hepatology. This experience strengthened my dedication to collaborative leadership and innovation. During this time, we made a clear commitment to education and initiated the regular Monothematic Conferences and the biannual Liver Transplant School. I am pleased we achieved initiatives which have had a lasting impact and sustainability such as the Graft Injury Group, the IRCPSS, the NAPPED- or the ChilSFree consortium or not least the constructive partnership between ESPGHAN and the *European Liver and Intestine Transplant Association (ELITA)*.

It would be an honour and a privilege to build on my experience and serve you as your President. Please support my candidacy and give me your vote.

Ulrich Baumann

