



Request from Professor Anil Dhawan MD., FRCPC., FAASLD to the ESPGHAN members.

Dear Friends,

May I wish you a better and happier 2021 as we begin to move beyond the trauma, misery and losses inflicted on so many of us by the pandemic disaster. However, one important lesson that this crisis has proven is that if we all work together internationally, we can shorten the time required to respond effectively. Development of new diagnostic tests, vaccines and new drugs was achieved in previously unimaginably short periods. Unfortunately diseases, but fortunately also science, knowledge and research cannot be constrained by geographical boundaries. Therefore, I profoundly believe in, and support the inclusive international approach of ESPGHAN with multidisciplinary members, trainees, clinical and research members membership participating from all over the world.

My philosophy -

“ Collaboration, humble listening, innovation with creativity, care with compassion, courage, hard work and as a leader to create more leaders than followers .

With this philosophy, work ethic and multi-tasking skills may I request your whole-hearted support to help me succeed to be your **‘servant as well as leader’** as the next president of ESPGHAN.

My ambition and vision is to deliver a step change to the composite profile of ESPGHAN by engaging and reaching out to the membership, pharmaceuticals/biotechnology companies, our disease specific patient organisations, policy makers and regulatory authorities in Europe and all countries beyond.

How do we achieve it ?

- 1 - We **the members** who have felt uninvolved or not engaged , enthuse them, empower them and increase the membership, as there is strength in numbers.
- 2 - Invest in our future i.e., **our trainees**. Create international training networks among our senior members and reach out our adult colleagues who often innovate before us paediatricians, to provide innovative training opportunities that supplement and compliment traditional clinical training with insights into basic science and mechanistic aspects from adult practice translatable into treatment of childhood digestive disorders.

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3 - **ESPGHAN the Global leader** “the organisation to go to” for clinical, research and academic aspects of childhood digestive disease for the policy makers, philanthropic organisations and governmental bodies internationally.

4 - **Address** the current knowledge gap in **improving the inferior outcomes** of young adults with chronic digestive diseases transitioning from childhood. This project will require dialogue with our adult colleagues and their societies.

5 - **Engage** with parent/carer led disease specific organisations to assist in improving their holistic outcomes.

6 - **Invest** further in digital health platforms to improve the quality and frequency of academic, training and clinical discussions and promote global impact.

To deliver this, naturally I will need the commitment and prolific skills of all of you as the ESPGHAN membership, but I believe that my 30 years of experience has given me the necessary knowledge, skills, experience, resilience and track record of success while leading international organisations.

My credentials-

I am trained in gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition, and practising hepatology and transplantation at King’s College Hospital, London since 1992, and in gastroenterology, nutrition, intestinal failure and intestinal transplantation at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska, USA, in 1995-96. This broader training underpinned by basic science research helped me to develop the comprehensive paediatric liver, GI and nutrition center and MowatLabs at the King’s College Hospital, London.

Clinical and research leadership experience – I have been the head of the Child Health Department of King’s College Hospital, 2007-2019. and Clinical Academic lead for King’s Health Partners 2007-2018. I am currently the Director of Paediatric Liver GI and Nutrition center and MowatLabs and the Director of Research and Innovation for the whole of King’s College Hospital, London from 2018-2021.

I have reached out to many of you via my publications (350 peer reviewed publications, citations about 20,000 and H-index of 71) and five textbooks both in hepatology and gastroenterology and by attending and lecturing at ESPGHAN conferences and many other educational events worldwide.

Leadership experience at the international societies.

Cell Transplantation and Regenerative Medicine Society (CTRMS) – **Secretary and council member** 2005-2014. **President** -2014-2017.

International liver transplant society- **Council member** 2006-2009, **Chair Paediatrics committee** 2007-2009, Chair **basic science committee**, 2009-2011 and **chair of membership committee** 2011-2013.

British Society of paediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition- **Chair** of the liver group of the 2004-2007.

ESPGHAN – I have been active in ESPGHAN since 1993, I was appointed to the committee of hepatology in 2000 and became secretary in 2001 and chairman 2004-2007. I served as a councillor from 2004-2007. I organised the joint first ESPGHAN and NASPGHAN symposium on Acute liver failure in London 2006. To promote basic science exposure to trainees I organised the ESPGHAN Bench to Bedside workshop on Newer Therapies for Liver Disease in 2008.



I have been on the scientific programme committees of the 3rd and the 4th world congress of PGHN. Since 1993 I hosted various young ESPGHAN trainees at King's College Hospital, London, many of whom have since risen to the highest professional levels. I have also been the associate editor of our journal, JPGN 2007-2011.

Business and management formal qualification:

Harvard Business School *online* . Postgraduate certificate course in sustainable business strategy. 2020.

In conclusion I believe, with the help of the membership, I have the depth and duration of diverse success in clinical medicine, training, research and academic leadership, organisational management and development to promote ESPGHAN to become "*the International organisation to go to*" for knowledge and skills in Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

Yours Sincerely

Anil

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