

Newsletter - April 2020

The European Section and Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (ESBGH)

ESBGH - Current situation

The Section & Board meets twice a year, in the Spring meeting usually as guests of one of our member/associate countries and in the Autumn, before the UEGW.

The last Autumn meeting, in Barcelona, was cancelled due to the local social and political unrest. The delegates who made the trip to the city gathered at an informal meeting Saturday morning to discuss the ESBGH activities and a report was sent to all the delegates.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed a lot of our current practice and, in many countries, disrupted our lives as well. Some of us are working more with treating COVID-19 patients or in the management of hospital care than in Gastroenterology wards or Endoscopy Units.

A lot of scientific and work meetings have been postponed or cancelled. CME meeting in March, UEMS Council in April, CESMA meeting in May are among the cancelled meetings with impact on the ESBGH activity.

The usual ESBGH Executive meeting which takes place once a year was replaced by videoconference at the beginning of April and the decision was made to cancel the Spring meeting which was due to take place early June, in Zagreb. Our Croatian delegates, Zeljko and Davor, have our thanks for their commitment to organize the meeting next spring 2021, in Zagreb.

ESEGH

Other important decisions concern the European Specialty Examination on Gastroenterology and Hepatology, the ESEGH.

The ESEGH which was scheduled for April 22nd was postponed, at least until September 2020. We don't know yet if it will be possible to organize the ESEGH for this year.

Meetings such as the Question Writing Group (QWG) and Examining Board (EB), all related to the ESEGH have been cancelled.

We are in contact with the Federation of Royal Colleges in order to organize future events and meetings.

Activities report

In spite of all the difficulties related to the COVID 19 pandemic, we would like to inform you of our current activities on behalf of the ESBGH:

- ◆ The Spanish translation of our Blue Book was completed, thanks to the help of our Spanish delegate, Cecilio Santander and the Spanish Society of Gastroenterology;
- ◆ Fellowship applications are on-going;
- ◆ CME applications are on-going, even if in smaller numbers. On-line events and courses are increasing as expected;
- ◆ The Executive is preparing the Autumn meeting, scheduled for October 9th and 10th in Amsterdam, before the UEGW;
- ◆ The ESBGH has new delegates from several countries, who haven't been able to attend our meetings yet, but who are very welcome to our European group!
- ◆ We have set up a link to an area of our Dropbox, accessible to all our delegates, where we store presentations from our meetings and also presentations from our delegates about our activities, such as the ESEGH, Blue Book, accreditation of training centers, etc.;
- ◆ Our paper on the ESEGH "European Speciality Examination in Gastroenterology and Hepatology examination — improving education in gastroenterology and Hepatology" was accepted for publication in the World Journal of Meta-Analysis;
- ◆ The Executive is preparing a brainstorm meeting to start the review of the Blue Book, which is due for 2022. We will need to organize several groups to review the Core Curriculum and the Advanced Modules, as well as to reflect on the need for further Advanced Modules, such as IBD, for example.

We invite you to check this and other information in our website – www.eubogh.org

Stay safe!