

Newsletter - April 2021

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

ESBGH - Current situation during the COVID pandemic

Due to the COVID pandemic, several meetings were either cancelled or transformed into virtual meetings.

This includes meetings relating to our work at UEMS, such as CME meetings, CESMA meetings or the UEMS Council as well as our ESBGH meetings in Spring and Autumn.

The Exam meetings were either cancelled or virtual in 2020. The ESEGH took place in September, with a reasonable number of candidates. This year the ESEGH is due to take place on April 7th (if the local circumstances related to the pandemic allow it). All work around the ESEGH is going on, virtual meetings until at least September, probably until the end of 2021.

The Spring ESBGH 2020 meeting was cancelled, but we were able to have a productive Autumn meeting, a Zoom meeting, which enabled us to see each other, exchange news and get on with the Section&Board work.

The Spring ESBGH 2021 will be a virtual (Zoom) meeting in the beginning of June. The Autumn meeting will probably be a virtual meeting as well, but final decision is pending the current pandemic situation.

Activities report

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

- ◆ 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 Spring meeting, scheduled for June 4th.
- ◆ The ESBGH has new delegates from several countries.
- ◆ 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 presentations from our delegates about our activities, such as the ESEGH, Blue Book, accreditation of training centers, etc. The link is: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zvaof7i1fje8636/AAC2o7BhGW0SyxX7c0cofiNga?dl=0>
- ◆ The query about the impact of COVID-19 on gastroenterology training, organized by our Maltese colleagues was edited into a paper, accepted for publication by the Portuguese Journal of Gastroenterology.
- ◆ The review of the Blue Book, which was due to begin during our Spring meeting in Zagreb, this year, will have to be delayed as the Executive believes this must be done in a live meeting. Nevertheless, we are organizing groups to review the Core Curriculum and Advanced Modules, in order to be ready as soon as a live meeting is possible.

In memoriam

Our esteemed colleague from Luxembourg, Dr Christiane Steichen, has passed away in January after a prolonged illness.

Christiane became a delegate to our Section&Board in 2007. She worked in the Manpower and Recognition Committee, but her contribution went well beyond that Committee, as she had a keen interest in all matters European and intervened as necessary, always to the point, her arguments well-thought and usually delivered in a direct manner. She was a strong support of women empowerment and helped balance our group of delegates.

She contributed with her gastroenterology skills to her small country doing a lot of pro bono work for the disadvantaged. For this and other work she was awarded an FRCP. We will remember her with gratitude.

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

Stay safe!