



## European Society of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology

[www.espo.eu.com](http://www.espo.eu.com)

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### ESPO Newsletter - Summer 2020

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This year has been dominated by the coronavirus pandemic, which unfortunately is likely to be with us for some time yet. Among its consequences has been the postponement or cancellation of conferences across the world, and the conversion of many into virtual meetings online.

Our own ESPO Congress in Marseille has of course been one of those affected, and it was initially postponed from May 2020 to February 2021. Sadly it now seems clear that the virus will still be active throughout the winter ahead of us. With our primary concern being the safety and wellbeing of our delegates, speakers and team the Local Organising Committee and the ESPO Board have taken the difficult decision to further postpone the Congress until November 2021. **The new dates for “ESPO 2021” in Marseille are 6-9 November 2021**, and we sincerely hope that we shall all be meeting there in person! Please note that if you have already registered to attend, the Congress Secretariat will be in touch to transfer your registration to the new dates.

The conference will be held in the Palais du Pharo overlooking the Mediterranean and the Old Port of Marseille. The conference website will move to [www.espo-2021.org](http://www.espo-2021.org) but will still be accessible via [www.espo-2020.org](http://www.espo-2020.org). Please note that as an ESPO member you can save significantly more than your membership subscription when you register. You can check that your membership is up to date, or join as a new member, via our society website at [www.ESPO.eu.com](http://www.ESPO.eu.com). In the meantime, a short one-day online ESPO event is being organized for February 2021 for which delegates already registered to attend Marseille will receive free registration – more details to follow!

The large-scale disruption to the international conference schedule has had a knock-on effect into future years. Because all the European sub-specialty societies have had to postpone their congresses into 2021, the Confederation of European Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (CEORL-HNS, now known just as “The Confederation”) is moving its Milan congress from October 2021 to October 2022 and thereafter will hold it in even years. The sub-specialty societies (including ESPO) have therefore been asked to hold their conferences henceforth in odd years, and the ESPO Congress in Liverpool will accordingly take place in 2023, a year later than initially planned.

All this means that decisions normally made by the ESPO Council and ratified by the General Assembly will be delayed by 18 months. Prominent amongst these is the selection of the venue for the ESPO Congress after Liverpool, which will now take place in

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2025 instead of 2024. It also means that the terms of office for all current Board and Council members will be extended until November 2021. In the meantime, the Members' Committee (which acts on behalf of the General Assembly in between Congresses) has been kept fully informed. If members wish to feed back any matters to the Board then they can do so via the Members' Area of the website to Gábor Katona, Chairman of the Members' Committee.

ESPO's online presence continues to be steadily developed, extended and improved. Vincent Couloigner is building up educational content in line with ESPO's emphasis on education and training in paediatric otolaryngology. Our COVID-19 webinar was well-attended and the first web-based course on paediatric tracheostomy earlier this year was a great success: the plan is to follow this up with a course on laryngomalacia.

ESPO is currently affiliated with the International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology as well as with Cochlear Implants International. However, through the Confederation we also have a link with the European Archives of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, and the Editors-in-Chief have recently approached ESPO seeking reviewers. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer for EAORL, please contact Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen at [mbernal@clinic.cat](mailto:mbernal@clinic.cat).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **2021**

*IFOS 2021, Vancouver,  
Canada  
19-23 June 2021*

[www.ifos2021vancouver.com](http://www.ifos2021vancouver.com)

*ESPO 2021, Marseille, France  
6-9 November 2021 (please note new dates)*

[www.espo-2021.org](http://www.espo-2021.org)

### **2022**

*CEORL-HNS Congress, Milan,  
Italy  
29 October – 2 November 2022 (please note new dates)*

[www.ceorlhns2022.org](http://www.ceorlhns2022.org)

### **2023**

*ESPO 2023, Liverpool,  
UK  
20-23 May 2023 (please note new dates)*

[www.espo2023.com](http://www.espo2023.com)

### **2024**

*CEORL-HNS Congress, Dublin, Ireland  
15-19 June 2024*

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With very best wishes,

Martin Bailey  
**ESPO Secretary-General**

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