

ESsCD

Newsletter December 2020



The European Society for Study of Coeliac Disease (ESsCD) is a membership organization for professionals for the promotion of coeliac disease research and clinical management in Europe. We wish all new members welcome. We collaborate with ESPGHAN and the patient's organization AOECS, we seek industrial partners. One of our major goals is to promote coeliac disease within the United European Gastroenterology. The present board was elected during UEGW in October 2020 and covers adult gastroenterology, pediatric gastroenterology, basic science and clinical dieticians. Our sincere thanks go to Chris Mulder and David Sanders that left the Board after serving several years.



We wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Message on Covid-19

In these terrible times there seems to be light in the tunnel with several vaccines on their way. Some concerns have been raised with respect to the suitability of these vaccines for coeliac disease patients. There are no signals so far that coeliac disease patients are prone to develop severe Covid-19. This also applies to the few patients with refractory or non-responsive coeliac disease. We further fully support the strategies for mass vaccination in the general population including our coeliac disease patients. We do not recommend any particular precautions being made when the vaccines are offered to our patients. Coeliac disease is not an allergic disease. Our statement is congruent with that made by our US counterpart: https://www.theceliacsociety.org/sscd_news. We again remind our followers on the initiative of Dr. Benjamin Lebwohl at Columbia; an internet survey where professionals can report their patients with coeliac disease and documented SARS-CoV-2 infection. Highly recommended. The registry is open worldwide, they have clarified the privacy protections with ethics board. Go to www.covidceliac.org for more information and to submit your case.

As a reminder:

- Registry entry should be done by **health care practitioners only**, not patients.
- Please report only laboratory-confirmed Covid-19 cases.
- Cases should be reported after a minimum of 7 days or until sufficient time has passed to observe the disease course through resolution of acute illness or death.

Action plan for ESsCD

- The discussion on serology as sole diagnosis in adults is more relevant than ever. We are all aware of the performed studies, of ongoing studies and guidelines from Finland. The topic was discussed in our recent Board meeting and different opinions were flagged. This question will be addressed in the next months. A separate session during the ICDS in October is planned.

- We will offer two virtual conferences in the spring, one dedicated to basic science and the other dedicated to a clinical topic. Stay tuned for further details. Until further notice, these conferences can be followed without any charge – that may come in the future as a member only offer.
- We will establish a GDPR compatible membership registry in cooperation with the International Society for Study of Coeliac Disease (ISSCD). Most of you will recall that the ISSCD was re-structured as an umbrella organisation where the ESsCD covers the Europe region. The President of ESsCD is *ex officio* Board member of the ISSCD. The membership registry will be run by the Dutch company APPR Hét Brancheburo in Naarden. The annual membership fee will be EUR 50. Further details will come in 2021.
- The ESsCD nominated professor Carolina Ciacci as member of the Scientific Committee in UEG – we are extremely happy that the voice of adult coeliac disease is now heard in this organisation! We collaborate nicely with our friends in ESPGHAN. Carolina needs input to bring to the SciComm – she is open for suggestions and can be contacted via the Board of ESsCD (lucelli@yahoo.com).
- Our statutes are under revision, not the least because of the changes in ISSCD. A draft was presented during UEGW in October. They will be further revised and presented to our members in due time.

ICDS Sorrento 2021

The next ICDS is in Sorrento, Italy from Oct 14th to 16th 2021 – NEW DATES! See www.icds2021sorrento.com for details. We really, really hope that a physical meeting can be held. Prepare for abstracts and to attend!



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PLEASE SPREAD THIS INFO TO AS MANY AS POSSIBLE!