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Chairman: Roberto Bellucci (Chair), John Bateson, Rebecca Emerson, José Güell, Till Staffeldt

**Executive Committee**

**President** Burkhard Dick, **Secretary** Joaquín Fernández, **Treasurer** Pavel Stodulka, **Past President** Filomena Ribeiro

# Notice to Members

## Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons

**Saturday 12 September 2026 at 08:00 – 08:30 BST**  
**Capital Suite Room 9/10, ExCeL London, London**

|                  |          |                                                          |                   |
|------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>08:00 BST</b> |          |                                                          | <b>Led by</b>     |
|                  | <b>1</b> | <b>Welcome by Chairman of the Trustees</b>               | Roberto Bellucci  |
|                  | <b>2</b> | <b>Minutes of the last AGM – appended to this agenda</b> | Roberto Bellucci  |
|                  | <b>3</b> | <b>President's Report</b>                                | Burkhard Dick     |
|                  | <b>4</b> | <b>Secretary's Report</b>                                | Joaquín Fernández |
|                  | <b>5</b> | <b>Treasurers Report</b>                                 | Pavel Stodulka    |
|                  | <b>6</b> | <b>Any other Business and date of next meeting</b>       | Roberto Bellucci  |
| <b>08:30 BST</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>Close of Meeting</b>                                  |                   |

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the ESCRS

**Date:** Saturday 13 September 2025

**Venue:** Bella Congress Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                        |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
|   | <b>PRESENT:</b><br><b>Chair of the Trustees: Roberto Bellucci (RB)</b><br>Paul Rosen (Trustee)<br>Filomena Ribeiro (FR) (President)<br>Joaquín Fernández (JF) (Secretary)<br>Pavel Stodulka (TK) (Treasurer)<br>Dan Lindfield<br>Nic Reus<br>Mahmoud Radwan<br>Amina Rezkallah<br>Mark Wevill<br>Aki Yoshida<br>Gilly Burgess (Finance Director)<br>Tom Ogilvie-Graham (Chief Executive Officer)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>MCI:</b><br>Mariska van der Veen<br>Rosemary Parker |
|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                        |
| 1 | <b>Welcome by Chairman of Trustees:</b> RB opened the AGM. RB announced the 2026 Annual Congress success with over 15,000 participants and highlighting the society's good health due to the collective efforts of the Council, Executive, and Trustees.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                        |
| 2 | <b>Minutes of the last AGM:</b> The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                        |
| 3 | <b>President's Report</b><br>FR the outgoing president, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with the society's leadership. She highlighted the society's global reach and scientific collaborations, emphasizing the society's role in the scientific community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                        |
| 4 | <b>Secretary's Report</b><br>JF provided a summary of the year's activities, focusing on international collaborations, partnerships, and the development of consensus to strengthen clinical decision-making and expand scientific evidence. He mentioned the establishment of working groups and initiatives to secure new funding and consolidate leadership. JF discussed the clinical register with over 4 million documented procedures and the exploration of a new digital platform combining big data with artificial intelligence to lead global real-world evidence generation. He also highlighted the promotion of workshops on medical writing, critical reading, and scientific articles, as well as the expansion of the iLearning platform and video library. He emphasized the society's dynamic and innovative nature. |                                                        |
| 5 | <b>Treasurer's Report</b><br>PS presented the positive financial figures of the Society, with a forecasted total income of 4.7 million and reserves of 21.5 million, well above the required amount. He thanked the Trustees, Executives, Council members, chairs, and committee members for their efforts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                        |
| 6 | <b>Any other business</b><br>RB announced that Paul Rosen would be stepping down from his position as Trustee at the end of the year and thanked Paul for their significant contributions to the society's evolution and governance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                        |
| 7 | <b>Close of meeting:</b> There being no further business, the meeting was closed. RB informed the participants that the next Annual General Meeting would be held in London during the next Annual Congress.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                        |

## TRUSTEE'S REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2026

The Trustees are happy to note that the Society has completely recovered from the difficulties associated with the COVID-19 crisis. Participation in the Annual Congress has returned to pre-COVID levels, with continued strong contributions from both the previous and current Council, Executive, and President. The scientific reputation of the Society continues to grow, giving ESCRS a distinct position among the world's leading ophthalmic societies.

The Society's finances are in good shape, although we are facing the challenge of increasing costs for congress facilities and personnel. The Society's charitable activities are also growing, and we congratulate the Council and the Executive for establishing a Charity Award. Research activities are ongoing, and new initiatives are evaluated and supported every year.

We have an excellent Executive, comprising President Burkhard Dick, Secretary Joaquin Fernandez, Treasurer Pavel Stodulka, and Immediate Past-President Filomena Ribeiro as well as a strong Council of Management. I would like to take this opportunity to express the Trustees' appreciation for their invaluable commitment to the Society. The same appreciation goes to the technical team, Tom Ogilvie-Graham, Gilly Burgess, and Maria Delaney. Last but not least, let me thank our provider, MCI, for the great dedication they continue to show to our Society.

This year, we welcome a new non-medical Trustee, Rebecca Emerson, who has replaced Paul Rosen. Rebecca is a businesswoman with great expertise and experience, and she is already helping the Society navigate unfamiliar business waters. Our Trustee, John Bateson, will also leave the Board at the end of this year after eight years of dedicated service. We have therefore started the process of selecting a new Trustee, who will be a medical Trustee, and the result will be communicated at the next AGM.

**Roberto Bellucci**  
**ESCRS Chairman of the Trustees**

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT AGM, LONDON CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 2026

The past year has been one of remarkable growth, engagement, and innovation for ESCRS. Through its congresses, educational programmes, scientific collaborations, and sustainability initiatives, the Society has continued to strengthen its position as a global leader in cataract and refractive surgery. The following highlights showcase the breadth of ESCRS activities and the many ways the Society continues to advance education, research, innovation, and professional excellence for its members worldwide.

### Congresses & Events

The 43rd ESCRS Congress was held in Copenhagen from 12–16 September 2025 and welcomed an impressive 15,342 participants from 138 countries. A highlight of the Congress was the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Femtosecond Laser, marked by a dedicated exhibition within the congress halls. Over five dynamic days, delegates explored the latest advances in cataract and refractive surgery through 406 scientific sessions, 99 surgical skills labs, 111 instructional courses, and an extensive programme of free papers, posters, and videos. New interactive formats, including the Arena Valhalla debates and World Café roundtables, further enriched scientific exchange and engagement.

The Scientific Programme also reflected ESCRS's strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, with faculty representation comprising 40% women and 60% men. This aligns closely with the Society's sustainability ambitions and ongoing efforts to ensure that excellence is reflected in the diversity of voices across the ophthalmic community.

For the fourth consecutive year, ESCRS iNovation® Day brought together clinical and business leaders from across Europe and beyond, fostering collaboration at the intersection of innovation, entrepreneurship, and eye care. The discussions centered on the most pressing unmet needs in anterior segment care and examined how emerging technologies could address them over the next decade. Building on its continued success, the fifth ESCRS iNovation® Day is scheduled for London on 11 September 2026.

The 30th ESCRS Winter Meeting was held in Helsinki, Finland, from 6–8 March 2026, in collaboration with the Finnish Society of Ophthalmology and the Finnish Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. The meeting attracted 1,047 delegates from 72 countries. Centered on the theme of Presbyopia, the event reinforced its reputation as a leading forum for refractive and cataract surgery specialists. The newly designed Focus Wet Labs dedicated to Presbyopia Correction using Excimer and Femtosecond Laser technologies were particularly well received, with outstanding feedback from participants.

Beyond its own events, ESCRS continues to support its network of affiliated societies. In 2025, ESCRS organised 21 scientific sessions at partner congresses worldwide, helping to share expertise and strengthen international collaboration.

### Annual Report 2025 & New Initiatives

The ESCRS Annual Report 2025 provides a comprehensive overview of the Society's achievements across membership, education, research, publications, charitable activities, and sustainability initiatives. Available at the [ESCRS Annual Report 2025](#), the report highlights the significant progress made during a year marked by innovation, collaboration, and global engagement. Among the key initiatives launched, expanded, or significantly advanced in 2025 were:

- **Enhanced Simulator-Based Surgical Training:** ESCRS further expanded its Moving Simulators Programme, broadening access to high-quality, hands-on surgical education. Through two Eyesi Surgical Cataract Simulators deployed across multiple countries, approximately 350 students received advanced simulation-based training, supporting the development of future cataract surgeons.

- **Global Refractive Summit:** The inaugural Global Refractive Summit marked a major milestone in ESCRS's international engagement strategy. By bringing together leading experts and partner societies from around the world, the Summit provided a unique platform for scientific exchange and collaboration in refractive surgery, demonstrating ESCRS's growing global influence.
- **International Classification of Simultaneous Vision Intraocular Lenses:** A landmark achievement in 2025 was the international consensus on the ESCRS Classification of Simultaneous Vision Intraocular Lenses. The adoption of this classification system by participating international societies marks an important step towards greater clinical standardisation and consistency in patient care worldwide.
- **Building Our Sustainable Society (BoSS):** The BoSS initiative is now firmly embedded in ESCRS activities, driving progress across sustainability, well-being, diversity, inclusion, and responsible governance. BoSS reflects the Society's commitment to achieving meaningful and lasting impact beyond scientific and educational activities.

### Looking Ahead to London 2026

Building on the success of the Copenhagen Congress, we are excited to welcome the ESCRS community to London ExCeL for the 44th ESCRS Congress. This event offers a prime opportunity to present the latest scientific breakthroughs and technological advancements in ophthalmology, connect with industry leaders, and network with peers worldwide. The programme includes flagship symposia, instructional courses, skill transfer sessions, video and oral presentations, posters, and various special interest days and educational activities. Like previous editions, ESCRS remains dedicated to promoting excellence in clinical practice, research, and education, while emphasizing sustainability and social responsibility. We are pleased that the 44th Congress will continue environmental initiatives launched earlier, further minimizing our ecological impact and supporting a greener, more inclusive future.

I am particularly proud of the collaborative spirit that characterises every ESCRS activity throughout the year. Whether you contribute as a member, speaker, moderator, committee member, presenter, reviewer, sponsor, exhibitor, or delegate, your expertise, dedication, and enthusiasm make ESCRS truly exceptional.

It is a privilege to serve as your President, and I am immensely proud to be part of this outstanding global community of cataract and refractive surgeons.

**Burkhard Dick**

*ESCRS President*

## SECRETARY'S REPORT AT AGM, LONDON CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 2026

The Society's achievements during the reporting period reflect the dedication of our members, trustees, committee members, faculty, all other volunteers and staff. Together, we have expanded educational opportunities, advanced important research initiatives, strengthened our governance structures, and continued to build meaningful partnerships across the ophthalmic community.

### Council, Trustees and Committees

Burkhard Dick took office as ESCRS President in January 2026 and will complete his term at the end of 2027. Following the 2025 Council elections, six new Council Members commenced their 2026–2029 terms: Christina Grupcheva (Bulgaria), Thomas Kohnen (Germany), Georgios Kymionis (Greece), Sorchá Ní Dhubhghaill (Belgium), Andreia Rosa (Portugal), and Paolo Vinciguerra (Italy). At the beginning of 2026, we also welcomed Rebecca Emerson as a Trustee, succeeding Paul Rosen. Last year, the composition of all ESCRS Committees was reviewed and refreshed, with newly appointed members and chairs commencing their mandates. On behalf of the Society, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all outgoing committee members and chairs for their dedication, expertise, and significant contributions to ESCRS over the years.

### ESCRS Non-Profit Structure and Charitable Status

The ESCRS operates as a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity, with a clear mission to advance education, research, and clinical excellence in ophthalmology for the benefit of patients worldwide. ESCRS is governed by a Board of Trustees and supported by Committees composed of leading ophthalmic professionals who provide strategic oversight and guidance. All Trustees and Committee members serve on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration for their service. This ensures that decisions are made solely in support of the Society's mission and in the best interests of the patients ultimately served by our work. This independent governance model remains central to ESCRS's integrity, reinforcing a culture of professional commitment, accountability, transparency, and service to the wider ophthalmic community.

### Membership and International Affiliations

ESCRS continues to maintain a strong and diverse membership base, with more than 7,500 members representing over 130 countries worldwide. The Society's Group Membership programme now includes 22 national ophthalmological societies, further strengthening professional collaboration and knowledge exchange across regions. Throughout 2025 and 2026, ESCRS continued to expand and deepen its international partnerships, supporting its mission to advance education, research, and best clinical practice in cataract and refractive surgery globally.

### Congresses and Meetings

The ESCRS Congresses and Winter Meeting remain among the most important educational events in ophthalmology.

- **Copenhagen Congress – September 2025:** The 43rd ESCRS Congress welcomed **15,342 participants from 138 countries**, including: 8,005 doctors; 403 allied health professionals; 1,000 nurses and technicians and 5,602 industry representatives. The meeting delivered an extensive scientific programme, offering attendees access to cutting-edge research, educational sessions, and opportunities for international collaboration.
- **Winter Meeting – Helsinki, March 2026:** The Meeting attracted 1,047 delegates from 72 countries.
- **Upcoming Meetings:** The ESCRS Annual Congress in London (September 2026) and the ESCRS Winter Meeting in Cairo (March 2027).

## Publications

- **Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery (JCRS):** Following the celebration of its 50th volume in 2024, JCRS entered 2025 with strong momentum, further reinforcing its position as one of the leading journals in ophthalmology worldwide. The journal is currently ranked 17th of 98 journals in Ophthalmology and 44th of 312 journals in Surgery.
- **Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery Case Reports (JCRO)** continued to complement JCRS throughout 2025 by providing highly practical, educational, case-based clinical content for ophthalmologists and trainees.
- **EuroTimes** continued its transition towards a primarily digital publishing model, increasing online distribution and integration with ESCRS communication channels. This evolution improves accessibility for readers worldwide while supporting the Society's commitment to sustainable and modern publishing practices.

## Research

The Research Committee significantly strengthened the Society's research infrastructure during 2025 through the establishment of seven new Working Groups designed to develop, guide, and coordinate future ESCRS-led research activities. The Working Groups focus on Cataract Surgery, Refractive Surgery, Corneal Surgery, IOL Calculation, Keratoconus, Simultaneous Vision, and Endophthalmitis. By organising expertise across these important subspecialties, ESCRS has created a more coordinated and forward-looking research strategy that supports multicentre collaboration and the generation of high-quality scientific evidence.

During the reporting period, ESCRS awarded: 6 Systematic Research Awards, 1 Pioneer Research Award and 2 Sustainability in Research Awards.

## ESCRS IOL Classification Consensus

The ESCRS IOL Classification Consensus represented an important collaborative milestone for the Society. The initiative brought together leading experts in cataract and refractive surgery to establish a shared framework and terminology for the classification of intraocular lenses.

The Consensus aims to improve clarity and consistency across the profession, supporting surgeons, researchers, industry partners, and patients in understanding the optical characteristics and intended outcomes of different lens technologies. By fostering alignment in terminology and classification, the initiative contributes to more consistent scientific communication, improved clinical decision-making, and greater transparency in the evaluation of emerging IOL technologies.

## Registries and Data Analytics

The ESCRS Registries Programme remains one of the Society's most strategically important research initiatives, providing large-scale real-world data that informs clinical practice, supports consensus development, and strengthens evidence-based ophthalmology across Europe.

The programme currently comprises three major registries:

- **EUREQUO** – European Registry of Quality Outcomes for Cataract and Refractive Surgery
- **ECCTR** – European Corneal Transplant Registry
- **EuReCCA** – European Registry for Paediatric Cataract Surgery

Together, these registries now contain data from more than four million surgical procedures, making ESCRS a custodian of one of the most comprehensive ophthalmic datasets in Europe.

The Registries Special Interest Group continues to ensure that these valuable datasets are actively analysed and translated into peer-reviewed publications, consensus statements, and position papers that inform standards of care and improve patient outcomes.

## Education

Beyond its flagship meetings, ESCRS continues to provide a comprehensive year-round educational portfolio that supports lifelong learning and professional development. Key achievements include:

- The **iLearn platform**, now featuring more than 20 CME-accredited educational modules.
- The **ESCRS100 video library**, which has expanded to 53 concise educational videos.
- The award of the **2025 Peter Barry Fellowship (€60,000)** to Klemens Paul Kaiser of Goethe University Frankfurt.
- Certification of **15 new subspecialists** through the FEBOS-CR examination.
- Publication of the executive summary of the **ESCRS Guidelines for Cataract Surgery**, together with a pre-publication version of the full extended guidelines.
- Publication of the executive summary of the **ESCRS Guidelines for Refractive Surgery**, accompanied by an open stakeholder consultation process.
- Delivery of **21 ESCRS educational sessions** at international academies and partner meetings.
- Continued success of the **Masterclasses in Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS)** and **Complex Cataract Surgery**, each offering 50 places and pairing participants with dedicated mentors.
- Regarding the Free Papers presented at the Congress, I think it would be worthwhile to highlight that each presentation will now be assigned a DOI (Digital Object Identifier), a unique and permanent identifier, similar to those used for scientific journal articles. This will ensure that every presentation can be formally cited and permanently located over time.
- In addition, we are establishing a **dedicated repository to systematically archive the evidence generated by all Free Papers and pilot studies presented at our Congresses**. This initiative will create a lasting scientific resource, making these contributions accessible to researchers and practitioners worldwide while preserving them for future generations. By safeguarding and showcasing this body of work, we will strengthen the legacy of our Congresses, enhance their long-term scientific value, and amplify the visibility and impact of the research presented.

I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished over the past year and deeply grateful for the trust and support that you continue to place in ESCRS and its leadership. As we look ahead, I am confident that the Society will continue to thrive and expand its positive impact on the global ophthalmic community.

**Joaquín Fernández**  
**Secretary**

## TREASURERS REPORT Covering 2025

I am pleased to report on the approved financial statements for 2025, which have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

### 2025 results

Total income for 2025 amounted to €21,179,885 (2024: €21,537,460). The Annual Congress was held as a hybrid meeting, with delegates joining in person in Copenhagen or online. Delegate numbers and industry representation significantly exceeded the levels anticipated for a meeting in a Northern European location, with Congress activity generating income of €18,368,043 (2024: €18,942,834). Publications income increased by 5% to €1,048,700 (2024: €996,135). The remainder of the Society's income derived from membership fees, educational programmes, income from investments and miscellaneous items.

Total expenditure in 2025 amounted to €19,771,758 (2024: €19,507,529) with expenditure on charitable activities accounting for 99.4% of the total. Congress expenditure accounted for 64.0% of total expenditure, at €12,646,971 (2024: €12,548,149). Publications accounted for 6.9% of total expenditure while Education and Research activity combined accounted for 22.9%.

The overall surplus before gains on investments for 2025 was therefore €1,408,127 (2024: €2,029,931). A gain of €467,155 on the Society's investment portfolio was recorded in 2025 (2024: €1,122,804), taking the overall surplus transferred to reserves in 2025 to €1,853,555. Total reserves at 31 December 2025 were €23,925,382, including restricted funds of €8,988.

### Appointment of auditors

The directors have agreed to reappoint Crowe UK as auditors to the Society.

**Pavel Stodulka**

**Treasurer**

### **Summary accounts for the years ended 31 December 2023 through 2025 (Excluding gains/losses on investments)**

|                                  | 2025  | 2024  | 2023  |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Income</b>                    |       |       |       |
| Annual Congress & Winter Meeting | 86.7% | 88.0% | 86.5% |
| Publications                     | 5.0%  | 4.6%  | 5.7%  |
| Membership                       | 2.9%  | 2.8%  | 2.7%  |
| Other Income                     | 5.4%  | 4.6%  | 5.1%  |
|                                  |       |       |       |
| <b>Expenditure</b>               |       |       |       |
| Annual Congress & Winter Meeting | 64.0% | 64.3% | 61.6% |
| Publications                     | 6.9%  | 7.8%  | 8.6%  |
| Research                         | 8.4%  | 8.0%  | 8.7%  |
| Education                        | 14.5% | 13.3% | 15.7% |
| Membership                       | 2.5%  | 2.4%  | 2.3%  |
| Donations & Other                | 3.7%  | 4.2%  | 3.1%  |