

# ESCI NEWSLETTER

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Hendrik M. Nathoe, MD, PhD**  
ESCI President

**Hendrik M. Nathoe, MD, PhD,**  
Associate professor of Cardiology, University Medical center Utrecht, the Netherlands

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This year, we have excellent news but also a very sad one. The sad news is that the founder of our society, prof Albert Struyvenberg, has passed away at an honorable age of 91 years. Our thoughts are with him and his family. He had the vision to proclaim a strong European scientific society in 1968 that survived more than a half century. In the early years of its foundation the society was very successful and attracted up to 1000 attendants during the annual scientific meeting (ASM). I am very proud to see that since a couple of years the number of attendants of the ASM is increasing every year. My hope is that together with all the colleagues participating actively in ESCI, we could expect a bright future for ESCI through the next half century. One of the active councilors is professor Fabrizio Montecucco who has organized an outstanding scientific meeting in Genoa in 2017, attracting 411 abstracts and almost 500 participants. The university campus and the venue of the gala dinner were excellent choices. I want to thank Fabrizio from the bottom of my heart for organizing such a successful meeting that ended in a positive financial balance.

This year in Barcelona we have two female presidents of the congress, Professor Gema Frühbeck affiliated to the University of Navarra and Professor Lina Badimon affiliated to the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Their strong collaboration with both Spanish scientific groups as CIBERCV/ CIBEROBN and International parties resulted in the attraction of a huge number of 583 abstracts. When focusing on the distribution of the abstracts across the workshops, it is clear that the mitochondria workshop was very successful and attracted more than 200 abstracts. I want to congratulate professor Paulo Oliveira for his hard work in establishing the biggest sci-

entific group in our society, followed by Obesity and Cardiology. This year in Barcelona, we expect to be as successful as Genoa in attracting many participants. The Organizers of the congress succeeded in composing a great scientific program that will be presented in parallel sessions in 7 workshops. Given the huge number of abstracts received, the council of ESCI agreed to give 30 prizes to abstract presenters. I encourage everyone to attend not only the oral presentations but also the poster sessions. The venue this year is a well connected hotel in the marvelous city of Barcelona. I hope that the collaboration between the different scientific groups, while hosted together in one large venue, will be much stronger than in previous years. I am also confident that the execution of the congress will be smooth this year due to the collaboration with the professional congress agency Barceló Congressos.

I am delighted to announce that the keynote speaker this year is the well-known professor Valentin Fuster from the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. He is an excellent clinician and researcher and is the organizer of one of the most famous cardiovascular symposiums worldwide. I was able to attend this annual symposium once and enjoyed the Christmas atmosphere in New York very well. I would advocate everyone working in the field of cardiovascular field to attend this symposium once. I am looking forward to welcome professor Fuster at our meeting in Barcelona.

I am honored to announce that professor Piero Portincasa from the University of Bari has unanimously been chosen as the awardee of the Struyvenberg medal 2018. He is being rewarded for his enormous contribution to all aspects of ESCI. He served ESCI for many years as councilor and president. He is still very active in our society as the president of the journal foundation. It is enjoyable to see that Piero has a connection with the Netherlands where ESCI was founded. I expect that he will mention something about his knowledge of the Dutch language during his presentation.

The scientific committee selected two excellent candidates for the young investigator competition. Prof Miguel Lopez from Santiago de Compostela received the basic/translational award and Prof. Victoria Catalan from Pamplona the clinical award. The best article winners from the European Journal of Clinical Investigation (EJCI) are Dr Dullaart in the basic/translational field and Dr. Roberto Latini in the clinical field. We have also a new prize for the most cited article from EJCI published in 2015, which is Dr. John D. Lambris. This year we have a new competition of the best image in biomedical research, the so called ESCI BioArt award. By installing these new prizes, we hope to better acknowledge the work of

excellent researchers. Looking back to the great success in Genoa, the Champion League in Internal Medicine competition between European universities will be repeated this year, so there is an opportunity for revenge. Please, let us know what your opinion is about these novel competitions.

The council of ESCI will also change in the coming years. According to the statutes, the term for a councilor is minimum of 3 years and maximum 8 years. Although we have very committed councilors in the Society, we have to replace councilors reaching their terms. Professor Jean-Philippe Haymann will retire this year as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society. He was also the organizer of the successful ASM in Paris in 2016. Dear Jean-Philippe, thank you very much for your great contribution to ESCI. I understand that you can use the additional time for your work as Head of your department at Hospital Cochin in Paris. In the coming years there will be more vacancies in the council of ESCI. Please let me know, if you want to strengthen the foundation of ESCI by joining the council ([h.m.nathoe@umcutrecht.nl](mailto:h.m.nathoe@umcutrecht.nl)).

Although the impact factor of EJCI is not increasing, the financial income from royalties are stable. This income is crucial for the survival of ESCI. We have a great collaboration with our publisher, Blackwell-Wiley and have decided to extend the contract for another 5 years. Professor Piero Portincasa as the president of the Journal foundation is intensively involved in the future of EJCI. Please, always consider to submit your article to EJCI.

Besides the Society and the Journal, the Trust foundation is the third entity of ESCI. The Trust is very important in the financial status of ESCI. In this regard ESCI is much indebted to professor Dirk Roos for his tremendous effort as Treasurer of the Trust for almost 10 years. He will retire after the ASM in Barcelona, leaving ESCI in a healthy financial state. Dear Dirk, thank you so much for your great contribution to ESCI. I am confident that his successor professor Arthur Verhoeven, who is acquainted with ESCI as a previous councilor, will preserve the financial situation of ESCI. Dear Arthur, thank you very much for your help. Dr. Robin Dullaart the current president of the Trust, will retire in 2019.

I want to thank the staff of the central office of ESCI, Marliese Greven and Debbie Barneveld Binkhuijsen for their great commitment to ESCI. The central office is into a process of changing towards a more actively interaction with ESCI members and participants of the ASM. For this purpose we are building a new website of ESCI. We hope that we will be able to serve you better in the future.

I hope you will enjoy the ASM in Barcelona to the fullest. Take also some time to enjoy your stay in the beautiful city of Barcelona. Be prepared to join the next ASM in Portugal in 2019.

*Hendrik Nathoe,  
President of ESCI*

## LETTER FROM THE LOCAL ORGANIZERS

**52nd Annual Scientific Meeting Barcelona, Spain  
May 30–June 1st 2018**

UNIQUE BARCELONA:

ESCI comes back to Barcelona in 2018. This is the second time of getting together here to celebrate the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society. This year the meeting comes with an important and novel theme “Precision medicine for healthy ageing” and it is full of first rated scientists and clinicians that will make possible three journeys of learning and scientific interaction. We have Prof Valentin Fuster, a Cardiology Legend, coming to open our meeting on Wednesday May 30th at 18:00 hours. On Thursday the Albert Struyvenberg Medal will be awarded, as well as the Young Basic Research Excellence Award and the Young Clinical Research Excellence Award. A novelty introduced this year is the ESCI BioArt Contest to award a biomedical image. The Common ESCI Program will have scientific sessions on mitochondrial function, nutrition, cancer, ischemia/reperfusion and ageing. The specific Workshops to be held this year are on Cardiology, Mitochondria, Phagocyte Biology and Hepatology that have traditionally been part of the ESCI Program and the new ones on Obesity, Omics, and Precision Nutrition with the participation of the University of Navarra. Interestingly, for the first time the Cardiology Workshop has been prepared with the collaboration of CIBER-Cardiovascular (CIBERCV) Program and the Obesity Workshop with the participation of the CIBEROBN Program. These CIBER programs belong to Spanish Network of Centers of Excellence in Cardiovascular Disease and Obesity and Nutrition, respectively, of the Health Institute Carlos III. The special format of the ESCI Annual Meetings encourages close contact between leaders in the field and young scientists, with few oral presentations and many poster displays. Our intention is to have an open forum for ideas, knowledge and exposure of disruptive innovative approaches. We hope that the scientific quality of the meeting will satisfy all the delegates coming to Barcelona.

Oh! Barcelona. What a magnificent opportunity to visit Barcelona you have. Since the last ESCI visit in 2001, Barcelona has evolved to even be a more magnificent, interesting and cool city. The young and famous like to come to Barcelona. All the same it is a melting pot for cultural, architectural and avant garde design. The intellectuals and history-driven visitors are as well at home. When you are finished with your scientific activity, there are absolute “must see” in Barcelona. One is the Basilica de la Sagrada Familia, a stunning cathedral of beautiful architecture, designed and planned by Antoni Gaudi, the founder of the Modernism in Catalonia. He is the architect of the Sagrada Familia, la Casa Batllo and La Pedrera among many other buildings in Barcelona. He took over the building project of La Sagrada Familia in 1883 and proposed a complete rethink of the design.

According to the official website of the Sagrada Família ([www.sagradafamilia.org/en](http://www.sagradafamilia.org/en)), Gaudi wanted to abandon the existing neo-gothic design in favor of one that was more monumental and innovative. His new design included the soaring towers. By the time of his death in 1926, a result of injuries incurred in a tram accident, only the first bell tower had been built. At present, 70% of the work has been completed and the goal is for the job to be finished by 2026. Another important landmark in Barcelona is the Historical Recint of the Hospital de La Santa Creu i Sant Pau, started in 1902 by Lluís Domènech i Montaner, who devised an innovative hospital based on isolated pavilions linked by underground passages, in the Modernist style. I work in this modernist, beautiful and unique Hospital. In 1978, UNESCO catalogued the Hospital as UNESCO World Heritage Site. After eighty years of healthcare activity in the Modernist complex, in 2009 the Hospital de la Santa Creu I Sant Pau moved to new premises built in the north part of the campus. The historic Domènech i Montaner pavilions are now open for visit and hold different activities for the community. In the magnificent façade of the entrance to the hospital, there are four sculptures of the famous artist Pablo Gargallo, representing Faith, Charity, Hope and Work. Do not miss it. The first Hospital de la Santa Creu, a charity hospital founded in 1401, is in the downtown picturesque and ethnically diverse Raval district. It is one of the most important examples of Catalan Civil Gothic architecture of the 15th century. It is now the home of the National Library of Catalonia, an Art School and the Institute of Catalan Studies. The famous Palau de la Musica, also by Domenech i Montaner, is another "must see".

The second part of the information on Barcelona, we want to pass to you goes to the nightlife, shopping and fiesta. You may have to leave this part for another visit!! However you will have just a little taste of it if you join us at the ESCI-Congress party that will be held in a famous fish restaurant by the beach. Yes, I said beach, because in Barcelona we have the sea, the harbour and also beautiful beaches just at our feet. The party will have excellent food – a hallmark of Barcelona, and music. Do not miss it.

For more information about places to visit in Barcelona, see: <http://www.barcelonaturisme.com/wv3/en/>

We hope that you will actively contribute to the overall and scientific success of the meeting by presenting your work and sharing your knowledge with us. We will welcome you at the ESCI2018 Congress Venue, the well-located Barceló Sants Hotel Orbital, with efficient and modern services nearby Plaza de España and Montjuic.

We have prepared this ESCI Annual Meeting 2018 with the most open mind and attitude towards first science and second first lively enjoyment and healthy divertimento.

We wait for you here in Barcelona.

Profs. Gema Frühbeck<sup>1</sup> & Lina Badimon<sup>2</sup>

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