



Newsletter II; May 2025

Message from the Study group Executive Committee (EC)

Dear ESGCP members

Dear ESGCP members, ESCMID-Global has just finished, and we hope as many as possible of you were able to enjoy the conference. We, in the EC, found the congress very inspirational with several sessions on our favourite topic - parasites 😊.

ESGCP Business meeting

Was held on Sunday April 13th. From 14:45-15:45; In Wien Congress Centre, during ESCMID-Global. Room: Schubert 4 -5. Several members attended both onsite and online. Here is a picture of the members who attended the ESGCP Business meeting onsite during ESCMID-Global, we hope to see even more of you all next year in Munchen.



Welcome to new members

ESGCP now has 635 active members, and more are joining every day. We appreciate all our members, and especially welcome new members and we hope that, as a growing and heterogeneous group, we can help and inspire each other further.



ESCMID-Global Wien April 11th to 15th

We hope that all who participated at ESCMID-Global had a great and inspiring time. The sessions proposed or supported by ESGCP had great talks, and were all very well attended, with excellent feedback. There were also several other sessions discussing parasitological topics, which were very good. To those who attended either online or onsite, we like to remind you that the recordings from ESCMID will be available for 6 months online, so that one can see the sessions again.

During this year's ESCMID-Global congress there was also a Mobile-lab, accessible upon paid subscription, where attendees could learn more of practical parasite microscopy. See a lovely picture below. This was not actually organised by ESGCP, but an initiative of ESCMID itself. We hope that this good initiative could be repeated in future congresses.



This year the ESGCP EC awarded Travel & Attendance Grants to five of our members who attended ESCMID-Global with accepted abstracts. Original applications were 13, and although we are sorry, we could not support all applicants, we are happy that this funding scheme is being appreciated and used by our members.

The winners of this years Travel & Attendance Grants were (in alphabetical order from given name):



NAME	AWARDEES SELF PRESENTATION	AFFILIATION
Aman Moudgil	<p>Dr. Aman Dev Moudgil is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Veterinary Parasitology, Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar, Haryana, India. He is performing research on the evolution, ecology and epidemiology of zoonotic parasites (<i>Ascaris lumbricoides</i>, <i>Taenia asiatica</i>, <i>Taenia solium</i> and <i>Taenia saginata</i>) of humans in their intermediate and aberrant hosts in north India. Several of the diseases related to these parasites are strongly neglected, despite of their association with public health problems and economic losses. India, being a lower-middle income developing country, possesses all the contributory factors for the development and infection biology of these parasites.</p>	<p>Department of Veterinary Parasitology, Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar, Haryana, India</p>
Anna Botea Casamitjana	<p>Presented two abstracts on Giardia treatment and resistance patterns. This congress represents a unique opportunity for me to share my research at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases on this fascinating yet understudied subject. Additionally, I was recently awarded an ESCMID grant to study asymptomatic malaria in pregnancy. Attending this congress will allow me to engage with experts in the field, participate in other malaria-related sessions, and strengthen collaborations for my ongoing malaria research.</p>	<p>MD MRCP (EU) DTM&H MSc TMIH Specialty Registrar in Infectious Diseases and Virology HTD Charitable Fund Centenary Fellow University College London Hospital</p>
Ashish Shukla	<p>A PhD student, who's work is focused on alternate reservoir hosts for the <i>Leishmania</i> and the susceptibility of sand flies to insecticides in the Indian Subcontinent. He has been carrying out several field studies in Bihar district in India, looking for <i>L. donovani</i> reservoirs among animals, and has been doing the main part of the laboratory work at BHI in Varanasi. He has attended the ESCMID-Global congress on previous occasions also with presentations, and is very passionate about his work.</p>	<p>Department of General Medicine, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, India.</p>



Prasoon Madhukar	PhD candidate specializing in nanoparticle-based drug design for visceral leishmaniasis. He has earlier participated in ECCMID congresses, and the knowledge and insights gained from these events have been invaluable in advancing the research further and providing creative perspectives that have greatly enriched his work. As I prepare to transition into a research scientist role, I am confident that ECCMID will be instrumental in expanding my professional network and fostering collaborations with global experts. Attending this year's event would provide an excellent opportunity to further this discussion.	Department of General Medicine, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, India.
Sundaram Pandey	Ph.D student working on NTDs especially Visceral Leishmaniasis elimination programme in India and its coinfection with Lymphatic Filariasis. VL is affecting impoverished populations across the globe, and its co-occurrence with lymphatic filariasis may increase the chance of developing active disease. This research focuses on exploring novel strategies for diagnosis, treatment, and disease management, with the ultimate goal of contributing to their elimination and the coexistence of visceral leishmaniasis with lymphatic filariasis.	Department of General Medicine, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, India.

Upcoming Events:

The ESGCP EC asked for suggestions regarding sessions for next year ESCMID-Global in Munich, and we have used the suggestions in planning session proposals for the next year. We will provide more updates in the coming newsletters, hopefully with the list of successful ones.

Together with ESGITM, ESGCP has organized a Webinar on “**Leishmaniasis in the face of internal unrest and conflicts in Syria**”, which will be held on June 4th.

Registration for the Webinar is already open and is free! So please have a look to this very timely program, and subscribe!

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AnIcN3otTRqlzMYhWIS1sw#/registration



The ESGCP EC would also like to take the opportunity to present:

ESCMID Global Parasite Morphology Hub

Hosted by ESGCP and ESGITM

Morphological diagnosis in parasitology is at risk of disappearance, with established practitioners retiring and the focus shifting towards molecular diagnostics¹.

However, molecular assays are not readily available in the regions which suffer the greatest burden of parasitic infection and even in wealthy countries, morphology remains the mainstay for diagnosis, especially in cellular pathology/histopathology.

Therefore, there is a need to maintain and pass on skills in parasite morphology, especially tissue-based morphology, to the next generation.

To provide a base for this initiative, ESCMID Global is hosting a Parasite Morphology Hub (PMH) in its ESGCP and ESGITM study groups to promote skills in parasite morphology, especially tissue-based parasite morphology.

Activities

PMH will provide training

- Via regular on-line webinars with international experts in the field
- In person, with wet lab educational sessions in major parasite-endemic regions
- Via morphology focussed journal articles

Membership

Membership of the PMH is open to all ESCMID Global members who are interested in developing and passing on their skills in this area.

ESGCP members wishing to join the Hub should email Dr Míriam Álvarez-Martínez MALVAREZ@clinic.cat and ESGITM members should email Prof Peter Chiodini p.chiodini@nhs.net

¹Bradbury RS, Sapp SGH, Potters I, Mathison BA, Frean J, Mewara A, Sheorey H, Tamarozzi F, Couturier MR, Chiodini P, Pritt B. Where Have All the Diagnostic Morphological Parasitologists Gone? J Clin Microbiol. 2022 Nov 16;60(11):e0098622. doi: 10.1128/jcm.00986-22.

Publications:

One ESGCP paper on the presence of *Wolbachia* in *Mansonella* perstans, resulting from a project funded through an ESCMID Research Grant (To Dr Elena Pomari) was published recently in Parasites & Vectors.

- Pomari E, et al. Wolbachia bacteria in Mansonella perstans isolates from patients infected in different geographical areas: a pilot study from the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology. Parasit Vectors. 2025 Mar 10;18(1):97. doi: 10.1186/s13071-025-06723-0.



Earlier this year, ESGCP and ESGITM collaborated on a joint Editorial article to raise awareness of the increasing numbers of leishmaniasis cases in Syria and surrounding countries, as well as several other European countries, as a result of the decline of the health care system in a country troubled by years with internal unrest and conflicts.

- Abbara A et al. Leishmaniasis in Syria - A call for action of the European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) Study Groups for Infections in Travellers and Migrants (ESGITM) and for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP). *Travel Med Infect Dis.* 2025 Apr 2;66:102849. doi: 10.1016/j.tmaid.2025.102849

If any of our members know of other publications in which ESGCP is actively involved and credited, please do not hesitate to let us know for future Newsletters. ESGCP will receive points for these publications but there are defined and strict requirements for publishing on behalf of a study group: (i) that at least 3 study group members have to be involved from at least 2 different countries and (ii) the study group has to be mentioned in the title, or it has to be written (“on behalf of ESGCP”) among the authors.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE ESGCP

Please look at the ESCMID website, under study groups and ESGCP.

The ESGCP strives to support its members to attend ESCMID Global and to pursue their research and to this, ESGCP is proud to provide financial support to its members. Please note, importantly, that this study group financial support is distinct from other funding opportunities through ESCMID, and applications must be sent directly to the ESGCP executive committee members!

1A) In-person attendance to ESCMID Global congress upon accepted abstract in the field of parasitology. (Deadline for application are announced each year)

1B) In-person attendance to ESCMID Global congress of organizers of ESCMID-ESGCP on-site or hybrid courses in the field of parasitology, as a recognition and a reward for organizing ESCMID-ESGCP courses. (Deadline for application are announced each year)

2) Top-up funding for ongoing research (Deadline for application 31st March and 31st October)

If you have questions, suggestions, or information to the group please do contact us the ESGCP EC:

Miriam Alvarez – Chair malvarez@clinic.cat

Francesca Tamarozzi – Secretary francesca.tamarozzi@sacrocuore.it

Hanne Brekke – Science officer habrek2@ous-hf.no



Beate Gruner – Educational officer Beate.Gruener@uniklinik-ulm.de

Jaco Verweij – Treasurer j.verweij@etz.nl

Overview of 2024 and perspectives for 2025

3. Proposals for ESCMID Global 2025

3 accepted out of 8 presented
PLEASE SEND US YOUR PROPOSALS FOR 2026 → DEADLINE APRIL 22nd

Title of session:	Status
<i>Survival of the parasites: is treatment failure due to antimicrobial resistance?</i>	Accepted
<i>Sleeping sickness and Chagas: a tale of the two trypanosomes</i>	Accepted
<i>Diagnostic parasitology in the XXIst century: is microscopy "+" still useful?</i>	Accepted
Top papers in parasitology: from basic research to clinical and public health	Not accepted
Control, elimination, eradication, and One Health... but what if parasites got lost?	Not accepted
Cryptosporidium – detecting outbreaks and addressing impact in low-income countries	Not accepted
To diagnose or not to diagnose (before treating): presumptive treatment vs diagnosis-based approaches in migrants health	Not accepted
How to deal with focal liver lesions: infectious or non-infectious?	Not accepted

4. Newsletters
June, August, December
one already distributed in 02/2025; next out shortly after ESCMID Global 2025

5. Webinars
None in 2024; 2 planned in 2025 (see later)

6. Grants
- 2 proposals submitted, none accepted

7. Social media
@ESGCP_ESCMID (X [Twitter]) → should we keep it?

Names on the table:
Miriam José Álvarez Martínez (ESGCP Chair)
Hanne Brekko (ESGCP Scientific Officer)
Jaco J. Verweij (ESGCP Treasurer)
Beate Gruner (ESGCP Educational Officer)