



Newsletter V; December 2025

Message from the Study Group Executive Committee (EC)

Dear ESGCP members

ESGCP has over 1000 active members, which is very encouraging. The Executive Committee would like to wish all our members peaceful and happy holidays and a blessed new year.

In this Newsletter we would like to present the following:

- Summary of ESGCP activities in 2025
 - ESGCP Google group
 - News from ESCMID
- Presentation of the research which has been awarded ESGCP Top-up funding
 - Alveolar Echinococcosis guidelines starting work.
 - Planned ESGCP postgraduate courses for 2026
- Elections for the renewal of the Study Group Executive Committee in 2026.
 - Publications

ESGCP 2025 in pills

The year 2025 is soon over. It has been a good year.

In April, ESCMID-Global was held in the beautiful city of Wien, where ESGCP supported 5 members with Travel & Attendance Grants, and ESGCP organized 4 sessions. In the next ESCMID-Global in Munich (17-21 April 2026), 5 sessions will be organized or co-organized by ESGCP. During ESCMID-Global 2025, ESCMID also set-up a Mobile-lab in parasitic microscopy, which was a great success with several attendees. This was so popular that ESCMID is offering the same at ESCMID-Global 2026 also! Since attendance will be upon signing-up only, check the congress website and sign-up as soon as possible if you are interested.

The study group decided to award the Top-Up Grant Funding to two members (see below). If our finances allow this, we will continue to offer ESGCP members Travel & Attendance Grant and Top-Up funding. Please look at our Website for more information.

ESGCP and ESGITM started the joint Parasite Morphology Hub (PMH), to strengthen morphological parasitology diagnostics. In October, PMH had already held a Webinar in parasite morphology, which was very well attended. This is available in the ESCMID website.



ESGCP and ESGITM joined in for a publication (see below) on the leishmaniasis situation in Syria, and together with the WHO a Webinar was arranged on the 4th of June. This is also available in the ESCMID website.

In June 2025, the ESGCP Google group was created (see below), and members have since steadily joined the group. We have used the Google group actively since, to invite members for participation in activities or communicate with each other. In addition, the ESGCP EC has sent out 5 Newsletters (including this one) in 2025, and we aim to do this in 2026 also.

Members of ESGCP are involved in writing up ESCMID guidelines on Alveolar Echinococcosis (see below).

Google group for ESGCP communications

As mentioned, ESGCP has more than 1000 members, which we are very happy about, but this makes communication through bulk emails impossible. We have therefore created an ESGCP Google group called "Study Group for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP)". The Google group is the main communication tool between EC and members and among members. We encourage our members to communicate with each other through this channel, including for advice on cases, research activity involvement/proposals, job offer/seeking. Just send the ESGCP EC an e-mail and ask if your proposed announcement/text can be shared in the group. In most instances, you will get a fast response from us, with encouragement to share it. 😊

In addition to sending information through the Google group, we will still post information on the Website, but this often takes longer time.

Hanne Brekke has sent invitations to all members, and approximately 700 members have joined. Please let us know if you have not received the invitation, and we will re-send it (but look in spam mail also). Send the email to hanne_brekke@hotmail.com or habrek2@ous-hf.no

If your work-mail will not allow you to join the Google group, let us know so we can send a new invitation to the private e-mail you will indicate.

News from ESCMID

Next year's ESCMID Global will be in Munich, Germany, from 17-21 April 2026. Registration for ESCMID Global 2026 is open, and we hope to see as many of you as possible there.

ESGCP is planning to give out a restricted number of Travel and Attendance Grants for ESCMID-Global 2026, please look at the website for upcoming information regarding these grants.

Please always refer to www.escmid.org for the full and updated set of news from the Society!

ESCMID is also hosting a range of recommended post-graduate courses throughout the year. Please look at their website for further information.



Top-up Grant awardees and their research

- Dr Salvatore Scarso (Negrar, Italy)

Thanks to the awarded €5,000 ESGCP Top-up grant, I will be able to carry out important additional analyses in the context of the Opti-ShWAB study, of which I am PI, a study partly funded by an ESCMID individual grant. The study is conducted in Gabon and aims to optimize the molecular diagnosis and diagnostic workflow of female genital schistosomiasis (FGS) using self-sampled genital swabs. The additional funds will cover sequencing and phylogenetic analyses on urine and vaginal samples to detect and characterize *Schistosoma* hybrid/mixed genetic profiles—an under-documented issue in Gabon with potential diagnostic and control implications.

- Dr Lynn Peters (Ulm, Germany)

My research focuses on alveolar echinococcosis, a disease with very diverse clinical outcomes. Some patients remain stable for years without treatment, while others require lifelong therapy or even experience progressive disease despite medication. We aim to understand why these differences occur by studying genetic factors and the immune response of affected patients. By analyzing cytokine patterns, immune cell profiles and HLA types, we hope to identify biomarkers that can predict individual disease courses. In addition, we are investigating immune checkpoints as potential new therapeutic targets—an approach inspired by advances in cancer immunotherapy. Ultimately, our goal is to improve personalized treatment strategies for patients with alveolar echinococcosis and contribute to better long-term outcomes.

Alveolar Echinococcosis guidelines

Alveolar echinococcosis (AE) is a chronic neglected zoonotic parasitic infection, occurring in the Northern hemisphere; Central Europe is a highly endemic area. The disease is caused by the development of the parasites' larval stage as an infiltrating and metastasizing hepatic mass, which may develop after accidental ingestion of *Echinococcus multilocularis* eggs shed with the faeces of infected canids, mostly foxes in Europe. The diagnosis of AE is complex, often very delayed. If untreated/mistreated, AE leads to death in 90% of cases within 10–15 years from diagnosis. AE has not only important health and economic repercussions on patients and health systems, but it has been demonstrated to cause remarkable psychological burden and significant reduction in quality of life. Treatment is complex and follow-up often life-long; options include albendazole therapy (often lifelong and prone to side effects), surgery, liver transplant in extreme cases, and management of complications. No evidence-based, structured Guidelines have ever been developed for AE.

In response to the last ESCMID call for Guidelines, the proposal for ESCMID Guidelines on Diagnosis and Clinical Management of Alveolar Echinococcosis was submitted. The proposal was selected, and the work of the panel will start in 2026. Prof Dr Beate Gruener will be the PI of this work.



- **Planned postgraduate courses for 2026**

- In 2024, the ESGCP held a very successful practical course in Madrid; on “Neglected parasitic diseases & malaria. The road back from molecular to microscopy and AI”.

This was a very popular practical post-graduate course, where the attendees participated in mixture of theoretical lectures and practical laboratory sessions, with both standard microscopy, AI microscopy and PCR techniques. ESGCP is hoping to hold again in Madrid the second edition of this course in 2026.

- ESGCP and ESGITM (through) PMH is also aiming to arrange a Parasitology Morphology laboratory practical course in Cairo in December 2026.

Both these courses will have limited enrolment, so check regularly to the ESCMID page of courses (<https://www.escmid.org/education/courses/>) for the updated calendar and subscription deadlines.

The PMH is also planning to continue hosting relevant Webinars throughout the year. These will be announced by ESCMID, in the Newsletters, and on the website. Please sign up as they become available.

Elections for the renewal of the Study Group Executive Committee in 2026

All the study group Executive Committee members are also up for election in early 2026. According to the ESCMID regulations, EC members (3 to 5) can sit for a maximum of 8 years in a row, though every 2 years all positions are up for re-election. All ESGCP members (including current EC members) interested in joining the ESGCP EC for 2026-2028 can nominate themselves and get nomination from one other ESGCP member. This call for nominations is expected to open in January 2026. In February 2026 there will be the actual election, where all members are invited to vote for the future EC, and the new ESGCP EC will be take office at the ESGCP Business meeting during ESCMID-Global 2026.

ESGCP publications in 2025 and publication guidelines

- 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. *Parasite Vectors*. 2025 Mar 10;18(1):97. doi: 10.1186/s13071-025-06723-0.
- 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 Travelers and Migrants



(ESGITM) and for Clinical Parasitology (ESGCP). *Travel Med Infect Dis.* 2025 Apr 2; 66:102849. doi: 10.1016/j.tmaid.2025.102849

- Pomari E et al. Investigating genetic profiles of *Schistosoma* spp. imported cases to Europe: a cohort from the ESCMID Study Group for Clinical Parasitology. *Parasite Vectors* – Accepted-

ESGCP will receive points for Study Group publications, but there are defined and strict requirements for publishing on behalf of a study group: (i) at least 3 study group members have to be among co-authors 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.

If any of our members know of publications in which ESGCP is actively involved and credited, please do not hesitate to let us know about this for future Newsletters.

ESGCP at ESCMID-Global 2025





If you have information or suggestions for the ESGCP group, please look at the above-mentioned guidance for using the Google group and preferably use this tool for communication with the group.

If you have information, suggestions or questions for the ESGCP EC please contact us:

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