



Newsletter April 2026

Message from the Study group Executive Committee

ESCMID Global is coming – from 17 -21 April 2026 the Congress of the ESCMID will take in place in Munich, Germany.

The election for the new ESGLI EC for 2026-2028 has ended. The new EC will take over the tasks from the current EC right after the ESGLI business Meeting at the ESCMID Global. The ESGLI Business meeting is planned for Sunday, 19th April at the ESCMID Global. You will find more details below in the newsletter.

Every election faces a welcome and a goodbye of EC members.

A heartfelt thank you to Sophie Jarraud for her exceptional service as an executive member of ESGLI. Her vision and leadership have been vital to the group's success. We are incredibly grateful for the time and energy she has invested in the 'Legionella community' and wish her all the success joy and health in all upcoming professional and personal pursuits. Sophie will still be a vital member of ESGLI and in the Legionella-universe as she is coordinating the EU reference laboratory in public health of Legionella.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Diane Lindsay as she steps down from her leadership role within the ESGLI Executive Committee as well. As Chair and former Secretary, Diane has been a cornerstone of our community, guiding us with both scientific rigor and a collaborative spirit. Her work at the Scottish Microbiology Reference Laboratories has set a gold standard for *Legionella* diagnostics and outbreak response (especially *L. longbeachae*). We will miss her conviviality during our annual meetings and wish all the best for her live after academia. We thank her for her tireless dedication and the significant legacy she leaves behind for the next generation of microbiologists.

This leads us to the new elected ESGLI EC members (in alphabetical order):

Dr. Ghislaine Descours (Lyon, France)
Dr Anastasia (Nancy) Flountzi (Athens, Greece)
Dr Markus Petzold (Dresden, Germany)
Dr Maria Scaturro (Rome, Italy)
Dr. Lisa Wasserstrom (Malmo, Sweden)

The ESGLI EC

Dr Diane Lindsay - Chair (Scotland)
Dr Anastasia (Nancy) Flountzi - Secretary (Greece) nancyflou@gmail.com, aflountzi@med.uoa.gr
Dr Maria Scaturro - Treasurer (Italy) maria.scaturro@iss.it
Prof Sophie Jarraud – Training/Scientific officer (France) sophie.jarraud@univ-lyon1.fr
Dr Markus Petzold - Training/Scientific officer (Germany) markus.petzold@ukdd.de



Activities at the ESCMID Global

During the ESCMID Global there will be several activities organized by or presented from members of the ESGLI.

ESGLI Business Meeting

The annual ESGLI business meeting will take place at ESCMID Global in Munich.

Come and join us to learn more about our upcoming activities.

In case you are not attending ESCMID Global in person, please use the zoom link displayed below.

All information about Study Group business meetings can also be found in the official ESCMID Global programme and the virtual congress platform.

ESCMID Study Group for Legionella Infections (ESGLI)

Sunday - 19.04.2026

Room 12 ICM (1st Floor)

13:30 - 14:30

<https://key4events.zoom.us/j/81411719620?pwd=sw9b6QbgdzkkGb8smZaW6LObh97kzg.1>

Friday, 17th April

ME013

11:00 - 12:00

Hall A1-4



Meet-the-Expert

Legionnaires' disease: insights from recent large outbreaks

M0001 11:00 *Maria Scaturro (Rome, Italy)*

M0002 11:12 *Florian Heger (Vienna, Austria)*

Co-organised with: ESCMID Study Group for Legionella Infections (ESGLI)



Educational activities

The next two planned ESGLI webinars for 2026 have already been scheduled.

“Legionella longbeachae – Clinical and environmental implications following an increase in cases in Northern Europe.”

Speaker – *Dr Lisa Wasserstrom*, Microbiologist, Clinical Microbiology, Lund, Sweden

“Legionella longbeachae – same, same but different”

Speaker - *Dr Caroline Schönning*, Analyst, Public Health Agency of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden

*“Legionnaires disease caused by **Legionella longbeachae** is on the rise in Northern Europe”*

Chair - *Dr Søren Uldum*, Danish Reference Centre for Legionella, Staten Serum Institut, Copenhagen, Denmark

21st May – 12:50 pm CET

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7yvaHTMCQ-O61oOgoHDN-g

“Seasonality and effects of climatic exposures on community-acquired Legionnaires' Disease incidence: an evaluation of the Italian surveillance data, 2005-2023”

Speaker - *Dr Antonio Sciurti*, Department of Public Health and Infectious Diseases, Sapienza University of Rome

Chair - *Dr Noemi Parraga Nino* Postdoctoral Researcher at Health Sciences Research Institute of the “Germans Trias i Pujol” Foundation
Badalona, Spain

8th June – 2:30 pm CET

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wLVYqTA0TD2hmqdhFWTODg



Upcoming recording:

Together with ECDC, the EU Reference Lab on Legionella and ESGLI a webinar is held beginning of May 2026 dealing as well with challenges with regard of *L. longbeachae* as a rising pathogen in Europe.

The webinar is solely for the National Reference Centers in EU/EEA but the recordings will be distributed to all ESGLI members afterwards. So stay tuned – we will inform you about it!



There will be no in person ESGLI meeting in 2026 but the above may be of interest to ESGLI members

Scientific activities

Please be aware that the call for **session proposals for the ESCMID Global 2027** (yes already for next year) is open until 12th May 2026.

We encourage everyone to contact the EC who has questions about this, who is interested in submitting a topic

The **Study Group Research Grant** will open its 2026 call soon. From 20th May to 2nd September, you can submit your ideas.

With up to 30K EUR offered to cover project costs, ESCMID SG research grants can help you support the entirety or specific elements of your project. Upon signing, ESCMID will assign the designated grant amount. This sum can be used to settle invoices or be transferred directly to your institution for the project's needs.

Find out more details here: <https://www.escmid.org/science-research/grants-awards/research-grants/> the Study group is clearly mentioned in the title.



Publications

Since the last newsletter in January 2026, this a new ESGLI accredited publication which meets the established criteria:

Advancing *Legionella pneumophila* genomic surveillance with a high-resolution cg/wgMLST schema for outbreak detection and investigation

Mixao V, Ginevra C, Jacqueline C, Jarraud S, Gabriella M, Gomes JP, Willby MJ, Hamlin JAP, Borges V. medRxiv. 2026 Feb19 <https://doi.org/10.64898/2026.02.18.26346554> .

ESGLI accredited publications have to meet these criteria:

At least **three study group members** (coming from at least **two different countries**) are in the authors' list with affiliation to the Study Group stated in the section "Author information".

The sentence "**from the Study Group...**" or "**on behalf of the Study Group**" has to be present in the authors' list. Alternatively, the name of the Study group is clearly mentioned in the title.

The most recent publications can be accessed using the link <https://www.escmid.org/esgli/> where they can be downloaded.

Membership!

Please remember to **renew your ESCMID Membership** every two years to continue to access all ESGLI activities!

Also, please continue to inform your colleagues, and other scientists, who might be working in the field to join our group and share their knowledge and ideas.