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EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF
CATARACT & REFRACTIVE
SURGEONS

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

Notice to Members

Annual General Meeting of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons

Saturday 13 September 2025 at 08:00 – 08:30 CET
Auditorium 12 at the Bella Center, Copenhagen

08:00 CET			Led by
	1	Welcome by Chairman of the Trustees	Roberto Bellucci
	2	Minutes of the last AGM – enclosed to this agenda	Roberto Bellucci
	3	President's Report	Filomena Ribeiro
	4	Secretary's Report	Joaquín Fernández
	5	Treasurers Report	Pavel Stodulka
	6	Any other Business and date of next meeting	Roberto Bellucci
08:30 CET	7	Close of Meeting	



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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the ESCRS

Date: Saturday 7 September 2024

Venue: Fira Barcelona Gran Via, Barcelona, Spain

	<p>PRESENT: Chair of the Trustees: Roberto Bellucci (RB) John Bateson (Trustee) Paul Rosen (Trustee) Burkhard Dick (BD) (Secretary) Filomena Ribeiro (FR) (President) Thomas Kohnen (TK) (Treasurer) Abdullah Alahmary Oliver Findl Joaquín Fernández Beatrice Frueh Yinghong Ji Javier Mendicute Mahmoud Mustafa Sampaio Neto Sorchá Ní Dhubhghaill Andreia Rosa Mark Wevill Jun Zou Gilly Burgess (Finance Director) Tom Ogilvie-Graham (Managing Director)</p>	<p>MCI: Mariska van der Veen Rosemary Parker Cara Wilcocks</p>
1	<p>Welcome by Chairman of Trustees: RB opened the AGM and provided an overview of the agenda. RB reflected on the success of the society and on behalf of the trustees and leaders of the society he congratulated the President, Past President, the Executive, the council and committee members for their efforts in building the most successful ophthalmological society so far. RB thanked his fellow trustees for their work and he also thanked members, congress attendees, industry and MCI personnel for their support.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the last AGM: The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as an accurate record.</p>	
3	<p>President's Report FR joined RB in his thanks and thanked all volunteers who work at congress on an annual basis. FR shared the numbers from the last annual congress in Vienna, noting that there were more than 15,000 attendees with 113 countries represented, more than 8,000 doctors, 217 exhibitors and 26 industry symposiums. The congress in Barcelona, this year, has over 16,500 attendees and accommodating such high attendance figures will need to be considered going forward. FR provided an overview of the current ESCRS projects, including the IOL calculator with 2 new features to be launched, the moving simulator that visited 7 countries last year and trained 200 students, and BOSS, which is focused on building an inclusive and sustainable society.</p>	
4	<p>Secretary's Report BD reported on a successful year for ESCRS, thanks to the dedication of the Council, Executive, Trustees, the Managing Director, Finance Director, and the committees and members. Membership remains strong with</p>	



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	over 7,000 members globally and sustainability and inclusivity continues to be prioritised. BD reflected on the Winter Meeting in Frankfurt and the Annual Congress in Barcelona, stating that they have been well received and he noted the industry and delegate support. Publications such as JCRS and EuroTimes remain vital resources and educational research initiatives continue to grow and innovate. BD thanked the President, Treasurer, trustees and members working across the ESCRS committees and working groups. BD also thanked MCI personnel for their support. BD confirmed that Bruce Allan, Farhad Hafezi, Nic Reus and Joaquín Fernández have been elected to the Council. BD noted the update of the bylaws starting this year.
5	Treasurer's Report TK thanked the Finance Director for her support, and he confirmed that the approved financial statement for 2023 has been completed and was prepared in accordance with the financial report standards applicable to the UK and ROI, as notified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting for charities. TK confirmed that the total income for 2023 was €18.2m, against €13m in 2022, and the Annual Congress was held as a hybrid meeting, which will continue going forward. Congress income increased to €15m compared to €12m in 2022 and publications income was around €1m compared to €900,000 in 2022. The remainder of the society's income derived from membership fees, educational programmes and miscellaneous items. The overall deficit before gains on investment was €200,000, and a gain of €270,000 for the society's investment portfolio was recorded in 2023, resulting in a surplus of €67,000. Reserves are now at €18m, including restricted funds of €70,000. TK confirmed that the Directors have agreed to reappoint Pro UK as the auditors of the society.
6	Any other business No observations or questions were raised by attendees. No further business was raised. It was confirmed that the next AGM will be held in Copenhagen in 2025.
7	Close of meeting: There being no further business, the meeting was closed.



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TRUSTEE'S REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2025

The Trustees report will be verbal at the AGM.

Roberto Bellucci

ESCRS Chairman of the Trustees

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT AGM, COPENHAGEN CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 2025

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank you to all our dedicated ESCRS volunteers. It's truly a pleasure to collaborate with each and every one of you!

Congresses & events

The 42nd Congress of the ESCRS was held in Barcelona from 6 to 10 September with a total attendance of 16,247. Special attention was given to the 75th anniversary of the first IOL implantation, commemorated with a dedicated museum within the exhibition halls. Also a Simulation Training Lab was offered free of charge and used by 665 participants.

For the third time, ESCRS iNovation® Day brought together clinical and business leaders from across Europe and beyond, fostering collaboration at the intersection of innovation and eye care. Sessions focused on the most urgent clinical needs and barriers to success in anterior segment care, and how the latest technology innovations may address those within the next 5-10 years. The 4th iNovation Day is planned to be held on 12 September in Copenhagen.

The 29th ESCRS Winter Meeting was held in Athens, Greece, from 28 February to 4 March 2025, in partnership with the Hellenic Society of Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery. The meeting saw 1,924 delegates from 73 countries in attendance.

ESCRS also continues to participate in our affiliated society congresses. In 2024, 14 ESCRS sessions were organized throughout related meetings worldwide. For 2025, even 21 are planned.

Annual report 2024 & new initiatives

ESCRS achievements and initiatives in membership, education, research, charity, and sustainability are among the many topics covered in the Society's 2024 annual report, which is available via this link: [ESCRS - Annual Report 2024](#).

The report presents data and video content on a wide range of topics, including the highlights and many new initiatives ESCRS developed, launched, and/ or refined in 2024, such as:

- The new [Toric Calculator](#) compares the results of four toric IOL calculators with ESCRS' new enhanced tool. The Post-Refractive Surgery and Keratoconus calculators were launched during the annual congress in Barcelona.
- The [ESCRS Moving Simulator](#) has been hosted in 10 institutes and has trained about 350 students. ESCRS is providing an Eyesi Surgical Cataract Simulator to those affiliated National Societies that need better access to this highly useful training equipment. The simulator is hosted by the respective National Society, enabling its members to complete a bespoke ESCRS curriculum. Get in touch with your National Society to see if you can take part in this ESCRS initiative.
- ESCRS has also started working on a [Cataract Surgery Training Curriculum](#) to standardise and elevate cataract surgery training across Europe, ensuring ophthalmologists gain advanced knowledge and skills in both cataract and refractive surgery. More to come soon.
- Two out of the three [Heritage Timelines](#) were launched in 2024. This dedicated space chronicles the remarkable advancements in eye care. From the pioneering efforts in cataract surgery to the revolutionary innovations in refractive surgery, the Heritage Archive offers a comprehensive timeline that traces the evolution of surgical techniques that have transformed millions of lives. In addition to the timeline, the



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Heritage Archive features a section of ESCRS videos and interviews, which offer first-hand accounts from leading experts in the field.

- In 2024, the Building Our Sustainable Society (BoSS) initiative was launched. BoSS, aims to highlight key issues, raise awareness, and provide education around building a sustainable society. ESCRS is dedicated to fostering an inclusive, collaborative culture where members, staff, and industry partners feel valued and engaged. Some notable activities included a workshop for ESCRS Leadership during the Winter Meeting in February, a BoSS Track at the annual congress in Barcelona, a BoSS Networking Mocktail Party, and Speed Mentoring sessions.

After an immensely successful ESCRS Congress in Barcelona in 2024, we are very excited to invite the ESCRS community to the Bella Center in Copenhagen. This congress will be a new opportunity to share the latest advances and innovations in the field of ophthalmology, to get to know the latest industry offerings, as well as to network with colleagues and experts from around the world. The congress programme will feature main symposia, instructional courses, skill transfer courses, video sessions, posters and oral presentations as well as a variety of other special interest days and sessions. As for prior congresses, ESCRS is committed to promoting excellence in clinical practice, research and education, as well as to fostering a culture of sustainability and social responsibility. We are proud to announce that the 43rd Congress of the ESCRS will continue the efforts initiated at the previous congresses to reduce the environmental impact of our events. We hope you join us in this endeavour and to contribute to making this Congress a green and inclusive event.

I'd like to end by saying it is an honour to serve as your President. I am very proud to be part of this superb global community of cataract and refractive surgeons.

Filomena Ribeiro
ESCRS President



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SECRETARY'S REPORT AT AGM, COPENHAGEN CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 2025

I am pleased to report that the ESCRS has experienced an extraordinarily positive year since the 42nd Congress held in Barcelona in 2024. The shared commitment of the Council, the Executive, the Trustees, our CEO and Finance Director, along with the tireless work of our committees and numerous members, has been instrumental in ensuring that this 43rd Congress in Copenhagen is, once again, an event of international reference.

Sustainability

ESCRS remains firmly committed to sustainability. The 2024 Barcelona Congress once again achieved carbon neutrality, offsetting 100% of unavoidable emissions through certified carbon credits. In addition, 66% of the food served was vegetarian or vegan, 80% of ingredients were locally sourced, and 54% of food waste was recycled or reused. Furthermore, 66% of event signage was made from sustainable materials.

In 2024, we launched the Building Our Sustainable Society (BoSS) initiative, inspired by the vision of our President, Filomena Ribeiro. This initiative addresses not only environmental sustainability but also essential social dimensions such as gender diversity in ophthalmic practice and scientific leadership. BoSS promotes an inclusive and participatory culture through activities such as a leadership workshop at the Winter Meeting, a dedicated BoSS track at the Annual Congress, a networking mocktail event, and speed mentoring sessions.

Council, Officers and Trustees

Filomena Ribeiro took office as President in January 2024 and will complete her term at the end of 2025. Burkhard Dick will succeed her in January 2026. The 2024 elections resulted in the appointment of Pavel Stodulka as Treasurer and myself as Secretary, both for the 2025–2026 term.

Membership

ESCRS maintains a strong and diverse membership base, with over 7,500 members from 118 countries. Currently, 21 national societies participate in the group membership model. We continue to strengthen our institutional value and foster strategic partnerships with professional networks around the world.

Congresses

- Barcelona Congress (September 2024): 16,247 attendees, including 8,267 doctors, 474 allied health professionals, 951 nurses and technicians, and 5,958 industry representatives from 126 countries. At the Congress we also celebrated the 75th anniversary of the first intraocular lens implantation.
- Winter Meeting in Athens (February–March 2025): 1,924 delegates from 73 countries.
- Upcoming events: Annual Congress in Copenhagen (September 2025) and Winter Meeting in Helsinki (March 2026).

Publications

- JCRS, the official journal of ESCRS and ASCRS, published its 50th volume in 2024. It receives around 1,200 submissions per year, has an impact factor of 3.2, and ranks in the Q1 of ophthalmology journals.
- JCRO, its open-access companion journal, focuses on clinical cases and surgical techniques.
- EuroTimes continues to be published in print and digital formats, supported by the weekly eTimes newsletter, the EyeContact podcast, and distribution through social media channels.



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Research

In 2024, the Research Committee established several Working Groups composed of highly experienced clinical researchers, 10 European and 5 international members in each group. These teams focus on key clinical areas: Refractive Surgery, Cataract Surgery, Simultaneous Vision IOLs, IOL Power Calculation, Keratoconus and Cornea. Their aim is to identify key research priorities arising from clinical practice, particularly in areas with limited evidence as identified in ESCRS Clinical Guidelines. The goal is to foster multicentre research projects that respond to real-world clinical needs across Europe and globally. As a complementary initiative, the Committee launched the Best Scientific Papers of the Year project in each area, helping professionals stay up to date through a curated, evidence-based review of the most impactful publications.

Collaboration with Other Continental Scientific Societies

One of the major milestones this year has been the advancement of the Evidence-Based Functional Classification of Simultaneous Vision IOLs, developed by the ESCRS Functional Vision Working Group, which I have the honour to coordinate alongside leading European experts. This classification introduces objective, clinically meaningful, and evidence-based criteria to evaluate this category of intraocular lenses.

Given its methodological robustness and potential clinical impact, the initiative has generated significant international interest. In this context, ASCRS has joined ESCRS as a partner in a joint project, with the shared goal of achieving a global consensus on this classification. This collaboration reinforces ESCRS's leadership in applied research and its role as a driver of international clinical standards.

Registries and Data Analytics Innovation

ESCRS manages three strategic clinical registries: EUREQUO (cataract and refractive surgery), EURECCA (paediatric cataract), and ECCTR (cornea and cell transplantation), collectively documenting over 4 million procedures. In 2024, the scientific use of these registries was enhanced through the acceptance of a manuscript in NEJM Catalyst, submission of two additional papers, and the selection of a new digital platform, scheduled for implementation in 2025, to improve data management and analysis. In parallel, we have launched initiatives to generate consensus and position papers based on these datasets, turning clinical data into meaningful guidance for professional practice, regulatory decisions, and continuous quality improvement. Additionally, a joint project between the Digital and Registry teams is now underway, combining real-world clinical data with artificial intelligence to uncover patterns, generate predictions, and support decision-making processes based on real-world evidence.

Education

As part of our commitment to strengthening the scientific competencies of future generations of ophthalmologists, two high-impact educational workshops were delivered: one focused on Medical Writing and another on Critical Appraisal of Scientific Articles. Both aim to empower young European ophthalmologists with essential research and evidence-based medicine skills that position them as global leaders in these fields. In addition to congress-based learning opportunities, the following highlights are worth noting:

- iLearn platform, with over 20 CME-accredited modules.
- 10 Eye JC and eConnect webinars held in 2024.
- ESCRS100 video library, now featuring 38 concise 100-second videos.
- Launch of two out of three Heritage Timeline chapters.
- Peter Barry Fellowship 2024 (€60,000), awarded to Sarah Barbara Zwingelberg.
- FEBOS-CR examination: 12 newly certified subspecialists.



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- Draft publication of the Cataract Surgery Clinical Guidelines; refractive surgery guidelines are in development.
- 14 ESCRS sessions delivered at international academies.
- 16-hour MIGS Masterclass at the 2024 Annual Congress.
- The ESCRS Moving Simulator trained over 350 students across 10 institutions.

In addition, the ESCRS has developed a Patient Portal to inform patients on their conditions relating to upcoming or recent cataract or refractive surgery. The Portal is split into two sections: Cataract and Refractive. Each section gives an easy-to-understand summary of the different types of condition including the benefits, risks, procedures and after care of common conditions. For more information, please click this link: [ESCRS - Patient Portal](#).

ESCRS continues to be a dynamic, forward-thinking society, committed to addressing the real needs of its members and the international ophthalmic community. I am deeply proud of the progress we have made together and sincerely grateful for the trust you have placed in me.

Joaquín Fernández
Secretary



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TREASURER'S REPORT Covering 2024

I am pleased to report on the approved financial statements for 2024, 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.

2024 results

Total income for 2024 amounted to €21,537,460 (2023: €18,207,685). The Annual Congress was held as a hybrid meeting, with delegates joining in person in Barcelona or online. Delegate numbers, and the scale of the exhibition, reached the highest levels ever achieved, which meant that, overall, Congress income increased to €18,942,834 (2023: €15,755,102). Publications income reduced slightly to €996,135 (2023: €1,035,002). The remainder of the Society's income derived from membership fees, educational programmes, income from investments and miscellaneous items.

Total expenditure in 2024 amounted to €19,507,529 (2023: €18,411,617) with expenditure on charitable activities accounting for 99.5% of the total. Congress expenditure accounted for 64.3% of total expenditure, at €12,548,149 (2023: €11,345,585). Publications accounted for 7.8% of total expenditure while Education and Research activity combined accounted for 21.3%.

The overall surplus before gains on investments for 2024 was therefore €2,029,931 (2023: deficit of €203,932). A gain of €1,122,804 on the Society's investment portfolio was recorded in 2024 (2023: €271,094), taking the overall surplus transferred to reserves in 2024 to €3,152,735. Total reserves at 31 December 2024 were €22,071,827, including restricted funds of €1,572.

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 2022 through 2024 (Excluding gains/losses on investments)

	2024	2023	2022
Income			
Annual Congress & Winter Meeting	88.0%	86.5%	87.4%
Publications	4.6%	5.7%	6.7%
Membership	2.8%	2.7%	2.7%
Other Income	4.6%	5.1%	3.2%
Expenditure			
Annual Congress & Winter Meeting	64.3%	61.6%	57.8%
Publications	7.8%	8.6%	13.2%
Research	8.0%	8.7%	12.3%
Education	13.3%	15.7%	13.3%
Membership	2.4%	2.3%	1.0%
Donations & Other	4.2%	3.1%	2.4%