YE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:
YE Board representatives: Raluca Lixandru (LV) (RL) & Eleni Vergadi (EV)

ESPID Admin: Michelle McDougall (MM)

IN ATTENDANCE

Total Members Present in Person – (188)
Total Members Present Virtually (19)

Apologies for Absence
Members – (128)

1. Welcome
RL & EV introduced themselves and welcomed all Young ESPID (YE) members to the meeting, those in attendance and virtually. Both thanked and acknowledged Liat Ashkenazi (LA) for all her assistance on the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and her work to make YE activities a success this year. RL and EV had no conflicts to declare on this occasion.

2. Young ESPID Board Representatives Update

Membership

RL advised that 34% of the ESPID membership are YE and this is why YE member suggestions are so important.
In the last 2 years, some countries have grown in membership. RL encouraged any countries not listed to promote ESPID.

RL advised that the YE community is mostly aged between 30 and 40 years, there are some members out with this due to training later in their careers.

This slide showed that some larger countries in the world are underrepresented in membership terms for ESPID, for example, Germany, France and Poland, members are not as prevalent here, again RL encouraged promotion of ESPID in the underrepresented countries shown.

RL confirmed which Eastern European Countries were entitled to reduced rate membership to ESPID, since the fees were reduced two years ago. Romania and Turkey were greatly underrepresented this time last year and have now grown as a result of the reduced fee. RL encouraged all the other countries listed to make the most of the reduced rate and grow their countries membership to ESPID. RL expressed that she and EV would be available to discuss with
any YE Country Representatives, within these countries, following the meeting to help them increase their visibility.

YE Country Representatives have a term of 2 years and RL highlighted the YE Country Representatives who will soon stand down and encouraged YE members to contact them at YoungESPID@espid.org if they were interested and wished to replace or become and YE Country Representative.

Year-round activities

RL and EV role on the ESPID Board is to ask the ESPID Board to help them promote education, training, research, networking, share suggestions from the YE members and YE Country Representatives. RL and EV confirmed they do not have a ESPID Board vote but they attend all meetings and the EPSID Board do listen to any suggestions they share on behalf of YE members. Therefore it is so important to hear YE members thoughts and motivated all to share these and represent what they need from ESPID Board.

EV then thanked RL, who would be stepping down from this meeting as YE Board Representative after a 3 year term, EV appreciated all RL’s hard work and expressed that it had been a pleasure to work with such a nice colleague over the last year.

EV then advised that Danilo Buonsenso, who joined the meeting online on this occasion, would be the new YE Board Representative working alongside her for the next 3 years and she looked forward to working with him following this meeting.

EV empowered YE members to be open and transparent and share ideas and suggestions and not to think the YE Board Representatives are unapproachable as they cannot work without the YE members.
EV explained that it is not just the YE Board Representatives working for the members but there are also YE Representatives on all of the ESPID Committees, all of them are also open to hearing from the YE members. All are a team, working together to promote YE and make things better for the future.

EV confirmed the conference activities this year for YE members.

RL confirmed the YE debate topics for 2024. There will be 2 main topics this year.

- Young ESPID Symposium: Anti-inflammatory/Corticosteroid for Infectious Diseases, taking place on Wednesday 22nd May 11:45 – 13:15, main presenter Vana Spoulou
- Young ESPID Symposium: Diagnostics assays in infectious diseases: back to basics, taking place on Thursday 23rd May 15:45-17:15, main presenter Irene Rivero Calle
RL then confirmed the MTE (meet the expert) details.
YE Representatives have tried to make this session more interactive this year and encouraged YE members to join.

RL confirmed that the 1st Summer School 2024 “Vaccinology” would be taking place this September in Athens, this was a teaser and more details would be shared within the ESPID AGM.

New ESPID events

**The 1st ESPID SUMMER SCHOOL 2024** – “Vaccinology”

September 2024 - Athens

4.5 days:

- Immunological response for vaccination
- Vaccine development,
- Vaccines in specific populations etc
- Debates, workshops, quiz

What is new for Young ESPID

EV confirmed that there has been pressure from the ESPID Board to change the current YE member criteria. It was felt that the 40 year age limit was discriminatory, therefore changing the criteria from “Young ESPID is a group of members who are in training and early career, generally under 40 years and/or who are in training / have completed training to become a paediatric infectious disease specialist <3 years ago.” to “Young ESPID is a group of members who are in training and in early career, either under 40 years old and/or still in training.”

Going forward all YE members who reach 40 years of age must provide, to ESPID, proof of training status to maintain a YE membership. This proof of training status, will give a 2-year extension and can be renewed if, in case
of special circumstances, the member is still in training. By which point YE Representatives would assume no longer in training and be removed from YE membership. However in special circumstances, of course, YE members can also contact to explain the delay and submit further training status documents and then further extensions can be considered.

### What is new for Young ESPID

#### New YE Criteria - New Definition

- Young ESPID is a group of members who are in training and in early career, either under 40 years old and/or still in training.
- Individuals > 40 years old, must provide to ESPID proof of training status to maintain a YE membership.
- This proof of training, will give a 2-year extension and can be renewed if, in case of special circumstances, the member is still in training.

YE Representatives have persuaded PIDJ that first authors can tick a box, they verify your membership and they provide YE members with special treatment by giving YE members more chances to go to peer review and receive viable feedback. The YE logo would go on the paper if the YE member were successful. Since launching in mid July 2023, there have been 38 submissions, with 31 accepted (82% rate), 6 rejected, 1 under review (the general acceptance rate is 25-30%). EV asked if anyone who has submitted so far could provide feedback, as this would be very useful.

### What is new for Young ESPID

Young ESPID have a role as editors:

- 4/12 members in ERA editorial board - PIDJ purple pages are YE members
- 2 junior YE members
- 2 of the senior members are also YE

The journal will also support YE members as editors of the PIDJ purple pages.

### What is our vision for Young ESPID

**We need more mentorship!**

- Create a year-round Mentorship Programme - Collaboration WSPID and ESPID
- To add mentorship sessions dedicated to YE in our Annual meetings
  - Preparation and planning
  - Recruit mentors and mentees
  - Train mentors
  - Match mentors and mentees
  - Collect mentorship agreement form
  - Collect mentorship evaluation

EV confirmed it is important to promote mentorship programmes.
3. Committee for Education Update – Jorge Rodrigues (JR)

JR had no conflicts to declare on this occasion.

JR introduced himself and provided the below update from the Committee for Education (CfE).

JR firstly asked for a show of hands as to how many YE members had completed an online course via the Education website for CfE.

JR then asked for a show of hands as to how many YE members had completed case round via the Education website for CfE.

JR then asked for a show of hands as to how many YE members had completed the journal club via the Education website for CfE.

JR then finally asked for a show of hands as to how many YE members had the Education elearning app on their phone.

JR could see there was much room for improvement for CfE in all of these areas and would feed this back to the committee.

Committee for Education

Current offer:
- Annual Walter Marget Workshop
- Online Case Rounds
- Online Journal Club and Quiz (w/ ANZPID)
- Online Courses: Antibiotics, Vaccine Immunisation, Congenital and Perinatal Infections
- ESPID Education eLearning app
- Clinical Training Network
- ESPID Education Certificate

Upcoming:
- LIVE case rounds + journal club
- PIDs-ESPID trainee partnership
- UEAMS-PID examination

JR understood that the Walter Marget Workshop (WMW) is a competitive session as only 64 places can be assigned to gain entry to but encouraged all to keep applying as it is a really great event, not to be missed.

JR also encouraged applications for case rounds, online courses, journal club (in conjunction with ANZUMS), signing up to learning, the clinical training map and the ESPID education certificate.

JR confirmed that upcoming items from CfE are the LIVE case rounds and journal club, PIDs-ESPID trainee partnership and UEAMS-PID examination.

ESPID LOCAL COURSES 2023-24

- ESPID supports a wide range of educational courses and workshops throughout Europe
- Reduced registration costs for ESPID members
- In 2024:

CfE also support a wide range of educational courses and workshops throughout Europe, with reduced rates for ESPID members.
JR reminded that all can be found on the education website or app and thanked all for their time.

4. Committee for Guidelines Update – Deirdre Foley (DF)

DF had no conflicts to declare on this occasion.

DF introduced herself and provided the below update from the Committee for Guidelines (CfG).

CfG was established in 2022, so is a new committee who co-ordinate new ESPID guidelines via expressions of interest, then groups are agreed and formed with representations from various countries to produce the guideline. CfG are there to coach and support the groups throughout the guidelines process. All guidelines are published on the PIDJ and the ESPID website.

It has taken the committee some time to get up and running, as firstly procedures, criteria and terms of reference needed to be created but DF was happy to advise that there are now 2 guidelines ready to be published in the coming weeks. These guidelines are on group a strep and complicated UTI. Topics for the next set of guidelines and a further call for expressions of interest will be advised shortly also.

YE members are encouraged to apply as DF advised it is a great learning opportunity, working with experts in the field to create a really high quality guideline.

YE members can also volunteer to assist on curated guidelines, if anyone had a topic they have an interest in and would like to create a curated guideline CfG would welcome the contact and they will analyse if it could be a potential topic to proceed on. DF continued to advise that curated guidelines are slightly different as you would not be working with a formal group.

DF welcomed all to join in on the sessions presenting the new guidelines during the annual meeting.

5. Committee for Research Update - PD Dr. Henriette Rudolph (HR) & Ourania Kolliniati (OK)

HR & OK had no conflicts to declare on this occasion.

HR and OK introduced themselves and provided the below update from the Committee for Research (Cfr).
Every year CFR offer lunch sessions during the annual meeting, this year there are 4 sessions which are intended to be interactive, HR encouraged all to submit a proposal if they had any ideas on research. CFR also offer a research training fellowship award which helps you learn new methods in other hospitals and work with new people again HR encouraged all to apply. CFR also offer a research map and research café, the last discussions on there was from 2021 so HR advertised this to YE members enticing them as it is an important tool and can provide YE members with ideas on experts to assist them. The research map allows members to find researchers from across the world.

OK confirmed that CFR also offer 3 awards and 2 grants, one for the ERMC. CFR will next year launch a further award, the hot topic award.

HR and OK encouraged questions.

HR advised she would be stepping down from her position following the close of this annual meeting and that Annalie Shears (AS) would be her replacement for the next 3 years.

6. Committee for Scientific Affairs and Awards Update - Samuel Arthur Rhedin (SAR) & Jonathan Sturgeon (JS)

SAR & JS had no conflicts to declare on this occasion.

SAR and JS introduced themselves and provided the below update from the Committee for Scientific Affairs and Awards (CSAA).
SAR confirmed that CSAA have many awards and grants available to members of good standing and encouraged all to review and become familiar with the criteria as there are a lot of awards for various purposes with great success rates.

JS confirmed that the awards are designed to help everyone from right at the start of their career, the small grant award, working right through to independent researcher positions, who could at that stage apply for a springboard award. The springboard award is designed for those who have a PHD, who are employed somewhere that completes research and you shouldn’t have already >20% of existing research salary already covered. So far the springboard award has received some applications but only from 3 countries, United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Spain.

JS and SAR wished for YE members, within the breakout session, to tell them whether anyone has applied for any CSAA awards, what was good about the award/process, what could be improved and if there is anything they would change as feedback from YE members is important to CSAA and the future of the awards and grants. JS and SAR also asked YE members to consider the above criteria for the springboard award and feed this back to them within the breakout session also, particularly anyone not from the 3 mentioned countries as feedback is important to make the award successful. Also note any barriers etc so CSAA can consider amending the criteria.

CSAA are aware every single country is different, they have different training and career progression so all feedback would be welcomed and JS encouraged all to email admin@espid.org.uk.

JS and SAR ended by advising YE members present that If you are in good standing there may be an award ready for you to apply to and if you are unsuccessful the CSAA can also offer help and will provide feedback but there are also other methods of help from ESPID research café, already mentioned by HR and OK.

7. Committee for Sustainability & Green Practices Update - Eleni Vergadi (EV) on behalf of Nina Schöbi (NS)
NS had no conflicts to declare on this occasion.

EV provided the below update from the Committee for Sustainability and Green Practices (CS&GP).

CS&GP are a newly established committee EV confirmed and they have a new sustainability travel grant available. This committee is also currently trying to establish a mentoring programme and they are also writing an opinion article regarding planetary health and PIDs.

8. Moment of Reflection for YE Member Dr Susan Abarca Salazar – Robin Basu Roy (RBR)
A video presentation from RBR was then played to reflect on the life of YE member, Dr Susan Abarca Salazar a YE member who died expectantly at the age of 36 and her mentor RBR was kind enough to provide a video in her memory.
At the close of the video YE members were asked to take a moment of silence.

9. Breakout rooms – discussions
Before moving to the breakout sessions, EV opened up the floor to questions, the following were asked.

- Could YE members apply for a research grant before starting up a project with a senior – HR confirmed yes, firstly they should contact via the research map to find an experts (an ESPID member) within the ESPID community and then at any stage in career look up the grants available on the awards page. JS confirmed that some who apply have a mentor from a different country and as a result a new collaboration was created because of the grant, therefore the value of the new collaboration was also awarded not just research being carried out.

RL & EV then there was 40-45 minutes left and split the room into breakout rooms to discuss the below questions, virtual attendees were also added to breakout rooms.

- Would you be interested in participating in a short (1-1.5 hr) mentorship session dedicated to YE during the ESPID annual meetings (bigger groups, allocated time and place)?
- YE Speed Networking – do you find it helpful? Would you like us to keep this scheme?
- ESPID Summer School 2025 – what topics would interest you?
- YE Springboard Award – have you experienced any barriers to applying?

Breakout room feedback/responses are listed as an additional paper alongside these minutes.

10. Conclusion
The meeting came to a close with RL advising on the plans for the fun night that evening.