

# ESCRS BOARD ELECTION 2017

ESCRS Board elections are held every two years. Board members serve for a term of four years and can be re-elected for one additional four year term. Board members must have been a full member of the ESCRS for at least the last three consecutive years and in order to stand for election candidates must be nominated by five other full members of the Society.

There are five positions open on the Board in this election. Ten full members of the ESCRS have been nominated for election to the Board and they are profiled on the following pages.

Voting opens on **12 June** and closes on **1 September**. Members entitled to vote will receive a ballot paper in the post by **12 June**. The names of the new Board members will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the ESCRS which will take place during the Annual Congress in Lisbon in October.

Please note that only European full members of the ESCRS are entitled to vote in the Board election.

## ESCRS Board Election 2017



**Gerd Auffarth**  
GERMANY

**G**erd U. Auffarth, MD, FEBO is professor and chairman of the Dept. of Ophthalmology, University of Heidelberg, head of The International Vision Correction Centre (IVCRC), and director of the David J. Apple International Laboratory for Ocular Pathology in Heidelberg, Germany, which is devoted to research on intraocular ophthalmic devices especially IOLs, relocated in 2012 from South Carolina.

He is a high volume surgeon in cataract and refractive surgery and operates glaucoma and corneal transplants as well. His research focuses include cataract surgery, IOLs, refractive laser technology, diagnostics, cornea. He has published more than 230 peer reviewed articles and he and

his team are extremely active at congresses with lectures and courses. He has served on the board of the German Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (DGII) (currently as Vice-President) and the German Ophthalmological Society (DOG). He was involved in committee work and previously served on the ESCRS Board from 2005–2009.

He is involved in cutting edge research and development studies. Fellows from across Europe work in his research facilities and the training of young researchers and residents would be a main focus when serving on the ESCRS Board. Independence of research and education is a very important issue for him. ●



**Massimo Busin**  
ITALY

**A**fter training in Italy and in the USA, where I was fellow with Herbert E. Kaufman, I joined the Faculty of the Friedrich-Wilhelm University in Bonn (Germany), where I am still apl. (ausserplanmaessiger) Professor of Ophthalmology. Since 1996 I have been the chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at "Villa Serena-Villa Igea" hospitals in Forlì (Italy). My academic career, my research activity (157 peer reviewed articles, 34 chapters in books, 1 book) and my clinical work have focused on the anterior segment of the eye, with a particular interest in corneal transplantation.

I frequently meet with colleagues from many European and other foreign countries both at international meetings

and at my institution, hosting them for observerships and/or courses. All these occasions have reinforced my belief that communication and interaction are the keys for improvement at all levels of our ethics, professional skills and legal competence.

In pursuit of contributing to the further development of ESCRS as a reference institution for European ophthalmologists, if elected, my priority would be to stand for creating concrete, "ESCRS supported" opportunities for members willing to upgrade their theoretical and practical knowledge with selected tutors. ●



**Dan Epstein**  
SWITZERLAND

**D**an Epstein has been active within the ESCRS for the past 18 years. He has been a member of key committees, an initiator and faculty member of the Refractive Surgery Didactic Course, lecturer at the Young Ophthalmologists Programme, faculty at various ESCRS instructional courses, senior wetlab instructor, and the Programme Committee member responsible for the main ESCRS symposia. He has actively contributed to the creation of ESCRS's iLearn platform, which provides free interactive teaching for members. In the past 4 years he was able to intensify his commitment by serving on the ESCRS Board.

He has been consultant ophthalmologist for refractive surgery at the Department of Ophthalmology, University

Hospital, Zurich for 15 years, after holding an appointment at Uppsala University Hospital, Sweden. Earlier he had received a PhD from the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm. In addition to collaborating with several universities and clinics in Europe and running a private practice, he is also active in research/publications, and has recently completed a 15-year appointment as an editor of the Journal of Refractive Surgery.

If re-elected to the Board, he plans to continue building on his teaching and organisational experience to expand the ESCRS's role in providing superior educational programmes for Europe and beyond. ●



**Jesper Hjortdal**  
DENMARK

**I** am Clinical Professor and Consultant, Medical Director for The Danish Cornea Bank and head of corneal and refractive surgery at Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark. I graduated from Aarhus University in 1988 and have been trained clinically in Denmark and at Moorfields Eye Hospital. My research focus has mainly been in corneal optics, biomechanics, transplantation and refractive surgery, and I have published more than 170 papers/book-chapters. I am immediate past-president of the Danish Ophthalmological Society and the European Eye Bank Association, currently board member of EuCornea and co-editor of Acta Ophthalmologica. In 2013,

I received the Waring Medal for Editorial Excellence for a paper on SMILE surgery.

For more than 10 years, I have attended and contributed to the annual ESCRS meetings as invited main symposium speaker, session moderator, speaker at the Refractive Surgery Didactic Course and several other courses. I have recently become a member of the ESCRS Research Committee, review free papers for the sessions, and take part in organisation of symposia. I hope to be able to strengthen my backing of ESCRS to further support the Society to be a major global contributor to the scientific development of cataract and refractive surgery. ●



**Simonetta Morselli**  
ITALY

**I** graduated from the University of Verona as a General Medical Doctor in 1991 and as an Ophthalmologist in 1995. Since my residency I have been dedicated to anterior segment surgery, specialising in cataract, refractive and cornea, at the University Hospital of Verona, Italy. In 2008 I became Chief of the Ophthalmic Department in Bassano, Italy. I have performed more than 12,000 surgical procedures, performed live surgery at many meetings, and published in international journals and books. A Board Member of the Italian Cataract & Refractive Surgery Society, I am deeply involved in the organisation of national and regional meetings.

My surgical activity has always been connected with clinical research trials and especially with teaching and training young surgeons. I joined ESCRS years ago as a teacher in the Young Ophthalmologists Programme, more recently becoming a member of the Programme Committee.

If elected I would like to serve the Society by increasing educational activities while maintaining the high profile and scientific value of the most advanced aspects of our meetings. Science, education and clinical research are fundamentals of the ESCRS and their evolution is the very life of our Society, a Society of which we are all proud to be members. ●

## Nominated Candidates



**Filomena Ribeiro**  
PORTUGAL

**I** am the current Coordinator of the Portuguese Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, Professor at the University of Lisbon, Board Member of the Portuguese College of Ophthalmology and Head of the Ophthalmology Department at Hospital da Luz. In Europe I represent Portugal in the European Union of Medical Specialists and have been an Examiner for the European Board of Ophthalmology Exam. Holding a PhD in Biomedical Engineering, my research interests focus on computational human eye models, biometry and IOL power calculation, presbyopia and astigmatism correction.

I have participated actively in the ESCRS scientific programme committee and had the opportunity to organise

the Luso-Hispanic-Brazilian symposium for ESCRS Lisbon 2017, which I invite everyone to attend. As a candidate for the Board of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons, I would like to emphasize that I will play an active role both at Board and Committee level, being particularly focused on education and research as leverages for the ESCRS. I also intend to explore the excellent opportunity to reinforce the Iberian representation in this project and expand it to the involvement of the Ibero-American community. Thank you for your support in this electoral process. ●



**Sathish Srinivasan**  
UK

**I** am joint Clinical Director at University Hospital Ayr and Honorary Clinical Associate Professor, University of Glasgow, UK. I have been a Board member of UK and Ireland Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons since 2009. My interests are in lamellar corneal transplants, laser refractive and cataract surgery. I have published over 95 scientific papers. I have been awarded the Achievement and International Scholar awards from the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

I have been an active member since 2009 and my current involvement with the ESCRS includes:

1. Associate Editor - Journal of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
2. Member - Publications Committee (*EuroTimes*)

3. Evaluation panel member - ESCRS Clinical Research Awards
4. Examiner - European Board of Ophthalmology ESCRS Exam
5. Faculty of ESCRS Academy at international meetings

I am committed to the ESCRS to enhance positive promotion and practice of ophthalmology among its member states. My experience and current roles provide me with a detailed insight into the work and dedication required to be active, collaborative and to harvest results. It would be a great honour and privilege to serve as a Board member. ●



**Pavel Stodulka**  
CZECH REPUBLIC

**I** am a high volume cataract and refractive surgeon who also performs DMEK and vitreoretinal surgery. I like to innovate and I was the first in my country to perform LASIK, FemtoLASIK, MICS, FLACS, DMEK, Boston KPRO, Avastin injection and several other surgeries. I was the first in Europe to use Victus FS laser for FLACS. I was the first in the world to implant presbyopic phakic IOL and perform CapsuLaser capsulotomy, of which I am a co-inventor. My current research is focused on collagen disc implant for keratoconus. I am founder and chief eye surgeon of Gemini Eye Clinics in the Czech Republic and Austria.

I gave over 800 presentations in Europe and beyond and I have been teaching young residents phaco courses at ESCRS and SOE meetings for several years.

I would like to contribute to the ESCRS Board according to the needs of this Society. I would like to create an ESCRS programme to organize virtual cataract surgery courses for young surgeons at European clinics equipped with virtual surgical simulators. We run such a programme for our residents in the Czech Republic and it is extremely successful. I would also like to support intraocular Avastin legalization throughout EU. ●



**Paolo Vinciguerra**  
ITALY

**P**aolo Vinciguerra is Director of the Ophthalmology Department Humanitas (Milan, Italy) and Associate Professor in Ophthalmology at Humanitas University. He is internationally renowned for pioneer work in refractive surgery, corneal topography. Winner of many Italian and international awards, he has been the recipient of the Achievement Award from the AAO in 2003 and of the "Lans Lecture" at ISRS-AAO 2005.

Prof. Vinciguerra has been an Honorary Member of the Italian Society of Ophthalmology (SOI) since 1995 and an Honorary Member of the Italian Society for Corneal Transplants (SITRAC) since 2004. He is currently member of the Board of Directors of SITRAC and of the Italian Cataract

and Refractive Surgery Society, Chairman of the Italian Association of Private Hospitals (OPI) and a member of the "CME" Committee of SOI. He has been a member of the International Council of the ISRS-AAO since 2004.

Prof. Vinciguerra has filed numerous international patents: excimer ablation profile, masking fluids for therapeutic ablation, an artificial test eye for excimer calibration, fractal calculation in confocal microscopy, corneal curvature gradient calculations to predict corneal healing response.

If elected, Prof. Vinciguerra would serve the Society to his best, promoting benchmarks between new technology and clinical innovations and existing ones. ●



**Jerome Vryghem**  
BELGIUM

**A**s the candidate nominated by the Belgian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery I want to continue the tradition of Belgian ophthalmologists being member of the ESCRS Board, like Prof. Galand, Dr Budo and Prof. Tassignon. I have written many peer and non-peer reviewed articles, organized several scientific sessions and live surgeries (ESCRS Brussels 2000, MICS-Masters) and have regularly been invited to demonstrate my surgical technique during live surgeries abroad (Berlin, Moscow, Alicante, etc.). I very much enjoyed attending several ESCRS Academy meetings abroad in the last four years.

I have organized an instructional course on the prevention

and management of complications in LASIK at ESCRS congresses since 2001. Since 2010 I have been the organizer of an annual worldwide expert meeting on the surgical management of keratoconus. My focus of interest about which I have given several presentations at ESCRS congresses is micro-incision cataract surgery, trifocal IOLs, topography-guided laser treatments and nanosecond laser cataract surgery.

I would like to propose the need for more didactic sessions at ESCRS congresses, with clear and useful messages for less experienced surgeons. I am convinced that it is an asset for the ESCRS to count some private practice based surgeons amongst the Board Members. ●