



# ESCRS | Annual Report 2024



**ESCRS**

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF  
CATARACT & REFRACTIVE  
SURGEONS

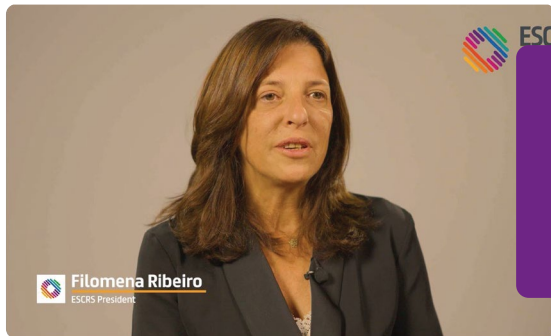
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# Words of Welcome

# Words of Welcome



## Welcome by the President:

Looking back at 2024 and personal aspirations for 2025

[Click here to view the video](#)

## Welcome by the President Elect:

Looking back at 2024 and personal aspirations for 2025 and beyond

[Click here to view the video](#)



## Welcome by the ESCRS Treasurer:

Role of ESCRS Council membership and aspirations for 2025 in his role as Treasurer

[Click here to view the video](#)

# The ESCRS' Aim

**To be the leading society and charity for anterior segment surgery worldwide.**

The ESCRS is determined to improve ophthalmic care for patients both in Europe and globally, and it works tirelessly on behalf of its members by funding ground-breaking research, supporting innovation, advancing education, and providing first-class professional development.

ESCRS has the ambition to be the principal professional community and the most trusted and independent reference source for all ophthalmic surgeons and healthcare professionals in the field of cataract and refractive surgery.

ESCRS is especially engaged with ensuring the best patient care and makes significant charitable investments in research and educational programmes in Europe as well as clinical programmes in the Middle East and Africa.

In 2025 and beyond ESCRS shall continue to pursue five main strategic objectives in these areas:



**Membership & engagement**



**Research**



**Education**



**Partnerships**



**Organisation & finance**

## Thank You!

ESCRS sincerely appreciates the hard work and dedication of all its volunteers. To learn more about who they are, please **click here** for the Council of Management and **here** for a full list of committees.



# Membership



# Membership Overview

Hear from Alexander Gonzales, on why, as a trainee, he chose to become an ESCRS member - and what the Society offers him.



Alexander Gonzales

▶ [Click here to view the video](#)

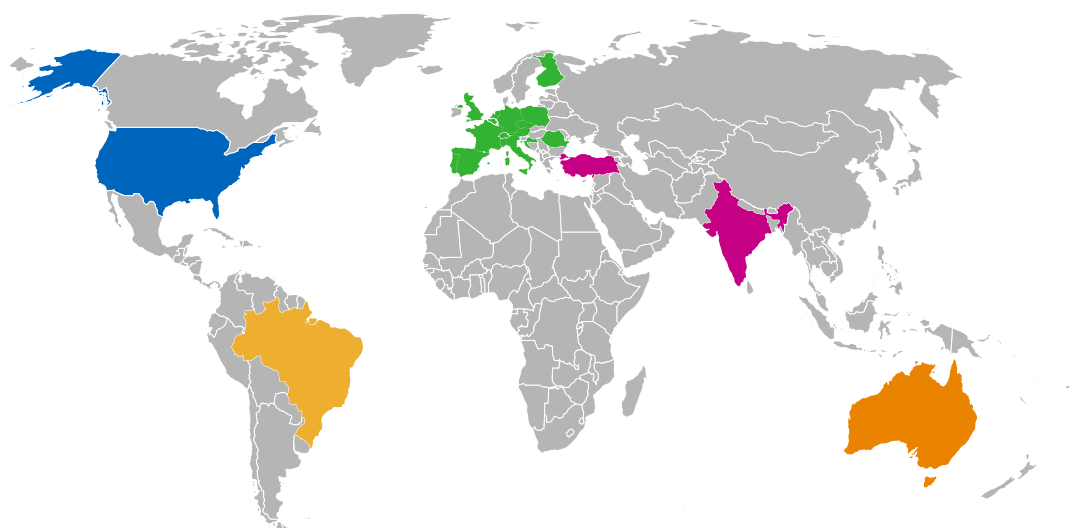
Representing **circa 7,500 members**  
from **118 countries** world-wide.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming an ESCRS member, [click here](#).

# Membership Statistics

## Top 20 members per country in 2024

United Kingdom	643
Germany	632
The Netherlands	430
Belgium	370
Italy	369
Spain	306
Finland	279
Romania	253
Turkey	222
Switzerland	216
Greece	214
Czech Republic	192
India	191
France	176
Austria	170
United States	167
Poland	144
Brazil	133
Croatia	119
Australia	112



ESCRS is thankful for the close cooperation with its 21 European Affiliated National societies.

[Click here](#) for a list of all Affiliated Societies.

**Average total number  
of members in 2024**

**7,483**



# Education



# Education

ESCRS aims to provide world-leading educational opportunities to its membership in a trusted, effective and sustainable manner.

This is provided through ESCRS Winter Meetings and Annual Congresses, EuroTimes interviews and articles, webinars, accredited iLearn modules, ESCRS Academy sessions at Affiliated Society Congresses and Masterclasses.

ESCRS also provides exclusive in-person learning opportunities to help its members excel in their field through continued learning and development.

## Education highlights in 2024

14 ESCRS sessions during related ESCRS Academy sessions at Affiliated Society Congresses

CCOI, Collaborative Community on Ophthalmic Imaging Foundation	APAO, Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology	HSIOIRS, Hellenic Society of Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery	SUO, Society of Ukrainian Ophthalmosurgeons
18-19 January 2024, Virtual	22-25 February 2024 Bali, Indonesia	29 February – 04 March 2024 Athens, Greece	01-02 March 2024 Kyiv, Ukraine
PAAO, Pan-American Academy of Ophthalmology	ASCRS, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons	SPO-CIRP, Portuguese Society of Ophthalmology	BRASCRS, Brazilian Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
05 March 2024, Virtual	05-08 April 2024 Boston, USA	02-04 May 2024 Algarve, Portugal	22-25 May 2024 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
APACRS, Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons	ICO, International Council of Ophthalmology	CroCRS, Croatian Organisation for Cataract and Refractive Surgery	AAO, American Academy of Ophthalmology
30 May- 01 June 2024 Chengdu, China	16-19 August 2024 Vancouver, Canada	28 September 2024 Zadar, Croatia	18-21 October 2024 Chicago, USA
SASCRS, Southern African Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery	IIRST, Intraocular Implant & Refractive Society of Taiwan		
07-10 November 2024 Durban, South Africa	16 November 2024, Taiwan		

[Click here](#) for more insights on what ESCRS offers.

# Education

In 2024, **Ten 1-hour Eye JC** and **eConnect** webinars were organized with hundreds of viewers.

[Click here](#) For more details.

The iLearn portal has over 20 modules covering training on cataract surgery, clinical and surgical aspects of the cornea and the physics of the passage of light through the eye and human visual function. Students can claim 1 CME point per successful module completion.



## At the 2024 Annual Congress a 16-hour educational Masterclass on MIGS was organised.

About 60 students joined the Masterclass to conduct mentor-guided didactic workshops, interactive live webinars, in-person case grand rounds and in-person wetlabs/drylabs.

The goal was to improve practice patterns, clinical outcomes and significantly grow the number of patients treated in each field. MIGS and Complex Cataract Masterclasses are planned in 2025.

[Click here](#) For more details.



## Clinical Guidelines development

The draft ESCRS Guidelines for Cataract Surgery were published on the website to invite and gather valuable stakeholder feedback ahead of finalisation, with the Guidelines for Refractive Surgery to follow.

[Click here](#) For some insights by Jesper Hjortdal.

### EUROTIMES

[About ESCRS](#) [Education](#) [Research](#) [News & Events](#) [EuroTimes](#) [IOL Calculator](#)

Full range, Less halo, GALAXY

Search

REFRACTIVE, REFRACTIVE SURGERY, CONGRESS NEWS, SOCIETY NEWS, INSIDE ESCRS

## ESCRS Refractive Surgery Guidelines a Work in Progress

Challenges involve keeping up to date on current treatments.



Laura Gaspari  
Published Monday, December 2, 2024

The ESCRS work to achieve a consensus on guidelines on corneal refractive surgery is ongoing, but there are still many challenges to face, according to Jesper Hjortdal MD, PhD.

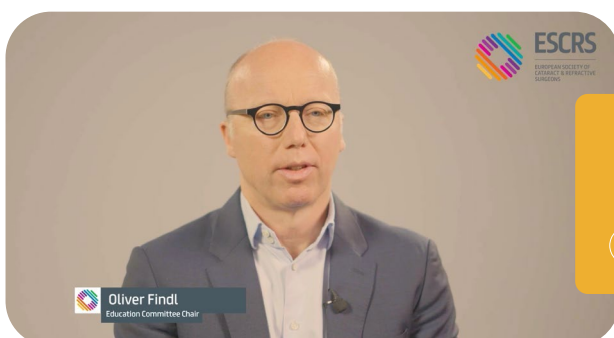
The last 30 years have marked a real revolution in refractive surgery, full of many breakthrough inventions. Surgeons now have a lot of procedures available when it comes to refractive surgery. So, many questions come to mind. "Which procedure should we perform? Which variation should we select to obtain the best and safest outcome in each individual patient?" Professor Hjortdal asked.

In this respect, common guidelines are the best strategy to answer all these questions. But a

### LATEST ARTICLES

**Simulators Benefit Surgeons and Patients**  
Helping young surgeons build confidence and expertise.  
[Read more...](#)

**How Many Surgeries Equal Surgical Proficiency?**  
Internet, labs, simulators, and assisting surgeons all contribute.



**Oliver Findl**  
Education Committee Chair

[Click here to view the video](#)



## Leadership, Business and Innovation (LBI)

With the decision to move to year-round programming, the LBI track now offers podcasts, webinars, weekend workshops, videos and articles that are designed to tackle the most common business challenges faced in clinical practice today.

These were identified through a survey, conducted in 2024. As a result, the new programme is completely constructed around this valuable feedback.



Several podcasts, webinars and interviews were recorded in 2024

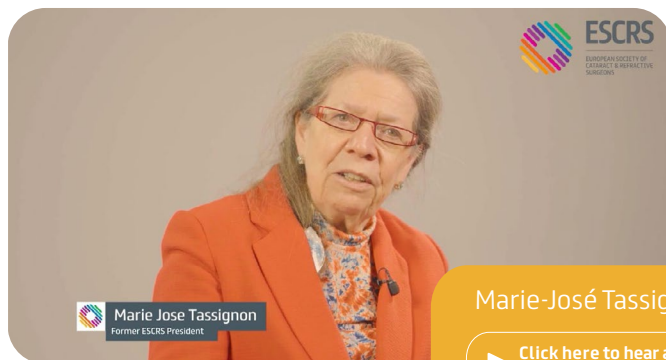
## The FEBOS Cataract exam 2024

Held during the Annual Congress in Barcelona on Thursday, 5 September 2024 in close cooperation with the EBO.

12 candidates successfully passed their exams and are now certified.



for the ESCRS FEBOS-CR Wall of Honour for an overview of all FEBOS CR alumni.



Marie Jose Tassignon  
Former ESCRS President

Marie-José Tassignon

Click here to hear about the FEBOS Cataract exam.

## ESCRS100

The online video library of digestible educational content is growing. There are now 38 instructional 100-second videos online, available for all.



to find out more.

The **ESCRS Functional Vision Working Group on the Simultaneous Vision IOLs Classification** was launched during the annual congress in Barcelona.

## Two out of the three Heritage Timelines were launched in 2024.

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



For more details.

### The Peter Barry Fellowship Award 2024 of €60k was awarded to Sarah Barbara Zwingelberg, of the University Hospital of Cologne, Germany.

This fellowship will support her participation in a planned collaborative project between Harvard University and the University Hospital of Cologne, investigating the role of estrogen receptors in the pathogenesis of Fuchs Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy (FECD).



Do you want to know more about the impact of the Peter Barry Fellowship on the 2024 recipient?

▶ [Click here](#)



Hear from Myriam Böhm about her experiences in winning the Peter Barry Fellowship Award.

▶ [Click here to view the video](#)

**Dr. Myriam Böhm, MSc**  
Consultant, Frankfurt University

## 2024 IME Programme Grants

In 2024, IME programme grants were completed across multiple therapeutic areas, including refractive IOLs, phaco techniques for complex cases, corneal and lens refractive surgery, and the Digital Operating Room.

A total of 36 educational tactics were developed within these grant programmes in 2024, including in-person symposia at the ESCRS Winter Meeting and Annual Congress, EuroTimes print and digital supplements, and on-demand learning through video interviews, podcasts, and eLearning modules available on the ESCRS Education Forum.

Outcomes assessed through pre-, post-, and follow-up surveys demonstrate statistically significant changes in clinical opinions and practice patterns with the majority of learners making meaningful changes to their practice as a result of these educational interventions.

These independent programmes were supported by unrestricted medical education grants from Alcon, J&J Vision, Zeiss, Staar and Bausch & Lomb. Combining the learners from all tactics we estimate to have reached delegates over 10,000 times with these impactful programmes.

## The new Toric Calculator

is comparing the results from four toric IOL calculators with ESCRS' new enhanced tool. The Post-Refractive Surgery and Keratoconus calculators were launched during the annual congress in Barcelona.



Click here

For more details



## World Leading Educational Platform

ESCRS is transforming its online membership and learning platforms to deliver a comprehensive, year-round membership experience. Watch this space for more details.

## 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.

For more information [click here](#).



Click here

for a short video about the successful simulator training that was organised in Germany.



## MOVING SIMULATOR

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CATARACT & REFRACTIVE SURGEONS



ESCRS



ESCRS

**Dr. Loredana Smarandache**

Ophthalmologist, University Hospital Ayr, Scotland

A video from Loredana Smarandache who talks about the impact of the moving simulator on her daily job.



Click here to view the video



# Annual Congress & Winter Meeting

# 2024 Annual Congress

42<sup>ND</sup> CONGRESS OF THE  **ESCRS**  
**BARCELONA**  
**6-10 SEPTEMBER 2024**  
 Fira de Barcelona, Spain

The **2024 Annual Congress** was held from 6-10 September in Barcelona. The total attendance was 16,247, including 8,267 doctors, 474 healthcare professionals, 951 nurses/technicians, and 5,958 industry representatives – from 126 countries in total. 2% of all doctors and healthcare professionals attended the congress virtually.



**5**  
main  
symposia



**80**  
wet labs



**11**  
dry labs



**665**  
simulation  
training lab  
participants



**100**  
escape  
room  
sessions



**111**  
instructional  
courses



**4**  
research &  
**5** IME forum  
sessions



**12**  
getting it  
wrong videos



**291**  
videos in the  
library



**337**  
free papers



**14**  
arena  
sessions



**300+**  
exhibitors



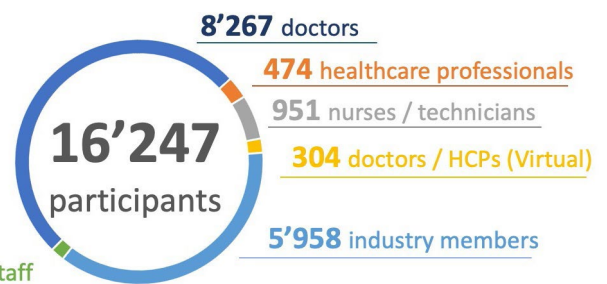
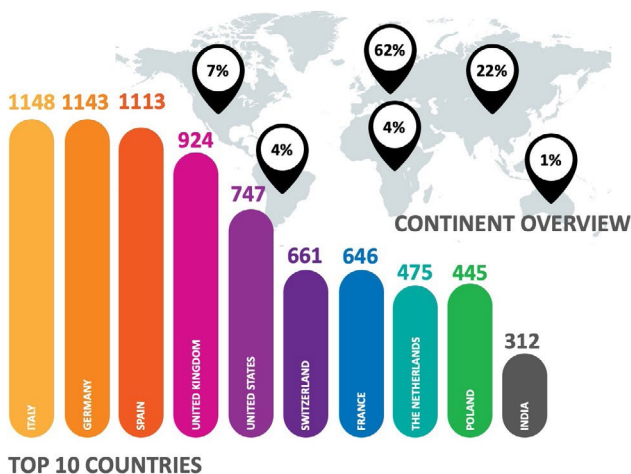
**5**  
Days



**33**  
Parallel Rooms



**36.5**  
CME Credits



The Barcelona 2024 photo albums and highlights video are available [here](#).



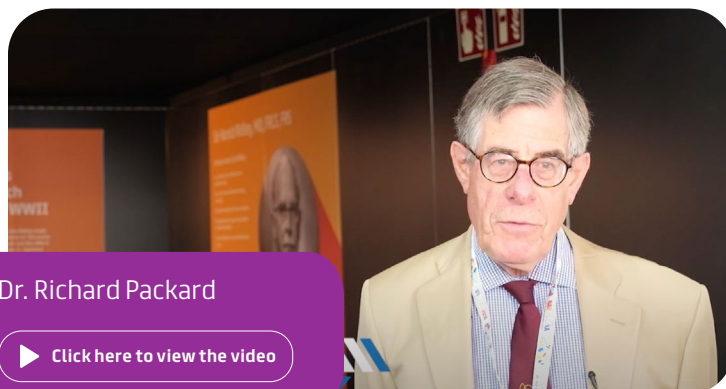
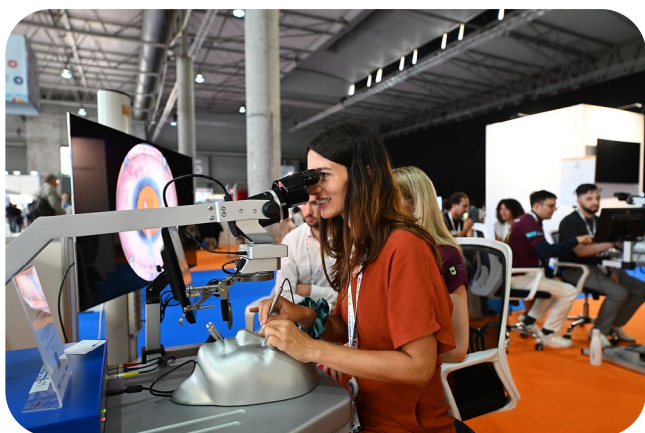
# 2024 Annual Congress

Industry participation remained strong, with over 300 exhibitors and 24 industry symposia in Barcelona.

This year special attention was given to the **75th anniversary of the first IOL implantation**, commemorated through a dedicated museum within the exhibition halls.



During the annual congress, also a **Simulation Training Lab** was offered free of charge and used by 665 participants.



Dr. Richard Packard

[Click here to view the video](#)

Following the successful launch of the Arena at ESCRS 2023 in Vienna, the 2024 Congress featured another innovative concept, incorporating the local flavour of Spain into the delivery of scientific content, called the **Tablao!**

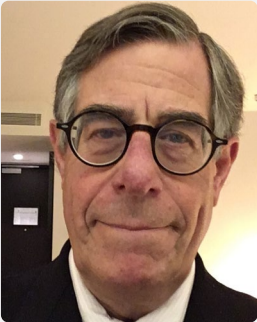


Thank you to all the ESCRS industry partners!

Please [click here](#) to view the **ESCRS Congress 2024 | Confirmed Sponsors & Exhibitors** list.



# Congress Awards



## ESCRS Heritage Lecture 2024:

### High Wire Act to the Standard of Care — Charlie Kelman and the History of Phacoemulsification

by Richard Packard, MD DO FRCS FRCOphth FEBOS-CR



## Ridley Medal Lecture 2024:

### Late Decentration of IOLs — An Enigma

by Abhay Raghukant Vasavada, MD

# 2024 Winter Meeting

## 28<sup>TH</sup> ESCRS WINTER MEETING FRANKFURT CONGRESS CENTRE MESSE FRANKFURT, GERMANY 15-18 FEBRUARY 2024


The 28th ESCRS Winter Meeting was held from 15 to 18 February 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany.

**1,507 delegates joined the meeting from 70 countries.**

The congress was organised in collaboration with the German Society for Cataract & Refractive Surgery (DGII).

  
**4**  
main  
symposia

  
**12**  
wet labs

  
**2**  
instructional  
Courses

  
**81**  
free papers

  
**24**  
presented  
posters

  
**9**  
unconference  
sessions

  
**2**  
Spotlight  
theatres

 WORLD  
CAFÉ  
ROUNDTABLES  
**6**  
world café  
sessions

 ESCAPE  
ROOM  
**7**  
escape room  
sessions

  
**40+**  
exhibitors

  
**4**  
symposia



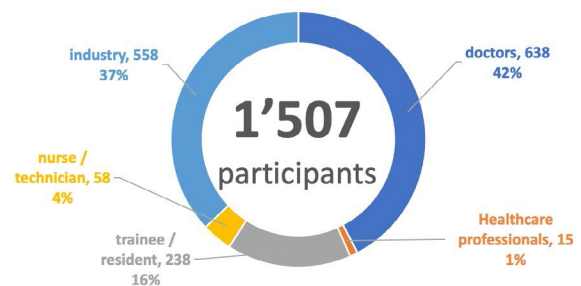
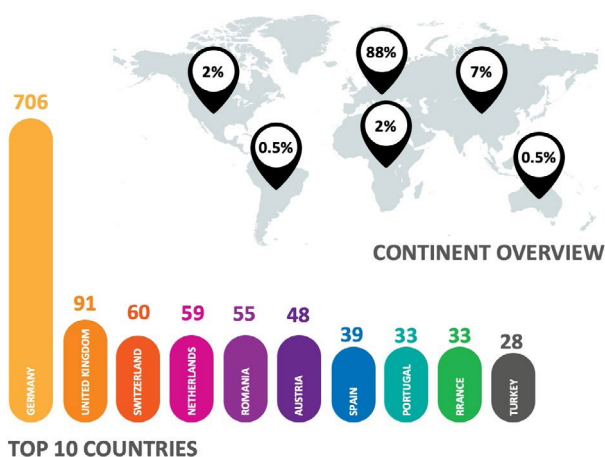
**2.5**  
Days



**9**  
Parallel Rooms



**19.5**  
CME Credits





## iNovation® Day

**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 barriers and clinical needs within the next 5-10 years.

### Grow Your Network



Networking opportunities with 100s of clinical and business experts and thought leaders from Europe and across the globe.

### Stay in the Know



Learn about the latest developments in the European commercial and capital markets and projected 2025 and 2026 innovations.

### Shape the Future



Play your role in addressing the most urgent clinical needs and barriers to success in anterior segment care.

[Click here](#) for more info on iNovation® Day.





# Research Awards & Registries



**Welcome by the ESCRS Secretary and 2024 Research Committee chair:**

Looking back at Research Committee 2024 activities and aspirations for 2025 in his role as Secretary

[Click here to view the video](#)

In 2024, the Research Committee identified four key topics to guide future research activities:

- Real-world cataract data collection project
- AMD & Cataract / Dementia
- Timing & indications for cataract surgery
- IOL Selection, post-refractive surgery

The committee awarded six new Systematic Research awards in 2024, as well as one new Pioneer Research Award.



**Farhad Hafezi, 2025 Chair Research Committee**

[Click here to view the video](#)

In addition, the following three Clinical Research Award projects were completed:

- EPICAT (the Netherlands) on the Effectiveness of Periocular drug injection in cataract surgery for a total amount of € 749,707 - [click here](#) for more details.
- NECSUS (Portugal) on Neuroadaptation after Cataract and Refractive Surgery for a total amount of € 309,635 - [click here](#) for more details.
- MYOPRED (Austria) on Influence of posterior vitreous detachment on retinal detachment after lens surgery in myopic eyes for a total amount of € 628,293 - [click here](#) for more details

At the annual congress in Barcelona the committee organized four Clinical Research Symposia on 7 September 2024, which were all very well attended.

# 2024 Live Research Awards

Digital Research Awards

Systematic Research Awards

Full Title	PI	Institution	Grant
An open access dataset of high-resolution corneal optical coherence tomography images in early keratoconus	Bruce Allan	Moorfields Eye Hospital and UCL Institute of Ophthalmology	€283,176
European Keratoconus Outcomes Registry	Joaquim Carlos Neto Murta	Centro Hospitalar Universitário de Coimbra; Faculty of Medicine of the University of Coimbra	€234,915
Keratoconus from fundamentals to future	Farideh Doroodgar	Negah Aref Ophthalmic Research Center, SBMU Iran (Islamic Republic of)	€5,000
Postoperative complication rates in intraocular lens (IOL) fixation for correcting aphakia: a review and meta-analysis	Piotr Kanclerz	Hygeia Clinic, Gdańsk, Poland	€8,595
Presbyopia-correcting laser refractive surgery options	Christopher Liu	Sussex Eye Foundation	€5,300
Comparison of the Effectivity and Safety of Pain Management After Photorefractive Keratectomy Between Topical Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs	Michael Mimiouni	Rambam Health Care Campus	€8,000
Remote Digital care in cataract surgery	Rudy Nuijts	Maastricht University Medical Centre	€10,000
Retinal Detachment after cataract surgery or refractive lens exchange	Suphi Taneri	Ruhr-University Bochum and Eye Center at St. Franziskus Hospital	€10,000
Diagnostic performance of deep learning in infectious keratitis	Darren Shu Jeng Ting	Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre	€10,000
Posterior vitreous detachment rates post uncomplicated phacoemulsification	Daire Hurley	Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital	€6,000
Stabilization of refraction and associated factors after cataract surgery	Rosa Alvarado-Villacorta	Moorfields Eye Hospital and UCL Institute of Ophthalmology	€10,000



	Full Title	PI	Institution	Grant
Clinical Research Awards	European Prospective multi-centre trial comparing triple - DMEK with cataract surgery in patients with cataract and Fuchs endothelial corneal dystrophy	Bjorn Bachmann	University Hospital Cologne	€728,160
	Effectiveness of Periocular drug injection in cataract surgery	Nienke Visser	Maastricht UMC+, Netherlands	€749,707
	Modelling the corneal microbiome to improve identification or pathogenic microorganisms	Stephen Kaye	University of Liverpool	€137,743
	Influence of posterior vitreous detachment on retinal detachment after lens surgery in myopic eyes	Oliver Findl	Hanusch Hospital	€628,293
	Effectiveness and cost effectiveness of TORIC intraocular lens implantation in patients with mild astigmatism	Mor Dickman	Utrecht University Medical Center	€1,429,245
Pioneer Research Awards	Innovative ocular surface grading camera	Vito Romano	Università degli Studi di Brescia	€50,000
	Development and Validation of a Novel Machine Learning-Based Intraocular Lens Power Formula for Cataract Surgery Combined with Endothelial Keratoplasty	Marco Pellegrini	Ospedali Privati Forlì "Villa Igea"	€50,000
	Pre-Operative Antisepsis and treatment of Blepharitis with Povidone-Iodine 1%	Evgeny Gelman	Retina Consultants `Of Michigan	€48,175

# Registries

The ESCRS Registries consist of three databases:



The longest-running, EUREQUO, collects cataract and refractive surgery data. For more information, [click here](#).



The ECCTR database is an EU registry for corneal transplantations. For more information, [click here](#).



The newest, EuReCCA, was established to collect data on paediatric cataract surgery. [Click here](#).

**Overall, the ESCRS Registries contain data on over 4 million surgeries, making them one of the most comprehensive ophthalmology datasets in Europe.**

One of the primary activities of the Registries Committee is to utilise outputs and articles from registries to produce consensus and position papers. In June 2024, a paper was accepted by the [New England Journal of Medicine Catalyst](#), and two manuscripts were submitted based on data from the refractive database. In addition, please note that the selection of a new software tool, to support and further develop the registries, was completed. The tool will be implemented in 2025.

# Publications



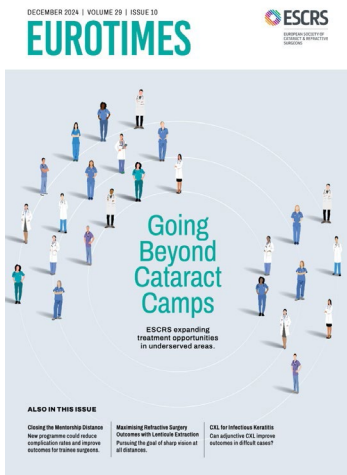
## EuroTimes

EuroTimes is the official magazine of the ESCRS and is provided free of charge to all members.

It is an important educational resource dedicated to advancing the mission of the ESCRS. It brings news and information on the latest developments in ophthalmology, particularly in the areas of cataract and refractive surgery.

EuroTimes covers a wide range of topics related to ophthalmology, including clinical practice, practice management, research, education, industry, and technology. It features articles written by leading experts in the field, as well as reports on the latest conferences, and ESCRS programmes and initiatives.

EuroTimes is also accessible online via [www.es CRS.org/euroTimes](http://www.es CRS.org/euroTimes), the weekly eTimes email blast, the EyeContact podcast, and across multiple social media platforms.



**Thomas Kohnen**  
Chief Medical Editor



**Paul Rosen**  
Medical Editor



**Joseph Güell**  
Medical Editor



**William J. Dupps, Jr**  
Editor-in-Chief



**Thomas Kohnen**  
Editor-in-Chief



**Sathish Srinivasan**  
Associate Editor



**Liliana Werner**  
Associate Editor

## JCRS

The Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery (JCRS) is the official journal of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) and the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS).

The JCRS has published as a joint-society journal since 1996 and celebrated its 50th volume in 2024. The journal has two Editors and two Associate Editors, representing Europe and the U.S.

The aim of JCRS is to publish high-quality academic and scientific articles with broad international relevance in the field of cataract and refractive surgery. Content includes original research, laboratory science studies, review and update articles, as well as short-form correspondence.

JCRS is published monthly in both print and online formats, offering an open access option to authors. The journal receives approximately 1,200 submissions each year and its current Impact Factor is 2.8.

**JCRS ranks 26/95 in ophthalmology and 61/290 in surgery.**

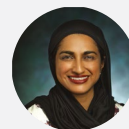


**JCRS Online Case Reports (JCRO)** is a gold open-access, online-only companion journal to the JCRS that publishes Case Report, Case Series, and Technique articles. In 2024, the longstanding Consultation articles began publishing in JCRO, having been moved from JCRS.

Under the JCRS Editors, the JCRO has two Case Report and two Technique Editors, representing Europe and the U.S. JCRO has been published since 2013 and follows a continuous publication model; articles are published online as soon as editing and production are complete.

**Click here** (Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery) for the current JCRS issue and **here** for current JCRO articles.

Both publications are free for ESCRS members. Please sign up via the following [link](#) or contact us via [escrs@escrs.org](mailto:escrs@escrs.org).



**Shameema Sikder** JCRO  
Technique Editor



**Jonathan E. Moore**  
JCRO Technique Editor



**Filomena Ribeiro** JCRO  
Case Report Editor



**Craig W. See**  
JCRO Case Report Editor

# Charitable Donations & Ukraine



# Charitable Donations

**ESCRS is actively partnering with and supporting several major cataract surgery initiatives, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa, which began in early 2023.**

ESCRS provides substantial financial and training support in Malawi, Mozambique, Palestine, and, as of 2024, South Africa. In addition, ESCRS contributes to cataract-related projects in Kenya, Nepal, and South Sudan.

Second year donations totalling €300k were allocated to the three major charitable projects running from 2023-2025. A new project with the Cape Town University Eye Health Institute was launched in 2024, receiving €90k in support over 12 months.

Smaller contributions were provided to the Diocese of Wau to support cataract camps in Sudan (€20k), to the Ridley Eye Foundation (€24k) to support a cataract camp in Nepal, and to Right to Sight Norway to support a paediatric cataract project in Kenya (€5k).



In May 2024, Filomena Ribeiro visited several project sites in Mozambique. To watch a short video of her visit [click here](#).



# 2024 Ukraine Support

ESCRS continues to support the Ukrainian ophthalmic community by offering complimentary membership and a 50% reduction in registration fees for the Annual Congress. This initiative enabled 182 Ukrainian colleagues to register for the 2024 Congress in Barcelona. A total of €99K was allocated to support Ukraine. The breakdown of how these funds were invested is provided below:

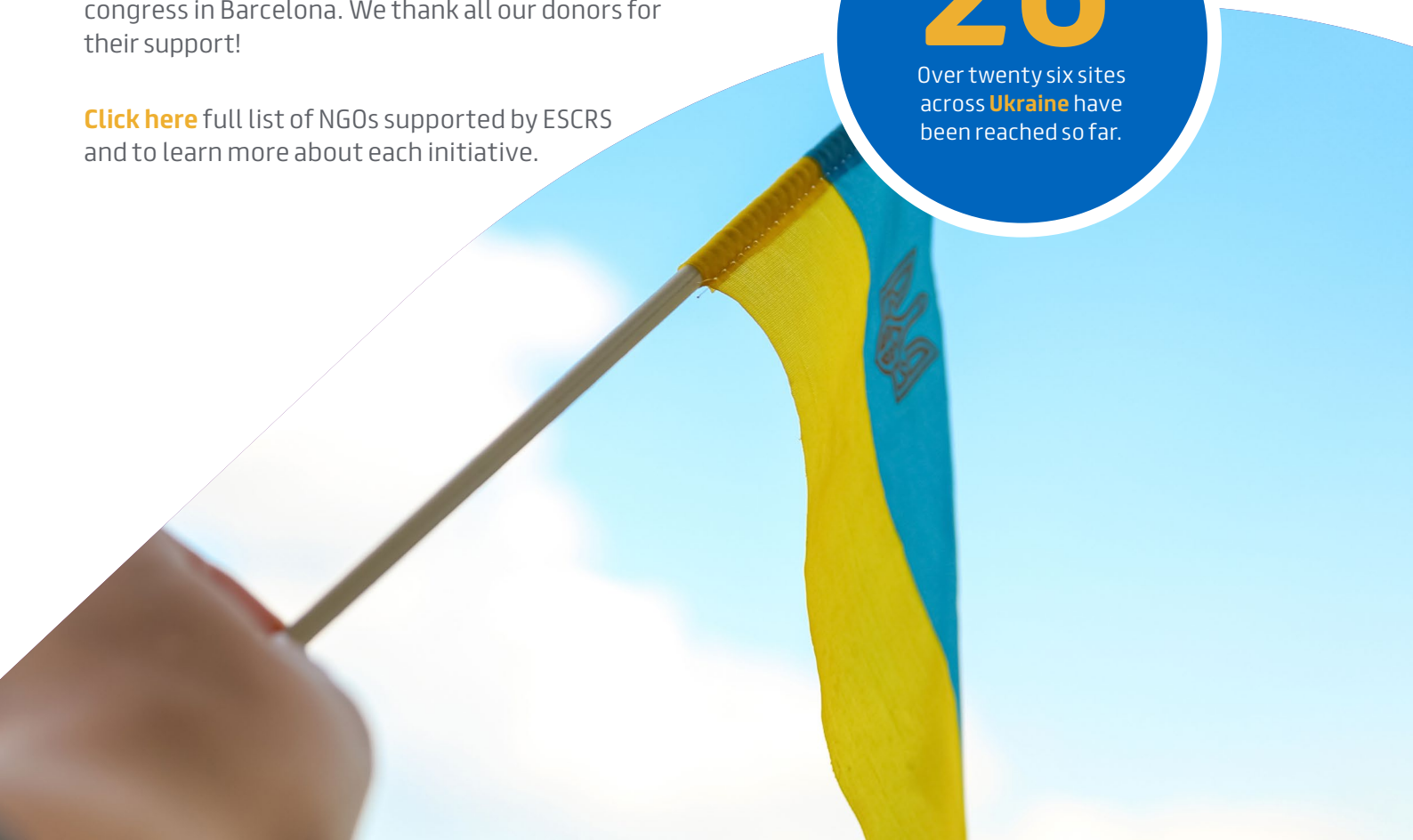
<b>€17,800</b>	for the purchase of a specialist microscope
<b>€11,043</b>	for the purchase of a replacement lens and assistance microscope
<b>€26,929</b>	for the purchase of medical goods for the military hospital
<b>€11,448</b>	for the purchase of Ahmed valves
<b>€10,319</b>	to the Ukrainian Society for equipment & disposables
<b>€20,467</b>	to the Ukrainian Society for medical products
<b>€1,000</b>	for a travel bursary

A further €50k was designated for Ukraine support by ESCRS. €14k of new donations for Ukraine were received, including funds raised by Oftalmorock, a charity concert that was organised during the annual congress in Barcelona. We thank all our donors for their support!

[Click here](#) full list of NGOs supported by ESCRS and to learn more about each initiative.

# 26

Over twenty six sites across **Ukraine** have been reached so far.



# Social Responsibility



# Social Responsibility

## Building Our Sustainable Society (BoSS)



BoSS is an exciting ESCRS initiative, inspired by the vision of ESCRS President Filomena Ribeiro.

It aims to highlight key issues, raise awareness and provide education around Building our Sustainable Society. ESCRS is dedicated to fostering an environment where members, staff, and industry partners feel included, valued, and part of an open and collaborative culture.

In 2024, several key initiatives were successfully implemented. A partnership was established with **Project Implicit**, culminating in a workshop for ESCRS Leadership during the Winter Meeting in February.

A member survey was conducted to identify potential barriers to inclusivity, and both a dedicated working group and an industry task force were formed to address these issues.

The **BoSS website** was officially launched, and a **BoSS Track** was featured at the annual congress in Barcelona. Notably, the congress also offered free on-site childcare, and 34% of the speakers were women, all reflecting a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion. Also, a **BoSS Networking Mocktail Party and Speed Mentoring sessions** were facilitated at the annual congress. During the mentoring sessions, mentees had the opportunity to engage with experienced mentors in short, focused conversations.

In 2025 the BoSS initiative continues, stay tuned!

ESCRS is committed to further improving its impact through its engagement, inspiration, and catalysing collective action and we look forward to sharing more successes.







## ESCRS MISSION ZERO

The ESCRS vision is to deliver events with zero waste to landfill and net-zero carbon emissions, serving as a role model for social and environmental responsibility.

Below please find some results of Mission Zero activities held during the ESCRS Annual Congress held in Barcelona in September 2024 supported by suppliers, interested parties, and attendees:



Total carbon footprint: 28,850 tCO<sub>2</sub>e — 100% of emissions offset



71,000 single-use plastic bottles avoided via 30+ water refill stations

The full report with all details can be found [here](#).

**66%**

of food served was vegetarian or vegan; 80% was locally sourced (within 160 km)

**54%**

of waste was recycled or re-used

**64%**

of signage and branding made from sustainable materials

The SIDICS (Sustainability Index for Disposables in Cataract Surgery) Project is an ESCRS-led initiative aiming to create metrics to help cataract surgeons evaluate the overall sustainability of cataract packs.



The sustainability index represents a significant milestone in the effort to reduce the environmental impact of cataract surgery. The challenge is to persuade ophthalmologists to use the index to encourage manufacturers to develop more sustainable cat-packs.

Read more about this project and use the calculator at: <https://www.es CRS.org/sidics/>

**Sjoerd Elferink  
explains the  
SIDICS Project**

▶ [Click here to view the video](#)





EyeSustain was formed in 2022 - a global consortium of ophthalmology societies, working to make our services more economically and environmentally sustainable.

EyeSustain is co-sponsored by 3 societies - ESCRS, AAO and ASCRS and currently has 54 Member Global Societies.

**EyeSustain's mission is to:**

- Engage, network, and educate our global ophthalmic community about more sustainable practices.
- Collaborate with industry to reduce our carbon footprint and surgical waste.
- Support research and innovative solutions that reduce ophthalmology's environmental impact.
- Collaborate with other medical specialties to reduce the carbon footprint of our healthcare system.
- Support advocacy and education about the public health impact of climate change.

See the [website](https://www.eyesustain.org) for more information.

# ESCRS 2024 in numbers



# ESCRS 2024 in numbers

Total  
turnover  
**€21.5m**



**€2.0m**

operating surplus

**€16.5m**

operating & administration costs

**€3.0m**

direct expenditure on charitable projects

**€700k**

direct funding paid  
to research projects  
in 2024.

**€235k**

Investment in provision  
of skills courses for 1,099  
attendees at the 2024  
Annual Congress

**€149k**

ESCRS invested in  
running academies  
and symposia at  
international meetings



Year two donations totalling **€300k**  
made to the 3 major charitable pro-  
jects running from 2023-2025.

**€60k**

Peter Barry  
Fellowship Award  
given

**5** live  
Clinical  
Research  
Awards



**3** live  
Pioneer  
Research  
Awards



**9** live  
Systematic  
Research  
Awards



**2** live Digital  
Research  
Awards



## ESCRS 2024 in numbers continued.

ESCRS Surgical simulator visited **10** countries, with **350** students completing the training programme.

**2,500**

delegates visited the museum at the Annual Congress, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the first IOL implantation.

**665**

delegates participated in the simulator training lab at the annual congress in Barcelona.

**19**

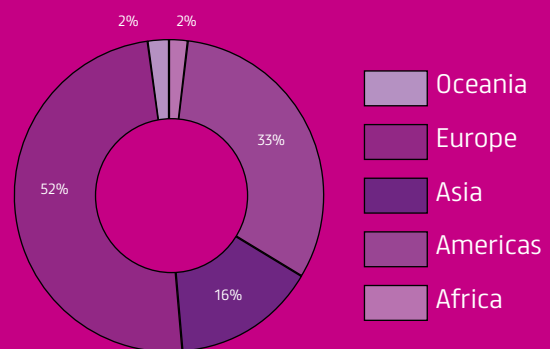
complimentary registration bursaries provided to doctors to attend the 2024 Winter Meeting in Frankfurt

**25**

complimentary registration bursaries provided to doctors to attend the 2024 Annual Congress in Barcelona.

The **ESCRS IOL Power calculator**, which continues to be provided free of charge, was used **81,370 times** to create **4,326,136 calculations** in total.

See calculations per region of the world here:



**€340k**

Expenditure on sustainability initiatives

**425**

attendees participated in the Escape Rooms at the Annual Congress.

**182**

Discounted registrations to the 2024 Annual Congress in Barcelona were provided to Ukrainian doctors.

Total expenditure from **Ukraine** funds in 2024  
**€99k**

Further designated for Ukraine support by ESCRS

**€50k**

New donations raised at ESCRS charity ball.

**€14k**