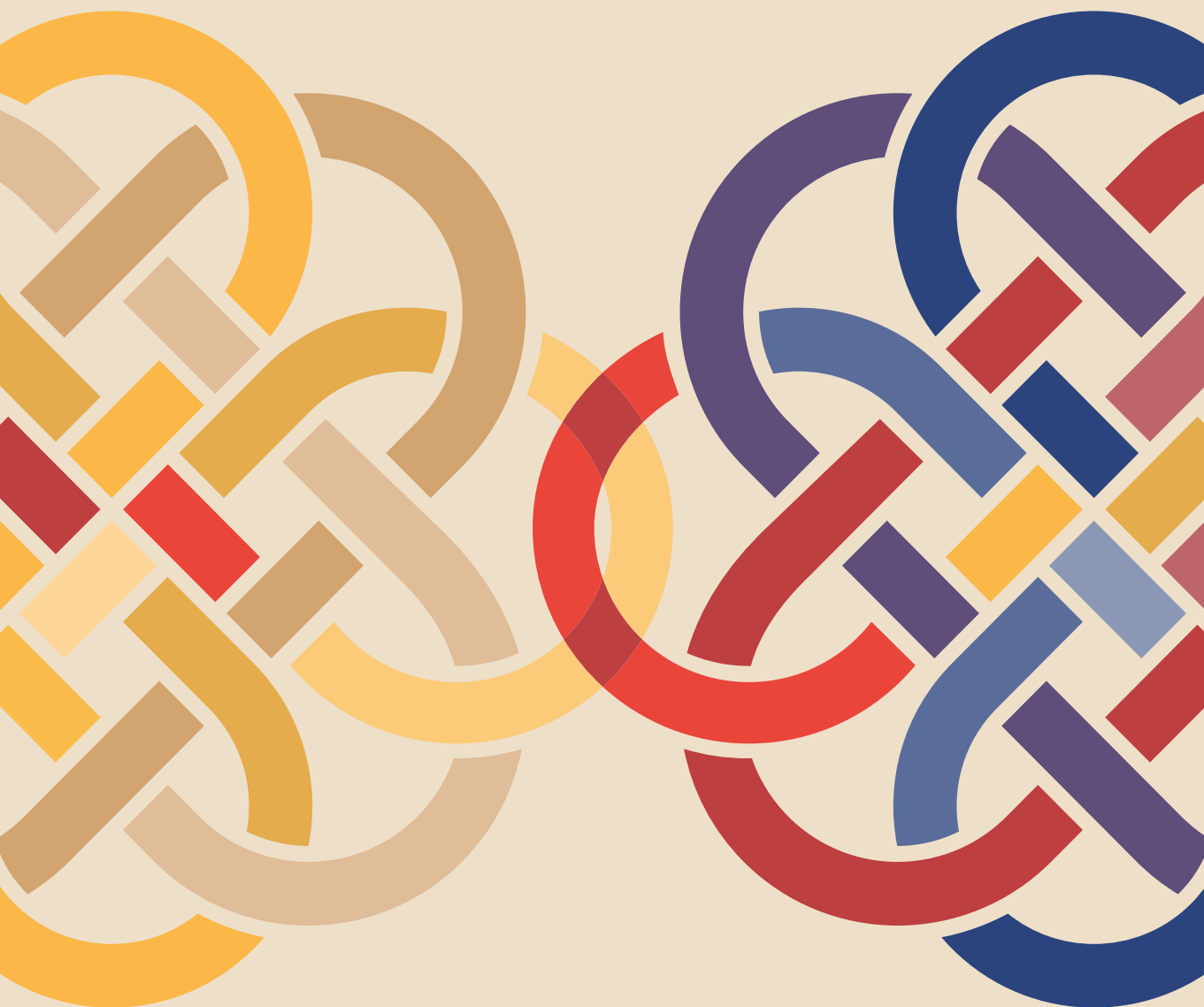




**EACS**  
European  
AIDS  
Clinical  
Society



**Biennial Report**  
October 2025

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# REFLECTIONS

## *from the EACS President*

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Prof. Miłosz Parczewski  
*President*

“Bridging scientific and clinical excellence across regions of Europe” was the guiding principle I set at the outset of my presidency. In practice, this means strengthening connections between clinical and research communities, sharing expertise across different healthcare systems, and expanding meaningful collaboration within and beyond Europe’s borders.

That principle has guided how I approach the role, and what has struck me most over this past year is how strongly it already lives in the day-to-day work of EACS. Our programmes operate across borders, languages, and health systems – we bring together people with different perspectives but a shared goal. We have active working groups focused on issues from migrant care to women’s health and community-led standards of care. Our WAVE group alone runs at least seven parallel initiatives. EACS is – like a diamond – multifaceted.



participation in educational events such as our Summer School, and alignment with EACS’ strategic direction.

Within the Society, this has also been a year of renewal. Changes to the Articles of Association brought about a large rotation in the Governing Board, with around 30% new members joining. We now have stronger gender balance and broader geographic representation – making sure EACS is grounded in the full diversity of the region it represents.

Early this year I met with all our core programme leads. What I saw was genuine energy and dedication coupled with highly effective coordination. Among the new initiatives under development, we are preparing to launch the Virtual Resistance and Case Clinic, a platform offering peer-to-peer advice on complex cases. It will allow senior clinicians to share their expertise with colleagues across Europe and in neighbouring regions, addressing diagnostic and treatment challenges as they emerge in real time.

We are also expanding access to our work through digital tools. EACS 2025 in Paris sees the introduction of AI-based live translation and automatic summaries in more than 70 languages. This is a practical innovation designed to help more people engage more fully, wherever they come from.

Our external partnerships continue to grow. We have a longstanding collaboration with Japan and are now finalising agreements with societies in South America and elsewhere. These Memoranda of Understanding formalise shared goals – knowledge-exchange, par-

One of the most significant steps this year is the launch of the European Diploma in HIV Medicine. The diploma is a tangible expression of our commitment to high-quality, consistent education and practice across Europe and we hope it will become a recognised reference to help young clinicians in their careers.

None of this work would be possible without the foundations laid by my predecessors. Prof. Esteban Martínez’s calm, thoughtful approach to the previous presidency has left us with a well-functioning and stable society. His work on stigma, standards of care and treatment guidelines will inform much of what we do now and in the future.

Our ultimate goal remains clear: to reduce HIV transmission to zero and to ensure that people living with HIV receive the best possible care. If we can continue to build bridges between excellence and need, between research and care, and between different parts of the continent and the world, I believe we are on the right path. ■

# ABOUT EACS

## *European AIDS Clinical Society*

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Arising from the first European AIDS conference in 1987, EACS was legally established as a not-for-profit organisation in 1991. EACS brings the HIV/AIDS scientific community together to improve the delivery of care for people living with HIV across Europe, and to provide support to clinicians through educational programmes, the EACS Guidelines and a dynamic information-sharing network.

EACS is Europe's largest society of healthcare professionals working in the field of HIV and AIDS. The society's mission is to promote excellence in clinical practices, research and education in HIV infection and associated conditions, to diminish disparities in care across Europe, and to actively engage in the formulation of public health policies to reduce the HIV burden.

EACS hosts a biennial European AIDS Conference which has become an essential international meeting for those working in the field of HIV. EACS also provides a wide variety of education and training programmes, which help to ensure that HIV clinicians, researchers and healthcare professionals are equipped with the knowledge needed to provide the best care possible.

Aligned with this, the EACS Guidelines cover some of the most complex aspects of HIV management and are a valuable resource for the delivery of consistent clinical care across the European region. The Guidelines are a powerful support to clinicians in settings where HIV national treatment guidelines do not exist.

*"In 2024, the Governing Board worked with members and partners to refresh EACS' vision, mission and strategy, setting a shared direction for the future of HIV prevention, care, education and policy. A new strategy was created to bring in fresh partners and resources so we can grow together and keep innovating. These steps will help the EACS family make an even bigger difference across Europe and beyond."*

Joëlle Verluyten, Executive Director





# GOVERNING BOARD

The EACS Governing Board has 16 members, representing four European scientific regions: Europe-East, Europe-North, Europe-South, and Europe-West. Through the European regional elections, each region contributes four board members, limited to two from any one country. Board members serve a four-year term.

The next elections are scheduled for 2028, with the new mandate commencing on 1 January 2029. Voting is open to all paid up European members. Each member can vote for candidates within their own region, respecting the two-member country limit.



Dr Karoline Aebi-Popp  
Switzerland



Dr Juan Ambrosioni  
Spain



Prof. Sanjay Bhagani  
United Kingdom



Prof. Christoph Boesecke  
Germany



Prof. Deniz Gökengin  
Türkiye



Dr Ole Kirk  
Denmark



Prof. Justyna Kowalska  
Poland



Dr Agnès Libois  
Belgium



Prof. Paddy Mallon  
Ireland



Dr Tetiana Melnyk  
Ukraine



Dr Silvia Nozza  
Italy



Prof. Miłosz Parczewski  
Poland



Dr Ann Sullivan  
United Kingdom



Dr Annemarie Wensing  
Netherlands



Dr Marta Vasylyev  
Ukraine

(stepped down 09/2025)

# BUREAU

The EACS Bureau is elected by the Governing Board from amongst its members. The Bureau consists of five members who are elected among the Governing Board: the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and the Immediate Past President who stays on the Bureau until the next President is elected. The President and Vice-President are elected for a period of two years renewable. The mandates of Secretary and Treasurer are awarded for a period of four years renewable. The Bureau meets regularly throughout the year and is responsible for developing the society’s strategy, delivering on its objectives and ensuring that the Governing Board has the resources they need to set and implement the strategy for the year.



Prof. Miłosz Parczewski  
President



Prof. Christoph Boesecke  
Vice President



Dr Annemarie Wensing  
Secretary



Dr Ole Kirk  
Treasurer



Prof. Esteban Martínez  
Immediate Past President

# SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat manages the day-to-day activities of the association and supports the Governing Board and working groups.



Joëlle Verluyten  
Executive  
Director



Gonalo Lobo  
Advocacy & Health  
Policy Consultant



V ronique Van Hal  
Administration &  
Membership Officer



Jasmijn Vervaeck  
Project & Communications  
Coordinator



Stephanie Van Meenen  
Administrative  
Assistant



Charlotte Peters  
Project  
Coordinator



# EDUCATION & Training

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Prof. Paddy Mallon  
*Education & Training Coordinator*

These past two years have been a period of real progress and consolidation in our education programme. Established pillars remain as strong as ever.



The EACS Summer School came to Prague in 2024. 60 participants from 32 countries engaging in intensive, high-quality training. With clinical and research modules running in parallel, and 27 CME credits awarded, the school continues to deliver a transformative learning experience for young clinicians and researchers.

The Pre-Educational Course, held on the eve of the 2023 EACS Conference in Warsaw, welcomed 150 attendees and offered a dynamic programme of case-based sessions on multiple topics - from PrEP to HPV, and ART optimisation.

YING continues to evolve as a powerful force for connection, exchange and innovation among young professionals. Its 2024 Conference in Brussels brought

together 60 participants from 22 countries under the theme “participate, exchange and share.” Through plenaries, workshops, and peer-led discussion, YING sparked ideas for the future, including sessions on mental health, ageing, and gender-specific HIV care.

The EACS Medical Exchange Programme is gaining even more momentum. Its two option - Short Clinical Exchange and Career Development Fellowship - give young physicians first-hand experience in diverse European HIV care settings, advancing mentorship, collaboration and shared standards of HIV care.

All of these efforts culminated a proud moment for EACS: the launch of the European Diploma in HIV Medicine. Designed as an independent, exam-based qualification, the Diploma sets a new benchmark for





HIV clinical competence. Developed in partnership with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, the Diploma is open to any physician with at least three years' HIV experience and is underpinned by a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum aligned with EACS Guidelines. Its first exam took place in September 2025 and drew interest from across the globe.

Together, these initiatives reflect a thriving and ambitious education programme - one that is inclusive, forward-thinking, and firmly rooted in real-world clinical needs. As we look ahead, EACS remains committed to nurturing the next generation of HIV leaders, harmonising standards of care, and expanding access to high-quality training across Europe and beyond. ■

# THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMA IN HIV MEDICINE

In September 2025, the first ever exam for the European Diploma in HIV Medicine took place. A milestone moment for EACS, this marked the culmination of several years of collaboration and hard work across the organisation.

The Diploma aims to be a recognised benchmark for HIV clinical competence, offering a new professional qualification for HIV physicians in Europe and worldwide. With training in HIV treatment and quality of care varying widely across countries, the Diploma will contribute towards patients receiving consistent, high-quality care no matter where they are.

## An idea that took root - and held

The concept of a European HIV Diploma was first floated back in 2016. It was driven by a recognition that while HIV medicine is a distinct area of clinical expertise, it is not formally recognised by a formal qualification in many European countries.

From the outset, EACS needed an established exam partner. Following consideration of several options, EACS partnered with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI), whose model of qualification-based examinations offered the right fit. To make it accessible for physicians to earn the diploma, it is not tied to attendance at a physical or online course but is delivered through an exam that is based on a core curriculum.

## The curriculum and the exam

Developing the core curriculum was a hefty task. The working group took a consultative approach bringing younger HIV physicians from across Europe to make sure the curriculum includes a broad range of practice and perspectives.

The result is a curriculum that is both robust and practical, grounded in clinical reality and closely aligned with the EACS Guidelines and Standards of

HIV Care programme. It spans 14 comprehensive sections, covering everything from HIV pathogenesis and diagnostics to co-morbidities, special populations, and health systems.

The exam itself was developed with the support of three dedicated committees: the Examination Board, the Question Development Panel, and the Standard Setting Panel.

## Open to all

Any physician with a minimum of three years' clinical experience in HIV care can register to take the exam. It is open to candidates from any part of the world, and EACS membership is not required. The 2025 cohort drew interest from a broad range of countries and this will likely expand in future years.

Now that the first Diplomas have been awarded, EACS will apply for CESMA accreditation (Council of European Specialist Medical Assessment), which could lead to formal recognition of the diploma in national medical systems over time.

The European Diploma in HIV Medicine supports physicians in benchmarking their knowledge, increases professional mobility across borders, and reinforces the standards EACS promotes through its education programme and guidelines. But ultimately, it is about raising the quality and consistency of HIV care for patients.

So many people gave time, brain power and hard work to bring the Diploma from an idea to reality. Particular thanks go to Prof. Sanjay Bhagani, Prof. Paddy Mallon, Dr Nicky Mackie, Prof. Yvonne Gilleece and Dr Alan Winston without whom it would not have happened. ■

# YING, EACS YOUNG INVESTIGATORS



YING is an educational project that builds relationships between young clinicians and scientists across Europe who are passionate about advancing outcomes for people living with HIV.

Organised by young people for young people, YING brings a fresh perspective and an innovative approach to HIV across Europe and encourages young investigators to come together and form new networks to share their knowledge and experience.

The June 2024 YING Conference brought together 60 young clinicians and researchers from 22 countries for two days of connection, discussion, and learning in Brussels. Held under the theme “participate, exchange and share,” the event reflected YING’s core ambition: to build a highly motivated network of young HIV specialists ready to shape the future of the field.

The programme featured five plenary sessions exploring some of the key questions in HIV prevention and care - cardiovascular risk in people living with HIV, low-level viraemia on ART, STI prevention, breast/chest feeding and the growing role of PROMs in measuring quality of life.

In afternoon workshops, participants got the chance to go deeper into four topics: ageing, late diagnosis, methodology and training and career development.

Networking during the two-day conference was a clear highlight for participants. In their evaluation



of the event, the opportunity to connect with colleagues was highly ranked across the board. Other highlights included the session on breast/chest feeding in the context of HIV. In addition, 86% of evaluation survey respondents said the event had fully met their educational goals and no one felt the conference failed to meet expectations.

As always, the YING conference sparked new ideas too. Participants called future sessions on research methods, sex and gender specific HIV care, and a larger focus on mental health and ageing.



Interaction and openness were clear highlights. Feedback from the 77 survey respondents was striking: 86% said the event fully met their educational goals; 62% rated it “extremely useful”; and not a single participant said it failed to meet expectations.

Participants left with ideas - not just for research, but for future editions of YING. Suggestions included deeper focus on research skills, a debate on sex- and gender-specific HIV care, and more content on mental health and ageing. ■

86%

*“The event fully met my educational goals”*



# EACS LIVE! JOURNAL CLUB BY YING

From its roots in the remote-working days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EACS Live! Journal Club has gone from strength to strength and has become a popular fixture in the calendar.

For each one-hour session, two YING volunteers present a topical paper alongside other EACS members. Discussions are open and interactive, and designed to offer practical insight into emerging issues in HIV care.

Topics range widely from clinical challenges to public health, policy, and methodology. Recent discussions have covered HIV cascade of care for vulnerable populations, opportunistic infections, DoxyPEP, PrEP access across Eastern and Western Europe, methodological tips for interpreting studies and much more.

With presenters and moderators joining from across Europe and further afield including Japan and South Africa, Journal club sessions are timed to accommodate different time zones and keep access as broad as possible.

Now firmly established, the Journal Club is a dynamic platform for peer-led learning, open discussion and early-career contribution. ■



*With presenters and moderators joining from across Europe and further afield including Japan and South Africa, Journal club sessions are timed to accommodate different time zones and keep access as broad as possible.*



# PRE-EDUCATIONAL COURSE

Evidence-based  
Accessible  
Collaborative  
Sustainable

Every two years on the eve of the European AIDS Conference, the popular one-day Pre-Educational Course run by YING takes place.

The aim is to provide practical clinical skills and advice mainly to those at an early stage of their career (although all are welcome). The meeting bridges the gap between junior clinicians and researchers and experienced experts. It is also an international level showcase for the next generation of HIV specialists.

Once the course content is approved, a broad team of junior and senior doctors is mobilised. They take part by either presenting a case study or by providing subject overviews. The presentations are honed to deliver a compelling mix of interesting topics with relevant clinical messages.

The 2023 edition was held fully in-person in Warsaw and attracted 150 attendees. Chaired by Dr Tristan Barber, Dr Laura Waters and Dr Jose I. Bernardino, the course offered a day of rich clinical discussion and knowledge exchange. The programme addressed key topics in today's HIV care including:

- Achieving zero by 2023: Approaches to HIV testing
- HIV and HPV – where are we in 2023?
- PrEP practicalities: managing complexity with limited options
- Advances in HIV cure
- Using novel antiretrovirals novel strategies wisely

Each subject was presented through a clinically grounded case, discussed in detail by junior colleagues, then expanded on with a focused review of the latest evidence. Attendees made the most of the opportunity to test ideas, ask questions, and exchange experience.

The course created space for meaningful dialogue between generations and disciplines, reinforcing the role of EACS in supporting high standards of care and engaging the next era of leadership in the field. ■





# MEDICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



Learning in new settings can bring the enormous benefit to young physicians. That’s why exchanges are a core part of EACS’ educational programme.

In 2023 and 2024, 21 doctors seized the opportunity to work and learn abroad, bringing a total of almost 200 doctors who have benefitted since the debut of the Medical Exchange Programme. Participants can choose between a Short Clinical Exchange Programme or a more immersive Career Development Fellowship.

## Short Clinical Exchange Programme

Candidates involved in the Short Clinical Exchange Programme (SCEP) visit an EACS Clinical/Research Excellence Centre (CREC) for a period of two to four weeks. The programme promotes clinical research and education links between centres across Europe and facilitates the exchange of care and public health models in HIV medicine.

Participants have the opportunity to observe and learn from the practice of institutions in other countries. The CREC can nominate a member of its team for a reciprocal visit during the same time slot and with the same financial support. This helps develop long-lasting collaborative relationships between centres from different European regions.

Evaluating the Short Clinical Exchange Programme, 2023 and 2024 participants particularly valued the opportunity to engage with experienced clinicians, observe diverse clinical practices, and take part in well-organised rotations across different hospital units. Many highlighted the benefits of knowledge exchange, exposure to new systems of HIV care, and the welcoming attitude of host teams.

## The Career Development Fellowship Programme

The Career Development Fellowship Programme (CDF) offers young physicians the chance to work closely with a key opinion leader for the entire

year. The programme includes a two-to-four-week stay at the mentor’s institution, similar to the Short Clinical Exchange Programme, and attendance at a conference for both the fellow and the mentor.

Throughout the programme, the participant and mentor collaborate on a specific project, tailored to the fellow’s interests and local context. This could range from a grant proposal to a clinical research or management project, to be implemented in the participant’s home country upon return.

Recent projects include systematic reviews and expert surveys to explore best practices in managing low-level viremia, to establishing data collection protocols for multicentre registries on drug resistance, and implementation strategies for HIV prevention in maternal and child health. Recognising the challenges faced by young physicians when implementing change at their home centres, the mentor and participant develop a communication strategy to support the project.

Participants and their mentors must attend the European AIDS Conference or the HIV Glasgow Conference as part of the programme. Young physicians are guided through the conference, and with their mentor, they select the plenaries, workshops and poster sessions of interest. Furthermore, the mentor coaches the young physician on how to interpret and discuss the presented work with their peers, and how to build their network in the field. This arrangement maximises both the educational and strategic value of conference participation and supports the fellow’s longer-term engagement in the HIV field.

The evaluations from the 2023 and 2024 participants consistently highlighted the value of direct mentorship from experienced researchers and clinicians. They appreciated on-site visits to mentors’ institutions, collaborative work in outpatient settings, and the opportunity to engage with recognised leaders in the field.

Short Clinical Exchange Programme participants:

2023



1. Dr Didem Çelik, Türkiye  
HOST: Prof. Jürgen Rockstroh, University Hospital Bonn, Bonn, Germany



2. Dr Florian Maximilian Voit, Germany  
HOST: Prof. Sanjay Bhagani, Royal Free Hospital, London, United Kingdom



3. Dr Arsilda Gjata, Albania  
HOST: Prof. Christine Katlama, Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, France



4. Dr Jozef Shaw, United Kingdom  
HOST: Dr Mónica Rodríguez Carballeira, University Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona, Spain

2024



1. Dr Gvantsa Razmadze, Georgia  
HOST: Dr Lars Peters, CHIP, Rigshospitalet / University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark



2. Dr David Vydrář, Czechia  
HOST: Dr Jeroen van Kampen, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, Netherlands



3. Dr Maria Karren Sta Maria, Philippines  
HOST: Dr Mariana Mardarescu, National Institute for Infectious Diseases "Prof. Dr Matei Bals", Bucharest, Romania



4. Dr Giorgia Carrozzo, Italy  
HOST: Dr Esteban Martínez, Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain



5. Dr Giuseppe Gasparro, Italy  
HOST: Dr. Juan Carlos López Bernaldo de Quirós, Hospital General Universitario Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain



6. Dr Maria Mazzitelli, Italy  
HOST: Dr Marta Boffito, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom



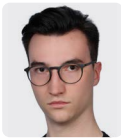
7. Dr Mikhail Savchenko, Russia  
HOST: Dr Joaquin Burgos Cibrian, Hospital Unirversitari Vall D'Hebron, Barcelona, Spain

Career Development Fellowship Programme participants:

2023



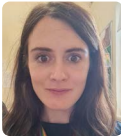
1. Dr Ana Rita Patrocínio de Jesus, Portugal  
HOST: Prof. Sanjay Bhagani, Royal Free Hospital, London, United Kingdom



2. Dr Carlo Bieńkowski, Poland  
HOST: Prof. Cristina Mussini, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy



3. Dr Charalampos Moschopoulos, Greece  
HOST: Dr Jaime Vera, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Brighton, United Kingdom



4. Dr Amy Keane, Ireland  
HOST: Prof. Jean-Michel Molina, Saint-Louis and Lariboisière Hospitals, Paris, France



5. Dr Tommaso Clemente, Italy  
HOST: Dr Annemarie Wensing, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands

2024



1. Dr Charisis Totsikas, Greece  
HOST: Prof. Georg Behrens, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany



2. Dr Vanja Andric, Serbia  
HOST: Prof. Yvonne Gilleece, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Brighton, United Kingdom



3. Dr Vasileios Petrakis, Greece  
HOST: Prof. Miłosz Parczewski, Pomeranian Medical University, Szczecin, Poland



4. Dr Smaranda Gliga, Germany  
HOST: Prof. Caroline Sabin, University College London, London, United Kingdom



5. Dr Lidia Placinta, Moldova  
HOST: Prof. Antonella Castagna, Vita Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy



6. Dr Ivana Gmizic, Serbia  
HOST: Prof. Justyna Kowalska, Hospital for Infectious Diseases in Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

*"We believe that this experience is highly beneficial - not only for the physician participating in the exchange, but also for the host team. It provides a valuable opportunity to share how we approach HIV care, to learn how it is delivered in other parts of Europe, and to receive external feedback from the visiting physician. This feedback is particularly useful for identifying areas of improvement in our daily practice."*

*We are pleased to continue participating in the programme."*

Dr Joaquin Burgos Cibrian,  
SCEP supervisor, 2025

*"I think the Career Development Fellowship has been very useful for my personal and professional growth. In particular, I have improved my knowledge of HIV genotype interpretation and broadened my horizons in HIV research. I have also been involved in new types of studies (e.g. systematic review) and expanded my international network."*

Dr Tommaso Clemente,  
CDF 2024

*"The exchange at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and its associated Dean Street clinics in London proved to be an exceptionally positive and enriching experience. The institutions stood out for their forward-thinking approach to patient care, their integration of cutting-edge digital health solutions, and their strong commitment to inclusivity and community engagement. The multidisciplinary teams demonstrated a high level of professionalism and innovation, particularly in areas such as sexual health, HIV care, and personalized medicine. The environment fostered open dialogue and collaboration, offering a valuable opportunity to observe best practices in a leading NHS setting while strengthening international professional networks."*

Dr Maria Mazzitelli,  
SCEP 2024

*"My experience was truly eye-opening. When somebody works in a single place without any comparisons to other environments, it's easy to fall into the misconception that the used procedures are the only correct ones. Fortunately, I realized how mistaken I was."*

Dr David Vydrar,  
SCEP 2024





# EACS HIV SUMMER SCHOOL



The HIV Summer School is a residential course designed for clinicians involved in HIV management who wish to deepen their knowledge of HIV medicine and clinical research methodology.

The course is delivered by an experienced faculty of international experts in HIV care and research. Teaching combines plenary lectures with small, interactive working groups, fostering both academic learning and clinical exchange across disciplines, generations and countries.

The September 2024 HIV Summer School, held in Prague, was a full five-day in-person event. 60 participants from 32 countries attended. The course was accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) with 27 CME credits awarded to participants.

With some variation, the programme was mainly structured around daily plenaries in the morning and practical group work in the afternoon. Topics covered throughout the curriculum included ART management, co-morbidities, study design, PrEP and STI prevention, HIV and cancer, liver disease, hypothesis testing, weight gain, and the challenge of opportu-

nistic infections. Speakers also addressed conception and pregnancy in women living with HIV, ageing and multimorbidity and statistical bias.

19 expert speakers from across Europe came to teach at the Summer School. Their content was grounded in real-world experience, using cases and clinical scenarios.

The final day was dedicated to participants' own presentations. Those in the clinical module presented issues in HIV care, while participants from the research module presented their research project proposals.



Feedback was remarkably positive. In their evaluation, 100% of respondents said they found the course useful, with 76.5% rating it “extremely useful.” 97% of participants said they would recommend the Summer School to a colleague. The vast majority said the content was relevant to their clinical practice, well-balanced, and backed by strong scientific evidence.

The EACS Summer School continues to serve as a training ground for future leaders in HIV care - equipping participants with both the clinical tools and collaborative mindset needed to address today’s challenges in HIV medicine. ■







*“It was a wonderful experience for me.  
Interacting and learning from colleagues from across the world  
is an experience I will never take for granted.”*



# EACS ONLINE COURSE: MANAGEMENT OF HIV AND CO-INFECTIONS



The online Management of HIV and co-infections course was successfully transferred and launched on the EACS eAcademy in summer 2024. The online course provides expert presentations on HIV-related diseases, covering prevention, management, and care based on the EACS Guidelines.

The course is overseen by a Steering Committee comprising of scientific coordinators from all sections and the EACS Educational & Training Chair, Prof. Paddy Mallon, Ireland. The committee is chaired by Prof. Jens Lundgren, Denmark, and Prof. Jean-Michel Molina, France, with Dr Lene Ryom, Denmark, serving as Vice-Chair. The committee's primary role is to discuss and prioritise potential updates and additions to the course based on the recommendations from the faculty.

Participants can engage with a mix of self-study materials, including video lectures, readings, and interactive activities like multiple-choice quizzes. The course is free of charge to anyone working in HIV and infectious diseases within the healthcare sector, community health clinics, testing sites, and public health.

Three modules make up the curriculum: Clinical Management; PrEP & Treatment as Prevention and Public Health Considerations. Participants can tailor their learning by selecting modules that fit their own interests and needs.

Since the re-launch on the EACS eAcademy in July 2024, **904 participants from 108 nationalities** have signed up and taken part. A strong enrolment rate and positive feedback show the success of the shift to the EACS eAcademy. Moving it to the eAcademy marks a significant step in aligning the course with the EACS core curriculum. This unified platform enhances the opportunity to use the course as a resource for other educational activities within EACS.

Looking ahead, new educational formats such as webinars, interviews, and podcasts are being explored to provide updated information more quickly, especially about important updates to the EACS Guidelines. ■

What participants say:

*“Very informative course”*

*“5 star clinical cases”*

*“Amazing lesson and information, very well conducted and constructed”*

*“I love the way you make each lesson short and concise and easier to follow”*

*“Enjoyed the lectures and quizzes – Useful learning tool”*



# EACS GUIDELINES

## *Introduction to new guidelines*

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### The philosophy and method

The overall aim of the EACS Guidelines is to provide easily accessible, systematic and comprehensive recommendations to everyone involved with the care of people living with HIV.

Guidelines are updated annually to ensure they remain current and address the most pertinent issues encountered in everyday clinical practice.

Each section comprises of international HIV experts, overseen by a leadership team including a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Young Scientist. These experts are selected for their specific knowledge in the field. The panels work independently, but will collaborate when necessary, particularly if their respective sections overlap.

The process of reviewing and updating these sections is coordinated by the EACS Guidelines Chair and Coordinator, who liaise closely with the EACS Secretariat. To keep the perspective fresh, there is a rotation system in place: Chairs and Vice-Chairs change every two years, and the Guidelines Chair changes every three years.

The Guidelines are developed based on evidence and, in the rare instances where such evidence is not available, on expert opinion. The multidisciplinary composition of the panels supports unbiased guidelines development.

### 2024 – a more flexible and inclusive approach

The EACS Guidelines were reorganised in 2024 to have a more dynamic and inclusive format and process. They are now available via the EACS website (<https://eacs.sanfordguide.com>) and app – the pdf version has been retired. This allows for more regular updates.



Structural changes include the consolidation of content into two overarching sections - treatment and co-morbidities:

- Part I encompasses five sections detailing recommendations on antiretroviral therapy (ART) for adults and children, drug-drug interactions, co-infections and paediatric HIV treatment.
- Part II includes nine sections focusing on the management of co-morbidities such as cancer, cardiovascular and metabolic complications, bone, kidney, liver, and pulmonary issues, as well as cognitive health, mental health, substance use, ageing, and other relevant topics.

Importantly, since 2024 EACS members can more easily take part in updating the Guidelines. Open calls are issued for new panel members, and a members' consultation period follows each update. This means content can be updated more regularly - for example, recent adjustments to the treatment section were made in response to member feedback.

## From version 12.0 to 13.0

Version 13.0 of the Guidelines includes a comprehensive set of updates – across existing major sections. Here is a small snapshot of those updates :

- revised ART recommendations (e.g. boosted DRV-based triple ART for HIV acquired on CAB-LA PrEP, and TAF/FTC/BIC now recommended in pregnancy and preferred for PEP)
- expanded PrEP protocols (e.g. HIV RNA testing before initiation in high-risk cases, new guidance on long-acting injectables and use in HBV co-infection)
- updated drug interaction tables (e.g. new chem-sex/substance use DDI table, added guidance on lenacapavir dosing and interactions)
- new and revised recommendations on co-morbidities and infections (e.g. expanded hepatitis guidance, new Doxy-PEP section, and updated cancer and metabolic care). ■





# STANDARD OF CARE *for HIV and Co-infections in Europe*

Dr Cristiana Oprea and Dr Ann Sullivan  
*Standard of Care Co-Chairs*

The mission of the Standard of Care Working Group is to promote better and more consistent standards of HIV testing and care throughout Europe. Establishing common standards of care is central to EACS' mission, helping to reduce disparities in HIV care and aim for higher-quality care across Europe.



Since 2014, EACS has hosted a biennial Standard of Care meeting. The meeting brings together experts to identify areas for quality assessment, aiming to elaborate a common European standard of care. These benchmarks define the standards of care in line with the EACS guidelines.

In October 2024, the Standard of Care meeting for HIV and Co-infections in Europe, co-chaired by Greece and Türkiye, took place in Athens, under the theme "Standard care for all: Embracing those left behind". Dr Konstantinos Papadopoulos and Prof. Deniz Gögenkin co-chaired the meeting.

## Greece, Türkiye and Migration

Holding the 2024 meeting in Athens was timely and appropriate. The region - historically a bridge between east and west - has also become the world's hotspot for new HIV infections. Greece and Türkiye face distinct challenges in care delivery, because of both internal system constraints and external pressures such as migration.

In Greece, viral load monitoring and care uptake remain inconsistent, particularly for migrants and people who inject drugs. In Türkiye, while HIV treatment services are more widely distributed, access to counselling and testing outside major cities is limited.



Migration and displacement were also discussed more broadly. In Poland, for example, uptake of HIV services among Ukrainian refugees remains low, partly due to stigma and uncertainty over legal status.

**Other key themes of the Athens meeting included:**

**SCALING UP SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES AND REMOVING BARRIERS TO SERVICE:**

Dr Josip Begovac (Croatia) described how fragmented systems and referral hurdles delay STI care and discourage access, especially for MSM. He called for walk-in services with on-site diagnosis, self-testing options, and stronger links to NGOs and community support.

**ADDRESSING STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTHCARE:**

Teymur Noori (ECDC) presented findings from a major EACS - ECDC joint survey that shows widespread ignorance about HIV prevention and transmission amongst healthcare professionals. 51% of responding physicians were either unaware of PrEP or had inaccurate knowledge of it. A minority of healthcare professionals are reluctant to treat people with HIV, often due to outdated beliefs or lack of training, showing the urgency targeted education and structural change.







### Looking Ahead

As the Standard of Care project moves into its next phase, implementation will be key. The barriers identified during the Athens meeting will be central to that discussion. The next EACS Standard of Care meeting will be an opportunity to explore how standards have been implemented. ■



# MPOX WEBINARS

## *in collaboration with ECDC*

August & September  
2024

Since the emergence of Mpox in 2022, EACS has been active in supporting and informing members through a series of expert-led webinars. The webinars some in collaboration with ECDC, feature clinicians, researchers and public health officials from Europe and beyond. Participants learn about the latest findings, clinical experience, and public health strategies.

During the summer and autumn of 2024, EACS hosted three Mpox webinars in collaboration with ECDC. These sessions provided updates on global trends, regional responses, and practical lessons from the front lines of the epidemic.

### 21 August 2024

This webinar focused on the evolving epidemiology of Mpox in Africa and Europe, with a spotlight on Clade I and Clade II variants, patterns of transmission, and implications for public health strategy. Speakers called for stronger cross-regional coordination, improved genomic surveillance, and more targeted strategies to protect vulnerable groups.

**Prof. Salim S. Abdool Karim** (CAPRISA / Columbia University / WHO):

**Mpox – A new variant creates a new epidemic**

> Data on evolution of Mpox in Africa

**WHO/Europe Incident Management Team:**

**Mpox outbreak – WHO EURO update**

> Surveillance data across the WHO European Region and updated WHO recommendations

**Dr Adesola Yinka-Ogunleye** (former Incident Manager, NCDC Nigeria):

**Historical insights and lessons from the Nigerian epidemic of Mpox**

> Experience of Mpox emergence in Nigeria since 2017

**Dr Colin Brown** (UK Health Security Agency / Royal Free Hospital):

**Changing Mpox infection landscape in the UK**

> A look at how Mpox has evolved in the UK

## 4 September 2024

This webinar covered response efforts, new scientific research, and the role of communities in Mpox awareness and advocacy.

**Prof. Nicaise Ndembi** (Africa CDC):

### **Update on the continental response to Mpox**

> *Trends in Africa and launch of the Africa CDC's One Continental Plan for preparedness and response*

**Dr Tran Minh Nhu Nguyen** (WHO Regional Office for Europe):

### **WHO update**

> *Regional surveillance and priority actions*

**Prof. Christian Hoffmann** (ICH Study Center, Hamburg):

### **Is there a more dangerous new clade?**

> *Overview of Clade I vs Clade II severity and latest data from DRC*

**Kofi Donkor** (LGBT+ Rights Ghana):

### **Community perspective from Ghana**

> *Challenges of Mpox awareness and response in criminalised settings*

## 18 September 2024

This webinar focused on vaccine strategies, natural immunity, re-infection risk, and outbreak response across vulnerable populations and regions.

**Dr Florian Gehre** (Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine):

### **Rapid regional mobile laboratory response**

> *Using mobile labs for faster Mpox diagnosis and outbreak control in East Africa*

**Dr Olushola Ogunkola** (National Institute for Medical Research, Nigeria):

### **Sex workers in Africa and Mpox response**

> *Addressing Mpox risks in criminalised and marginalised communities*

**Prof. Olivier Epaulard** (Grenoble University Hospital):

### **MVA vaccine – to boost or not to boost?**

> *Reviewing evidence for booster doses after Mpox vaccination*

**Dr Hazra Adeel** (Howard Brown Health, USA):

### **Natural immunity and post-vaccine infection**

> *Global case series on Mpox re-infections and breakthrough infections after vaccination*

# WAVE

## *Women Against Viruses in Europe*

Dr Annette Haberl

WAVE Chair

WAVE aims to promote the welfare of women living with HIV in Europe. It brings together healthcare professionals and community representatives to promote equality of access to care and excellence in standards of care for women living with HIV.



### WAVE workshop, EACS 2023, Warsaw

The sixth WAVE workshop “Sex, drugs and data gaps”, chaired by Dr Annette Haberl and Prof. Yvonne Gilleece, took place in October 2023 ahead of the 19th

European AIDS Conference in Warsaw. The 2023 edition used pop song references to frame serious discussions from “It’s a Heartache” (CVD in women with HIV) to “Hot Stuff” (menopause), “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun” (sexual health), and “I’m Every Woman” (migrant women).

The workshop reviewed WAVE’s 2021–2023 activities and presented recent findings from surveys and literature reviews. Topics included breastfeeding, cardiovascular risk, HPV-related cancers, PrEP, menopause, and healthcare challenges for migrant women.

### WAVE in Ukraine: online workshops

Eastern Europe is a specific focus area for WAVE as the burden on women is highest in this area in terms of HIV prevalence.

The online series of workshops for Ukrainian specialists continues to be a success. A wide range of issues have been covered by the workshops including breastfeeding, PrEP, CVD, hypertension, and more. The workshops are streamed in English and Ukrainian.

### Breastfeeding

Following the 2023 publication of the INSURE survey on breastfeeding practices and guidelines across Europe, WAVE’s breastfeeding working group has maintained regular online meetings. These sessions have brought together clinicians and researchers to exchange insights on case management, long-acting therapy in pregnancy, and ongoing research.





## Healthcare Perception

A cross-sectional European survey on healthcare perception among women living with HIV aged 40 and over was conducted from May to December 2023, with results published in HIV Medicine in December 2024. The study assessed satisfaction across five dimensions of care, as well as management of co-morbidities and menopause.

Overall, most of the 600 respondents reported positive experiences, though regional disparities were noted - particularly lower satisfaction in Eastern Europe.

Women aged 40 and over living with HIV face several challenges - these findings inform stakeholders and decision makers about the need to adopt a more inclusive and sensitive approach in healthcare systems

Following this study and its results, we are currently preparing a focus group study to gain a deeper understanding of the healthcare perceptions of women living with HIV across Europe.





### Menopause Assessment

A systematic review of menopause data collection in HIV studies was published in HIV Medicine in 2023, followed in 2024 by a comparative review of menopause management guidelines in Maturitas. In 2025, an educational video and accompanying factsheet - Transitioning through Menopause with HIV - were released to support women and clinicians alike. The project aims to harmonise data collection across European cohorts, review existing practices, and develop practical recommendations for both clinical care and research, helping to close key knowledge gaps in this area.

Currently, an online European-wide survey study is being prepared to assess symptoms, psychosocial health, and treatment during menopause among women with HIV.

### HPV Screening in Women Living with HIV

WAVE conducted a European survey on anal cancer screening practices in women living with HIV, gathering input from healthcare professionals across diverse clinical settings. The aim was to map current protocols and inform future guideline development.

Findings highlight significant gaps: only 29% of respondents followed national screening guidelines, and many of these did not include women with HIV. Routine screening practices such as digital anorectal examination, anal cytology, HPV genotyping and access to high-resolution anoscopy varied widely and were often limited, particularly outside Western Europe. Barriers included lack of resources, fragmented services and the absence of clear, inclusive guidelines. The results support the need for greater standardisation and targeted implementation to address missed opportunities in prevention and care.

### Women in Migration

In 2024 in co-production with NGOs, a feasibility study was conducted as a first step of the development of a validated risk identification tool. This project, called SERAY (Strengthening health Equity Research through Active involvement of NGOs and migrant women in Europe’s community), will help NGOs to identify barriers to HIV testing and needs amongst migrant women in a multi-country context.

Findings highlighted persistent structural and social obstacles, including fear of legal consequences, limited access to culturally appropriate services, low awareness of HIV risks, and language barriers. These factors were compounded by insecure housing, lack of childcare, and limited trust in healthcare providers, which together create significant barriers to engagement.

Participating NGOs also noted the need for better tools to tailor services to different migration experiences, legal statuses, and cultural backgrounds. These insights will guide the next phase: the development and validation of the tool for use across national settings, with the aim of strengthening targeted, community-based interventions and improving access to testing and care. ■

#### WAVE - Women Against Viruses in Europe

- Chair: Dr Annette Haberl, Germany
- Vice-Chair: Prof. Nina Weis, Denmark

# EACS AWARD 2023

## *Rewarding excellence in HIV medicine*

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The EACS Award is granted to one clinician or researcher and to one community member in recognition of their longstanding, impactful and sustained professional contribution to the field of HIV. EACS members nominate colleagues or peers through a letter highlighting their achievements. The Award Committee reviews all nominations before endorsing the final laureates.

The 2023 EACS Award was presented during the 19th European AIDS Conference in Warsaw in October 2023. The laureates were Prof. Christine Katlama and Dr Alex Schneider.

### **Prof. Christine Katlama**

Prof. Christine Katlama is Professor of Infectious Diseases at Sorbonne University and former President of EACS. For more than three decades, she has been at the forefront of HIV research and clinical innovation in France and internationally. She has been influential in the understanding and management of HIV, from the early days of the epidemic through to current efforts toward long-term remission and cure.

Her work includes antiretroviral therapy, therapeutic HIV vaccines and experimental cure strategies. She has led and participated in numerous clinical trials that have influenced treatment standards and informed global guidelines. Prof. Katlama has helped bridge the gap between basic science, patient care and public health policy.

As a committed educator and mentor, she has trained and supported hundreds of clinicians and researchers.

Her leadership, as one of the founding members of EACS, has shaped the organisation's scientific direction and extended its influence across Europe.





Dr Alex Schneider

Alex Schneider, a PhD chemist based in Switzerland, has combined scientific insight with dedicated advocacy to improve the lives of people living with HIV. Diagnosed eight years ago, he began sharing scientific updates on social media and went on to found Life4me+, a non-profit organisation that now supports individuals globally through education, outreach and digital tools.

In 2016, he developed an app for people living with HIV, which has been endorsed by several organisations and reached over 15,000 users. As a member of the European AIDS Treatment Group and chair of the Partner in Science programme, Schneider has also worked to strengthen community–science dialogue.

He launched the “U=U” campaign in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and has led public initiatives including NoHIVstigma and Respect My HIV, aimed at dismantling stigma, challenging discrimination and promoting understanding. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he coordinated support for HIV-positive individuals stranded abroad, ensuring continuity of care at a critical time.

His work continues to influence public health discourse and has strengthened the role of community advocacy across the region. ■



EACS Award Committee

Chair: Prof. Peter Reiss, Netherlands

- Dr Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak, Poland
- Prof. Brigitte Autran, France
- Prof. Pedro Cahn, Argentina
- Mr. Matthew Hodson, United Kingdom
- Dr Mariana Mardarescu, Romania
- Dr Marco Vitoria, Switzerland



# EUROPEAN HECTOR RESEARCH PRIZE IN HIV

## 2023

The H.W. & J. Hector Foundation, Weinheim, Germany, under the initiative of Prof. Jürgen Rockstroh, established the Hector awards in 2019 for the best scientific achievements in HIV research.

The prize was presented in two categories: best clinical and/or epidemiological paper, and best basic science or translational paper. Winners in each category received a €20,000 donation. The 2023 laureates, announced at the 19th European AIDS Conference in Warsaw, were Prof. Joseph Jarvis & Dr David Lawrence and Dr Beatriz Mothe & Dr Lucia Bailón. ■

### Laureates

#### CLINICAL AND/OR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL:

##### Prof. Joseph Jarvis & Dr David Lawrence

Title of the paper: "Single-Dose Liposomal Amphotericin B Treatment for Cryptococcal Meningitis".  
*N Engl J Med* 2022 Mar 24;386(12):1109-1120. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2111904.

#### BASIC SCIENCE, TRANSLATIONAL:

##### Dr Beatriz Mothe & Dr Lucia Bailón

Title of the paper: "Safety, immunogenicity and effect on viral rebound of HTI vaccines in early treated HIV-1 infection: a randomized, placebo-controlled phase 1 trial"  
*Nature Medicine* volume 28, pages 2611–2621 (2022)



### Reviewing Committees



#### Clinical and/or epidemiological:

- Prof. Esteban Martínez, Spain (Chair)
- Prof. Alexandra Calmy, Switzerland
- Prof. Jürgen Rockstroh, Germany
- Prof. Gerd Fätkenheuer, Germany
- Prof. Miłosz Parczewski, Poland
- Dr Laura Waters, UK

#### Basic science, Translational:

- Prof. Georg Behrens, Germany (Chair)
- Prof. Linos Vandekerckhove, Belgium
- Dr Annemarie Wensing, Netherlands
- Prof. Marcus Altfeld, Germany
- Dr Javier Martínez-Picado, Spain
- Prof. Alexandra Trkola, Switzerland

# THE 19<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN AIDS CONFERENCE

## *Warsaw 2023*

Prof. Esteban Martínez, Prof. Justyna Kowalska and Dr Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak  
*19<sup>th</sup> European AIDS Conference Co-Chairs*

EACS held its 19th biennial European AIDS Conference in Warsaw, Poland, from 18–21 October 2023, returning to the city two decades after its first Warsaw edition. The theme, “It’s Time to Revisit”, reflected both the progress made since 2003 and the persistent challenges faced in Central and Eastern Europe.

Over 2,800 delegates from 78 countries joined the conference - more than 2,400 in person - making it one of the largest gatherings of its kind. Co-chaired by EACS President Esteban Martínez, Justyna Kowalska (Medical University of Warsaw) and Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak (Foundation for Social Education), the event brought together clinicians, researchers, policymakers and community advocates to explore the latest advances in HIV care, research, and policy.

Warsaw’s proximity to Ukraine, and the profound demographic and public health impact of the ongoing war, were a defining theme. Ukraine has the second-largest HIV epidemic in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and the arrival of Ukrainian refugees into Poland, particularly Warsaw, has reshaped

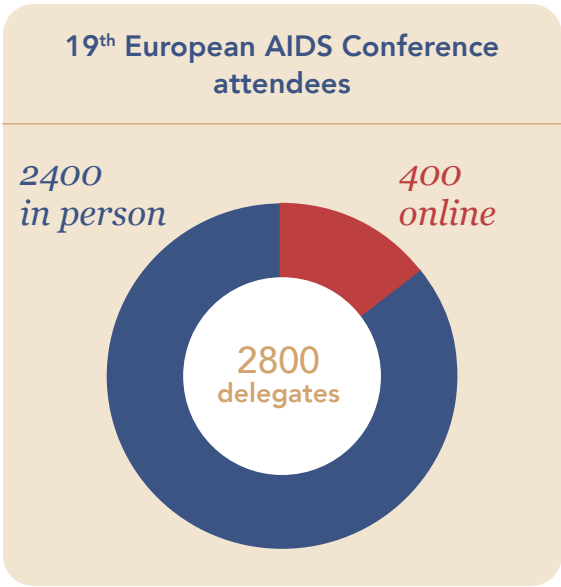


health needs and services in the city. A dedicated session addressed the consequences of war and displacement on HIV prevention and care, underscoring the need for solidarity and adaptive strategies in the face of crisis. All sessions were interpreted in Ukrainian and Russian.

The Spanish Minister of Health sent a video message, flagging EACS and Spain’s shared goal of eliminating stigma and discrimination as barriers to prevention and care - a theme that ran throughout the conference.

### A comprehensive scientific programme

Across 58 sessions and more than 700 accepted abstracts, the scientific programme was wide-ranging and revelatory. Topics of plenaries and sessions





included equitable access to antiretroviral therapy, stigma and mental health, prevention strategies including PrEP, breast/chest feeding for women living with HIV, and integrated approaches to sexual health. New epidemiological data highlighted concerning trends, such as increasing HIV rates among men in certain populations. Highly attended sessions also focused on ageing and co-morbidities, HIV cure research, and the impact of demographic change and conflict. The programme combined clinical, scientific, and community perspectives in a way that many participants described as inspiring and energising.

As one young doctor noted: “The multidisciplinary programme, and the exchange with people from so many countries, opened my eyes to how much we still have to learn from one another - and how far we’ve come.” A community participant reflected: “It reminded me that research and care must be grounded in the realities people actually live in. That sense of solidarity came through in every session.”



### Embedding the community and the city

The conference also retained a strong community presence. The “Community Corner” offered space for advocates to connect and showcase initiatives. Outside the conference venue, Warsaw itself became part of the event. City-wide activities included HIV awareness events at the Medical University, a mobile harm reduction unit offering free and anonymous testing for HIV, hepatitis C and STIs, a Red Ribbon display on city buildings, and the “Living Free with HIV” group run - which welcomed both delegates and Warsaw residents. As co-chair Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak put it: “This is not just a behind-closed-doors event. We wanted to engage the people of Warsaw and generate pride and openness toward people living with HIV.”



The Warsaw conference successfully connected the field's past achievements with its future aspirations - reaffirming EACS' commitment to supporting clinicians, advancing research, strengthening community engagement, and working toward eliminating HIV and AIDS as public health threats by 2030. ■

*This is not just a behind-closed-doors event. We wanted to engage the people of Warsaw and generate pride and openness toward people living with HIV.*

Dr Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak



# EACS *partnerships*

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Dr Annemarie Wensing, Netherlands  
*Partnerships Coordinator*

EACS works on building sustainable collaborations with key players in HIV and co-infection research and care. These efforts involve engaging with clinicians, scientists, community representatives, and public health institutions. EACS' expertise in HIV management, testing, and prevention is widely recognised and sought after.

## Partnership with ECDC

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is a key partner. In 2022, EACS, alongside CHIP (the Centre of Excellence for Health, Immunity and Infections), embarked on a major four-year ECDC project, "European Standards of HIV Prevention and Care". The project aims to define core standards, develop auditable indicators, and support their implementation across the region.

EACS has worked with ECDC on a multi-country project to strengthen EU/EEA health systems' capacity to address HIV, STIs, and hepatitis. And in 2023, EACS and ECDC launched a survey on HIV Stigma in the healthcare setting, publishing the results in a 2024 report.

Another partnership example is the high-level roundtable at the European Parliament organised together with HIV Outcomes and UNITE, in Strasbourg in December 2024, that advocated for a pan-European HIV Action Plan as part of Europe's commitment to SDG 3.3.

EACS has Memoranda of Understanding with organisations including AIDS Action Europe, Africa Advocacy Foundation, CHIP/EuroTEST, EATG, ECEE Network, ESCMID, EMAS, Fundación Lucha contra las Infecciones, IAS and Trans Europe and Central Asia (TGEU).

## Endorsements & Joint Statements

- HIV Advanced Training Forum, Sinaia, Romania, 10–11 June 2025 (EACS-endorsed)
- TGEU Policy Brief, March 2025: European leadership in global HIV response
- Consensus Statement, February 2024: EU action needed to achieve 2030 HIV goals
- ILGA Europe, Joint letter: Urgent European Commission action needed to defend the fundamental right to freedom of assembly in Hungary, April 2025
- Fundación Lucha contra las Infecciones:
  - HIV Clinical Topics in Antiretroviral Therapy Workshop – September 18-19
  - Comprehensive Management of Aging in HIV – November 13-14
  - DDIs in HIV Webinar: Real Cases, Expert Insights – November 18

A complete list of EACS partners and collaborators (2023–2025) can be seen on our [website](#)



# ADVOCACY & HEALTH POLICY

## *A new focus*

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EACS is stepping up its role in advocacy and health policy. The organisation is becoming more engaged with policy makers: The evolving activities target international, European and national policy makers.

At international level, EACS is in the process of applying for non-State actor status at WHO Europe. This would give EACS formal participation rights in Regional Committee meetings and the possibility to submit official statements.

At EU level, EACS has co-organised two high-level roundtable events at the European Parliament. The first, held in Strasbourg in December 2024 with HIV Outcomes and UNITE, brought together MEPs and civil society actors to push for an EU-wide HIV Action Plan, as part of Europe's commitment to the UN's SDG 3.3. A follow-up roundtable was held in Brussels in June 2025, co-hosted by Polish MEP Krzysztof Śmiszek on the final day of the Polish EU Presidency. The aim of this roundtable was to recentre EU efforts towards the 2030 UNAIDS targets and build consensus on the top priorities to achieve the goals.

EACS has also joined an informal advocacy consortium with EATG, UNITE and HIV Outcomes to engage MEPs. A joint letter was sent to 105 parliamentarians, resulting in several meetings to discuss EU HIV strategy and funding.

In early 2025, EACS conducted a rapid-assessment survey to understand the impact of changes in US foreign aid (USAID, PEPFAR, WHO, and The Global Fund) on HIV-related services across the WHO European Region. The findings, though limited in scale, were striking. Over 80% of direct grant beneficiaries reported an impact on healthcare services, with a quarter describing the effects as severe. Most reported reduced service availability, in the supply of antiretroviral therapy (ART), outreach and awareness programmes, prevention efforts, and monitoring and evaluation.

At national level, EACS has issued formal letters to the health authorities of Türkiye and Greece. These letters, developed with input from local members, acknowledged progress while proposing closer collaboration to help meet 95-95-95 targets. In addition, EACS is mapping national HIV societies across Europe to support direct engagement and identify shared priorities.

Looking ahead, the EACS Governing Board has pinpointed the priorities for advocacy and health policy: standardising HIV care and strengthening monitoring across the WHO European Region, while making sure that HIV remains on the agenda of current and future EU health action plans. ■

# LOOKING AHEAD

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**Prof. Christoph Boesecke**  
*EACS Vice-President*

In January 2027, I will have the honour of taking on the role of EACS President. As I prepare, I'm aware of the legacy I'll inherit. Thanks to the excellent leadership of those who came before me, including Jürgen Rockstroh, Sanjay Bhagani, Esteban Martínez, and now Miłosz Parczewski, EACS has gone from strength to strength and today is a dynamic, innovative and well-functioning organisation.

It's hard to predict what kind of environment EACS will operate in. Today, uncertainty permeates everything - research funding models, pricing frameworks for new therapies, attitudes to AIDS & HIV and more. We're witnessing how decisions made outside Europe, particularly in the US, can affect drug availability, investment in research, and access to care for treatment and prevention.

In this volatility, EACS is a vital source of stability, consistency and support. Through our Guidelines, Standards of Care, and educational initiatives, we are helping clinicians to raise the bar on HIV treatment. We provide opportunities for young doctors to learn from each other. We continue to fight stigma. And we stand as allies to the community in the face of pressure.

One of the aspects of EACS I value most is its long-term investment in the next generation. From the Summer School to the YING, we create space for young professionals to learn, contribute, and lead. And in return, we learn from the younger generation. These colleagues often highlight issues the rest of us do not see. Their input helps us stay relevant, agile, and grounded in current clinical realities.

In this position I've gained a new appreciation for the commitment and dedication that EACS depends on. Our members give their time generously and their shared sense of purpose, across ages, countries and disciplines, is what makes the organisation work.

What EACS does particularly well is turning collective effort into high-quality outcomes - I'm thinking of the Guidelines, the core curriculum, the diploma



and the many events and tools that have become essential in HIV prevention and treatment. That magic combination of open collaboration and excellence is rare, and it's something I'm committed to protecting.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you as we continue this important mission together. ■



**EACS** European  
AIDS Clinical Society

# 21st EUROPEAN AIDS CONFERENCE

6 – 9 October, 2027  
Prague, Czechia

[www.eacs-conference.com](http://www.eacs-conference.com)

**Conference Organiser**

EACS - European  
AIDS Clinical Society  
[www.eacsociety.org](http://www.eacsociety.org)

**Conference Secretariat**

EACS Conference Secretariat  
c/o K.I.T. Group GmbH  
[www.eacs-conference.com](http://www.eacs-conference.com)

**Conference Venue**

O2 Universum  
Českomoravská 2345/17  
190 00 Praha 9, Czechia



# FINANCIAL

## summary

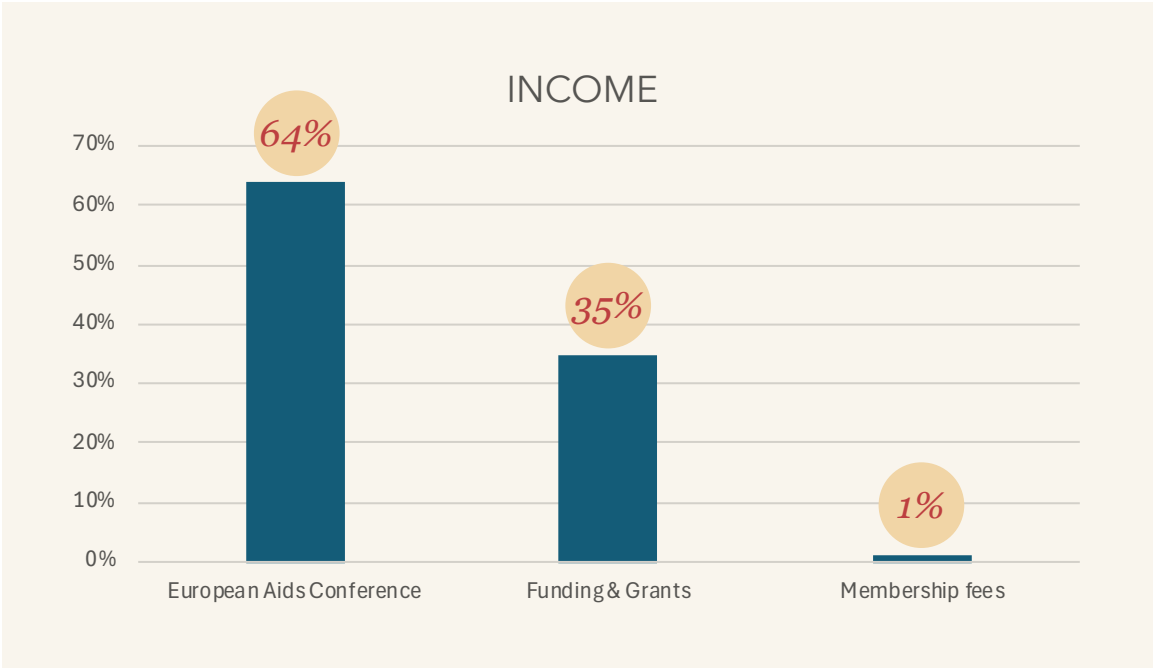
Dr Ole Kirk  
*Treasurer*

EACS is an international not-for-profit organisation of a scientific and philanthropic nature. Its purpose is to promote knowledge and clinical excellence in HIV medicine to reduce the HIV disease burden across Europe.

The society promotes research, delivers education via classical and innovative platforms, and produces widely used management and therapeutic guidelines on the clinical aspects of infection by the HIV virus and related co-infections in addition to a biennial European AIDS Conference. The Governing Board is required to submit the accounts and the budget at the General Assembly within six months of the year-end. The financial year commences on 1 July and ends on 30 June of the following year. A financial report is produced every month. This financial report assesses and highlights how EACS pursues its work to meet the objectives defined by the Governing Board. It also focuses on the outcomes of each of the programmes and meetings organised, as well as the

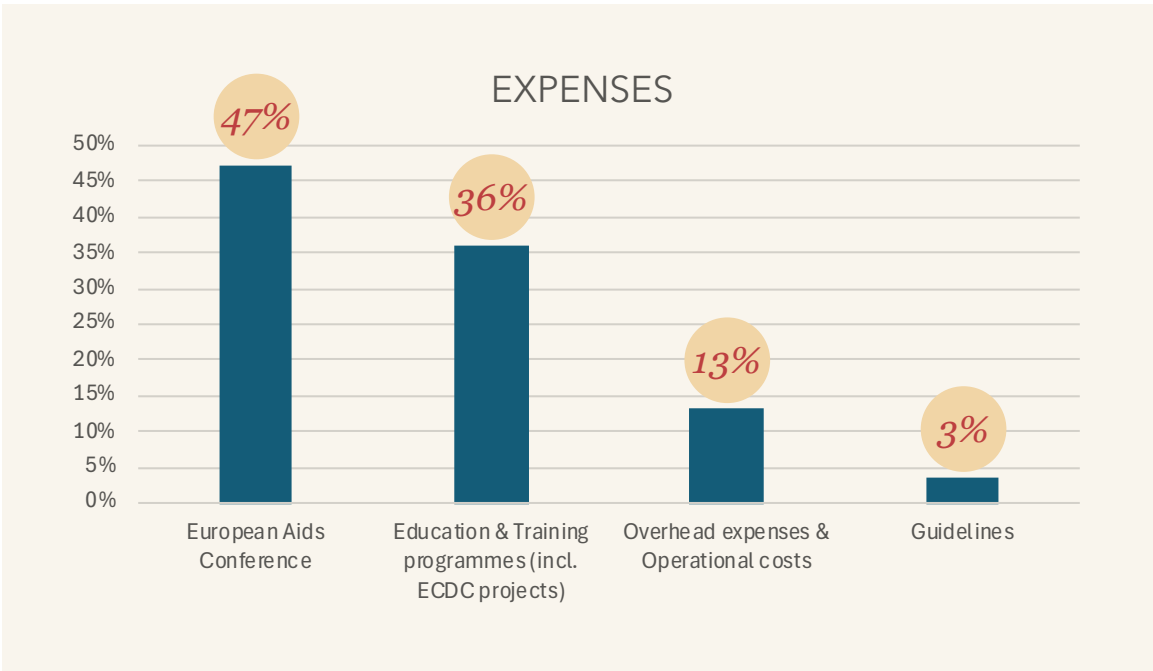
published updates of the EACS Guidelines that are developed by an international panel of experts. As a result, the report is an excellent and comprehensive background for the Governing Board to work on during their regular strategic meetings.

In 2022, the EACS Governing Board allocated a reserve fund of 800,000 EUR to enhance financial stability, operational flexibility, and support strategic investments and member benefits. These reserves serve as safeguards, ensuring long-term sustainability, and promoting financial accountability for EACS' mission fulfilment.



Several key financial and operational changes have occurred within EACS since the last Biennial Report published in 2023. The revenue generated by the 19th European AIDS Conference and the EACS Standard of Care Conference grew by 29% back to where they were pre-Covid. The organisation’s efforts to seek more funding was successful as we saw a doubling in corporate educational grants (110% increase). Every educational programme managed to double its budget over the period. On top of this, the relationship with ECDC developed positively with funding growing in line (200%) with the ambition of the programmes that were being put into place (Country Support and Standard of Care). Membership income kept increasing and sponsoring was boosted by the funding of a new strategic programme, Advocacy & Policy.

Expenses grew symmetrically with the educational and strategic programmes’ funding, more than doubling over the period. The 19th European AIDS Conference’s realised margin deteriorated slightly from 32% to 28% in line with the previous “pre-covid” conferences. Net overhead and operational expenditures remained flat thanks to a better control of costs being supported directly by the organisation and costs being passed through to educational programmes. Gross operating costs grew by 20% per annum mainly due to new hires and to outsourcing added competences. ■



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The European AIDS Clinical Society would like to thank its members, the EACS Governing Board, the working groups and panel members, the Education & Training programme faculty and steering committees, all those who participated actively in the educational activities, the Conference Scientific & Programme Committee, the EACS Secretariat, K.I.T. Group, the community representatives, and all the people who contributed to the EACS mission.

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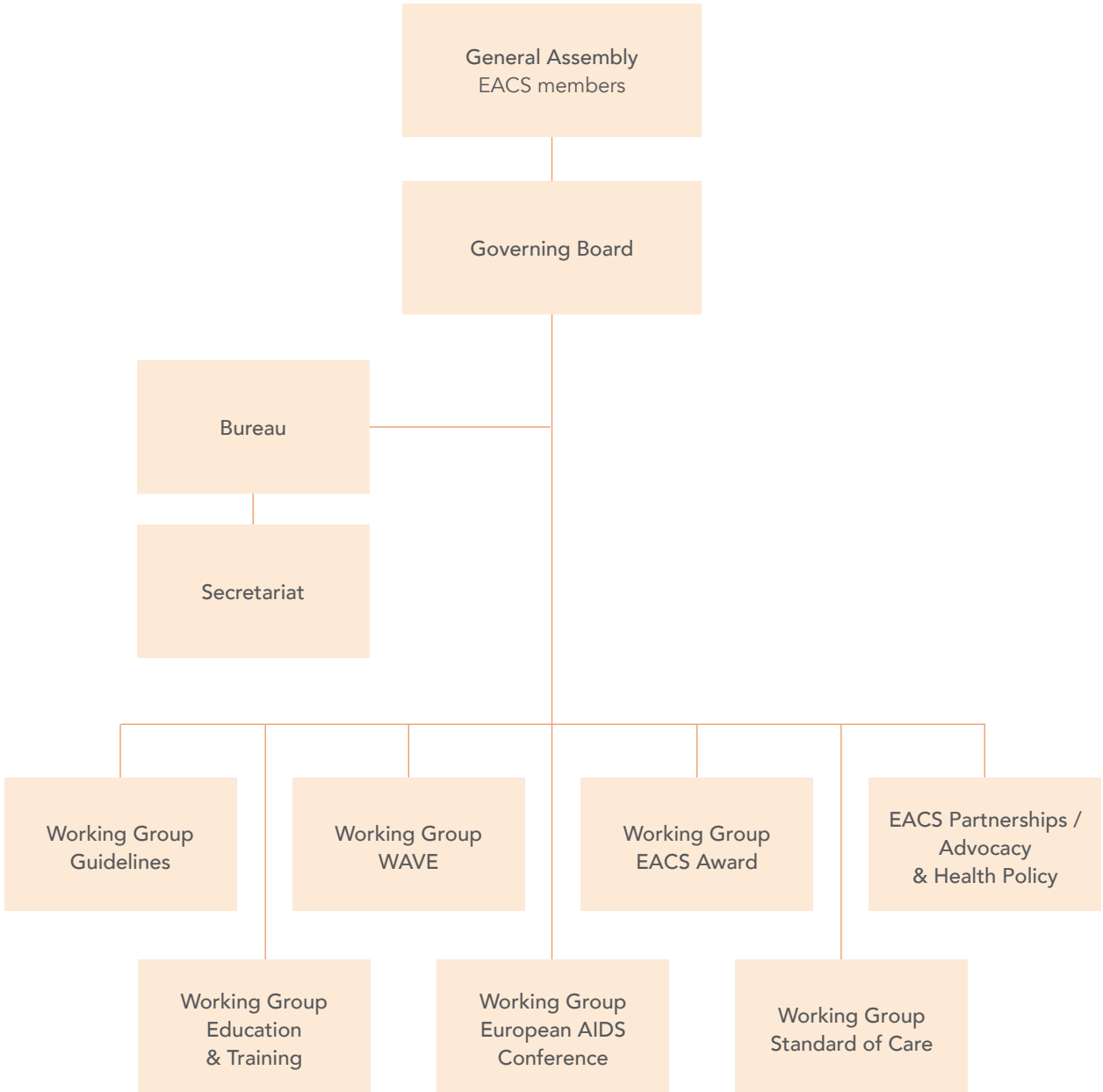
Alexandros Vetoulis  
Marta Ankiersztejn  
Bartłomiej Sawka  
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# APPENDICES

## EUROPEAN AIDS CLINICAL SOCIETY (EACS) Governance / SOPs



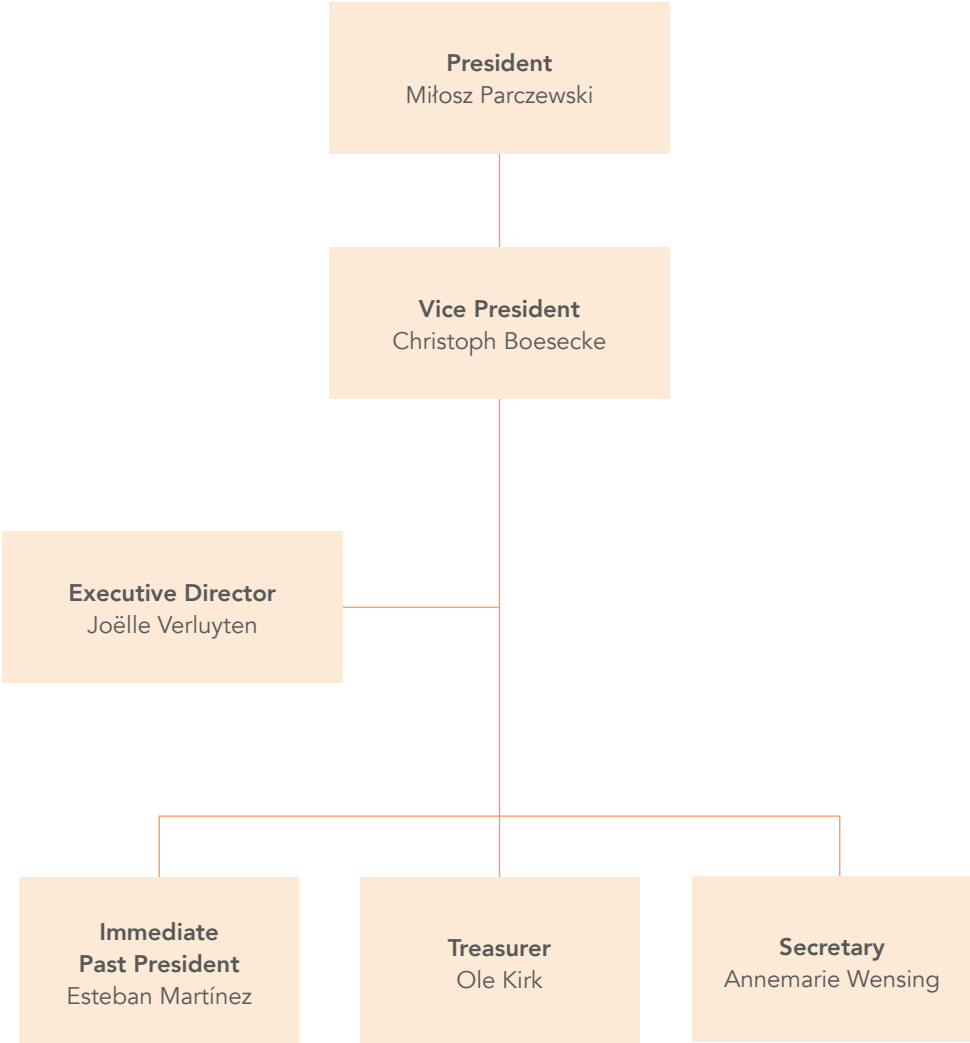
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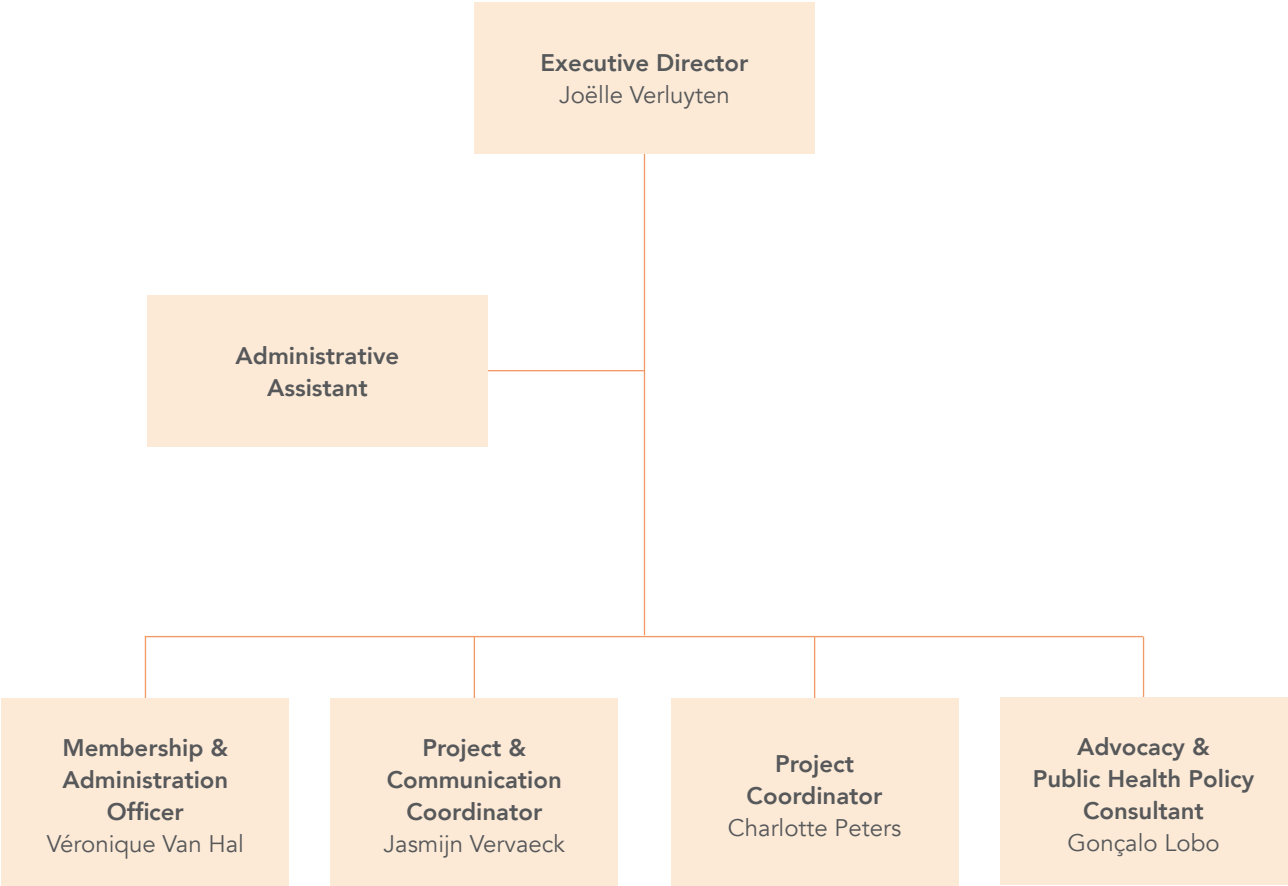
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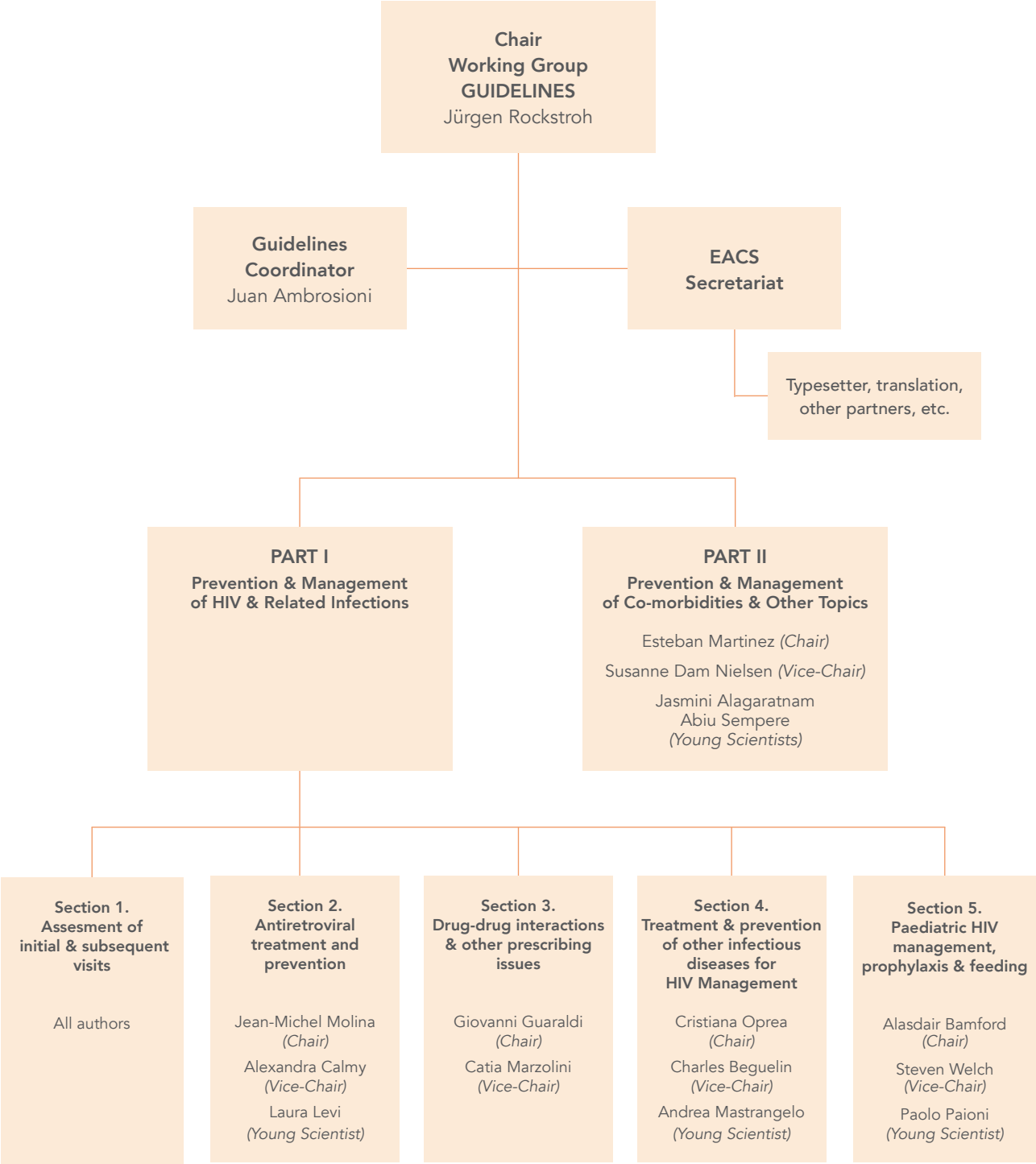




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**Medical Exchange Programme**  
Sanjay Bhagani

**Clinical Management  
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YING - EACS Young  
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Tristan Barber

**European Diploma  
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EACS Core Curriculum**

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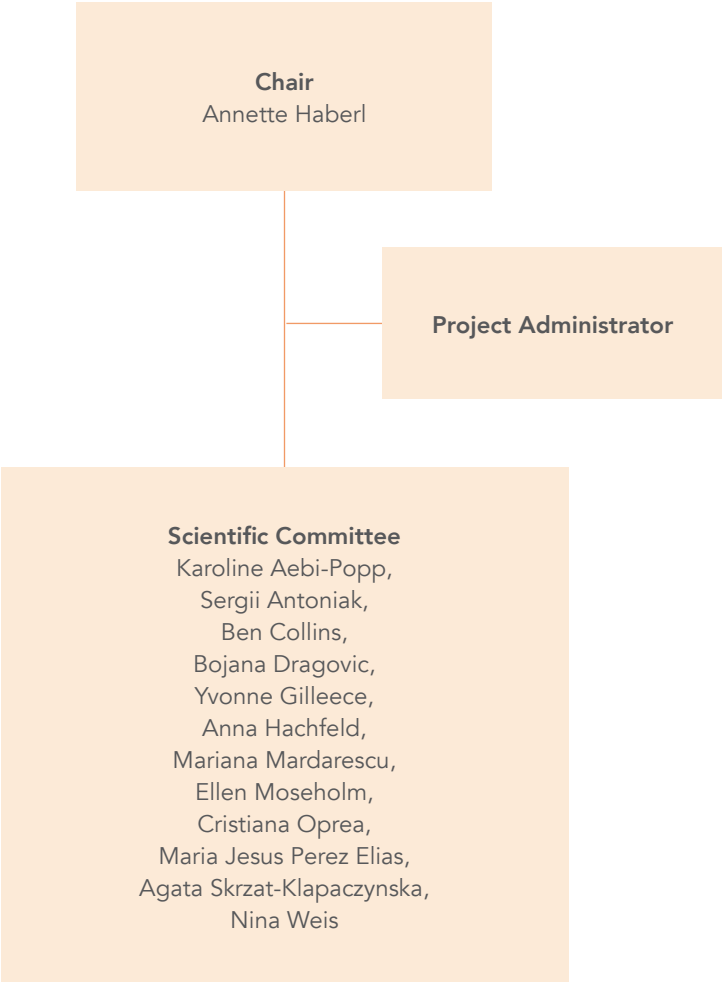
#### Senior advisers:

- Sanjay Bhagani, United Kingdom
- Yvonne Gilleece, United Kingdom
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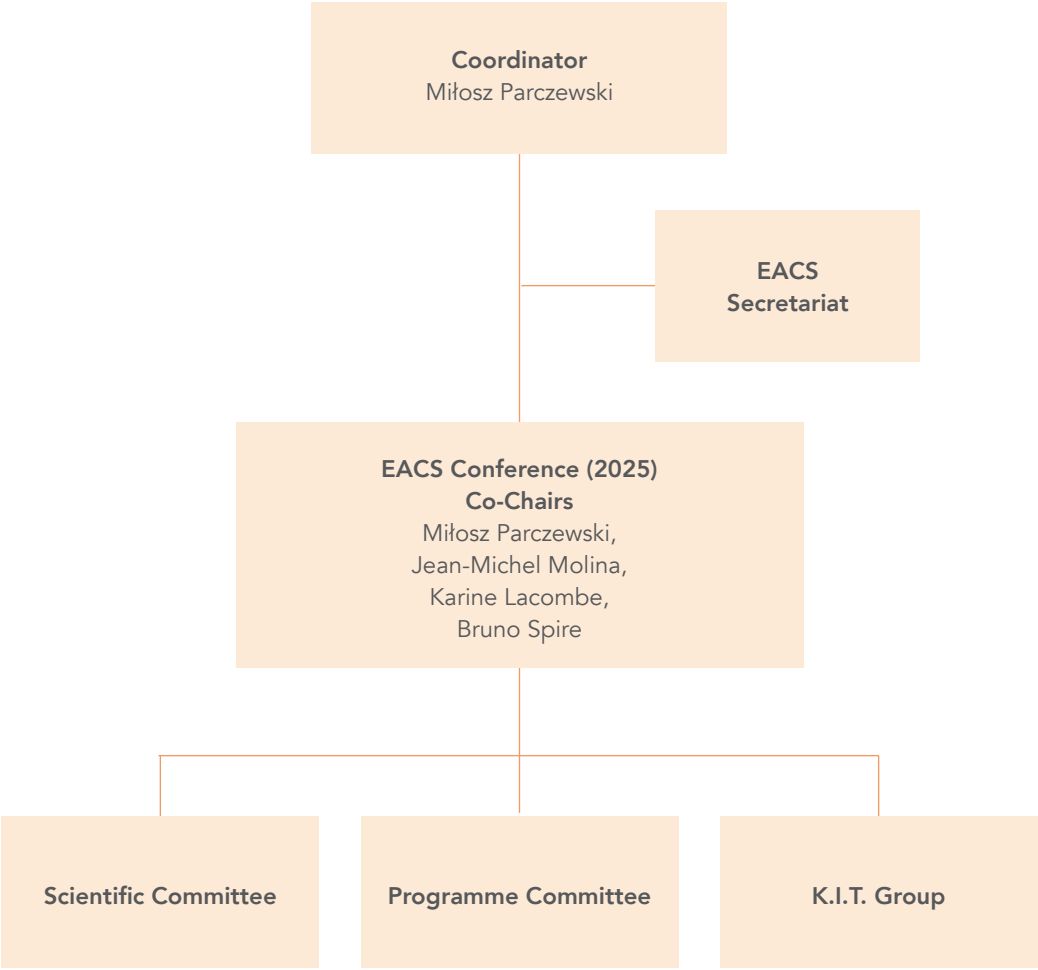
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## 20<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN AIDS CONFERENCE 2025

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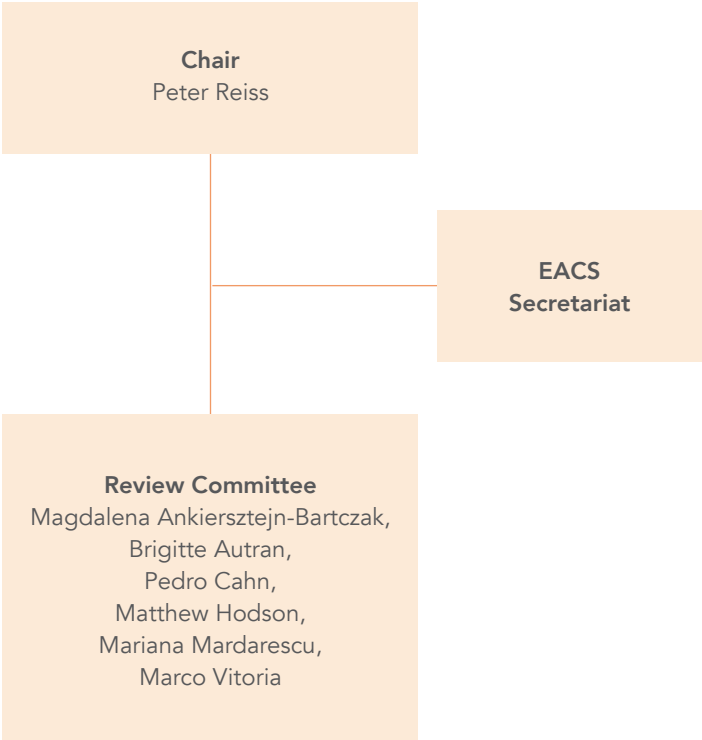
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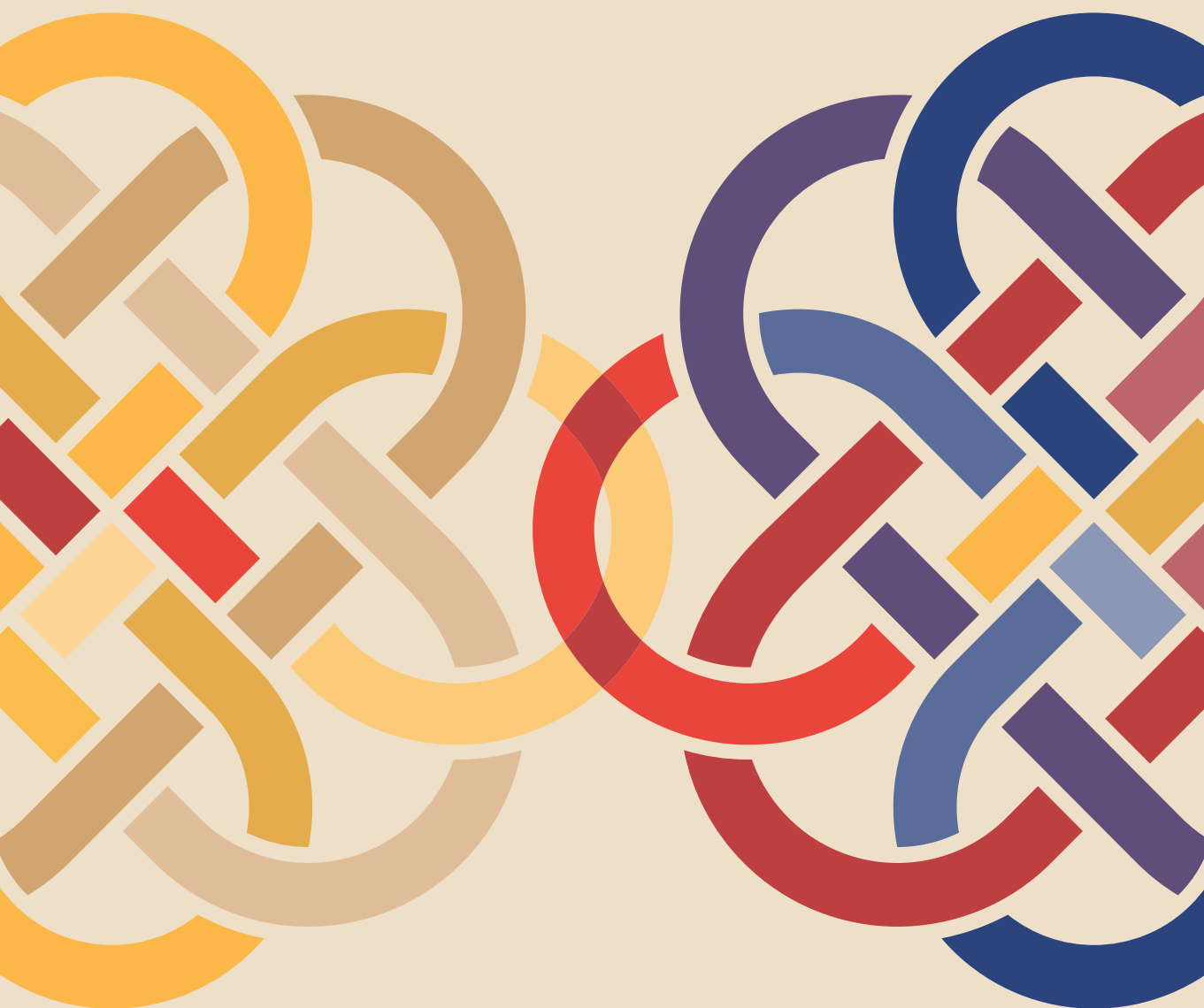


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European AIDS Clinical Society  
56, rue des Colonies  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
T +32 2 316 10 19  
[info@eacsociety.org](mailto:info@eacsociety.org)

[www.eacsociety.org](http://www.eacsociety.org)