

## ESCIF executive report 2020/2021

*This report covers the period from the last ESCIF assembly (electronic) in May 2020 to the present in August 2021.*

### Dear ESCIF members

It has been an unusual year and for the first time we were due to the Coronavirus not able to meet as a board for more than a year. Even more important, it was also not possible to meet the ESCIF members in person, talk, share thoughts and enjoy each other's company, in the way we are used to. However, also due to the situation the board started new projects.

### Executive meetings

Like most other organisations and companies, the ESCIF executive had much more electronic meetings. The Help Alliance was a demanding project and the board met 20 times via Zoom in 2020 and from January to end of June 2021 we met 11 times. Although we had many Zoom meetings there are a lot of issues which need personal meetings such as the future strategy or improvement of the communication with members. Hence, the board is looking forward to have the first personal meeting this year in August 2021 before the congress Nottwil.

### ESCIF congress and electronic assembly

Last year's congress had due to travel restrictions and the ban to gather in larger groups to be cancelled twice. Looking back it was a wise decision to cancel the congress and have an electronic assembly. The assembly 2020 was for the first time held electronically with voting by email. 21 member organisations participated in the voting. The board decided to vote about necessary formalities and not to have items

on the agenda which might need discussion. Also, no elections were needed. All proposed agenda points were accepted. For details please see the minutes.

### ESCIF Help Alliance

In a much more positive way we can report about the ESCIF Help Alliance project. Thanks' to Kevin Schultes and ESCIF president Stefan Jorlev, who managed the project together, ESCIF was able to distribute personal protective material for free to the SCI community in Europe. ESCIF was able to show what great impact it can have to the SCI community in Europe if we all work together.



With the overwhelming support of 22 sponsors the project distributed over 850'000 masks to more than 15'000 households for free. Part of the project was an awareness campaign on Facebook and Instagram where the recipients posted pictures of themselves wearing the masks.

### Ambassador program

The purpose of this program is to improve the communication within ESCIF. In practice, it means that the members in the Executive keep in regular contact with all the member organisations through on-line meetings, mails and preferably a visit some time. The program was a big asset for certain member countries during this difficult

time. However, the board also realised that the contacts with other members are not as established as they should be and have to be intensified.

### ESCIF Forum

Another means to intensify communication is the new ESCIF Forum. The focus is to facilitate knowledge transfer and information exchange among all persons interested in SCI. Planned is to have 3 - 4 online presentations by researchers, experienced peers, companies or representatives from organisations or government. Key is to generate added value for the ESCIF members and persons with SCI in general. Up to date we had 2 sessions which were followed by 20-30 persons each. Please visit our website if you would like to download the presentations. The date for our last ESCIF Forum in 2021 will be communicated after the congress in Nottwil.

### Manda Knežević and Elvira Beslija

We have been informed that we have lost Manda Knežević and Elvira Beslija who have been driving forces for the SCI community in Europe and active members in ESCIF. We want to send our deep condolences and recognition for their work in the SCI community.

At last I want to thank you all for the support for ESCIF in this difficult time, and remind you that you can follow us on [facebook](#) and on our [homepage](#) to keep updated.

Sincerely

On behalf of the ESCIF Executive board

Stefan O. Jorlev, President ESCIF

