

## ESCIF executive report 2019/2020

### Dear colleagues

I will start with addressing the form, under which, this year assembly will be held. This has been an atypical year in many ways. First and foremost, this letter, and the fact that I am not able to present it myself, is a prove of this unusual situation. A situation where we are not able to meet, talk, share thoughts and enjoy each other's company, in the way we are used to!

This year's assembly agenda will also be affected, and the normal item list is narrowed into the most essentials items. The reason is that our statues have not taken the Coronavirus into account, and therefore we are dependent on the Swiss emergency law. A law that allow us to make a digital voting, and thereby enable us to have a simple assembly without oral and personal presentation. There will therefore not be voting on expanding the board or obtain new members. This is very unfortunate, but the only right way for the executive board to handle this very unwanted situation.

But other things have also been different. Luckily in a much more positive way. This has, beside the Coronavirus, been a year of progress. It has been the first year for me as president, but also the first year for most of the executive board. Actually Nuutti Hiltunen, our vice president, is the only executive member with experience from the ESCIF executive board. This has been a great asset for the whole board and our ability to quickly get up-to-date and on the right track.

Urs Styger, our former secretary, who we were so lucky to have at our side until 2019, and as a support for our new secretary Albert Marti up to todote. Urs has been

able to swiftly get Albert fully integrated into our board structure, thanks to Albert for being well adapted and a team player with the board. We want to give a special thanks Urs for the many good years and for all he has done for ESCIF. Urs has been part of ESCIF since it's birth. He has always worked focused and loyal on behalf of ESCIF and for our development. Furthermore, Urs as person, is very well liked by our whole community and we in the board already miss him! Thank you Urs!

We have also been informed that we have lost some persons who have been driving forces in Europe for the SCI community and active in ESCIF. We are sorry that we have not recognized those people! We want to send our condolence and recognition for their work in the SCI community to: Dick te Winkel founding member of ESCIF (DON, NL), & Esther Peris Valle former executive member ESCIF (ESPAYM, ES). I have to emphasise strongly that our lack of recognition is not out of ill will, but because of a lack of knowledge. Unfortunate there is a probability that there are more lost active persons, that we do not know of! We are sorry if that is the case and will make it better.

In the beginning as a new board, we all needed to "find" each other, how do we work, meet and communicate. This has been a good process and our team development has been successful. We have reached a base, from where we can form the future for ESCIF. We are still working on our direction as a new ESCIF executive board, but we have already started forming new ideas for projects, which we hope, we will be able to start in the coming year. We are also in the progress of strengthen our ambassador program and hope it can facilitate a closer relation between the members but also between the board and the whole community. We do not want a distance between our members and the board! So please be aware of mails or calls form the executive board in the coming time.

This year we have had two physical meetings. One at the Manfred Sauer Stiftung, who kindly invited us to their lovely surroundings in Lobbach, Germany. The other physical meeting was in Bratislava, where we combined our meeting with an inspection of the facilities for the coming congress in Bratislava in 2022. The Slovakian association "Paraplegické motivačné centrum" were very kind to take care of our accommodations and hotel. We have also had numerous online meetings. This has been a very good way to quickly get in touch and coordinate challenging situations.

At last I want to thank you all for the support 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

