

Newsletter: April 2022

Dear ESCIF Colleagues

Times are difficult and we all have hoped that after Covid we can gather and discuss at a relaxed and inspiring congress in Slovakia. Although a shadow is covering these days, we think that it helps most if we have our congress as planned. Furthermore, please read about the ESCIF Help Alliance project "Ukrainian SCI Relief".

ESCIF congress: Please register until April 15th 2022

We are happy to invite you to the ESCIF congress 2022 from Wednesday 25th May to Saturday 28th May 2022 to Samorin, close to Bratislava. [The X-Bionic Shere](#) is very well equipped for wheelchair users and has a perfect environment for a few additional days after the congress. After the feedback from last year's congress, this year the congress lasts 4 days. This is why we increased the fee by 50 Euros. The topic of the congress will be: **Best practice in SCI rehabilitation**. Most speakers are announced, but please visit our website for the latest updates of the program. Also, if you have members input or a poster to present, please send it to: secretary@escif.org.

For registration until April 15th and all further info please visit www.escif.org

ESCIF Assembly and election

This year we have elections during our assembly at the congress in Samorin. Vice president Nuutti Hiltunen's 4-year term as a board member comes to an end and he decided to resign. If you have a candidate for the board, please submit all necessary info to secretary@escif.org until Sunday, April 10th. Also, if you have a proposal for the assembly, please it to secretary@escif.org no later than Sunday, April 10th 2022.

ESCIF Help Alliance: Ukrainian SCI Relief

The ESCIF Help Alliance with the support of several European SCI related organisations are running a "safe-house" for disabled refugees from the war in Ukraine – with a focus on the Spinal Cord Injured community. The boarding house is located about 30 km from the Ukrainian boarder in Wólka Cycowska 13n, 21-070 Cyców, and consists of 27 bedrooms as well as an office, meeting and dining room. The house is mostly accessible. The rent starts April 1st and lasts for six months. To begin, we will have a doctor and a nurse as well as several volunteers to ramp up the house. We will start welcoming people on Wednesday, April 6th.



It is important to highlight that the "safe-house" is meant as a shelter for people with a chronic Spinal Cord Injury. The house can give them the opportunity to have a few days rest and medical assessment before we are searching their final destination. The house is not for people with a newly acquired injury or needing acute medical attention. The "safe-house" will be run by ESCIF with the logistic and financial support from the Swiss Paraplegic Foundation (SPS) and the Fördergemeinschaft der Querschnittgelähmten in Deutschland e.V. (FGQ).

If you have any capacity to accommodate Ukrainian people in a wheelchair, please get in contact with our coordination office at FGQ under info@fgq.de Also, it would be very helpful if you spread the word that we search accommodation for persons in a wheelchair.

For the latest info about the project please visit: www.escif.org

Next ESCIF Forum on June 13th

Betwixt and between the temptation of unproven commercial therapies and the complexity of scientifically-driven clinical trials

Should people accept their new life situation after a spinal cord injury and make the best out of it? Or should they try everything and anything to get better and possibly reverse paralysis? These two ends of the pendulum often seem to be the only possibilities after an SCI. Countless people go abroad to receive the latest treatment, often depending on the latest hyped up news about SCI therapies. What

are the results? How do you recognise a commercial therapy from a more scientifically driven experimental treatment? Why should you choose one over the other? During this presentation, we will quickly review the latest SCI research landscape and hint at what could be done to optimise the patients choices.

Presenter: Corinne Jeanmaire, Founder <https://endparalysis.org>

Please register using our website: www.escif.org

For the Executive Board



Nuutti Hiltunen, Vice-President