

# ESGREV NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ESCMID STUDY GROUP FOR RESPIRATORY VIRUSES



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE ESGREV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:



To begin our end-of-year newsletter, we sincerely wish all of our members a peaceful and safe holiday season. We are grateful for all our members and proud of your accomplishments and efforts in advancing the mission of ESGREV.

We are looking forward to 2024 and the new opportunities to network with colleagues, develop new research initiatives, and grow our membership. May you have a peaceful holiday season, and much joy and prosperity in the New Year.

See you in Barcelona for ECCMID 2024!

HAPPY  
holidays

ESGREV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

.....  
Chairperson: Prof. Roy Chemaly, United States  
Secretary: PD Dr. Chrysanthi Skevaki, Germany  
Treasurer: Prof. Barbara Rath, France  
Science Officer: Prof. Sotirios Tsiodras, Greece  
Education Officer: TBA



Did you miss our last newsletter?  
Check it out [here!](#)



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European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

ESCMID STUDY  
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# 2023 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Dr. Francesco Cerutti • Dr. Saeed Ahmad • Chris Littlejohn • Dr. Ira Praharaj • Isabell Wagenhäuser • Dr. Santhanam Naguthevar • Shaya Sivakumaran • Dr. Lok Bahadur Shrestha • Dr. Stefanie Deinhardt-Emmer • Dr. Catharine Paules  
Dr. Jon Salmanton-Garcia • Sriram Radhakrishnan • Tobias Broger • Dr. Ciarán Mooney • Dr. Jennifer Cane • Dr. Philip Oshun • Dr. Özlem Türkmen Recen • Dr. Binh Dang Thi • Dr. Zeba Nasir • Dr. Krispin Hajkowicz • Dr. Olha Shchudro • Dr. Margarida Simões • Dr. Kawsar Talaat • Dr. Po-Yu Liu • Dr. Diego Hijano • Dr. Bettie Voordouw • Dr. Javier Sánchez Céspedes • Dr. Victoria Hall • Dr. Alison Kuchta • Dr. Effrossyni Gkrania-Klotsas

In 2023, we welcomed a total of 57 new members from 24 countries, 34F | 23M. Our new members come from diverse backgrounds, specialties & levels of experience. We close out 2023 with 124 ESGREV members!

• Dr. Michelle Yong • Dr. Mini Kamboj • Dr. Stamatis Karakonstantis • Dr. Joseph Sassine • Dr. Michael Boeckh • Dr. Genovefa Papanicolaou • Dr. Elena Pomari • Dr. Antonella Francesca Simonetti • Dr. Stéphane Marot • Dr. Monira Sarmin • Dr. Sevgen Tanır Basaranoglu • Dr. Irena Tabain • Ivana Ferencak • Dr. Karoline Leuzinger • Dr. Eleftheria Kampouri • Dr. Aparna Ahuja • Dr. Hamish Graham • Dr. Slim Fourati • Dr. Ellen Walsh • Dr. Maria Alejandra Mendoza • Dr. Akbar Shoukat • Dr. Cristina Russo • Dr. Flavio Veras • Dr. Antonio Russo

## Where in the world...

2023 New ESGREV Members

- United States, 10
- United Kingdom, 6
- Australia, 3
- Germany, 3
- India, 3
- Italy, 3
- Switzerland, 3
- Croatia, 2
- France, 2
- Pakistan, 2
- Spain, 2
- Turkey, 2
- Bangladesh, 1
- Brazil, 1
- Greece, 1
- Ireland, 1
- Korea, 1
- Nepal, 1
- Netherlands, 1
- Nigeria, 1
- Portugal, 1
- Taiwan, 1
- Ukraine, 1

## are ESGREV's new members from?



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# Meet some of our newest members!

**Chris Littlejohn** is a Consultant in Health Protection in the Public Health Directorate of Grampian Health Board, which provides the National Health Service in the north-east of Scotland around Aberdeen. Chris leads the health protection function (communicable disease and infectious and other environmental hazards) of the health board. Chris trained in public health medicine and epidemiology in Aberdeen, is a registered public health specialist on the United Kingdom Public Health Register (UKPHR), and an honorary senior clinical lecturer in public health at the University of Aberdeen. Chris is a new member of ESCMID and is a keen runner and hiker.

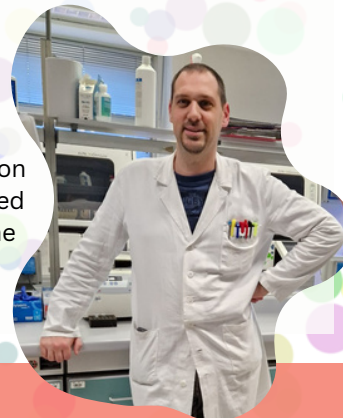


*Welcome, Chris!*



*Welcome, Isabell!*

**Dr. Francesco Cerutti**, MSc, PhD, is a clinical microbiologist at the Laboratory of Microbiology and Virology at Amedeo di Savoia Hospital in Turin, Italy. His expertise is in virology and molecular biology, with a focus on epidemiology and transmission dynamics of viruses, particularly arboviruses. Recently, he has been involved in studying respiratory viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, influenza A/B, and RSV, since the laboratory where he is based serves as the regional reference center for Influenza and other emerging viruses. He has extensive experience in NGS sequencing, data analysis, as well as bioinformatics and phylogenetics.



**WELCOME, FRANCESCO!**

**Dr. Jon Salmanton-García** is a Project Manager and Postdoctoral Researcher at the Uniklinik Köln (University Hospital Cologne) in Germany.



He has a PhD in Health Sciences from the University of Cologne and has been working at the Uniklinik Köln since 2016. His research focuses on fungal infections (within FungiScope), vaccination (within VACCELERATE) and viral respiratory infection in hematological patients (within EPICOVIDEHA). He is also a Fellow of the European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM).

*Welcome, Jon!*

**Dr. Saeed Ahmad** is a dedicated medical epidemiologist, from Pakistan. He holds academic degree in Medicine (MBBS), Public Health (MSPH) and Project Management, followed by diverse professional experience in Public Health and Epidemiology with the US-CDC, UK Health Security Agency, and WHO. Dr. Ahmad's expertise revolves around disease surveillance and response, particularly in epidemic-prone infectious diseases for attaining Global Health Security and International Health Regulations (IHR) implementation in Pakistan. His commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 3 is evident through active participation in monitoring and evaluation, workforce development, and research.

*Welcome, Saeed!*

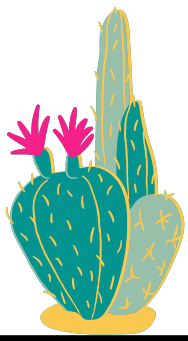


**Dr. Ira Praharaaj**, MD, PhD is a public health microbiologist and virologist with experience in capacity building for detection and characterisation of emerging and re-emerging pathogens currently working on the genomic epidemiology of SARS CoV2, Influenza virus and Respiratory Syncytial virus (RSV). She leads a public health virology laboratory involved in vaccine-preventable disease surveillance and has optimized next-generation sequencing facilities and protocols for SARS CoV2 and Influenza. Her research interests focus on using molecular diagnostic tools and next-generation sequencing (NGS) for studying the genomic epidemiology of respiratory viruses and other emerging and re-emerging pathogens in my settings.

*Welcome, Ira!*



See our helpful guide to share with your colleagues on [How to Join ESGREV!](#) Find the PDF [here!](#)



# MEMBER

news



follow her on X @fleuriepeurie

## CONGRATS, DR. LANGEDIJK!

ESGREV member Annefleur Langedijk (UMC Utrecht) successfully defended her thesis on 27 OCT, 2023. The title of her thesis was "We are all on the same team – Growing together towards RSV prevention."



## What's Next?

In August 2023, Annefleur assumed a role as Medical Affairs Scientist specializing

in RSV at Pfizer!

Way to go,

Annefleur!



## Mentorship:

Annefleur's PhD Supervisor was ESGREV member prof. Louis Bont MD PhD, Dept of Pediatric Infectious Diseases & Immunology, UMC Utrecht. Read more about her defense [here!](#)



# MEET THE PROFESOR



**Dr. Michelle Yong**

**Michelle Yong, MBBS, FRACP, MPH, PhD** is a post-doctoral ID clinician researcher and holds appointments at the Department of Infectious Diseases, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Royal Melbourne Hospital, Australia. She has a special interest in infections in the immune-compromised host and is head of the clinical research trials unit and a research fellow with the Australian National Centre for Infections in Cancer (NCIC).

She leads a research program aimed at better understanding the impact of viral infections such as CMV and respiratory viral infections on transplant outcomes, focusing on identifying risk factors for infection, risk prediction, monitoring and optimisation of antiviral therapies.

After completing her ID training in Melbourne, she undertook a PhD in CMV immune monitoring at Monash University, Australia and at the Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris France. She represents Australian, Asia Pacific and

You can follow Dr. Yong  
on X @michyong2

International interests through societal roles and is excited to be part of the organizing committee of the upcoming ICHS meeting in Antalya Turkey, April 2024.

Outside of her career, she is a busy dance, sport, and unpaid Uber driver (with bad reviews) to 3 daughters! However, when she gets the opportunity, she loves exploring the beautiful Australian coastline enjoying the tranquillity and beauty of the ocean. She also enjoys reading, languages, playing the piano, and cooking/trying new recipes with fun and different fresh ingredients. There are also some preliminary plans to hike the Larapinta Trail in central Australia next year, followed by the W trek in Patagonia after that!



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# 2023 ESGREV HIGHLIGHTS

We had a successful year full of exciting collaborations and networking with several ESCMID study groups and other professional societies

ESGREV was a lead organizer for an on-site educational event in January 2023, held in Istanbul, Turkey

We were a lead organizer in two virtual events, include a 2-day event and a webinar on the use of saliva for surveillance of respiratory viruses – see pg. 7 for info!

Three ESGREV session proposals were approved for ECCMID 2024!

As a study group, we published 6 articles, including guidelines and original articles, in very high-impact journals CMI, TCT, Viruses, Frontiers, & Cancer Medicine! (see pg. 7 for links to our pubs)

## ESGREV Annual Evaluation

- ✦ **ESCMID requires that each study group demonstrates a commitment to academic and collaborative science, and list their achievements in their annual reports.**
- ✦ **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?** The top 5 study groups with consistently high performance is eligible for the Study Group Excellence Award and a monetary prize.
- ✦ **HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Engage with us on publications, research initiatives, collaborations with other ESCMID study groups, and educational activities that meet ESCMID's requirements. For questions, reach out to Amy Spallone [aspallone@mdanderson.org](mailto:aspallone@mdanderson.org)



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# 2023 ESGREV ACTIVITIES

## Educational Events:



**Post-graduate Course in Istanbul, Turkey  
Update on current emerging infections**

See the recording [here!](#)



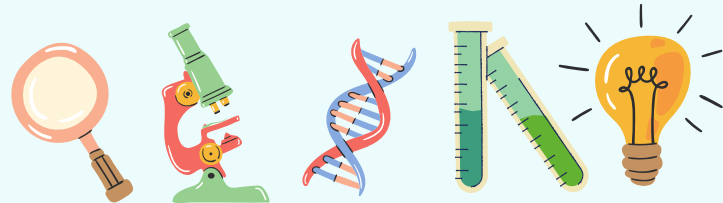
**Update on Infections in  
Immunocompromised Hosts**

You can view the flyer [here!](#)



**ESGREV / ESGEM: The use of saliva for  
surveillance of respiratory viruses**

You can watch the webinar [here!](#)



## ESGREV Publications

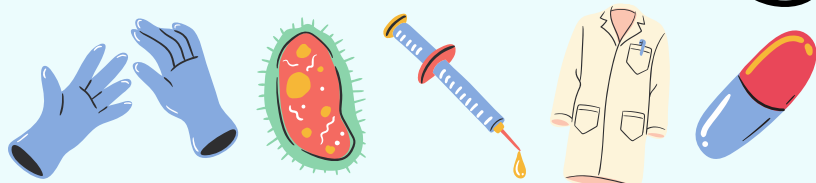
- Management of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infections in Hematopoietic Cell Transplant Recipients
- Disease Burden and Inpatient Management of Children with Acute Respiratory Viral Infections during the Pre-COVID Era in Germany: A Cost-of-Illness Study
- Immune response to respiratory viruses and respiratory viral infections in susceptible populations
- Epidemiology of respiratory viruses among children during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic: A systematic review and meta-analysis
- Clinical trials for treatment of respiratory viral infections in recipients of haematopoietic cell transplantation and cellular therapies
- An international multi-center study comparing COVID-19 omicron outcomes in patients with hematological malignancies treated with Obinutuzumab vs. Rituximab  
Accepted for publication Dec 11, 2023

## ESGREV at ECCMID 2024

MEET-THE-EXPERT	Guidance for influenza treatment
MEET-THE-EXPERT	Spitting image: using saliva as a diagnostic sample
1-HOUR SYMPOSIUM	Dynamics of respiratory viral infections: implications for infection control

## ESGREV Collaborators

- ESGEM (Epidemiological Markers)
- EFISG (Fungal Infections)
- ESGMYC (Mycobacterial Infections)
- ESGICH (Immunocompromised Hosts)
- ICHS (International Immunocompromised Host Society)
- ASTCT (American Society of Transplant and Cellular Therapy)
- ISIRV (International Society of Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses)



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