

Statutes

EUROPEAN CROHN'S AND COLITIS ORGANISATION

Table of contents

- § 1. Name, seat and field of activities
- § 2. Mission and objectives
 - 2.1. Mission
 - 2.2. Objectives
- § 3. Means to achieve the mission and objectives of ECCO
 - 3.1. Ideal Means
 - 3.2. Material Means
- § 4. Membership
 - 4.1. Definition of ECCO Members
 - 4.2. Membership categories
 - 4.3. Admission of ECCO Members
 - 4.4. Rights and obligations of ECCO Members
 - 4.5. Termination of ECCO Membership
- § 5. Structure
 - 5.1. Definition
 - 5.2. The General Assembly
 - 5.3. The Governing Board
 - 5.4. The ECCO Office
 - 5.5. The Operational Board
 - 5.6. The Strategic Council
 - 5.7. Internal Auditors
 - 5.8. Court of Arbitration
- § 6. Publications
 - 6.1. The Journal of Crohn's and Colitis (JCC)
 - 6.2. ECCO News
- § 7. Changes in the ECCO Statutes
- § 8. Dissolution of ECCO

§ 1. Name, seat and field of activities

- The name of the organisation is "European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation".
- The legal seat is in Vienna, Austria. The location of the seat can be changed by a simple majority decision of the Governing Board.
- ECCO acts inside Europe and also encourages collaboration beyond Europe's borders.
- ECCO is a not-for-profit association; the goal of ECCO will never be to generate financial profits.
- ECCO acts without national, linguistic, religious or philosophical preference.
- ECCO has been founded for an unlimited period of time. It can discontinue its activities at any time.
- The working language of ECCO is English.
- The daily currency is the Euro.
- The fiscal year of ECCO is the calendar year.

§ 2. Mission

- ECCO aims to improve research, education and collaboration in the area of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) for the purpose of improving the care of patients with IBD. As part of this mission, ECCO will promote all efforts that lead to an improvement in current therapies or procedures that may ultimately result in complete disease control, i.e. cure.

§ 3. Means to achieve the mission of ECCO

3.1. Ideal means

The ideal means to achieve the organisation's objectives shall be obtained as follows:

- To promote, sponsor and steer European international research efforts in the field of IBD.
- To cooperate and collaborate with patient organisations and other organisations that share an interest in IBD, including medical societies and companies, and to create a political voice for patients with IBD in Europe.
- To enhance the quality of research in the field of IBD, in both basic science (e.g. through the organisation of scientific workshops) and clinical science (e.g. through the development of IBD study protocols).
- To facilitate and promote the education of health care professionals in the field of IBD (i.e. physicians, nurses and affiliate specialists).
- To organise international and regional scientific or educational exchange programmes in the field of IBD.
- To influence the management of IBD through the development, publication, dissemination and teaching of IBD guidelines and other educational material.

- To participate in the activities of the United European Gastroenterology Federation (UEGF) and in the organisation of the annual United European Gastroenterology Week (UEGW).
- To be transparent about ECCO governance, structure, activities, finances and all other ECCO operational matters, thereby ensuring that information is readily available to ECCO Members and the medical, scientific and academic community.
- To generate income out of the management of assets (e.g. by founding of or investing in a corporation, license fees) supporting the mission of ECCO.

3.2. Material Means

The material means to achieve the organisation's objectives shall be obtained as follows:

- An annual individual membership fee will be charged to Regular, IBD nurse and Affiliate ECCO Members. The Governing Board determines and the General Assembly approves the amount of the annual individual membership fees.
- An annual membership fee will be charged to ECCO Country Members for the purpose of supporting advanced training in IBD for aspiring specialists in IBD from these countries. The Governing Board determines and the General Assembly approves the amount.
- An annual membership fee will be charged to ECCO Corporate Members, with a commitment for at least two years. The Governing Board determines and the General Assembly approves the amount of the annual Corporate Membership fee.
- Direct or indirect income from unrestricted educational grants, the annual congress, workshops, consultancies, scientific publications or other funding or grant programmes from national or international scientific organisations or governments requires approval by the Governing Board. Gifts, donations and legacies may be incorporated into the funds of ECCO upon approval by the Governing Board.
- Revenue from trade publications which are dedicated to the publication of research results and the circulation of information to members may be incorporated into the funds of ECCO upon approval by the Governing Board.

§ 4. Membership

4.1. Definition of ECCO Members

- The members of ECCO are physicians, nurses or affiliate specialists, national IBD scientific organisations and corporations interested in IBD.
- Membership is irrespective of nationality, language, ethnic group, religion, philosophy or gender.

4.2. Membership categories

Membership categories are:

- Individual Members (Regular Members, Y-ECCO, IBD nurses, Affiliate Members, Honorary Members)
- Country Members and
- Corporate Members.

4.2.1. Individual Members

- A Regular Member is a physician or scientist with a university degree working in the field of IBD.
- A Regular Member younger than 35 years of age is a member of Young ECCO (Y-ECCO) unless he or she has opted out.
- An IBD nurse is a clinical or research nurse with an interest in the field of IBD.
- An Affiliate Member is any healthcare professional or student with an interest in the field of IBD at a post-graduate level.
- An Honorary Member is a person who has made an exceptional contribution to ECCO that has had a substantive impact on ECCO's development and the achievement of its mission and objectives. Honorary membership is conferred to express ECCO's wish to honour this person for their contribution.

4.2.2. Country Members

- A Country Member is a national IBD organisation that encompasses individual physicians and scientists interested and/or working in the field of IBD, or established national scientific groups dedicated to IBD. Countries that can apply for membership are European countries and countries outside Europe that have established political relationships with European bodies like the Council of Europe.

4.2.3. Corporate Members

- A Corporate Member is a biomedical, biotechnological, nutritional or other company with a key interest in IBD or with products or services in the field. ECCO Corporate Membership requires a commitment for a period of at least two years.

4.3. Admission of ECCO Members

- Applicants for individual membership who meet the definition of membership should send an application to the ECCO Office for review. Applicants meeting the criteria will be approved by the Governing Board. The General Assembly will be informed about the admission of new individual members at the annual meeting.
- Candidates for Honorary Membership can be proposed by any ECCO Member within the course of the regular election process. The Governing Board recommends the final candidates for approval by the General Assembly at the annual meeting.

- Applicants for Country Membership that meet the definition of membership should send an application to the ECCO Office for review. Applicants meeting the criteria will be approved by the Governing Board. The General Assembly will be informed about the admission of new Country Members at the annual meeting, after a short presentation about IBD in their country.
- Applicants for Corporate Membership that meet the definition of membership should apply to the ECCO Office. Applicants meeting the criteria will be approved by the Governing Board. The General Assembly will be informed about the admission of new Corporate Members at the annual meeting.

4.4. Rights and obligations of ECCO Members

4.4.1. Regular Members (incl. Y-ECCO)

- Must pay the membership fee on time to be recognised as a “Member in good standing” and to be able to vote or avail themselves of other opportunities open to Regular Members.
- Must observe the ECCO Statutes and conduct themselves in an appropriate and ethical manner.
- Constitute the General Assembly with all statutory rights.
- Have the right to receive all information regarding the work of ECCO within the scope of data protection/ownership and other legal and regulatory diligence.
- Are allowed to nominate candidates for election of ECCO Officers.
- Have the right to apply for an official function within ECCO when they have been Regular Members for more than two years.
- Receive a free subscription to the Journal of Crohn’s and Colitis (JCC).
- Pay a reduced congress fee for the ECCO Congress.

4.4.2. IBD nurse and Affiliate Members

- Must pay the membership fee on time to be recognised as a “Member in good standing” and to be able to vote or avail themselves of other opportunities open to members.
- Must observe the ECCO Statutes and conduct themselves in an appropriate and ethical manner.
- Constitute the General Assembly with all statutory rights.
- Have the right to receive all information regarding the work of ECCO within the scope of data protection/ownership and other legal and regulatory diligence.
- Are allowed to nominate candidates for election as N-ECCO Officers.
- Pay a reduced congress fee for the ECCO Congress.

4.4.3. Honorary Members

- Have the same rights and obligations as Regular Members (see 4.4.1.).
- Are members of the Strategic Council of ECCO.
- Will be listed as “Honorary Member” in communication materials and on the ECCO website.

4.4.4. Country Members

- Country Members are represented by up to two Regular Members (designated National Representatives) of their respective country.
- The representatives of the Country Members have the same rights and obligations as Regular Members (see 4.4.1.).
- The National Representatives are members of the Strategic Council of ECCO, and meet during Strategic Council meetings.
- The National Representatives have the right to recommend candidates for the annual IBD Intensive Advanced Course, contingent on payment of the Country Membership fee. The National Representatives have an obligation to collaborate with ECCO in a synergistic manner, aiming to meet both national IBD objectives and the objectives of ECCO as defined in 2.
- Country Members are required to define the process of selecting their National Representatives and period of tenure.

4.4.5. Corporate Members

- Corporate Members must observe the ECCO Statutes and conduct themselves in an appropriate and ethical manner.
- Potential Corporate Members are identified from the biomedical, biotechnical, nutrition, imaging, devices, information technology, nutrition and other companies that have a key interest in the field of IBD and/or offer products and/or services in the field of IBD.
- Representatives of Corporate Members are registered at the ECCO Office and must pay the ECCO Corporate Membership fee on time to be recognised as a "Corporate Member in good standing".
- Representatives of Corporate Members are invited to attend the General Assembly, but do not hold voting rights in the General Assembly.
- Corporate Members must agree to a commitment of at least two consecutive years of ECCO Corporate Membership.

4.5. Termination of ECCO Membership

- The Governing Board has the right to exclude any member for inappropriate or unethical behaviour or for activities contrary to the principles of ECCO.
All categories of ECCO Members end their ECCO Membership when members declare their withdrawal or fail to renew their membership on an annual basis.

§ 5. Structure

5.1. Definition

ECCO consists of various organs, each of which is assigned a specific task. The organs that make up ECCO are:

- The General Assembly
- The Governing Board

- The ECCO Office
- The Operational Board
- The Strategic Council
- The Internal Auditors
- The Court of Arbitration

5.2. *The General Assembly*

5.2.1. The General Assembly is the supreme organ of ECCO. It is constituted of all Regular Members, IBD nurses and Affiliate Members, Honorary Members, National Representatives and registered representatives of ECCO Corporate Members (albeit without voting rights).

5.2.2. The General Assembly takes place during the annual ECCO Congress. The agenda has to be distributed six weeks prior to the meeting. Requests to add items to the agenda must be sent to the ECCO Office at least four weeks in advance. Resolutions can only be decided on topics placed on the agenda. Urgent material can be discussed under "Other Business" on the agenda, but definitive resolutions on these topics are not possible. The chair during the General Assembly is taken by the ECCO President or a delegated representative of the Governing Board.

5.2.3. An Extraordinary General Assembly can be called by the Governing Board or by at least 10% of all ECCO Members, who should request such a meeting in writing to the ECCO Office, giving substantive reasons. All ECCO Members have to be informed about such an Extraordinary General Assembly at least four weeks in advance, indicating the date, time, location and agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly. The Governing Board will call the meeting.

5.2.4. The General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly can only vote 10 minutes after the official beginning of the meeting, regardless of the number of members present. Votes and decisions are made based on a simple majority vote (more than half of all votes are needed to approve a motion). In the event of a tied vote, the votes of the Governing Board prevail. Changes in the statutes require a qualified majority vote (two-thirds of the votes must approve the proposed changes).

5.2.5. The General Assembly's functions and responsibilities are:

- To be informed of accepted new Regular Members, IBD nurses and Affiliate Members, new Country Members and new Corporate Members, and to exclude members for statutory reasons
- To approve Honorary Members
- To receive the Annual Report from the Governing Board
- To approve the Treasurer's report
- To elect two Internal Auditors
- To vote on changes to ECCO Statutes
- To approve membership fees

- To elect one Regular Member of the Court of Arbitration
- To exclude members of the Governing Board or Internal Auditors for substantive reasons
- To implement the dissolution of the association
- To discuss and vote on any other topic on the agenda
- To endorse the Governing Board
- To exonerate the Governing Board from personal financial responsibility after approving the Treasurer's report

5.3. The Governing Board

5.3.1. The Governing Board of ECCO is responsible for accomplishing the mission and associated objectives as formulated in paragraph 2. The Governing Board is in charge of:

- Good governance of ECCO,
- Strategy development and innovation,
- Responsible financial management,
- Supervision of the operational activities of all ECCO organs, and
- Upholding the ECCO Statutes according to the highest moral and ethical standards.

5.3.2. The Governing Board consists of seven Regular ECCO Members from ECCO Member Countries:

- President
- President-Elect
- Past-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Scientific Officer
- Education Officer

5.3.3. Governing Board members must complete and sign a "Disclosure of financial and other connections (i.e. conflict of interest)", which will be published on the ECCO website.

5.3.4. Should a member of the Governing Board have to retire during his/her term in office for whatever reason, the remaining Governing Board members have the right to co-opt a temporary Governing Board member until the next General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly.

5.3.5. Decisions can be made by the Governing Board only when at least half of the Governing Board Members are present and with a majority vote.

5.3.6. Election of members of the Governing Board

5.3.6.1. Announcement of elections and nominations

- The ECCO Office must circulate information about positions open for election to all voting members at least 12 weeks before the General Assembly.

- Nominations for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer:
 - Can be made by any Regular Member.
 - Require one proposer and two seconders who are Regular Members. Both the proposer and the seconders can be any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing, except members of the Governing Board, who are excluded.
 - Must be sent in writing to the ECCO Office containing the following information: the name and affiliation of the person proposed; the name and affiliation of the proposer; the names and affiliations of the seconders. The proposer and seconders must all be from different nations.
- Nominations for the Scientific Officer and Education Officer
 - Are made by members and former members of the Operational Board.
 - The person proposed should be an elected member of the relevant committee and consent to his/her nomination.
- Nominations must be received by the ECCO Office nine weeks before the meeting of the Governing Board at which such nominations for election are due; this will normally be at or about the time of the annual General Assembly.
- Details of the nominations for officers of the Governing Board, proposers and seconders should be provided by the ECCO Office to all members in good standing at least six weeks before the General Assembly.

5.3.6.2. Eligibility

- Eligibility for President-Elect:

Any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing who has been an ECCO Regular Member for a minimum of two years can stand for election unless he/she holds a current position in industry or is a President or Past-President.

- Eligibility for Secretary:

Any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing who has served as an ECCO Committee member in the past and/or present can stand for election unless he/she holds a current position in industry or is a President-Elect, President, Past-President or Secretary who has served for two terms.

- Eligibility for Treasurer:

Any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing who has been an ECCO Member for a minimum of two years can stand for election unless he/she holds a current position in industry or is a Regular Member who has served as Treasurer for two terms.

- Eligibility for Scientific Officer or Education Officer:

Any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing who has been an ECCO Member for a minimum of two years and who has served a full term on the Operational Board can stand for election unless he/she holds a current position in industry.

5.3.6.3. Election procedure

- Candidates for President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer will be proposed to the General Assembly, which will vote, excluding members of the Governing Board.
- The voting is decided by a simple majority. If the vote is equally divided, the deciding vote is the vote of the ECCO President.
The Scientific Officer and Education Officer are appointed by the Governing Board upon nomination by elected members of the Operational Board.

5.3.7. Duties and rights of the Governing Board

5.3.7.1. General duties and rights

- To meet at least twice a year, typically during the annual ECCO Congress, the summer meeting and/or the UEGW.
- To prepare the programme for the meeting of the General Assembly and the Strategic Council meeting.
- To submit a financial report to the General Assembly annually.
- To appoint members of the Operational Board and Strategic Council.
- To approve and allocate funds to the Annual Plans of the Operational Board and its Committees.
- To inform the General Assembly about all ECCO affairs.
- To interact with industry in the field of IBD (as recognised in paragraph 4.4.5) with a view to collaboration and recruitment of Corporate Members.

5.3.7.2. The President

- The President will make every effort to lead ECCO to the attainment of its mission and objectives.
- The President will assume the position after that of President-Elect, upon the expiry of the term of the former President.
- The term of office is two years. Following expiry of the term, the President assumes the position of Past-President.
- In the event of incapacity of the President, the President-Elect will take office immediately and hold office until the expiry of his/her own mandate.
- The President has the following functions and responsibilities:
 - To be the official representative of ECCO.
 - To chair the Governing Board and meetings of the General Assembly.
 - To chair the Strategic Council.
 - To be responsible for the daily operations of the ECCO Office.
 - To sign appropriate documents internally and externally on behalf of ECCO.
 - To liaise with the industry
 - To represent ECCO externally

5.3.7.3. The President-Elect

- The President-Elect will make every effort to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives.

- The President-Elect serves a term of six years on the Governing Board: two years as President-Elect, two years as President and two years as Past-President.
- In the event of incapacity of the President, the President-Elect assumes the role of President and represents the association.
- The President-Elect has the following functions and responsibilities:
 - To appreciate and become cognisant with the overall lines of policy and directions of ECCO.
 - To assist the President in conducting the business of ECCO and official representation of ECCO.
 - To co-chair the Strategic Council.

5.3.7.4. The Secretary

- The Secretary will make every effort to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives.
- The term of office is three years. An ECCO Regular Member can be re-elected as Secretary only once.
- The Secretary has the following functions and responsibilities:
 - To supervise and coordinate the ECCO Office in daily activities.
 - To supervise processing and filing of ECCO correspondence, ensuring that this is appropriately done.
 - To notify the Governing Board, General Assembly and all ECCO Members of meetings, normally providing at least six weeks' prior notice.
 - To notify ECCO Members of Governing Board positions open for election at least twelve weeks prior to the General Assembly.
 - To send out the agenda and minutes of all Governing Board, General Assembly, Operational Board and Strategic Council meetings to the ECCO Office in a timely manner.
 - To record all resolutions passed by the Governing Board and General Assembly. The minutes shall be signed by the ECCO President and Secretary.
 - To be responsible for continuous updating of the ECCO Membership list, and to sign off each updated list containing new ECCO Members.
 - To chair the Operational Board.
 - To supervise Young ECCO (Y-ECCO), Surgeons of ECCO (S-ECCO) and Paediatricians of ECCO (P-ECCO) and to submit the annual report on their activities to the Governing Board in a timely manner.
 - To liaise with the industry.
 - To be the responsible editor for the ECCO website and its content.
 - To supervise publication and to coordinate activities relating to ECCO News.
 - To liaise with the Editor-in-Chief of JCC.

5.3.7.5. The Treasurer

- The Treasurer will make every endeavour to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives.

- The term of office of the Treasurer is three years, which can be extended by one more term of three years.
- The ECCO Treasurer has the following functions and responsibilities:
 - To carry out the financial dispositions decided by the Governing Board.
 - To keep accurate records thereof by the keeping of proper books of account with respect to the following: all sums of money received and expended, all sales and purchases, and all assets and liabilities.
 - To report to the Governing Board and the General Assembly on the financial state of ECCO within a given fiscal year and to propose a budget for the following year.
 - To submit these accounts to the Internal Auditors.
 - The Treasurer will supervise the ECCO Office in the collection of these funds and will maintain bank accounts in an international bank.
 - The Treasurer will report on the finances to the General Assembly once a year. Upon approval of the Treasurer's report, the General Assembly exonerates members of the Governing Board, thereby waiving the right of individuals or corporations to enforce damage claims against the Governing Board Members based on a potential violation of their obligations pursuant to the respective laws or regulations.

5.3.7.6. The Past-President

- The Past-President will make every endeavour to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives.
- The Past-President is the function assumed upon expiry of the Presidential term.
- The term of office of the Past-President is two years.
- The Past-President has the following functions and responsibilities:
 - To advise the Governing Board.
 - To co-chair the Strategic Council.
 - To lead ECCO initiatives on Public Relations and interaction with (potential) Corporate Members and to foster relations with partners in the field of IBD outside of Europe in conjunction with the President.

5.3.7.7. The Education Officer

- The Education Officer will make every endeavour to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives.
- The term of office of the Education Officer is two years and can be extended by one more term of two years.
- The Education Officer has the following functions and responsibilities:
 - To co-chair the Operational Board.
 - To chair, coordinate and supervise the activities of the Education Committee (EduCom), the Guidelines Committee (GuiCom), and Nurses of ECCO (N-ECCO).
 - To prepare Annual Plans, budget estimates or timelines with the Chairs of the respective committees (EduCom, GuiCom, N-ECCO) before October 1

of each calendar year, or to alert the Governing Board if their preparation is not possible.

- To submit the Annual Reports of EduCom, GuiCom and N-ECCO to the Governing Board prior to February 1 of each calendar year.

5.3.7.8. *The Scientific Officer*

- The Scientific Officer will make every endeavour to assist ECCO in achieving its mission and objectives.
- The term of office of the Scientific Officer is two years, which can be extended by one more term of two years.
- The Scientific Officer has the following functions and responsibilities:
 - To co-chair the Operational Board.
 - To chair, coordinate and supervise the activities of the Scientific Committee (SciCom), the Clinical Research Committee (ClinCom), and the Epidemiological Committee (EpiCom).
 - To help prepare the Annual Plans, budget estimates and timelines with the Chairs of the respective Committees (SciCom, ClinCom, EpiCom), before October 1 of each calendar year, or to alert the Governing Board if their preparation is not possible.
 - To submit the Annual Reports of SciCom, ClinCom and EpiCom to the Governing Board before February 1 of each calendar year.

5.4. *The ECCO Office*

- The ECCO Office falls under the responsibility of the President and the Secretary.
- The ECCO Office consists of a Chief Operational Officer leading and supervising one or more staff members. The Chief Operational Officer reports directly to the President and Secretary.
- Functionaries of the ECCO Office may not (1) disclose any confidential information to any person (other than, during their period of employment by ECCO, to another employee of ECCO who requires such information to perform his or her duties for ECCO), or (2) use any confidential information for their own benefit or the benefit of any third party.
- The ECCO Office has the following functions and responsibilities:
 - To handle all daily operational activities of ECCO and report periodically to the President and Secretary.
 - To manage, process, archive and back-up all correspondence, inquiries, requests, financial operations, and other administrative matters in a timely, well structured and courteous manner.
 - To notify all Organs of ECCO of intended meetings at least six weeks in advance.
 - To notify all ECCO Members of positions open for election at least twelve weeks prior to the General Assembly.
 - To prepare and circulate the agenda and minutes of all Governing Board, General Assembly, Operational Board and Strategic Council meetings.
 - To record all decisions, resolutions and proposals passed by the Governing Board, General Assembly, Operational Board and Strategic Council. The

minutes shall be signed by the ECCO President and Secretary (Governing Board, General Assembly), the Secretary (Operational Board) and the President (Strategic Council).

- To continuously verify and update the (contact) details of all ECCO Members and other partners in the ECCO database.
- To assist the editors of JCC and ECCO News in optimising publication materials, respecting deadlines and enhancing dissemination of the publications, as well as in preparing and keeping records of meetings, minutes, contracts and formulated deliverables.
- To be responsible for the IT infrastructure of ECCO, including Customer Relation Management (CRM) applications, the Content Management System (CMS) of the ECCO website and other ECCO database applications like ePayment, abstract handling and eLearning.

5.5. The Operational Board

5.5.1. Description

- The Operational Board of ECCO is responsible for assisting the Governing Board in accomplishing the mission and associated objectives as formulated in paragraph 2 of the ECCO Statutes.
- The Operational Board is responsible for all operational activities organised by ECCO Committees: ClinCom, EduCom, EpiCom, GuiCom, N-ECCO, P-ECCO, S-ECCO, SciCom and Y-ECCO.
- The Operational Board meets at least twice annually, typically during the Annual ECCO Congress, the Summer Meeting and the UEGW.

5.5.2. Members of the Operational Board

- The Operational Board consists of eleven Regular ECCO Members: President-Elect (Chair), Education Officer (co-Chair), Scientific Officer (co-Chair), and the Chairs of ClinCom, EduCom, EpiCom, GuiCom, N-ECCO, P-ECCO, S-ECCO, SciCom and Y-ECCO.
- Should a Member of the Operational Board have to retire during his/her term of office for whatever reason, the remaining Operational Board Members have the right to co-opt a temporary Member, preferably from the respective committees, until the following statutory election.

5.5.3. Election

- Elections of the President-Elect, Education Officer and Scientific Officer are performed according to the procedures stipulated under paragraph 5.3.6.
- The Chair of each of the Committees constituting the ECCO Operational Board (ClinCom, EduCom, EpiCom, GuiCom, N-ECCO, P-ECCO, S-ECCO, SciCom and Y-ECCO) is nominated by their respective committee, endorsed by the Chair and co-Chairs of the Operational Board and approved by the Governing Board.
- The members of each of the ECCO Operational Board Committees are elected according to the election procedures for committee members:

- The call for election is sent out to all ECCO Regular Members/IBD nurse Members 12 weeks before the Governing Board meeting.
- Submission of the application is restricted to ECCO Regular Members/IBD nurse Member.
- The application must be submitted at least four weeks prior to the Governing Board meeting.
- The Chairs and co-Chairs of the Operational Board endorse individual candidates who have been nominated by the respective committee based upon predefined criteria; the Governing Board approves each nominee.
- Elected committee members will be installed during the General Assembly; all candidates will be informed in writing of the outcome of the elections.
- The term of committee members is two years, with possible renewal for one more term of two years.

5.5.4. Tasks and responsibilities of the Operational Board Committees

- **Clinical Research Committee (ClinCom):** To improve the quality of IBD clinical research in Europe by acting as a broker advising and educating on the process, design, metrics, outcome measures and funding opportunities for clinical trials, in order to stimulate high-quality investigator-initiated trials (IIT) in IBD and to assist investigators developing IIT, as well as interacting with regulators and industry.
- **Education Committee (EduCom):** To educate ECCO Members about all aspects of evidence-based management of IBD both within ECCO Member countries and beyond Europe's borders, in order to improve the understanding and care of patients with IBD, by developing and implementing the most versatile and appropriate educational formats.
- **Epidemiological Committee (EpiCom):** To implement epidemiological research in Europe by supporting epidemiological cohort trials in Europe, assessing quality of care (QoC), evaluating differences in work productivity and activity, quality of life (QoL), surgery, cancer and mortality rates as well as appraising the impact of therapy on disease outcomes.
- **Guidelines Committee (GuiCom):** To develop, implement and evaluate evidence-based guidelines on the definition, classification and management of IBD, in order to improve the management of IBD in all ECCO Member countries, and to foster interaction with other specialist organisations with a view to joining forces in the creation and implementation of relevant guidelines.
- **Nurses of ECCO (N-ECCO):** To unite nurse professionals interested or involved in IBD care in order to improve the quality of nursing care for patients with IBD by improving professional nurse education throughout Europe and beyond Europe's borders. To establish networking opportunities for specialist nurses in IBD that will improve multidisciplinary working and

patient education and, in conjunction with GuiCom, to develop international guidelines for IBD nurses.

- **Paediatricians of ECCO (P-ECCO):** To improve knowledge of paediatric-specific IBD issues by producing and promoting paediatric-specific IBD guidelines, interacting with paediatric societies and coordinating clinical studies involving transitional or combined paediatric/adult aspects of IBD care.
- **Scientific Committee (SciCom):** To promote scientific activities within the ECCO community by defining clinical and pathogenetic research questions relevant to IBD, allocating ECCO Fellowships, Grants and Travel Awards, preparing the scientific programme of the ECCO Congress and contributing to the IBD programme for UEGW. To support and stimulate scientific interactions within the ECCO community and beyond through scientific workshops, and to interact with all other ECCO committees in order to propose ancillary scientific studies.
- **Surgeons of ECCO (S-ECCO):** To provide a surgical advisory group to promote cooperation between surgeons and gastroenterologists in IBD research, education, development of guidelines and patient care. To develop specialist education in IBD surgery and to promote European surgical research in IBD, as well as interaction with other surgical societies.
- **Young ECCO (Y-ECCO):** To support friendship and collaboration between young clinicians and scientists interested in IBD care, research and education. To support and participate in the educational and scientific activities of ECCO and to act as a platform for all young clinicians and scientists who want to contribute to ECCO and its activities.
- All ECCO Officers of all Committees are required to complete and sign a "Disclosure of financial and other connections (i.e. conflict of interest)", which will be published on the ECCO website.

5.6. The Strategic Council

5.6.1. Description

- The Strategic Council of ECCO is responsible for assisting and advising the Governing Board in accomplishing the mission and associated objectives as formulated in paragraph 2 of the ECCO Statutes.
- The Strategic Council meets at least once annually, typically during the Annual ECCO Congress prior to the General Assembly. The agenda will be distributed six weeks prior to the meeting. Requests to add items to the agenda must be submitted four weeks in advance. Resolutions can only be decided on topics placed on the agenda. Urgent material can be discussed under "Other Business" on the agenda, but definitive resolutions on these topics are not possible.

- The activity of the Strategic Council is coordinated by the ECCO President as Chair and the President-Elect and Past-President as co-Chairs.

5.6.2. Members of the Strategic Council

- The Strategic Council consists of the National Representatives, the Honorary Members of ECCO, Members of the Global Relations Committee and representatives of organisations allied to ECCO.
- The term of office as a National Representative is determined by the procedures or statutes of national IBD groups and organisations in that country. The electoral process for National Representatives should be submitted. The term of office should normally not exceed three years, with re-election no more than once.
- Each ECCO Country Member elects two National Representatives who serve on the Strategic Council. The election of National Representatives is performed in the following way:
 - For Country Members with established National IBD Scientific Organisations:
 - One National Representative is expected to be an ex officio representative of the national IBD scientific organisation.
 - One National Representative is expected to be elected by Regular Members of ECCO in that country, organised among these members from lists of Regular Members in good standing supplied by the ECCO Office.
 - For Country Members with no national IBD scientific organisation, both National Representatives are expected to be elected by the ECCO Regular Members in that country.

5.6.3. Tasks and responsibilities of the Strategic Council

- To bring forward the views of
 - Individual ECCO Member States,
 - Honorary Members,
 - Representatives of global IBD organisations, and
 - Other persons or institutions/organisations interested in ECCO activities, and
 - Thereby to advise the Governing Board.
- To recommend to their country's trainees in IBD that they attend the IBD Intensive Advanced Course.
- To promote and encourage members of their National Organisation to become individual members, in order to promote the values of ECCO.
- Each representative must be an individual member of ECCO in good standing.

5.7. Internal Auditors

The accounts of ECCO shall be audited by two Regular Members of ECCO (Internal Auditors) appointed by the General Assembly and monitored by an externally registered financial institution, qualified to act as a certified public accountant, if required by law.

5.7.1. Election of Internal Auditors

- Eligibility for two Internal Auditors:
Any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing who has been a Regular Member for a minimum of two years and currently does not hold any other ECCO function can stand for election.
- Nomination for the Internal Auditors:
A call for nomination is sent to all ECCO Members at least 12 weeks before the General Assembly. The proposer can be any Regular Member of ECCO in good standing. Nomination must be submitted in writing containing the following information: the name and affiliation of the person proposed, and the name and affiliation of the proposer. The nominee and the proposer must be from different nations represented on the Strategic Council. The nomination must be received at least nine weeks before the General Assembly. If an Internal Auditor has to retire during his/her term, the Governing Board has the right to co-opt a new Internal Auditor.
- The person proposed has to consent to his/her nomination.
- Details of the nominations must be provided to all members at least six weeks before the General Assembly.
- Candidates are elected by the General Assembly. Voting is by a simple majority. If the vote is equally divided, the deciding vote is the vote of the ECCO President.
- The duration of office is two years.

5.7.2. The externally registered auditor will be appointed by the Governing Board.

5.8. Court of Arbitration

- The Court of Arbitration may be called by the ECCO President on the advice of the Governing Board to resolve all disputes arising within ECCO that cannot be resolved by the organs or functionaries of ECCO.
- The Court of Arbitration will be composed of three Regular Members: one is to be chosen by the General Assembly and one chosen by the members of the Operational Board; these two members will choose a third acceptable to both, who will act as Chair.

§ 6. Publications

6.1. The Journal of Crohn's and Colitis (JCC)

- The Journal of Crohn's and Colitis (JCC) is the official journal of ECCO and is concerned with the dissemination of knowledge on clinical, basic science and innovative methods related to IBD.
- The journal publishes original articles, review papers, editorials, leading articles, viewpoints, case reports, innovative methods, abstracts and letters to the editor.

- JCC will be published periodically and will cover the knowledge and science related to IBD: the aims are to update, innovate and challenge current knowledge.
- JCC is defined as an "International Journal". Although it is the official journal of ECCO, it is open to everyone in the world interested and working in the field of IBD.

6.2. *ECCO News*

- ECCO News is the society's magazine for the dissemination of information on ECCO matters of material interest for the community, including announcements of elections.

§ 7. Changes in the ECCO Statutes

- Proposals to change the Statutes can be made by the Governing Board or by Regular Members. In the latter case, proposals must be presented to the ECCO President in writing no later than 12 weeks before the annual meeting of the General Assembly and must be supported by at least 100 Regular Members. Such proposed changes must be on the agenda for discussion by the General Assembly, where the changes must receive a two-thirds majority of those present.

§ 8. Dissolution of ECCO

- The voluntary dissolution of ECCO may be approved if proposed as a resolution in writing to the Governing Board by at least one-half (50%) of the Regular Members, and then is only valid if it is agreed by three-quarters of all Regular Members during an (Extraordinary) General Assembly.
- In the event of dissolution or with the omission of the benefited mission of ECCO, the assets of ECCO will be transferred to a not-for-profit organisation working in a similar charitable field of activity, according to § 34 ff BAO.
- A properly qualified lawyer should be appointed as liquidator.