



**CALL for participation in the ECCO Position Statement:
Definitions of histological abnormalities in IBD**

Application deadline: January 27, 2022

Context:

High quality microscopic examination of ileocolonic biopsies optimises the management of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Histology can confirm the diagnosis of IBD, assist with its subclassification (as ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease), exclude its mimics, estimate disease extent, and detect complications such as CMV and neoplasia. There is also considerable recent interest in its ability to determine disease activity and severity and to refine the assessment of the mucosal response to drug therapy.

Selection of histological features by the pathologist for particular attention depends on the setting and the clinical question. For example, basal plasmacytosis, crypt distortion and crypt atrophy support a diagnosis of IBD, while granulomas and distribution of changes help to distinguish ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease from one another.

Clinical trials require assessment of histological activity. Individual features that indicate activity include neutrophil cryptitis, crypt abscesses, neutrophil infiltration of the surface epithelium, erosion, or ulceration. Lamina propria neutrophils may also represent activity. Many of these features help predict response to therapy. Basal plasmacytosis and lamina propria eosinophils may also have value. However, clinical trials often use one of many composite scoring systems such as the Geboes score, Robarts index and Nancy index to assess histological activity/inflammation.

Project aims:

Despite strong reliance on histological features and scoring schemes for diagnosis, management, and clinical trials, there is often little information and/or little agreement on the basic definitions of histological abnormalities in IBD.

The many deficits and inconsistencies in histological definitions would benefit from specific attention, ideally by a group of experts and enthusiasts under the umbrella of a large IBD organisation using a process that is supported by the best available evidence. The result would be a new, comprehensive set of definitions of IBD histology in one publication from experts in pathology and gastroenterology.

The main aims of the project are:

- To identify all known definitions and criteria for each histological feature that may occur in IBD
- To create definitions of features where necessary
- To produce consensus ECCO definitions regarding the histological features of IBD
- To explore the reasons for and ways of reducing interobserver variability

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Project Workgroups:

WG 1: Definitions of architectural and epithelial abnormalities

WG 2: Definitions of chronic inflammation, granulomas, giant cells, and connective tissue changes

WG3: Definitions of acute inflammation, erosion, ulceration, and eosinophil abnormalities

WG 4: Histological definitions and terms for disease distribution, disease categories, epithelial atypia/dysplasia, and activity

Workgroups prepare core messages as "Position Statements" which will be discussed and voted on in a plenary meeting to achieve consensus. After the final vote, the manuscript is finalised and published in the *Journal of Crohn's and Colitis* (JCC).

To be selected **for one the Workgroups of this ECCO Position Statement ECCO members should apply via the link provided below.**

Timeline:

DATE	ACTION
JAN 2022	Call sent out, applicants selected and notified
FEB, 2022 (EXACT DATE TBC)	Kick-Off meeting
FEB-APR 2022	The workgroups will perform a systematic literature search of their topic and develop the first draft of Position Statements and supporting texts
APR-MAY 2022	Online voting round
MAY-AUG 2022	Revision of Position Statements based on feedback from voting round and final draft of Position Statements
SEP 2022	Virtual Consensus Meeting (half day/exact date TBC)
SEP-OCT 2022	Finalisation
NOV 2022	Cross-check by medical writer
DEC 2022 – JAN 2023	Submission to JCC

If you are:

- an ECCO Member (in good standing – 2022 membership)
- are interested in joining one of the Workgroups for this project
- able to commit to a mandatory virtual consensus meeting in September 2022 (exact dates and schedule TBC)

Then please apply online* under the following link. Please use your **ECCO Portal Credentials**: <https://cm.ecco-ibd.eu/cmProposalSubmission/proposal/ASSOC22/normal>

Deadline for submission is January 27, 2022



European
Crohn's and Colitis
Organisation

**Data processing consent and retention: By sending an application, you agree to the data processing for the above described project: ECCO Office stores applicants' personal data of this application for the project timeframe. You have the right to object at any time at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu. ECCO Office will delete data securely after the end of this project*

If you have trouble logging in, please contact ecco@ecco-ibd.eu

ECCO is looking forward to your application!

On behalf of the Project Coordinators,

Roger Feakins and Francesca Rosini

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