



European  
Crohn's and Colitis  
Organisation

**ECCO CALL for participants in the  
CD Treatment Consensus Guidelines 2017-2019  
(GRADE-Based Pioneer Edition)**

**Deadline for submissions is September 30, 2017.**

**Context:**

It is time to further enhance the ECCO Guidelines by taking advantage of the GRADE framework based on PICO questions, thus enhancing the user-friendliness and readability while strengthening the methodology and the clinical usefulness of the guidelines.

- the GRADE aspects should become a core part of the ECCO Treatment Guidelines and therefore **need a more continuous and work-intensive commitment by volunteering authors.**
- GRADE stands for **key aspects of guidelines development:** Grades of Recommendation, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation
- PICO stands for Population, Intervention, Outcomes, and Comparison – **PICO questions answer clinical queries**
- Yet, the Guidelines should not be a substitution for a textbook

**Aim of the project:**

The CD Treatment Consensus Guidelines 2017-2019 will become the pioneer project to introduce GRADE methodology aspects while merging the Clinical Treatment Guidelines part 2016 with the ECCO-ESCP Guidelines on Surgery in CD 2017.

Using the GRADE methodology where applicable will make the entire Guidelines process more transparent and rigorous in terms of quality of evidence and strength of recommendations.

**Participants will benefit from a training in GRADE methodology and standardized literature research.**

If you are:

- an ECCO Member (in good standing – 2017 membership)
- and are interested in joining one of the working parties for this project
- willing to commit fully to the enhanced process incl. online training sessions and the participation in the 2 F2F meetings (Kick-Off & Final Consensus, see fixed dates below).

please complete the [application form](#) and send it to [ecco@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:ecco@ecco-ibd.eu) .

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In each Workgroup, 1 seat is reserved for a Y-ECCO Member – yet, all participants will have assigned PICO questions to address, including a thorough literature search and drafting of corresponding text.

**Process:** This pioneer project will establish an enhanced work process in developing the new ECCO Guidelines.

Timeline	Process
Jan 2017	COMPULSORY online training in GRADE methodology for all participants
Jan-Mar 2018	PICO Questions must be prepared in advance
<b>Mar 17, 2018</b>	<b>Full-Day Kick-Off Meeting at Vienna Airport</b>
Feb 2018	start of literature research: each group takes away their questions and does the literature search with professional help (consultation based on a number of hours → 1-2 "floating" methodologists)
May 2018	Workgroups prepare summary tables and draft their statements (with first grading)
Nov 2018	Online voting with separate levels of evidence and strength: the evidence should be shown → voting participants accept, down-grade or up-grade. (Other factors can be brought in then.)
Feb/Mar 2019	2 <sup>nd</sup> Voting Round with National Reps providing optional feedback
Summer Meetings Vienna 2019 (2 <sup>nd</sup> half of June – TBC)	Final F2F Consensus Meeting: each group presents their statements and whole group ratifies them. It will be important to discuss the most controversial statements at beginning of meeting

Afterwards the statements are no longer amenable to change and the text detailing the supportive evidence is finalised for publication in the Journal of Crohn's and Colitis (JCC).

To facilitate the Consensus process, the ECCO participants will be selected for the Workgroups of this Consensus Panel on the basis of applications to this call: committed candidates expertise are highly encouraged to apply.

**Although experience in GRADE Methodology is favored, it is not an exclusive eligibility criterion.**

**First and foremost, it is the sincere commitment to invest the necessary time and to contribute with high-quality work that counts.**

***ECCO is looking forward to your application!***