



Newsletter

of the European Society for Artificial Organs

Letter from the President

ESAO Newsletter

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Dear members of the European Society for Artificial Organs,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you today the second issue of our newsletter in 2024.

This year is a double anniversary year, with the 50th anniversary of our society and the 50th congress. We will be celebrating both in the coming week here in Aachen, and we are already very excited and looking forward to it! You will find more upfront information about the congress preparations in this newsletter.



With regards to the society, a lot has happened since our last newsletter, particularly "in the background". For example, we have discussed how we can give our yESAO members a stronger voice on our Board, as they are an important and vital element of our organization with their enthusiasm and activities. We would also like to further clarify our election procedures for officers, especially for the President-elect. However, all this requires changes to our society statutes, which we have already prepared. We will discuss and finalize them further in our Board meeting on Sunday, September 8, and will then present them to you and put them to vote at the General Assembly on Monday, September 9. Please mark it in your congress schedules.

Furthermore, we have renewed the contract with the publisher Sage for the International Journal for Artificial Organs IJAO for another 3 years, although we are aware that the quality and impact of the journal needs improvement. We have therefore installed a task force under the lead of the Editor in Chief Andrea Remuzzi. We have already discussed and identified some promising ideas and measures, but above all we need the help of all of you by considering the submission of your high-quality manuscripts to the IJAO journal.

The most invigorating elements of our society are of course the congresses and schools on defined topics. So far, the congress for 2025 is scheduled to take place in June in Enschede, The Netherlands. However, the dates and locations for a potential winter school in early 2025 and the congress in 2026 are still open for applications. We would therefore like to call on you once again to apply for the organization of those events. You may do so by simply sending a short email to Anita Aichinger in our ESAO Office in Krems (Anita.Aichinger@donau-uni.ac.at).

In this context, please allow a personal comment, based on our current experience in organizing this years' congress starting on Sunday (resp. Saturday for yESAO). It is of course a lot of work, but also extremely rewarding. It brings your team closer together by following a common goal, it makes you proud to showcase yourself as a team and your city as your home, and it reflects your work by sharing your achievements with the scientific community. It is a bit like running a marathon: you suffer on the way and ask yourself why you are doing all this, but when you reach the finish line, your adrenalin goes up, and you feel exuberant happiness and pride that you made it. Our adrenalin goes up already, as we can already see the finish line. It will (most likely) even increase and turn into great excitement during the congress, like the run through the finish area. The exuberant happiness and pride will then (hopefully) come next Wednesday when we cross the finish line.

I can only encourage you to apply for it, it definitely pays out. After all, it will always stay a milestone in your careers and a part of ESAO's great history.

In any way, we are looking forward to welcoming you in Aachen very soon and wish you safe travels.

With kind regards,

Ulrich Steinseifer

ESAO President

ESAO Elections 2024 Candidates

This year, once again, the ESAO elections are run exclusively online with three Governor positions available, and the second term of our Treasurer. You can, and you should vote on the online link provided to you by ESAO (if you have your annual fees in good order) until September 8 at 23:59. If you didn't receive this link, please contact Anita Aichinger (anita.aichinger@donau-uni.ac.at) at once.

Candidates for Governors of the Board of ESAO

Sebastian Jansen (Aachen, Germany), second term



He is the Chief Engineer & Deputy Head at the Department of Cardiovascular Engineering at the Institute of Applied Medical Engineering of the Helmholtz Institute from RWTH Aachen University, Germany. He's been a member of ESAO since 2014 and a recipient of the Silver PhD-Award of the ESAO. He's been a Governor of the Board since 2021.

Ulrich Kertzscher (Berlin, Germany), second term

He is the Head of the Biofluid Mechanics Laboratory at Charite – Universitätsmedizin in Berlin, Germany. He has long been involved with ESAO as a member and former Treasurer. He is the recipient of several scientific awards (e.g. Innovation Award Medical Engineering, Innovation Award Bionics). He's been a Governor of the Board since 2021.



Krzysztof Zielinski (Warsaw, Poland), second term



He is an Assistant Professor and Head of the Lab. for Diagnostics and Therapy of Cardiovascular-Respiratory System at the Nalecz Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He is a member of the ESAO since 2009 and a board member since 2020 in the frame of his first election. He would like to use all his experience for a second term to support our Society better.

Johanna Charlotte Clauser (Aachen, Germany)

She is a PhD and a Group Leader in „Research & Validation“ at the Dept. Cardiovascular Engineering, Institute of Applied Medical Engineering, RWTH Aachen University, Germany. Her research interests range from blood-material interaction, in-vitro hemocompatibility testing, cardiovascular implants, and automation and standardization of test and analysis methods.



Diana Hortensia-Portan (Transylvania, Romania)



She has a PhD in Applied Chemistry and Materials Science by the Polytechnic University of Bucharest and she is currently a researcher at the Advanced Center of Medical and Pharmaceutical Research in Tg. Mures, Transylvania, RO, and an external collaborator with other institutions and ROBOTECH EMC S.R.L. She is interested in biomimetic materials, cultures of primary human cells, composite biomaterials, artificial organs (focus on synthetic skin and bone), among others.

Candidate for Treasurer of ESAO, second term



He is an Assistant Professor at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven) and an Associate Head of Clinic and Supervisor of Cardiac Surgery at the University Hospital Leuven, Belgium. He was the President of yESAO between 2014-2016, a former Board Member Governor between 2018-2020 and the Treasurer of ESAO since 2020. He's running for his second term.

Update on 50th ESAO Meeting 2024 in Aachen, Germany

There are only a few days left until our big event, the 50th Congress of our Society, starts in Aachen, Germany.

The congress will take place in the Aachen congress centre "Eurogress" and bears the motto "Organ - Cross - Talk, Honoring the Past, Empowering the Future". The organisation is almost finished, and

we have more than 300 registrants. The full scientific program is finalised and available online via the website esao2024.org and via a dedicated "ESAO 2024" app, available in the Apple and Google App stores.



Congress venue, main lecture hall, foyer for exhibition and catering, congress announcement at the venue

We are confident that the program will be diverse and exciting, with renowned international plenary and keynote speakers and high-quality oral and poster presentations based on the more than 190 abstracts we had received.

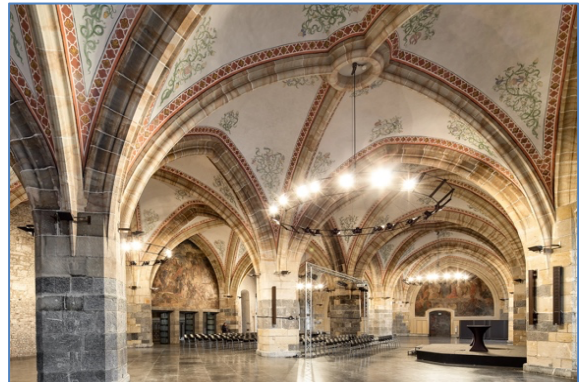
The main program starts with the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, September 8, at 5 pm. As a first highlight, Jörg Vienken will present some historical videos about the development of artificial organs from his extensive collection, including a video of the first dialysis attempts by Georg Haas from the 1920s. It will be followed by the welcome reception, which will include snacks, drinks, and music in the exhibition area, just outside the main conference room.

The motto of the first full day, Monday Sep 9, is "State of the Art", i.e. presenting and discussing the latest scientific findings. The second day, Tuesday Sep 10, is entitled "Organ Cross Talk & Trends" and will focus on the interaction ("cross-talk") of (artificial) organs. However, the translation of research into the clinical arena will also be addressed in a plenary talk and subsequent discussion, particularly regarding the effects of the Medical Device Regulations MDR in Europe. The motto of the third day is "Towards artificially intelligent organs". Here we will look to the future and focus on artificial intelligence's influence on future technologies and therapies in the field of artificial organs. We have scheduled plenary lectures at the beginning and end of each day, followed by plenary discussions on the respective topic.

As a novelty, we have also included a bonding session where our sponsors can present themselves as potential employers. For this session, we will also invite undergraduate students from RWTH Aachen University, hoping that this will inspire additional "young talents" for our field.

Apropos sponsors: we are very happy and thankful for the great support from 17 corporate sponsors in total, of which nine will exhibit their products and services in the Exhibition Area, where the catering will take place as well.

A special highlight will be the networking event with a Gala Dinner dedicated to the 50th anniversary of our society. It will take place in the time-honoured Coronation Hall of Aachen Town Hall, a building dating back over 1200 years to Charlemagne. A total of 31 emperors and kings were crowned here between 936 and 1531. After its construction around 1349, the Coronation Hall was the largest secular hall in the Holy Roman Empire, and it is also where the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen has been awarded every year since 1950. It is the oldest and best-known prize to honour personalities or institutions that have rendered outstanding services to Europe and European unification. Thus, it is the ideal place for a gala dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a European Society! And as a special highlight of the event, we will learn more about the history of our Society from the only living founder, ESAO Honorary President and Bücherl Awardee, Professor Horst Klinkmann.



Town City Hall and Coronation Hall

However, the congress would not be complete without our yESAO members and their pre-congress. This will take place on 7 and 8 September, partly in the University Hospital and on the RWTH Aachen University research campus, and partly in the Eurogress. You find more details on the congress homepage and at <https://youngesao.com>. This is where our future is being shaped, so the pre-congress is an absolute highlight for all younger scientists interested in the exciting field of artificial organs!

In addition to innovative science, we also offer a social programme for congress participants and their companions. It includes the gala dinner, of course, but also guided tours of the old "imperial city" of Aachen with its historic town hall and Aachen Cathedral, the best-preserved building from the Carolingian period (751-919 AD) and the first cultural site in Germany to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1978. The guided tours are for free and will take place on Saturday, Sep 7, and Monday, Sep 9. You will learn exciting things, especially about the role of the devil in a catholic city ... However, please note that booking the tours in advance is necessary, and there are hardly any places left. You may contact esao2024@ame.rwth-aachen.de to find out more.

We, the organisers, look forward to the congress and welcoming you to Aachen soon !

Payam Akhyari
Congress President

Joachim Jankowski
Program Chair

yESAO Congress 2024 and news

yESAO Congress 2024

We are excited to invite you to the upcoming yESAO Conference, taking place on September 7-8 in Aachen, Germany. This event offers a fantastic opportunity for young researchers and students to connect, share innovative ideas, and explore the latest developments in the field of artificial organs.

Saturday, September 7th:

As launched previously, the yESAO congress will start as usual with the registration, a welcome lunch and the opening words by the yESAO Coordinators and the current ESAO-president. We are very pleased to hear the first keynote "Exiting Academia: A Personal Account on how to Exit without Leaving" by Dr. Salim Olia directly afterwards. Dr. Olia will share his journey of transitioning from academia to other professional opportunities and provide valuable insights on how to make this transition smoothly while maintaining a strong connection to research. After a short coffee break, yESAO attendees can pitch their research topics to the audience. Participants will present their research in a unique format - a 3-minute, one-slide presentation that uses simple language to make complex topics accessible to all. The audience will evaluate these presentations, and the best pitch will win a tasty prize. We will then further proceed with the Lab visits. The yESAO attendees have the unique opportunity to get insights into the labs of Biotex, CVE, ExMI, MediT, and Acbiomed. Our traditional yESAO dinner will take place at Kaiserwetter, located at the very beautiful "Kapuziner Karree" at the city center of Aachen. As always, we will have the chance for more conversations and dancing at the yESAO party afterwards at Carl-Sonnenschein-Haus.

Sunday, September 8th:

On Sunday, September 8, the conference will continue with the second keynote session featuring Niklas Steuer, Dr.-Ing. Roland Graefe, and Oliver Marseille. In their presentation "Exiting Academia: Three Perspectives that Make Your Head Spin (off)," they will outline different paths after academia, including spin-offs, entrepreneurship, and transition to industry, providing the attendees with diverse insights into career opportunities beyond traditional academic roles. Following a lunch break, the "Discover and Connect" session will take place. This session provides a platform for further networking and research exchange, keeping the yESAO Exchange Award in mind, which includes travel funding, and to engage with scientific groups from other institutions. Interactive networking activities will help the participants to discover potential research overlaps and foster collaborations. Afterwards, Dr. Prasad Reddy, founder and CEO of the Center for Social Inclusion, Migration, and Participation (ZSIMT), will lead a workshop on "Anti-Bias Education: Raising Awareness for Future Leaders of International Teams". Dr. Reddy, who has extensive experience in anti-bias education, diversity management and social inclusion, will address the challenges of everyday discrimination and power inequalities in international work environments. The conference will conclude with closing remarks and the announcement of the Pitch Session winner, followed by the official ESAO Opening Ceremony.

We look forward to your participation as we explore the future of artificial organs together!

Isabell, Tom & the yESAO core team

yESAO News

Some time has passed since the last newsletter and a lot has happened in yESAO. We have been busy organizing the yESAO conference and have invested a lot of time and effort in the respective subgroups to put together a great event to celebrate ESAO's 50th anniversary. To this end, the yESAO core team met in Hannover at the end of May for a retreat to discuss and prepare the main points of the conference. The result of the weekend was a varied program for the yESAO conference with a lot of new ideas. After the success of yESAO in the past years, we are proud of the great response with more than 80 registered participants and look forward to a lively exchange.

Of course, we can't all stay in the yESAO core-team forever, so we had to deal with two more resignations since the last newsletter. In addition to Ben Schürmann, Marie Ebeyer-Masotta and Femke Cappon have left the core team this year. We would like to thank them for their great commitment over the past years and hope that they will stay in touch with the community. The core team currently consists of 18 members who put a lot of effort into planning our annual conference as well as keeping our society as vibrant as it is right now and we would like to thank everyone who is or has been part of this amazing team and welcome anyone who would like to be a part of it to contact us.

Call for organizers of the ESAO Winter School 2025 and ESAO Congress 2026

A call has been made for candidates interested in organizing the ESAO Winter School 2025 and the ESAO Congress 2026. So far, we haven't received any expression of interest. Hence, we ask again all our members for expressions of interest in organizing our next events. Please let us know as soon as possible. Thanks!

Announcements



50th ESAO 2024 in Aachen



E5AO Artificial Organs
in the Heart of Europe

Cardiovascular Engineering



51st Congress

ESAO 2025

*Innovations in (Bio)Artificial
Organs and Organ Models*

June 24-28, 2025
University of Twente – Enschede
The Netherlands

www.esao2025.com



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