

In 2024, the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Nutrition Committee Foundation.

In 1968, the European Society For Paediatric Gastroenterology (ESPGA) was founded in Paris, initiated by H.A. Weijers (Utrecht, The Netherlands), Bertil Lindquist (Lund, Sweden), and Jean Rey (Paris, France), and with overall 36 members. Early in 1974, Bertil Lindquist identified the need for a Nutrition Committee (CoN). During the same year, at the seventh annual meeting of the society in Verona, the ESPGA Council approved his proposal to establish a CoN. After the creation of the CoN, the name of the society was proposed to change to ESPGAN, adding the N for Nutrition. The importance of this new committee was highlighted in 1975 by the publication of a paper addressing the need for “standards and indications for industrially produced infant formulas” which catalogued the principal issues concerning the composition of infant formulas.

Picture from the **Nutrition Committee during the meeting in Geneva in 2018.**



From left to right: Elvira Verduci, Flavia Indrio, Sissel Moltu, Jean Rey (ESPGHAN founder), Nick Embleton, Magnus Domellof (past CoN chair), Jiri Bronsky (current CoN chair), Mary Fewtrell (past CoN chair), Kostas Gerasimidis, Iva Hojsak, Rakesh Vora, Jessie Hulst, Christian Molgaard.

HOW IS THE COMMITTEE BUILT UP?

The committee is composed of 12 ESPGHAN members, 10 paediatricians, an Allied Health Professional, and a Young representative (trainee), with interests spanning the spectrum of clinical nutrition and nutrition research in infants and children. Members serve for a period of three years, renewable once.

There are 5 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) born and supervised by the nutrition committee:

- Gut Microbiota and Modification
- Clinical Malnutrition
- Neonatal Nutrition
- Childhood Obesity
- Network of Intestinal rehabilitation and Transplantation in Europe (NITE)

WHAT THE COMMITTEE DOES?

There are two main pillars that drive the committee: **education** and **guidance**.

The committee organizes Summer schools, Masterclasses, Monothematic conferences (at least 2 events per year) and the nutrition programme at the Annual Meeting.

On the other hand, the committee has produced dozens of position papers and guidelines during the last 50 years, on average 2 per year, with a great variety of topics such as infant nutrition (including breastfeeding, complementary feeding, requirements of infant formulas), nutrition support in preterm infants, enteral and parenteral nutrition guidelines, nutrition support in intestinal failure, obesity, among others. To carry out this work, the committee pro-actively collaborates with the gastroenterology, the hepatology committee, the Allied Health Professionals and the Education committees. Furthermore, the committee collaborates with other scientific societies such as NASPGHAN, ESPEN, ESPR or ECOG.

The activities of the committee are reported annually to ESPGHAN Council and ESPGHAN Members.

Furthermore, every year at the annual meeting, the Nutrition Committee awards the best nutrition communication with the Jean Rey Price, named after the distinguished member of the Nutrition Committee who was one of the founders of our society.

The Nutrition Committee is one of the major committees within ESPGHAN (European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition). During these 50 years, the elected members of the CoN have devoted their work and dedication to conducting professional training and leading guidance to clinicians to provide the best nutrition support for children.

We would like to thank all previous and current members of CoN for their work and dedication to the success of our mission. We'd also like to encourage ESPGHAN members to apply for open positions in the CoN and contribute to the success of CoN in the future.

This year, during the ESPGHAN Annual Meeting in Milan, current and previous members of the CoN will meet to celebrate the progress and growth of the Committee.

For more information about the history of ESPGHAN and CoN, have a look at the JPGN Supplement published in 2018.

www.espghan.org

