

# ESMO ANNUAL REPORT 2023

1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2023

“STANDING BY THOSE WHO CARE  
ABOUT CANCER”

ESMO VISION 2025

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# About the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)

ESMO is the European Society for Medical Oncology. Representing more than 35,000 oncology professionals in 172 countries, ESMO is a reference for oncology education and information. Driven by a shared determination to secure the best possible outcomes for patients, ESMO is committed to standing by those who care about cancer through addressing the diverse needs of #ONEoncologycommunity, offering #educationforLIFE, and advocating for #accessiblecancerCARE.

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## Mission

The ESMO mission is to:

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Improve the quality of prevention, diagnosis, treatment, supportive and palliative care, as well as the follow-up of patients with malignant diseases

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Advance the art, science, recognition, and practice of oncology

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Disseminate knowledge to cancer patients and the public

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Educate and train people involved in clinical cancer care and research

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Ensure a high standard of qualification of medical oncologists within the multidisciplinary team

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Promote equal access to optimal cancer care for all cancer patients

## ESMO Vision 2025: standing by those who care about cancer

Driven by a shared determination to secure the best possible outcomes for patients with cancer, ESMO is committed to caring for the carers who lead the effort in their communities.

The [ESMO VISION 2025](#) offers a three-tiered approach highlighting how ESMO cares for and supports its members, the oncology community and cancer patients.

### ONE ONCOLOGY COMMUNITY

Cancer professionals grow together in a community that fosters inclusion across disciplines and geographical borders to cater to their diverse needs.



### EDUCATION FOR LIFE

Oncologists everywhere are supported in their development through continuous education that helps them keep up with standards of cancer care and advances in the field.

### ACCESSIBLE CANCER CARE

People around the world benefit equally from reliable cancer care built on a concerted global effort to create sustainable models of prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

# Governance

The organisational structure of ESMO enables participation and inclusion in the life of the Society. Pillars of such organisation are the Executive Board, the Council and several committees, working groups and task forces.

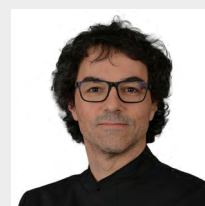
## ESMO EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023–2024



**Andrés Cervantes**  
Spain  
ESMO President



**Solange Peters**  
Switzerland  
Past-President



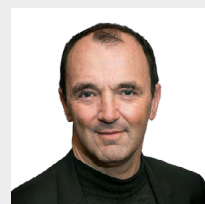
**Fabrice André**  
France  
President-Elect



**Nadia Harbeck**  
Germany  
Director of Education



**Evandro de Azambuja**  
Belgium  
Director of Membership



**Jean-Yves Blay**  
France  
Director of Public Policy

### ESMO COUNCIL 2023

<b>Andrés Cervantes</b> , Spain	ESMO President
<b>Solange Peters</b> , Switzerland	Past-President
<b>Fabrice André</b> , France	President-Elect and Editor in Chief of <i>Annals of Oncology</i>
<b>Nadia Harbeck</b> , Germany	Director of Education
<b>Evandro de Azambuja</b> , Belgium	Director of Membership
<b>Jean-Yves Blay</b> , France	Director of Public Policy
<b>Amanda Psyrris*</b> , Greece	Nomination Committee Chair
<b>Dario Trapani</b> , Italy	Cancer Medicines Committee Chair
<b>Antonio Passaro</b> , Italy	Communication Committee Chair
<b>Dirk Arnold</b> , Germany	Compliance Committee Chair
<b>Karin Jordan</b> , Germany	Educational Committee Chair
<b>Giuseppe Curigliano</b> , Italy	Guidelines Committee Chair
<b>Teresa Amaral</b> , Germany	Leadership Development Committee Chair
<b>Carlos Gomez-Roca</b> , France	Membership Committee Chair
<b>Elizabeth Smyth</b> , UK	National Societies Committee Chair
<b>Pilar Garrido</b> , Spain	Women for Oncology Committee Chair
<b>Matteo Lambertini</b> , Italy	Young Oncologists Committee Chair
<b>Christoph Zielinski</b> , Austria	Editor-in-Chief of <i>ESMO Open</i>
<b>John Haanen</b> , Netherlands	Editor-in-Chief of <i>Immuno-Oncology Technology</i>
<b>Angela Lamarca</b> , Spain	Council Member

\* Amanda Psyrris ended her mandate as of 31 August 2023, and was succeeded by Rebecca Dent as Chair of the Nomination Committee (1 September 2023 – 31 August 2025)

# A year in review

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to introduce the ESMO Annual Report for 2023. The Society was able to successfully navigate the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic in the preceding years and its financial foundations remain strong, allowing ESMO to continue to strive for the best care for people with cancer, by fostering integrated cancer care, supporting oncologists in their professional development, and advocating for sustainable cancer care worldwide.

We take pride in the growth of the Society's membership to over 35,000 healthcare professionals and the fact that we have been able to implement free membership for our colleagues in low- and middle-income countries thereby removing an important barrier to continuing medical education. The high quality of our programmes has attracted record numbers of oncology professionals to ESMO's scientific and educational events. We are committed to delivering the Society's programmes in formats that our members require, including in-person events and online formats. The hybrid approach to events has made them more accessible to the international community and allows for self-paced learning.

We continue to expand our services for members and 2023 saw the publication of new and updated ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines, the launch of two new ESMO journals and four affiliated titles as well as a range of other publications for medical professionals and cancer patients. ESMO also contributed to several policy related initiatives at the EU level and continued its collaboration with the WHO.

ESMO considers the impact of its activities on the environment to be of paramount importance. An ESMO task force worked to elaborate a set of recommendations, recently published, a roadmap to build on actions already taken and to help the Society on its sustainability journey, while at the same time maintaining our mission of improving access to the best possible cancer care for patients worldwide.



## A YEAR IN REVIEW

We are pleased to report that our financial performance remains robust, with an increase in operating income and effective control of costs giving a positive operating result. The main ESMO congresses made the greatest contribution to the positive performance, with income from membership dues, the journals and online programmes making significant positive contributions to the overall operating result. Investment income gave a positive return although the strong Swiss Franc resulted in a relatively small exchange rate loss.

As we move forward, our focus remains to serve our members so that they can provide better care to the patients they serve in accordance with our mission. We are committed to addressing the evolving needs of our members, who need to keep pace with evolving technologies and many new practice-changing therapies.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the leadership, in particular the Executive Board and the Council, but also to each and every member who relentlessly offer their time and knowledge to the growth of our Society, as well as our 150 dedicated members of the staff. Every single contribution has been instrumental in our success.

As an additional sign of caring for the environment, this Annual Report will not be printed, and only be available in digital format according to the digital publishing policy adopted by ESMO. A positive aspect of the digital format is that the content of the Annual Report can be linked to additional information on the Society's website that may be of interest to the reader, giving a more comprehensive overview of our activities.

We invite you to explore the information presented in this report, which encapsulates our major activities over the past year.

We look forward to continued collaboration as we embark on the next chapter of our shared success.

Thank you for your trust and support.

**Keith H. McGregor**  
ESMO Chief Executive Officer

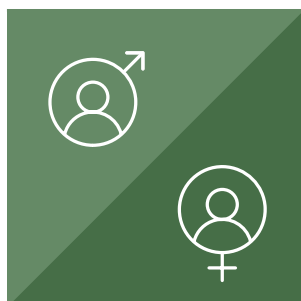
**Andrés Cervantes**  
ESMO President



# Community

Through another year of global growth, ESMO remained committed to strengthening members' sense of belonging to one united oncology community.

As a professional society, ESMO brings together a diverse community of individuals working in oncology, both in clinical practice and in research. Medical oncologists and other healthcare professionals or researchers with an interest in oncology rely on the Society to access continuous education, opportunities for collaboration and career development, as well as practical resources all designed to improve the patient care being delivered daily around the world. In 2023, ESMO membership continued to expand as the Society sustained its efforts to help members grow within an inclusive and solidary global community.



GENDER

49% 51%

MEN

WOMEN



OVER 35,000

MEMBERS IN 2023



AGE

49% 51%

OLDER THAN 40

AGED 40 OR LESS

Having nearly quadrupled in size in the space of a decade, the ESMO community also grew steadily more diverse, achieving gender parity in 2023. With nearly half of active members working outside of Europe and spread out across all of the world's continents, the Society has become truly global.



REGION OF WORK

<b>Europe</b>	51%
<b>Asia – Pacific</b>	25%
<b>North America</b>	10%
<b>South America</b>	9%
<b>Africa</b>	5%



## Nurturing excellence

Belonging to ESMO means belonging to a dynamic community which connects people across specialties and age groups throughout the world, facilitating the dissemination of knowledge, and providing professional representation in the public space.

With half of ESMO members being young professionals under the age of 40, and half being women, the ESMO Young Oncologists and ESMO Women for Oncology initiatives continued to play an important role in catering to the special educational, networking and mentoring needs of this demographic in 2023.

In recognition of the different forms excellence can take, ESMO once again bestowed its prestigious [AWARDS](#) in 2023:

4 ESMO SOCIETY AWARDS  
4 ESMO MEETING AWARDS

Introduced in 2022, the [FELLOW OF ESMO AWARD](#) was presented at the annual ESMO Congress to 23 ESMO members in honour of their exceptional commitment to the Society and its mission.

Translating excellence into better care for patients will, in the medium and long run, require a critical mass of highly qualified oncology professionals to take on rising numbers of cancer cases worldwide. One of ESMO's important tasks then, is to attract sufficient numbers of talented young individuals to work in the field and ensure that the achievements of the oncology community today can be sustained in the future.

The two editions of the [ESMO COURSE IN MEDICAL ONCOLOGY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS](#) brought together 121 undergraduate students from 35 different countries with 24 high-caliber faculty members. Over five days, the course provided participants with insight into the field of medical oncology, helping them gain a better understanding before making the choice of their specialisation.



JOIN A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF ONCOLOGY PROFESSIONALS, ALL WITH THE SHARED DETERMINATION TO SECURE THE BEST POSSIBLE OUTCOMES FOR PATIENTS WITH CANCER. JOIN ESMO.

# Science dissemination and education

ESMO continued to bring the best evidence into the daily practice of oncology, matching the pace of progress in research.

Disseminating the latest research results and imparting up-to-date knowledge in oncology are at the heart of ESMO's vision to fulfil its members' lifelong educational needs—and constitute a demanding mission in the world of modern oncology where new discoveries are made at a pace that would have been unthinkable in decades past. With a steadily expanding global reach, the Society continued to develop new publications, learning opportunities and guidance to help doctors everywhere deliver the highest possible standards of care to their patients.



## Meeting the increasing need for education

To translate the current body of evidence into meaningful clinical applications for practicing oncologists, ESMO mobilises specialists in the field to offer life learning opportunities in adapted formats for different career stages and in various regions of the world. In 2023, ESMO organised several educational meetings and courses across the world, both live and in virtual format.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT A GLANCE

<b><u>ESMO Academy</u></b> 357 participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Helped medical oncologists prepare for the ESMO Examination</li></ul>
<b><u>ESMO Examination</u></b> 748 participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Helped doctors assess their knowledge of medical oncology</li><li>▶ Held in 13 parallel sessions across the world</li></ul>
<b><u>17 ESMO Preceptorship Courses</u></b> 1,101 participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Gave oncologists comprehensive insights into the management of single cancers and disease settings</li><li>▶ Held across Europe, Asia and Africa</li></ul>
<b><u>11 Advanced Courses</u></b> 680 participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Addressed specific challenges in patient management and topics for experienced oncologists and other specialists</li><li>▶ Held in various locations across the world</li></ul>
<b><u>2 ESMO Summits</u></b> 745 participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Offered a comprehensive review of practice changing studies and standards of care for key tumour types from a local and international perspective</li><li>▶ Held in Africa and South America</li></ul>
<b><u>1 EORTC–ESMO–AACR Workshop</u></b> 80 participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Provided future leading clinical investigators with a comprehensive overview of how to conduct clinical trials in cancer</li></ul>

### VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

<b><u>5 ESMO Virtual Plenaries</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Online presentations of the latest, original scientific data</li></ul>
<b><u>14 eLearning modules</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Modules covering a broad range of topics relevant for practising oncologists</li></ul>
<b><u>7 ESMO Deep Dive</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Webinar series providing advanced knowledge in a specific tumour type</li></ul>
<b><u>9 ESMO Guidelines: Real World Cases</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Webinar series bringing together the experts developing ESMO Guidelines, as well as those who are consulting and implementing them</li></ul>
<b><u>1 Precision Oncology</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Webinar series elaborating on clinical implementation of precision medicine</li></ul>
<b><u>1 Other webinar</u></b>	



## A growing publishing portfolio to match the diversity of cancer science

To capture the field's complexity and present developments in the relevant context, ESMO has over the years built up a comprehensive portfolio of publications that the clinical and research communities have come to rely on.

The thematic [ESMO HANDBOOKS](#) and [ESSENTIALS FOR CLINICIANS](#) were expanded with one new handbook published in 2023, offering first-hand advice in the area of nutrition and cancer.

Underpinning all of these is a commitment to providing an expanded knowledge base available to ESMO members on specialised topics with practical importance.

In 2023, ESMO expanded its portfolio of journals to include two brand new journals: *ESMO Gastrointestinal Oncology* and *ESMO Real World Data and Digital Oncology*. Additionally, four affiliated journals were introduced: *Cancer Treatment Reviews*, *Clinical Lymphoma Myeloma and Leukemia*, *Lung Cancer*, and *The Breast*. These journals address a variety of traditional and innovative topics, providing oncologists with additional opportunities to keep up with advancements in oncology science.

A commitment to scientific rigour and excellence has ensured that the 2023 impact factor of [ESMO JOURNALS](#) remained strong.

### 2023 IMPACT FACTOR AND CITESCORE OF ESMO JOURNALS

	IMPACT FACTOR	CITESCORE
<i>Annals of Oncology</i>	50.5	63
<i>ESMO Open</i>	7.3	8.7
<i>Immuno-Oncology and Technology (IOTECH)</i>	N/A	5.5

The impact factor measures the average number of citations received in a particular year by papers published in the journal during the two preceding years, as provided by the Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics).



## Moving forward the knowledge horizon in oncology

Committed to supporting doctors in every clinical situation they may come to encounter, ESMO continued its efforts to improve knowledge and guide practice at the frontiers of current oncology science.

In 2023, two [ESMO EXPERT CONSENSUS STATEMENTS](#) were published on the topics of:

- ▶ definition, diagnosis, and management of HER2–low breast cancer;
- ▶ management of breast cancer during pregnancy.

The [ESMO/SIOPE ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS WORKING GROUP](#) mapped the burden of cancer in this population in Europe.

The [ESMO TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH AND PRECISION MEDICINE WORKING GROUP](#) issued new recommendations on molecular diagnostic approaches for cancer patients.

ESMO participated in the “Cancer Prevention Across Europe – PrEvCan” campaign together with the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS), inviting the frontline oncology workforce to improve their knowledge, disseminate information and act as role models in science–based prevention.

A webinar on liquid biopsy–based biomarkers for cancer detection and monitoring and an e–learning module on research on pollution and cancer were added to the resources on the World Cancer Report Updates Learning Platform, developed by ESMO in collaboration with the WHO’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to educate oncology professionals about key recommendations and emerging issues.

In 2023, ESMO and ASCO published their updated joint recommendations for the [CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING IN MEDICAL ONCOLOGY](#), setting global standards for training medical oncologists. With rapid advancements in therapies, cellular therapy, molecular pathology, precision oncology, and imaging, the update reflects the evolving landscape of oncology.



ESMO’S EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH ONCOLOGYPRO, WITH EXCLUSIVE CONTENT FOR ESMO MEMBERS.

# Clinical decision-making tools and practical resources

ESMO enriched its acclaimed clinical decision-making tools to cover more clinical scenarios and address evolving needs.

For ESMO, standing by the side of oncologists means offering evidence-based guidance and efficient advice that enables clinicians to go about their daily practice with a steady hand. Building on the solid foundations of the ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines and ESMO–Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale for anticancer medicines, the Society expanded its existing collection of formats and adaptations to be ever closer to the reality of its members' work on the ground and make it as easy as possible for the global oncology community to deliver optimal care to patients.



## Living with the times

The [ESMO CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES](#) (CPGs) are a reference that practising oncologists all over the world rely on for comprehensive overviews of best practices in the management of different cancer types and disease settings. With several new CPGs published in 2023 and existing recommendations updated in many other disease areas, ESMO continued its work to follow up scientific and therapeutic advances with concrete guidance for the daily practice of oncology.

**94** ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines were available at the end of 2023



### **5 new CPGs**

- ▶ Non-oncogene-addicted metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer
- ▶ Oncogene-addicted metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer
- ▶ Anxiety and depression in adult cancer patients
- ▶ Prognostic evaluation in patients with advanced cancer in the last months of life
- ▶ Insomnia in cancer patients

### **5 updated CPGs**

- ▶ Management of venous thromboembolism
- ▶ Newly diagnosed and relapsed epithelial ovarian cancer
- ▶ Pancreatic cancer
- ▶ Leptomeningeal metastasis
- ▶ Early breast cancer

### **2 eUpdates**

Online updates of specific sections of existing CPGs

- ▶ Prostate cancer
- ▶ Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

### **7 updated Pocket Guidelines**

Abrided versions of the ESMO CPGs

- ▶ Breast cancer
- ▶ Endocrine & neuroendocrine cancers
- ▶ Genitourinary cancer
- ▶ Gynaecological malignancies
- ▶ Lower gastrointestinal cancers
- ▶ Lung & chest cancers
- ▶ Upper gastrointestinal cancers

### **3 Pan-Asian Guidelines**

#### **Adaptation (PAGA)**

CPGs adapted to the Asian context and practice characteristics

- ▶ Endometrial cancer
- ▶ Metastatic colorectal cancer
- ▶ Metastatic breast cancer

### **2 Living Guidelines**

Online, interactive tool centred around clear visual representations of the decision-making algorithms and key recommendations defined within the CPGs.

- ▶ Metastatic colorectal cancer
- ▶ Gastric cancer

### **2 updated Living Guidelines**

- ▶ Metastatic breast cancer
- ▶ Gastric cancer

Where applicable, scores for genomic alterations with actionable drug matches according to the [ESMO SCALE FOR CLINICAL ACTIONABILITY OF MOLECULAR TARGETS \(ESCAT\)](#) were incorporated into the new or updated guidelines to help clinicians make evidence-based decisions in an increasingly complex treatment landscape.

In their iterations for patients, the [ESMO PATIENT GUIDES](#), the CPGs serve as a basis to help those battling cancer, their relatives, and caregivers better understand the nature of the disease and to empower individuals to take an active part in shaping their treatment journey. To provide information to as many patients as possible in their mother tongue, 19 translations of the ESMO Patient Guides were made available with the support of national societies worldwide in 2023.

ESMO has also released the [ESMO PATIENT GUIDES WEBAPP](#) which allows users to find all ESMO Patient Guides in one place.



## Maximising clinical benefit for patients

As a tool to optimise the treatment journey by prioritising medicines with high proven clinical benefit, the [ESMO-MAGNITUDE OF CLINICAL BENEFIT SCALE \(ESMO-MCBS\)](#) has become an indispensable resource for clinical practice. Last year, a new visualisation feature was introduced to the existing [SCORECARDS](#) to illustrate the ESMO-MCBS score of an anticancer treatment along with the factors that drive that score. The addition of a [QUALITY OF LIFE CHECK LIST](#) reflects the increasing importance of quality of life in the development of cancer therapies.

Recognising the critical need for a comprehensive evaluation tool tailored to haematological malignancies, experts from ESMO and the European Hematology Association (EHA) collaborated to develop a version of the ESMO-MCBS specifically validated for haematological malignancies, [ESMO-MCBS:H](#), which was published in 2023.

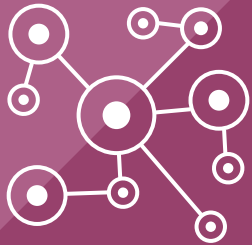
**52** new treatments were scored in 2023, bringing the total of scorecards available to **389** in **17** solid tumour categories





## Support at every step

To help clinicians self-assess their practice against the benchmark of the essential steps recommended in the ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines, the [ESMO CHECK-LISTS](#) were designed as quick questionnaires to add to their patient records. These are regularly updated as standards of care evolve, and accordingly adjustments were made last year to the treatment workflows for esophageal, gastric, gynaecologic, and advanced non-small cell lung cancer patients, among others. Similarly designed to accompany oncologists step by step through the care process in specific clinical situations, the [ESMO “HOW TO” VIDEO SERIES](#) gained four new features in 2023, answering questions such as how to select candidates for treatment de-intensification in HPV associated oropharyngeal cancer or how to assess and manage cancer pain.



## Pioneering oncology real-world evidence guidance

ESMO, with the valuable contribution of external stakeholders, developed and published the “ESMO Guidance for Reporting Oncology real-World evidence (GROW)”, the first expert-based guidance tailored for reporting real-world evidence (RWE) studies in oncology.

[ESMO-GROW](#) provides comprehensive recommendations for article development, addressing modern RWE research nuances in oncology. It aims to meet the increasing demand for high-quality real-world data, enhance decision-making for healthcare authorities, advance scientific research, and ultimately improve patient care.

The guidance, available in *ESMO Real World Data and Digital Oncology* and *Annals of Oncology*, includes an online scoring checklist to assist the cancer research community in writing, reviewing, and publishing RWE studies.

# Congresses at the forefront of oncology

In 2023 as in every year prior, ESMO's highly-anticipated congresses brought the oncology community together around new evidence at the cutting edge of cancer science.

ESMO CONGRESSES each year provide oncology professionals with opportunities to gather with their international peers to explore the emerging knowledge and scientific breakthroughs that will shape the future of cancer care. Last year, 11 congresses offered platforms to disseminate the latest research results to ever broader audiences, fostering at the same time new projects and collaborations.

In a field where collaboration is particularly important to drive progress for patients, the first edition of the ESMO Sarcoma and Rare Cancers Congress offered a unique occasion for the international rare cancers community to network and interact with key opinion leaders in these disease areas.

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**11** congresses offered platforms to disseminate the latest research results, fostering at the same time new projects and collaborations



CONGRESS	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
<b>ESMO Gynaecological Cancers Congress 2023</b>	1,434 participants (461 onsite; 973 online)
<b>ESMO Targeted Anticancer Therapies Congress 2023</b>	437 participants onsite
<b>ESMO Sarcoma and Rare Cancers Congress 2023</b>	672 participants onsite
<b>European Lung Cancer Congress 2023</b>	3,056 participants (1,684 onsite; 1,365 online)
<b>ESMO Breast Cancer 2023</b>	4,032 participants (2,212 onsite; 1,792 online)
<b>ESMO World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer 2023</b>	2,800+ participants
<b>Molecular Analysis for Precision Oncology Congress 2023</b>	429 participants
<b>ESMO Congress 2023</b>	33,366 participants (27,781 onsite; 5,505 online)
<b>European Multidisciplinary Congress on Urological Cancers 2023</b>	1,024 participants
<b>ESMO Asia Congress 2023</b>	3,511 participants
<b>ESMO Immuno–Oncology Congress 2023</b>	1,675 participants (637 onsite; 1,038 online)

Over **52,000** oncology professionals met through ESMO's congresses



## The ESMO Congress 2023: Ground-breaking data and successful turnout

The ESMO Congress 2023 registered over 33,000 attendees who followed the presentations and discussions in Madrid, Spain, or online from all over the world.



PARTICIPANTS

**33,366**

27,781 ONSITE; 5,505 ONLINE

COUNTRIES

**156**

ABSTRACTS PRESENTED

**2,545**

LATE-BREAKING ABSTRACTS

**107**

ABSTRACTS SELECTED  
FOR PRESIDENTIAL SYMPOSIA

**15**



# Career development

Professional success is not a solo journey, and members can count on ESMO as a loyal travel companion.

Just as it develops its offering with the goal of fulfilling oncologists' lifelong educational needs, ESMO is committed to meeting its members where they are, to help them take the next step on the professional ladder. Last year, students attending the [ESMO COURSE IN MEDICAL ONCOLOGY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS](#) were able to gain deeper insight into all the possibilities offered by the field of oncology before making the career-defining choice of their medical speciality, while practicing oncologists took advantage of the Society's many networking, development, and leadership training opportunities.



## Starting off on the right foot in oncology

In the early stages of their professional journey, young physicians have many choices to make about the direction they wish to take and many things to learn along the way. ESMO's vibrant community of [YOUNG ONCOLOGISTS \(YO\)](#) therefore organises targeted activities within the Society's educational and meeting agenda, such as dedicated congress tracks or the [YO FOR YO VIRTUAL SESSION SERIES](#), which give participants the chance to network, discuss the professional challenges they face, obtain practical advice on different career paths in oncology, and engage in practical activities related to their scientific and clinical work.

### YO SESSIONS AT ESMO MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

<b>ESMO Congress 2023</b>	11
<b>ESMO Asia Congress 2023</b>	5
<b>Other ESMO meetings</b>	22

### YO FOR YO VIRTUAL SESSION SERIES

<b>Sessions</b>	9
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The Society also extends financial support to allow doctors in training to attend ESMO congresses through its Merit Awards, and to help them build their clinical and research experience through its growing [FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME](#). Ranging from short-term educational visits of leading cancer units to clinical and research programmes lasting up to three years, the ESMO Fellowships represent an investment in the future of cancer care and have benefitted hundreds of ESMO members worldwide.

### FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

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#### **1 [ESMO José Baselga Fellowship for Clinician Scientists](#)**

supported by AstraZeneca

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#### **4 [ESMO Research Fellowships with translational focus](#)**

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#### **1 [ESMO Research Fellowship with clinical focus](#)**

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#### **4 [ESMO Palliative Care Fellowships](#)**

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#### **24 [ESMO Clinical Unit Visits](#)**

supported by the International Cancer Foundation





## Going further together

Women make up a growing share of the oncology workforce, but their professional development continues to be challenged by gender inequities. [ESMO WOMEN FOR ONCOLOGY \(W4O\)](#) actively monitors and researches gender issues in oncology, raises awareness, and promotes equal access to career development opportunities.

Last year, at the annual ESMO Congress, the [ESMO W4O FORUM](#) provided a platform to celebrate the efforts made by ESMO W4O in addressing gender-related issues facing oncology professionals over the past 10 years since the initiative was established. At ESMO Asia 2023, the focus shifted to the challenges and opportunities of closing the gender gap in the Asia-Pacific region.

Results of a survey to assess the barriers to career development in oncology were published in *ESMO Open* in February 2023, showing the extent of work still to be done to close the gender gap in this profession.

To foster collaboration in this field and nurture the growing W4O movement, the [ESMO W4O VIRTUAL ROADSHOW](#) brought together representatives from national networks of female oncologists and other participants interested in the topic of gender equity through a series of four regional sessions.

Continuing cooperation between the ESMO W4O and the ESMO Young Oncologists allowed the organisation of the 2023 edition of [ESMO'S VIRTUAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME](#), which matched 42 talented oncologists under 40 years of age with senior ESMO members for 12 months of one-on-one mentoring to address unmet career development needs.



## Training tomorrow's leaders

In oncology as in any other field, advancing to the highest positions of responsibility requires a broader skillset than just the expertise acquired in one's own speciality. Launched in 2016 to identify and prepare future leaders in the world of oncology, the [ESMO LEADERS GENERATION PROGRAMME](#) saw many professionals both from across Europe and the Asia–Pacific region complete an intensive course designed to help them acquire new communication skills as well as to learn about ESMO's role in the world of oncology.

LEADERS GENERATION PROGRAMME	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
<b>Europe</b>	13 participants
<b>Asia</b>	14 participants

# A responsible Society

Conscious of its role in the world, ESMO continued to work towards a fair, just, and sustainable future.

ESMO has set itself the mission to offer the best possible care to people with cancer by fostering integrated cancer care, supporting oncologists in their professional development, and advocating for sustainable cancer care worldwide. This lofty goal will not be achieved in a vacuum, and advances in knowledge of the environmental and social determinants of cancer development and health outcomes give particular weight to the responsibility of an organisation like ESMO to be mindful of its wider impact in the world. The past year gave the Society many opportunities to make more responsible choices and create positive change, which it seized as part of a long-term effort to bring its activities into closer alignment with the great societal undertakings of our time.



## A duty of care towards the environment

With human-caused pollution now understood to be closely linked to certain cancers and the effects of climate change expected to place increasing strain on national health and social protection systems in the future, ESMO's goal to secure the best possible outcomes for cancer patients implies a duty to reduce its own environmental footprint.

Established in 2019, the [ESMO CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE](#) is tasked with assessing the environmental impact of ESMO's various activities and with proposing solutions to balance the need of oncology stakeholders to get together to maximise their collaborative potential with the imperative to make the Society's mode of action more sustainable.

## Reducing the environmental impact of the ESMO Congress 2023



### **COMBINING EDUCATION AND NETWORKING WITH SUSTAINABLE TRAVELS**

Stemming from the “Train to ESMO” initiative – launched back in 2019 to encourage participants to travel by train to the Congress destination, the [VIRTUAL TRAIN TO ESMO 2023](#) travelled five continents with four virtual mentoring and educational sessions. Raising awareness of how climate change impacts on cancer care, it brought networking opportunities and practical guidance on various aspects of the modern oncologist’s professions to members preparing to attend the ESMO Congress 2023.



## Leading the way towards a more just world in oncology

In its determination to be a force for social equity, ESMO is committed to taking visible action that can set a good example for others, as it is to living by its own principles on a day-to-day basis.

Accordingly, in 2022, the ESMO Executive Board voted to approve a rule ensuring that at least 40% of women are represented within the Society's organisational structure and activities, and since then, the rule has been continuously implemented.

In 2023, gender parity among the speakers was nearly achieved with 47%-53% at the ESMO Congress.

The [ESMO WOMEN FOR ONCOLOGY FORUM](#), held at both the ESMO Congress 2023 and the ESMO Asia Congress 2023, offered the chance to take stock of the current situation and discuss progress towards gender equity.



## Fair and transparent governance

To fulfil its mission and play its role as a responsible global actor, ESMO strives to attain the highest standards of integrity and transparency in its internal governance, which is founded on the democratic participation of all ESMO members in the [GENERAL ASSEMBLY](#).

Responsible for identifying the candidates for the ESMO Executive Board positions for election by the General Assembly, the [ESMO NOMINATION COMMITTEE](#) enables ESMO to serve its members as fairly as possible.

ESMO's organisational structure relies on the work of volunteers, experts dedicated to supporting the Society's mission. As ESMO collaborates with highly regarded leaders in the field of medical oncology, who may legitimately have external interests arising from their work and thought leadership, the Society addresses potential conflicts between these interests and its own through a transparent, responsibility-based approach coordinated by the [ESMO COMPLIANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE](#).

To further strengthen the oversight of ESMO affairs, the [ESMO AUDIT COMMITTEE](#) is tasked with assisting the Executive Board in supervising the Society's management, particularly concerning financial matters. Additionally, it assesses the effectiveness of the internal control system.

# 841

OFFICERS SUPPORTING  
ESMO'S MISSION

# 57%

MEN

# 43%

WOMEN

# 68

COUNTRIES  
WORLDWIDE



# Shaping public policy

As a key voice in public policy decision–making circles, ESMO has made new inroads towards improving access to cancer care worldwide.

ESMO's efforts to shape public health policies at national, European, and global levels are guided by the vision that people around the world should benefit equally from reliable cancer care built on sustainable models of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Last year, some of these efforts have been rewarded with proposals and decisions that aim at reducing future cancer cases, improving outcomes for patients battling the disease, and providing oncology professionals with better conditions to conduct research and deliver optimal care.



## Supporting evidence–based public health policy

ESMO's expertise in medical oncology and its development of tools such as the ESMO-MCBS for the prioritisation of anticancer medicines according to their clinical benefit for patients, are central to the Society's efforts to shape public policy.

As a non–state actor in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Society continued to work with the WHO towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), highlighting the need for cancer care to be an integral part of the UHC agenda and ensure timely access to affordable cancer care for all. On the occasion of the ESMO Congress in October 2023, ESMO and WHO marked a decade of partnership.

Additionally, ESMO has engaged with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and the WHO International Health Regulations Working Group to request that the provision of secondary and tertiary healthcare services during pandemics be prioritised in the future WHO Pandemic Accord, to avoid leaving millions of patients with cancer behind.

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ESMO has advocated for the “Right to be Forgotten” for cancer survivors, playing a significant role in promoting fair access to financial services for cancer survivors within the European Union. As part of the development of the non-binding code of conduct (CoC) on fair access to financial services for cancer survivors, ESMO has been officially selected as a key stakeholder thanks to its expertise and resources.

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In the relentless effort to prevent cancer before it hits, ESMO advocated for lowering the annual cap on particle pollution (PM2.5) in Europe, to meet more stringent WHO guidelines, during the revision of the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive. Similarly, ESMO advocated for a tenfold lower limit on occupational asbestos exposure for workers than that initially proposed by the EU Asbestos at Work Directive.



## A voice that makes the needs of patients heard

As a representative for the global community of experts who deal with cancer every day, ESMO brings a credible voice and real-world insights to high-level political debates. In line with its ultimate goal to improve the lives of patients, the Society wants to ensure that their perspective is reflected in its advocacy with policymakers around the world. To foster discussion of topical issues for patients and survivors that directly impact cancer care and medical research, ESMO organised an [ESMO PATIENT ADVOCACY TRACK](#) at the ESMO Congress 2023, including 7 educational sessions for patient advocates, attended by 1,972 participants.





## Ensuring that policies reflect oncology professionals' and patients' evolving priorities

ESMO has been working with both EU political and regulatory decision-making bodies, including within the European Medicines Agency, via representation in its Healthcare Professionals Working Party.

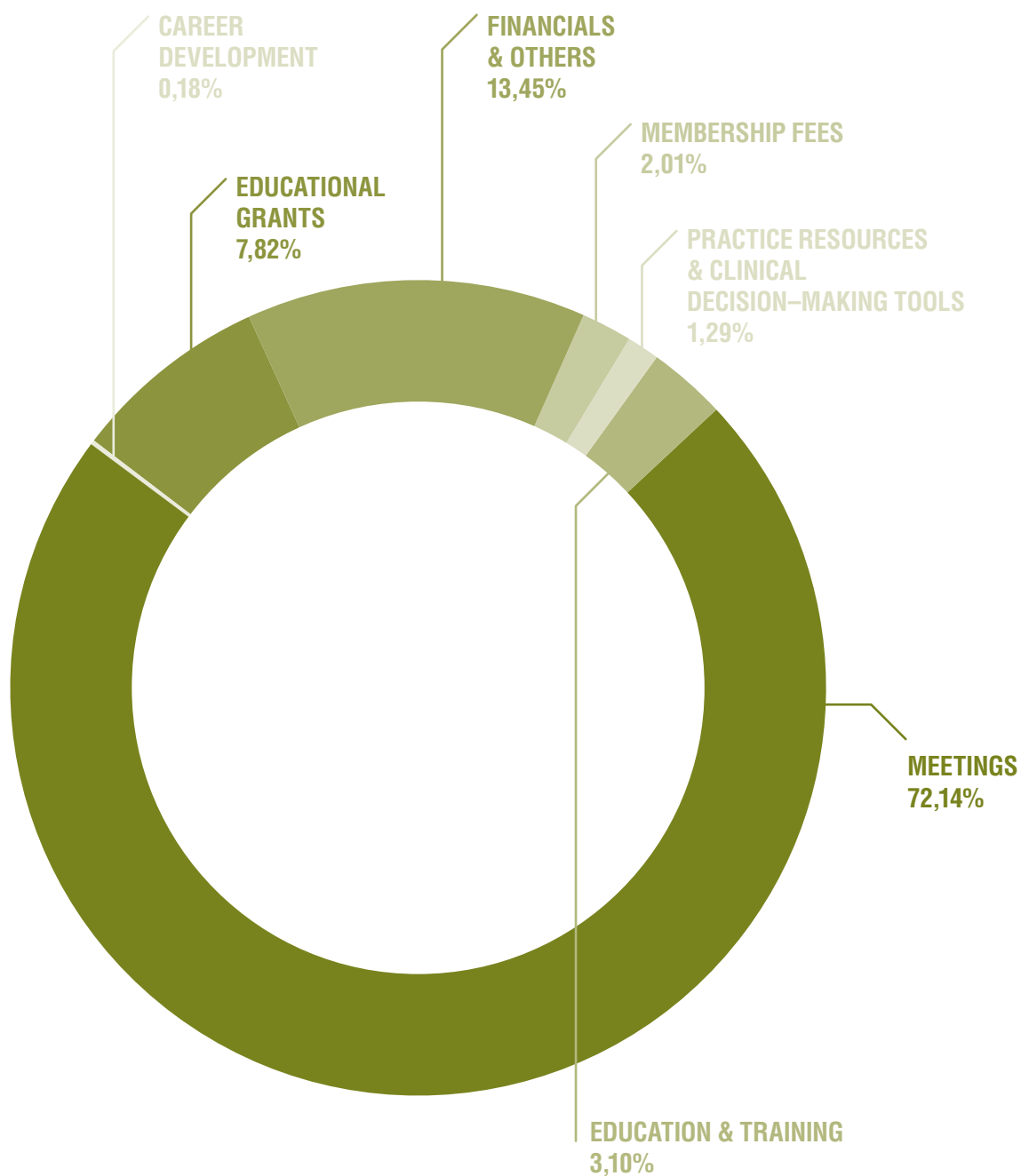
Over the past year, ESMO also engaged with EU policy makers on additional legislative proposals with a bearing on medical oncology, including the European Health Data Space (EHDS) and reform of the EU Pharmaceutical Legislation.

WHO **Public policy** EHDS  
 Optimal cancer care Patient advocacy  
 EHDS ESMO-MCBS **Prevention**  
 Patient advocacy Care  
**ESMO-MCBS** Accessibility  
 Prevention  
 Universal Health Coverage **Affordability**  
 WHO EU legislation  
 Accessibility Public policy  
**Engagement** Universal Health Coverage  
 Care  
 EU legislation **Affordability**  
**Optimal cancer care** Engagement

# Financial overview

Below is the overview of the revenues from the activities carried out in the fiscal year 2022, covering the period from 1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023. This overview is based on ESMO's audited financial statements approved by the ESMO General Assembly on 21 October 2023.

## INCOME



# Supporters

ESMO would like to thank all its supporters, whose contribution helps the Society to delivering on its mission of supporting its members and the global oncology community.

## Main supporters

Amgen	Menarini Group
Astellas	Merck
AstraZeneca	Mirati Therapeutics
Bayer	MSD
BeiGene	Novartis
Boehringer Ingelheim	Novocure GmbH
Bristol Myers Squibb	Pfizer
Daiichi Sankyo	Pierre Fabre
Eisai	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals
Eli Lilly	Roche
Gilead	Sanofi
GSK	Seagen
Illumina	Servier
Ipsen	Takeda
Janssen	Thermo Fisher

The list of main supporters refers to the period from September 2022 to July 2023.



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