

ESMAC 2026

14 - 19 September 2026

Crossing Borders

Maastricht, Netherlands

& Hasselt, Belgium

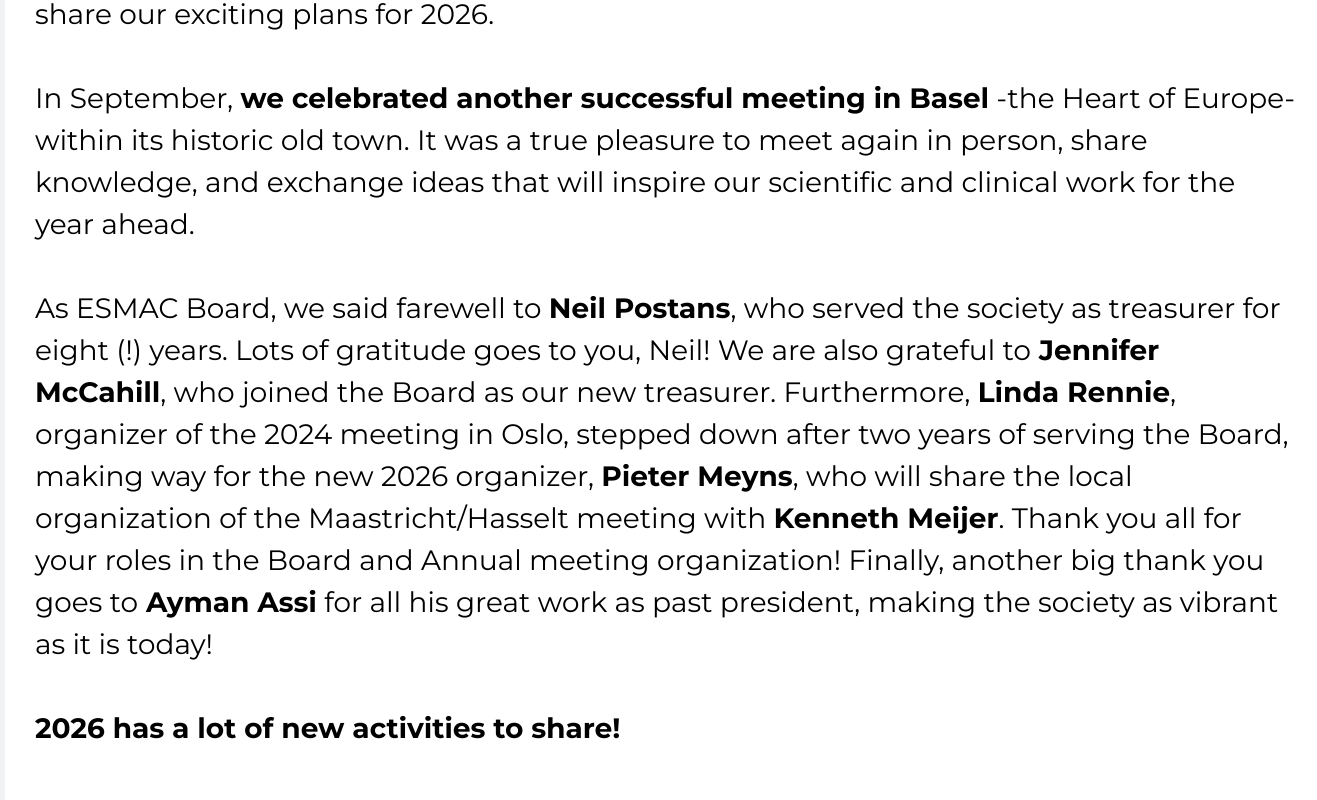


ESMAC Newsletter Winter 2025

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Editorial



Dear ESMAC members, dear colleagues,

Thanks to each of you, the ESMAC society has enjoyed another successful and rewarding year! In this newsletter, we'll take a moment to reflect on the achievements of 2025 and share our exciting plans for 2026.

In September, **we celebrated another successful meeting in Basel** - the Heart of Europe - within its historic old town. It was a true pleasure to meet again in person, share knowledge, and exchange ideas that will inspire our scientific and clinical work for the year ahead.

As ESMAC Board, we said farewell to **Neil Postans**, who served the society as treasurer for eight (!) years. Lots of gratitude goes to you, Neil! We are also grateful to **Jennifer McCahill**, who joined the Board as our new treasurer. Furthermore, **Linda Rennie**, organizer of the 2024 meeting in Oslo, stepped down after two years of serving the Board, making way for the new 2026 organizer, **Pieter Meyns**, who will share the local organization of the Maastricht/Hasselt meeting with **Kenneth Meijer**. Thank you all for your roles in the Board and Annual meeting organization! Finally, another big thank you goes to **Ayman Assi** for all his great work as past president, making the society as vibrant as it is today!

2026 has a lot of new activities to share!

We look forward to the first ESMAC-ECN **Spring Training School** in Leuven, a new initiative from our Early Career Network team. Furthermore, there will be another **ACDC** (Advanced Case Discussions Course), upcoming **webinars**, ESMAC **scholarships**, and exciting new work from the **ESMAC Standards Task Force**. And of course, we very much look forward to our **next Annual meeting**, 'Crossing borders' between Belgium and the Netherlands!

As you can read in this newsletter, there are plenty of opportunities to **get involved in ESMAC**, either in the standards committee, the ECN, by organizing a webinar, or even by hosting the 2028 or 2029 Annual meeting. Feel free to contact us at info@esmac.org to learn more about these opportunities, or if you have any other inspiring ideas for our society!

For now, I wish you all a relaxing Christmas break and lots of happiness and success in 2026. We look forward to shaping the world of Clinical Movement Analysis together with you all in the new year!

Marjolein van der Krogt

ESMAC President

ESMAC Annual Meetings



ESMAC 2025, Basel

Dear all,

It has been a great pleasure welcoming you to Basel for the 2025 ESMAC Annual meeting. Whether you joined as a participant, presenter, instructor, seminar organizer, or sponsor, your engagement and enthusiasm shaped the atmosphere of this meeting. We hope the congress offered not only strong scientific exchange but also an opportunity to enjoy the character and charm of our city.

A special acknowledgment goes to **Morgan Sangeux**, whose leadership as Scientific chair was central in shaping this year's program. All of us have appreciated his commitment to high-quality content and to fostering meaningful discussion. I would also like to thank the ESMAC Board and C-IN for their steady guidance and support throughout the preparation process.

My deepest gratitude extends to the Local Organizing Committee: **Michèle Widmer, Linda Bühl, Matilde Bertoli, Jacqueline Romkes, Katrin Bracht, Stefanie Albrecht, Theresia Kohler, and the whole UKBB Orthopedics and Center for Clinical Motion Analysis team**. Their hard work, reliability, and collaborative spirit were essential to the congress's smooth operation. Each contributed in unique ways, and it has been an honor to work alongside such a dedicated team.

As we look ahead, I hope the connections formed and the ideas exchanged in Basel continue to inspire new collaborations. I wish you all a restful holiday season and a hopeful start to the new year.

In times where global uncertainties remain, communities like ESMAC remind us of the value of shared purpose, openness, and scientific dialogue.

Heide Elke VIEHWEGER

LOC Chair, ESMAC 2025



ESMAC 2026 Conference: Crossing Borders | 14-19 September 2026

We are pleased to invite the ESMAC community to the first-ever bi-national ESMAC Annual meeting, jointly hosted by Maastricht University and Hasselt University in the EUREGIO Limburg. This collaboration brings together two neighboring cities with a shared tradition of excellence in motion analysis, spanning research, technology, and clinical practice.

The theme Crossing Borders reflects both the international setting and a broader ambition: connecting disciplines, perspectives, and people. ESMAC 2026 will foster exchange between science, technology, and clinical motion analysis, encourage engagement with diverse stakeholders, and embrace different approaches across countries and cultures. Collaboration, diversity, and meaningful interaction will be central throughout the week.

The scientific program will include, among others, the Baumann Lecture by **Dr. Andreas Kranz** (Orthopaedisches Spital Speising) and a keynote lecture by **Dr. Eline van der Kruk** (TU Delft). In addition, a dedicated panel discussion will explore how clinical motion analysis can be positioned on the EU roadmap, bringing together researchers, clinicians, policy makers, and industry partners.

Key dates

- 25 February 2026 – Abstract submission opens
- 9 April 2026 – Abstract submission closes

Join us to connect across borders, exchange ideas, and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere and regional hospitality of the southern Benelux. We look forward to welcoming you to ESMAC 2026 in Maastricht and Hasselt.

Kenneth Meijer & Pieter Meyns

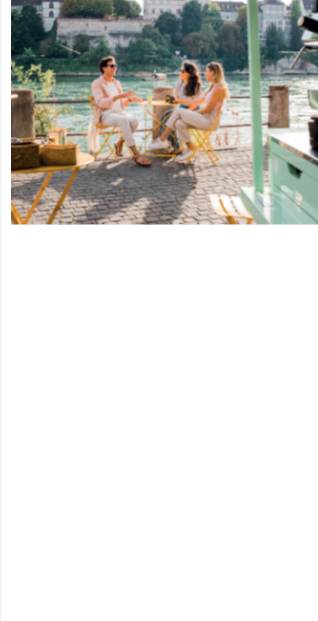
LOC Chairs, ESMAC 2026

Call for hosting ESMAC 2028/2029

After the successful Annual meeting of Basel, and two more great meetings anticipated in Maastricht/Hasselt in 2026 and Vienna in 2027, ESMAC is now **calling for expressions of interest** to host the **36th ESMAC Annual Meeting in 2028** and the **37th ESMAC Annual Meeting in 2029**. *An invitation* with further details was sent out to all members earlier this month. Don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Deadline to submit proposals: 30th of January 2026. We look forward to receiving your applications!

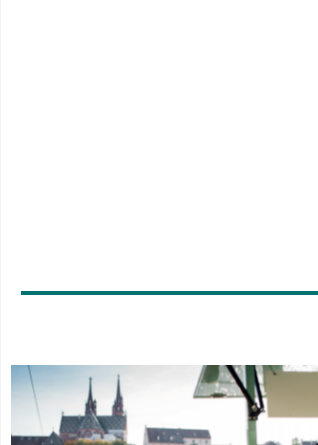
ESMAC society updates



Membership fees

As discussed in the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Basel, ESMAC will increase its membership fees for 2026. The membership fee has been constant for over 10 years, at a rate of €32, with a discount to €16 for affiliated societies. Meanwhile, prices have gone up due to inflation and, moreover, ESMAC's activity throughout the year has expanded as well. The society now offers webinars, courses, and more scholarships, and will organize the first ESMAC Spring school in 2026 as well. To continue supporting these initiatives and ensure long-term sustainability, we have decided to raise the membership fee to

€48 for regular members, and €24 for affiliated society members, thereby maintaining a 50% discount. The new fees will be in place for all membership renewals in 2026.

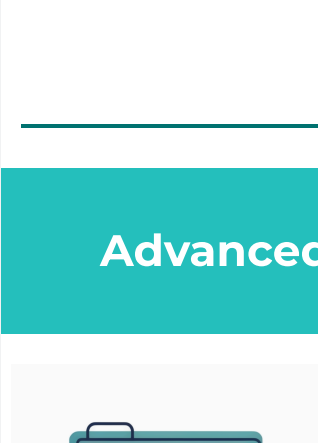


Updates to ESMAC visiting scholarships and new award launch

The ESMAC Visiting Scholarships will undergo some changes. These scholarships continue to support mobility and international collaboration between gait laboratories. In 2026, applications will no longer be accepted throughout the year. Instead, there will be a single annual deadline at the end of February, and a maximum of one scholarship will be awarded.

We are also excited to introduce a new initiative: **ESMAC for a Cause**. This award aims to support individuals or institutions working to promote movement analysis in regions with limited resources worldwide. Applications will follow the same annual deadline (end of February), with one award offered each year.

Detailed communication with full application information will be shared in January.



New Structuration of the ESMAC Standards Task Force

The ESMAC Standards Task Force has recently been restructured into five dedicated working groups to better coordinate actions and advance harmonisation of clinical gait analysis practices across Europe. The task force currently brings together around 15 members and remains open to new applications.

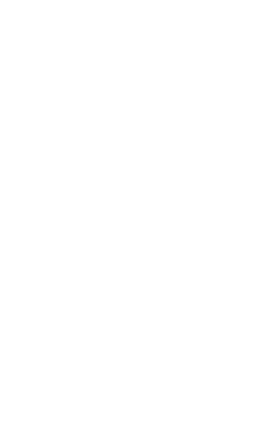
The five working groups address complementary priorities:

- (1) development of European clinical gait analysis standards and recommendations;
- (2) coordination with national gait analysis societies;
- (3) collaboration with the International Society of Biomechanics (ISB);
- (4) engagement with industry and regulatory aspects;
- (5) exploration of accreditation pathways for gait laboratories.

This new structuration aims to strengthen collaboration, improve efficiency, and ensure broad representation of the clinical gait analysis community at the European level.

ESMAC members interested in contributing are warmly invited to join the task force and participate in one or more working groups.

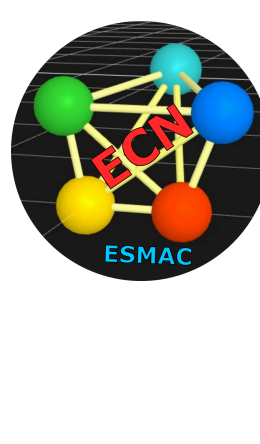
Advanced Case Discussions Course (ACDC) 2026



Save the date! **On Tuesday, the 10th of March**, we plan the next ACDC course. This is a one-day advanced online course, where participants can discuss the provided clinical gait cases with experienced gait analysts. Stay tuned for more information and registration opening at the beginning of January!

News from the ECN Committee

Changing faces



The past year, we said goodbye to Nathalie and Colm. Thanks to both for their supportive work in shaping the ECN, organising in-person network events and setting up the webinar working group.

We also have some new members! The ECN committee welcomes Ines and Linda. Ines is a postdoctoral researcher at the KU Leuven and will strengthen the ECN's PR working group. Linda is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Basel and joins the online engagement working group.



Upcoming Events

Coffee mingling: In the new year we will start organizing short monthly coffee networking meetings around different themes, from Data Sharing to Balance tasks in motion analysis. Keep an eye out for our January invite!

ECN Spring School: In April 26, the spring season's highlight is coming up! Our ECN Spring Training School, taking place from 15-17 of April in Belgium, kindly hosted by KU Leuven. This event offers a rich program designed to support early career professionals in movement analysis through hands-on workshops, expert talks, and networking opportunities.

Webinars: With the start of 2026, we will present our exciting overview of leadership webinars as well as PhD webinars organized by our own PhD committee! **Watch Them Back:** we have been working hard to complete the library of past webinars on the ESMAC website (member area). Brainfood for the holidays?

Promising Scientist Award: In January, the preparations will start again! We will offer a coffee meeting with (former) ECN committee members to answer any questions about eligibility, application, and benefits!

Join us! Do you want to be a part of the ECN committee? Contact us at ecn@esmac.org!



ESMAC 2026 DATES

- 14 - 16 September - Gait Course
- 15 - 16 September - Pre-Conference Seminars
- 17 - 19 September - Main Conference