

Strategic Plan



2015-2018

Mission

To improve the prevention and care of digestive diseases* in Europe through providing education, supporting research and improving clinical standards

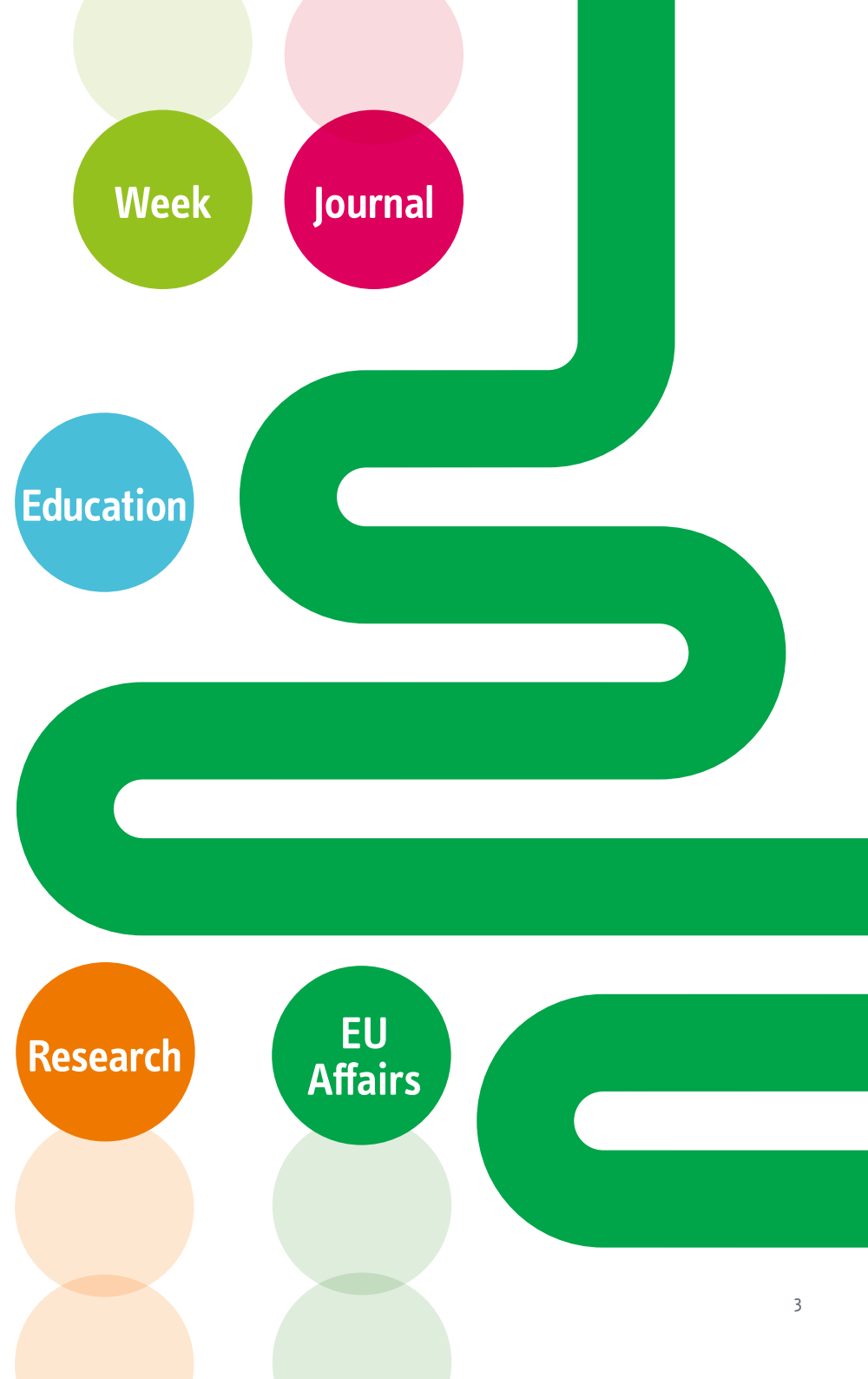
Vision

We will be a democratic, efficient and expanding organisation acting as the united voice of European gastroenterology*. We will deliver cutting edge education and training, and facilitate and disseminate world-leading research. We will work to improve clinical standards and services and to reduce health inequalities across Europe. To achieve these goals, we will listen to and learn from healthcare professionals, scientists, our patients and the public and we will work closely with politicians and policy-makers.

About UEG

We are a comprehensive European organisation which unites general and specialist pan-European and national societies working in the broad area of digestive diseases. Our joint areas of interest include the gastro-intestinal tract, liver, pancreas and biliary system. Together, we represent and provide services for researchers (ranging from laboratory scientists to epidemiologists), educationalists and healthcare professionals. The latter group includes medical and surgical gastroenterologists, hepatologists, endoscopists, oncologists, paediatricians, primary care practitioners, radiologists, pathologists, microbiologists and many others interested in the broad area of digestive health and disease. Our meetings and services are also of direct relevance to specialist nurses and many allied health professionals, and we liaise closely with these groups and with patient organisations and charities.

*Throughout this document, the term "gastroenterology" refers to all functions, diseases and disorders affecting the gastro-intestinal tract, liver, pancreas and biliary system in adults and in children. The term "digestive diseases" refers to diseases and disorders of the gastro-intestinal tract, liver, pancreas and biliary system.



UEG Core Values and Organisation

Aims

- To improve all aspects of digestive diseases in Europe - education, training, research and clinical standards and services - and to reduce disparities across Europe
- To work with and for the benefit of our members and stakeholders - the European specialist and national societies concerned with digestive diseases
- To promote equality of opportunity, in particular regarding gender and nationality, and to foster young talent
- To be open, transparent and fair in all our actions and processes
- To maintain efficient two-way communication with member organisations, individual health care providers, stakeholders and the public; to listen and to inform
- To maintain an international perspective and to embrace a joint responsibility with others for digestive diseases worldwide
- To maintain and support a committed, talented, democratically-elected volunteer leadership
- To maintain a lean and efficient professional secretariat and headquarters with appropriate services outsourced to experts
- To maintain financial resilience and probity to underpin our activities

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Vision

To be a democratic and efficient organisation acting as the united voice of European gastroenterology and progressively to expand our services

Tasks

1. To ensure specialist and national societies are appropriately represented within UEG and to optimise two-way communication
2. To develop processes to actively promote equality throughout our organisation and activities, particularly with regard to gender, race and nationality
3. To take particular responsibility to ensure representation and activity in all UEG areas which support the less prosperous countries of Europe
4. To develop specific strategies and programmes to promote young talent in UEG and throughout European gastroenterology
5. To maintain an active communication and marketing strategy and to review its aims and specific initiatives formally each year
6. To further develop and maintain links with other European organisations dealing with education, training, research and clinical services in digestive diseases
7. To develop a strategy for internationalisation in education and research which dovetails with other continental and world societies
8. To formally review our internal structures on a 4-yearly basis to ensure fitness for purpose and our secretariat
9. To develop open and transparent processes to ensure that committed and effective members are elected and appointed onto our boards and committees
10. To maintain a headquarters of European gastroenterology of a size needed to house our activities and secretariat and to maintain an efficient and effective presence at the centre of the European Union
11. To continue to explore the introduction of international or European individual membership in addition to the already existing society membership structure

UEG Education and Research

Aims

- To concentrate UEG activity in areas where cross-disciplinarity, European integration or large size are advantageous, and thus to add value to the activity of our affiliated national and specialist societies
- To organise and run the best international comprehensive multidisciplinary digestive diseases meeting in the world (UEG Week), delivering the most up-to-date education, sharing the best clinical practice and communicating the highest quality new research findings of any international meeting in our field
- To organise other European meetings focussed on education, training, research and service development, with an emphasis on collaboration across countries and/or disciplines
- To establish and maintain a comprehensive up-to-date library and E-learning portal on UEG Education, making UEG educational materials available for use whenever and wherever people need them
- To help improve training of professionals in GI diseases in partnership with appropriate European bodies with responsibilities in this field
- To own and to publish a progressively successful scientific journal focussed on digestive diseases (UEG Journal)
- To lobby to increase the funding available for digestive diseases research in Europe, and to advise on priorities for funding
- To work to attract, train and retain the best young talent to perform research in digestive disease and health
- To stimulate collaborative and inter-disciplinary research through increasing awareness of excellent research being planned or carried out in Europe
- To provide a service to researchers by advertising research opportunities and posts

Vision

To deliver cutting-edge education and to facilitate and disseminate worldleading research on digestive diseases



Tasks

1. To develop processes to integrate activity from our three flagship services to gastroenterology: UEG Week, UEG Education and UEG Journal; and thus to produce mutually synergistic growth and success

UEG Week

2. To introduce innovations to further increase the quality of research abstract submissions to UEG Week, aiming to be clearly the best in the world
3. To make targeted efforts to encourage abstract submission from countries which appear under-represented, given the known standard of their research
4. To maintain and improve symposia focussing on state-of-the-art clinical management and sharing of best practice, including live endoscopy
5. To improve the standard and integration of basic and early translational science
6. To improve the Postgraduate Course in terms of quality and educational value, and to grow attendee numbers
7. To continually improve and innovate formats, using modern electronic tools to maximise interactivity, inclusiveness and accessibility to an international audience
8. To develop a specific offering for young UEG members, including trainees
9. To develop strategies for increasing participation from under-represented countries, including specifically the less prosperous countries of Europe
10. To develop a strong international strategy in order to benefit from the best practice and research worldwide and to share with them best practice and research from Europe
11. To develop a specific gender equality policy including a strategy for developing female role models and a strategy for ensuring equality of opportunity in terms of prizes, awards and attendance
12. To review registration fee policy in terms of the headline fee but also in terms of reduced fees for specific groups of attendees
13. To use the opportunity and prestige of UEG Week imaginatively to promote all the diverse aims of UEG



Week

UEG Education

14. To organise and fund meetings and other activities outside UEG Week to promote and support collaboration and interdisciplinarity across Europe. In particular to support collaborative efforts between national societies and between specialist societies
15. To support training through specialist courses for different target groups, carefully coordinated with the Postgraduate Course at UEG Week and using the best educational models and an evidence-based approach
16. To support the development and integration of basic and early translational science through workshops and training
17. To develop UEG Education in close conjunction with its users to make it the premier source in the world for online education in digestive diseases
18. To establish an evolving and up-to-date E-learning library covering all major topics in digestive diseases based on the established structure of the Blue Book or any successor
19. To develop an integrated strategy and closer working links with European bodies working in the area of professional training and accreditation
20. To integrate the many training opportunities we offer into a European syllabus, to provide evidence of participation and/or completion and to consider development of assessment



Education

UEG Journal

21. To publish high quality original research from all over the world in the broad area of digestive health and disease and to publish top quality reviews and opinion pieces
22. To use all resources available to UEG to promote the Journal, in particular to promote excellence, increase impact, and grow volume of content, circulation and readership
23. To promote the UEG Journal as a natural and prestigious home for publication of European consensus papers, guidelines and standards
24. To use the UEG Journal as a conduit for communication between UEG and clinicians, scientists and other readers and subscribers



Journal



Research

UEG Research

25. To lobby to increase funding for digestive diseases research from all sources, but particularly from the EU and its organs, and to advise and provide evidence to funding bodies on priority areas for research
26. To assess the impact of our European lobbying on stimulating funding in the area of digestive diseases
27. To continue to provide a comprehensive array of awards, fellowships and prizes to encourage young researchers to work and excel in digestive disease research, but to review this on a 4-yearly basis to ensure fitness for purpose and value for money
28. To co-ordinate and fund specific training in research methods, potentially ranging from specialised laboratory research through clinical trials to epidemiology and health services research
29. To design and pilot a programme to enable promising young researchers (particularly from economically-disadvantaged countries in Europe) to visit relevant participating European centres of excellence
30. To celebrate and publicise the best research in Europe through exposure and commentary on the UEG website, social media, E-learning portal, UEG Journal and UEG Week
31. To provide, advertise and actively manage up-to-date web-based repositories as a service to researchers. These should include: European-wide funding opportunities; studies and trials needing collaborators; open research job opportunities; and PhD opportunities

UEG Clinical Guidelines, Standards and Services

Aims

- To act as a repository and advocate for clinical guidelines and standards developed by our specialist and national society members, and to add value to them
- With our members, to support the development of specific European standards of care and service provision, and to promote them
- To monitor and publish up-to-date data on the burden of digestive diseases and on digestive disease services in Europe (the “White Book”)
- To act as a central repository, facilitator and advertiser of opportunities for individual clinicians and trainees in Europe
- To work to enhance the clinical training and continuing education of young clinicians and trainees, including through the sharing of experience throughout Europe

Tasks

1. To form a repository of current clinical guidelines with factual information on authorship, commissioning, methodology, and industry involvement
2. To co-ordinate the development of minimum and optimal European standards of care and service provision, in partnership with our member societies
3. With our members, to promote and disseminate appropriate guidelines and standards in various formats to encourage uptake
4. To identify gaps where guidelines are still needed and to encourage member societies and individuals to fill these

Vision

To improve clinical standards and services and to reduce health inequalities across Europe

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5. To work with the EU and other European medical organisations to increase commissioning and ongoing funding of clinical guidelines and standards in Europe
6. To commission updating and renewal of the “White Book” on a 3-5 yearly cycle, consulting with our members on areas for particular focus
7. To commission work to assess the impact of the “White Book”
8. To establish and maintain central repositories of job and fellowship opportunities in Europe
9. To design and pilot a programme to enable young clinicians and trainees (particularly from economically-disadvantaged countries in Europe) to visit participating European centres of excellence

UEG Public Affairs & Advocacy

Aims

- To be the united voice of European gastroenterology in the institutions of the European Union and the governments of member states
- To use this to promote digestive health in Europe, including through facilitating the activities and aims of national and specialist societies
- To directly interact with other pan-European and international bodies with specific interests in digestive diseases and with umbrella medical associations, maintaining a spirit of common purpose
- To seek and monitor the opinions of patients and the public to help shape UEG strategies and to inform them about digestive diseases
- To disseminate knowledge about the latest advances in digestive disease research, prevention and management, whether these advances come from UEG directly or from specialist or national societies
- To increase funding and other support from the EU and other sources into the area of digestive diseases, including into clinical management, research, and education of professionals and patients

Tasks

1. To lobby the EU parliament about all UEG and member society issues and also to run specific targeted campaigns at appropriate intervals, co-ordinating specific topics carefully with other UEG activity
2. Specifically to lobby for increased funding and other investment for clinical services, research and education in digestive diseases, from EU bodies and from other sources

Vision

To listen to and learn from public opinion and to increase knowledge and stimulate activity in the area of digestive diseases among the public and politicians



EU Affairs

3. To supervise, review and work with professional EU affairs agencies engaged by the UEG
4. To maintain and build links with other medical organisations in Europe involved with the EU and with public affairs
5. To work with patient organisations to promote their activity and improve their links with UEG
6. To develop a patient and public involvement policy for UEG
7. To work with public relations agencies engaged by UEG to strengthen the UEG brand and to increase its visibility, reach and influence
8. To co-ordinate a register of UEG experts who can be rapidly reactive as well as proactive in representing the views of UEG and its member societies



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