Strategic Plan
2019–2022
Purpose

UEG, United European Gastroenterology, is a professional non-profit organisation combining all the leading European medical specialist and national societies focussing on digestive health. Together, our member societies represent more than 30,000 specialists from every field in gastroenterology. The term “gastroenterology” refers to all digestive functions and diseases affecting the gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas and biliary system, both in adults and in children. The scope of our member societies ranges from general gastroenterology and surgery to more disease- or organ-oriented, and special interest associations on a pan-European level. Together, we provide services for all healthcare professionals and researchers, in the broad area of digestive health. The role of UEG is to take concerted efforts to learn more about digestive disease by prevention, research, diagnosis, cure, and raising awareness of their importance.

We are driving scientific advancements

Gastroenterologists
Hepatologists
Pancreatologists
Endoscopists
Neurogastroenterologists
Digestive Oncologists
Gastrointestinal surgeons
Paediatricians
Primary care practitioners
Radiologists
Pathologists
Internists
Microbiologists
Nutritionists
Dieticians
Basic scientists
Researchers
Educationalists
Pharmacologists
Psychologists / Psychotherapists
Statisticians
Nurses
Students
Mission

To act as the united and trusted voice of European gastroenterology and to be recognised as the leading authority for digestive health. We promote science, research, education and excellent quality of care and we aim to reduce health inequalities across Europe.

Vision

To reduce the burden of digestive diseases and improve digestive health.

UEG works in a contextual environment taking into account a wide range of environmental, sociological, political, economic and regulatory factors that influence the nature of digestive health and healthcare delivery.
Core Values

UEG’s core values include integrity, quality, diversity, independence, respect, accountability and transparency as an inclusive concept for all strategic drivers

We take responsibility by:

• working in the best ethical way and adhering to our core values
• emphasising multidisciplinary collaboration and involving underrepresented groups in all our activities
• striving for equality of opportunity and inclusion, in particular regarding age, gender, and nationality
• serving as an umbrella for our member societies
• communicating with patient organisations and with the public in order to improve all aspects of digestive health across Europe

Organisational Vitality

We ensure organisational vitality by rotating volunteer leadership, by professional committed staff, by well-equipped infrastructure and by good governance

We take responsibility by:

• maintaining our current robust membership and working with and for the benefit of our members by concentrating on activities where cross-disciplinarity and European integration adds value
• reinforcing volunteer leadership centered on values and integrity
• maintaining balanced and efficient committee structures
• expanding strategies and programmes to promote young talent, to build a growing community of tomorrow’s leaders in European gastroenterology that can positively influence digestive health worldwide
• fostering strategic collaborations with all stakeholders in the digestive health field
• maintaining committed and qualified staff as an important resource to the organisation
• guaranteeing long-term financial sustainability to safeguard our vision
• collaborating with biomedical and technological industry in the spirit of openness, transparency, integrity and dialogue to foster better healthcare outcomes
• setting measures to encourage diversification of income sources to enhance our financial resilience
UEG Week

Organising the best international multidisciplinary digestive health meeting in the world by sharing the highest quality research and best clinical practice, delivering most up-to-date education, and bringing together the sharpest minds

Strategic objectives:

- Increasing quality and quantity of research and scientific submissions
- Guaranteeing integration of basic and translational science with innovations in clinical practice
- Maintaining state-of-the-art clinical symposia and sharing best practice, guidelines and standards
- Evolving the Postgraduate Course in terms of quality and educational value
- Providing innovative formats to maximise interactivity, inclusiveness and accessibility
- Increasing the attendance from in- and outside Europe for maximal exchange of knowledge
- Providing an innovative and friendly networking platform for all participants
- Providing an array of awards and prizes to attract excellent science

Education

Taking a central role in delivering and disseminating cutting-edge, unbiased continuing medical education and supporting professional development

Strategic objectives:

- Developing effective training tools and educational content to meet the learning requirements of the future to optimize quality and standards in Europe
- Strengthening existing digital learning resources using innovative technology and ensuring easy access to stand out as the premier source in the world for online education
- Organising specialised courses for different target groups in Europe based on unmet needs, using the best educational concepts, ensuring multidisciplinarity, hands-on training when appropriate and an evidence-based approach
- Promoting multidisciplinarity across Europe by supporting activity-driven collaborative efforts between our members
- Establishing an educational European syllabus for all our training opportunities based on the Blue Book of the European Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- Harmonizing clinical training of professionals and strategies for accreditation in Europe by fostering close links with UEMS / European Board of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- Providing educational resources for undergraduate and postgraduate certification requirements in Europe (European Specialty Examination in Gastroenterology and Hepatology (ESEGH))
Strategic objectives:
• Initiating and stimulating collaborative research efforts to support our member societies in facilitating digestive health research in Europe
• Increasing EU funded digestive health research by providing evidence and advice to funding bodies on priority areas in close liaison with our member societies
• Establishing a dedicated researchers’ network and platform for exchange on EU funded research and offering a meeting hub for research consortia
• Supporting and providing endorsement for pan-European consortium forming initiatives in the exploratory phase of applications to EU funding
• Enhancing awards, prizes and fellowships to support innovation and excellence in digestive health research
• Regularly updating data on the burden of digestive diseases and on digestive health services in Europe (the “White Book”)

Encouraging innovation and excellence in research by supporting research facilitation and cooperation in the field of digestive health

Journal
Providing a key authoritative, high quality and trusted journal as an international forum for research in gastroenterology

Strategic objectives:
• Promoting an active strategy to attract the best manuscripts within the field of gastroenterology
• Publishing cutting-edge research of outstanding quality in basic, translational and clinical research, as well as top quality reviews and editorials
• Improving the quality and impact of the journal, aiming to be positioned among the ten leading gastroenterology journals in the world
• Promoting the journal as a natural and prestigious home for publication of European and international consensus papers, guidelines and standards
• Recognising scientific excellence by awarding best original research
Quality of Care

Improving clinical standards and guidelines, practice and services to reduce health inequalities across Europe for better patient care

Strategic objectives:

• Maintaining and improving a central repository of clinical guidelines and standards in the entire field of gastroenterology developed by our member societies
• Identifying gaps and unmet needs, and encourage member societies to produce new guidelines or clinical standards
• Supporting and promoting the development and implementation of clinical practice guidelines and standards of care in partnership with our member societies, and disseminating these across Europe
• Enhancing interaction and exchange between young clinicians and prestigious European training centres

Public Affairs

Acting as the united voice of European gastroenterology for the public and in different national and European institutions to promote digestive health

Strategic objectives:

• Coordinating concerted efforts together with our member societies to raise awareness of the importance of digestive health among policy-makers and the public
• Presenting scientific evidence to EU decision makers to create a favourable policy environment for the improvement of digestive health
• Raising the profile of digestive health among decision-makers to secure adequate funding for gastroenterology research
• Improving digestive health in Europe by collaborating with healthcare decision-makers as a powerful voice in the EU institutions
• Collaborating with other pan-European and international bodies with specific interests in digestive health
• Advocating for primary and secondary prevention as well as treatment of digestive diseases on a European and national level in close collaboration with our member societies
• Involving patient organisations in our efforts to improve digestive health at the national, European and international level
Our Ordinary Specialist Member Societies

EAES
European Association for Endoscopic Surgery and other interventional techniques

EAGEN
European Association for Gastroenterology, Endoscopy and Nutrition

EASL
European Association for the Study of the Liver

ECCO
European Crohn’s and Colitis Organisation

EDS
European Digestive Surgery

EFISDS
International Society of Digestive Surgery (European Federation)

EHMSG
European Helicobacter and Microbiota Study Group

EPC
European Pancreatic Club

ESCP
European Society of Coloproctology

ESDO
European Society of Digestive Oncology

ESGAR
European Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology

ESGE
European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

ESNM
European Society of Neurogastroenterology and Motility

ESP
European Society of Pathology

ESPCG
European Society for Primary Care Gastroenterology

ESPGHAN
European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

ESPIN
The European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism

Our 47 National Member Societies