

Florence, July 30th, 2024

Dear ESID Members,

I am writing to formally announce my candidacy for the position of President-Elect of ESID.

With over 20 years of dedicated experience in the field of primary immunodeficiencies and a strong commitment to advancing our understanding and treatment of these conditions, I am confident in my ability to lead and contribute to the continued success and growth of ESID.

Throughout my career, I have been deeply involved in clinical practice and research focused on primary immunodeficiencies. For those unfamiliar with my background, I am a paediatrician and physician scientist who received medical training at the University of Florence. My journey began with a research fellowship at the University of Washington under Professor Hans Ochs, who introduced me to the field of PID and helped me build international connections. I also spent a year in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, at the BMT Paediatric Immunology Unit. Currently, I am an Associate Professor of Paediatrics at the NEUROFARBA Department of the University of Florence and head of the Immuno-Onco-Haematology Unit at the Department of Paediatric Onco-Haematology at Meyer Children's Hospital, IRCCS, in Florence, Italy.

I started with ESID early in my career, co-founding the ESID Junior Working Party in 2004 and leading it from 2006 to 2008. This experience helped me grow professionally and eventually led to my role as ESID Treasurer, where I managed contacts, sponsors, and the Society's growth. In 2012, I hosted in Florence the 15th Biannual ESID meeting as Meeting President. In 2014, I became head of the Educational WP, enhancing educational initiatives like an e-learning platform and annual (rather than bi-annual) Summer Schools. I was also the co-creator and organizer of the first IAPIDS School in Lisbon in January 2020, which successfully brought together young immunologists globally. Throughout the years, collaborating with leading experts has allowed me to publish in prestigious journals, enhancing our field's knowledge especially in immune dysregulation. I have been actively involved with ESID for many years, growing with the Society and learning to tackle challenges. After taking a break, I recently returned as the ESID Secretary, gaining a thorough understanding of our strengths and difficulties. Currently, ESID faces challenges and exciting new opportunities. I am passionate about my work with the ESID organisation and believe that my extensive experience can help shape its future. As we progress, it's important to remember our roots! My strong connection to the Society, beyond career goals, is a key strength.

My vision for ESID is to build on our solid foundation and drive initiatives that enhance our community's ability to improve patient outcomes through research, education, and collaboration. As President-Elect, my key focus areas would be:

- 1. Fostering Collaborative Research:** By promoting interdisciplinary and international partnerships with other scientific societies, we can accelerate the discovery of new therapies and deepen our understanding of immunodeficiencies.
- 2. Enhancing Education and Training:** While ESID Junior activities are well-established, expanding educational programs and resources for seasoned professionals will keep our community at the forefront of advancements.
- 3. Advocacy and Awareness:** Increasing public and governmental awareness about primary immunodeficiencies, in collaboration with patient organizations and foundations like IPOPI and JMF, is crucial for securing funding and support.
- 4. Supporting Patient Communities:** Providing patients and their families with access to the latest information and clinical trials, and to support networks is pivotal to improving their quality of life.

I am excited about the opportunity to take on this role to continue serving the Society working closely with the ESID leadership, members, and stakeholders to advance our mission. I am confident that my background, combined with my passion for our field, will enable me to effectively serve as President-Elect and, subsequently, as President of ESID.

Finally, for those concerned about my Italian nationality following another Italian president, I want to highlight that despite Fabio's Italian roots, he has spent most of his career working internationally. I believe it is more important to consider where one's professional experience has been gained rather than focusing on nationality.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I hope I can count on your vote and your support for the upcoming elections!

Sincerely,

Eleonora Gambineri, Associate Professor of Paediatrics
University of Florence and Meyer Children's Hospital (IRCCS)



Florence, Italy