

Basel became the first ESGENA Training Center

June 2013

In the last five years, the endoscopy department of the University Hospital Basel has often been selected for grants. Fifteen of 35 formally conducted ESGENA grants were completed in Basel. The University Hospital meets the new criteria as defined for ESGENA training centres.

The endoscopy department in Basel combines Gastroenterology and Thoracic Medicine with a wide range of examinations. As a pioneer in the establishment of non-anesthesiologist administration of propofol (NAAP), the team in Basel was trained during the first studies on this topic and has gained many years of experience. Therefore, many grantees come with the specific desire to expand their experience in dealing with sedation and patient monitoring. Further specializations of the department are hygiene and management of endoscopy units

Connections to ESGENA

For 14 years, Basel has had strong connections and co-operations with ESGENA through Eric Pflimlin, Nurse Manager of the Endoscopy Unit, Michael Ortmann, Leader of Continued and Advanced Education, and other team members.

Michael Ortmann has been an ESGENA board member since 2003 and is the current ESGENA President. As the national delegate, he represented Switzerland in the ESGENA Education Working Group (EEWG). Since spring 2013, Evi Baumann, from the same department, has had this position.

In 2002, Michael Ortmann and Eric Pflimlin initiated the hands-on training on bio-simulators made with pig organs. They have since organised and chaired this hands-on-training at the ESGENA conferences and UEG Week. Both Michael and Eric have marked the high quality of this hands-on training with their training skills and endoscopic experience. Over the years many of the nurses from the Basel team have worked as tutors.

Michael Ortmann and Eric Pflimlin have worked as tutors at ESGE-ESGENA Workshops with live demonstrations in a number of Eastern European countries. Based on their initiative, ESGENA established the co-operation grants which support co-operation between two countries.

Aims & learning outcomes

In Basel, a goal-oriented learning concept with theory and practice has been established for many years. ESGENA grantees have rated this structured learning as particularly effective.

Access to learning facilities

As a creative thinker, Michael Ortmann has developed homemade dummies - simple and cost effective - on which endoscopic techniques can be practiced. The department has appropriate training facilities which enable an interactive learning situation.

Team support

The team support by physicians and the hospital management has given nurses the opportunity to take a pioneer role within ESGENA. This support is evident in the mutual recognition of the work of other professional groups.

Symposium with the official award

On 27 June 2013, the official recognition as an ESGENA training centre was announced at a special symposium in Basel. The symposium was very well attended with more than 100 participants.

The ESGENA was represented by Marjon de Pater, Amsterdam, Treasurer ESGENA, and Ulrike Beilenhoff, Ulm, Scientific Secretary of ESGENA.

The ESGE was represented by Prof. Thierry Ponchon from Lyon, who underlined the close cooperation between ESGE and ESGENA in congresses, workshops and guideline development. ESGE also runs various training centres located throughout Europe.



From left to right: Marjon de Pater, Eric Pflimlin, Michael Ortmann and Ulrike Beilenhoff

Marjon de Pater, ESGENA Treasurer
Ulrike Beilenhoff, ESGENA Scientific Secretary
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