

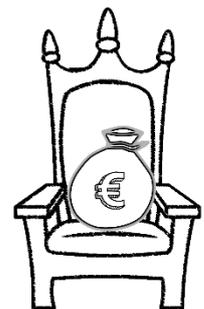
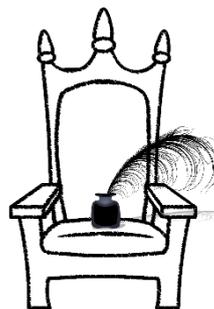
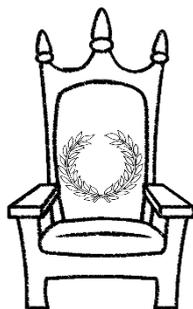
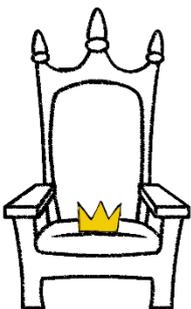
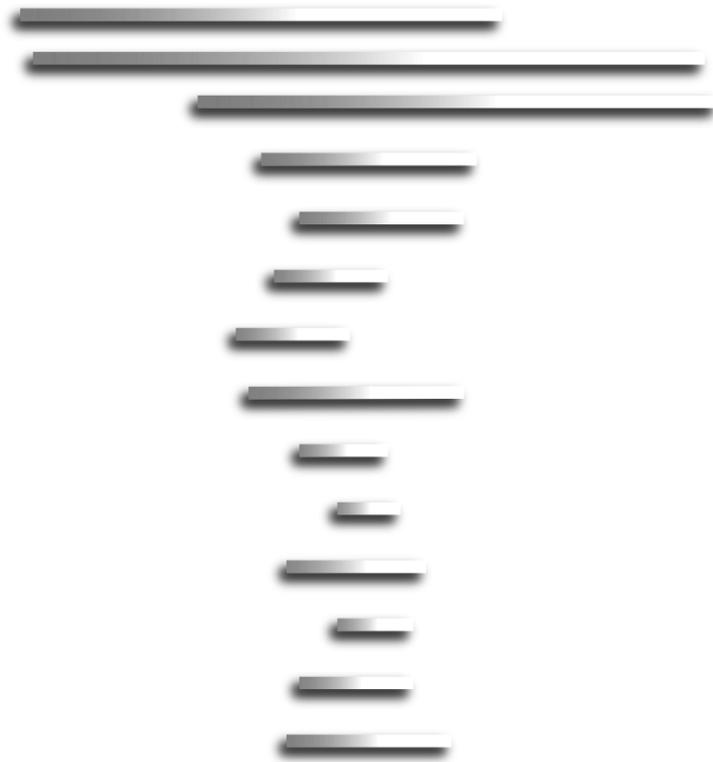
ESSTS

European Society for the Study of Tourette Syndrome

A European Community network working for the global promotion of awareness, research and treatment of Tourette Syndrome

ESSTS Board Candidates

2020-2023



Board positions & candidates



Chair: Kirsten Müller-Vahl

Dear ESSTS members,

I hereby apply for the office of ESSTS chair. Please find enclosed my CV as well as a short program, in which I describe my aims and plans for an office under my presidency. Since I was a committee member in the birth of ESSTS in 2000, vice chair from 2011 – 2016, and host and local organizer of the 12th ESSTS conference in Hannover in 2019, I feel well equipped for the position as ESSTS chair. In view of the current corona crisis and the resulting need to postpone the 13th ESSTS conference, we are facing difficult times. This crisis will lead to permanent changes. To navigate our society safely through these difficult waters, we must stay together and support each other. To survive, small scientific societies like ESSTS will need a solid financial foundation and must be open to digitization and new concepts. Thanks to our current board – and wonderful support by Anna Kanta – ESSTS is in a good position to manage the challenges ahead. As of today, as future ESSTS chair I would do my very best to make sure that membership numbers will further increase and fund raising will increase. I will support local hosts in organizing future ESSTS conferences, will realize the planned 2nd Tourette's world congress, and will help applying for new research grants. Last, but not least, cooperation with European advocacy groups is very close to my heart. I would be greatly honored to serve as chair of ESSTS for the next legislative period.

Curriculum vitae (CV)

Professor Dr. Kirsten R. Müller-Vahl is a professor of psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry, Socialpsychiatry and Psychotherapy at the Hannover Medical School (MHH), Germany. She is a specialist in both neurology and adult psychiatry and worked for many years in a specialized movement disorder clinic before she moved to the department of psychiatry in 1997. Since 1995 she is the

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head of the Tourette outpatient clinic at MHH. Since then, she has seen more than 2000 patients with TS at all ages.

Her scientific work related to TS includes a large spectrum including RCTs using all kinds of treatments (from behavioural therapy to different pharmacotherapies including cannabis-based medicines, and DBS), neuroimaging and genetic studies as well as studies investigating different clinical aspects of the disease. In 1998 and 2005, she received research grants from the TAA, Inc. She was a full partner in the EU funded FP7 program EMTICS and a work package leader in the EUfunded interdisciplinary training network TS-EUROTRAIN. Currently, she is a collaborator in TIC Genetics, PI in two large IITs (ONLINE-TICS: Trial to Demonstrate the Efficacy and Safety of Internet-delivered Behavioral Treatment for Adults With Tic Disorders and CANNA-TICS: Cannabinoids in the Treatment of Tics), PI in "Study of ABX-1431 in Adult Patients With Tourette Syndrome or Chronic Motor Tic Disorder" and investigator in "D1AMOND: Ecopipam Tablets to Study Tourette's Syndrome in Children and Adolescents".

She published more than 130 PubMed indexed publications, a German language reference book on Tourette syndrome, is co-author in "Tourette syndrome" edited by D. Martino and J. Leckman and is editor of a German reference book on "Cannabis in Medicine". She is first author of the German guidelines for the treatment of tics published by the German Society for Neurology, first author of the "State of the art treatment guidelines" of the German Society of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy, Psychosomatic, and Neurology, first author of the ESSTS guidelines Part IV: DBS, as well as coauthor of the AAN practice guidelines on the treatment of tics in Tourette's and the TAA "Position Statement on the Use of Medical Cannabis and Cannabis-Based Medicines for Tourette Syndrome and Tic Disorders".

Memberships/Awards (selection):

Since 1994 Member of the scientific board of German Tourette-Syndrome Association (TGD e.V.)

Since 1997 Member of the Tourette-Syndrome Association, Inc. (TSA), USA

Since 1998 Member of the Association for Cannabinoid Medicines (ACM)

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1998 - 2019 2. Chairwoman of the Association for Cannabinoid Medicines (ACM)

Since 2000 (Founding) member of the International Association for Cannabinoid Medicines (IACM)

2003 - 2004 Member of the International Steering Committee - TIC Database Consortium

2007 - 2009 1. Chairwoman of the International Association for Cannabinoid Medicines (IACM)

Since 2010 German representative, member of the management committee, coordinator of COST Action BM0905 - European Network for the Study of Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome

2011- 2016 Vice chair of ESSTS

2012 Scientific Award of the German Tourette-Syndrome Association (TGD e.V.)

Since 2016 Member of the committee of experts for narcotic drugs at the federal opium bureau of the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) in Germany

Since 2017 Member of the Medical Advisory Board of the Tourette Association of America (TAA)

2017-2019 Invited expert to the German Bundestag for hearings for the German cannabis law

2017 IACM Award 2017 for Clinical Research for special achievements regarding the reintroduction of cannabis and cannabinoids as medicine 2017-2019

Member of the AAN Tourette guideline panel

since 2019 1. Chairwoman of the Association for Cannabinoid Medicines (ACM)

since 2019 1. Chairwoman of the IACM

Conflicts of Interest

During the last years my scientific interest has been, among others, in the research of new treatment strategies in TS and especially in studies investigating the efficacy of cannabis-based medicines. Since I was heavily involved in the process of the German cannabis law that entered into force in 2017 and work actively in the German (ACM) and the International Association for Cannabinoid

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Medicines (IACM), currently I serve as a consultant for many companies working in this field. Therefore, I want to disclose all my potential conflicts of interest: I have received financial or material research support from GW, Abide Therapeutics, Lundbeck, Syneos Health, Therapix Biosciences Ltd, Almirall Hermal GmbH, and GW pharmaceuticals.

I have received consultant's honoraria from Abide Therapeutics, Tilray, Resalo Vertrieb GmbH, Columbia Care, Bionorica Ethics GmbH, Lundbeck and Eurox Deutschland GmbH. I am a consultant or advisory board member for Abide Therapeutics, Alirio, The Academy of Medical Cannabis Limited, CannaMedical Pharma GmbH, CannaXan GmbH, Columbia Care, Canopy Growth, Leafly Deutschland GmbH, Lundbeck, Nomovo Pharm, Nuvelution TS Pharma Inc., Resalo Vertrieb GmbH, Sanity Group, Syqe Medical Ltd., Therapix Biosciences Ltd., Tilray, Wayland Group, and Zynerba Pharmaceuticals. I have received speaker's fees from Tilray, Wayland Group, Emalex, Eurox group, PR Berater, Aphria, Ever pharma GmbH, and Cogitando GmbH. I hold shares of Nomovo Pharm. I am Associate editor for "Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research" and Editorial Board Member for "Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoids"

With best wishes,



Kirsten Müller-Vahl



Vice-Chair: Nanette Mol Debes

From a very early stage in my scientific education, I have been interested in Tourette syndrome, its complexity, its overlap between psychiatry, neurology and pediatrics, and the impact of the disease on the child and its family.

In 2009, I finished my PhD study "Tourette syndrome and co-morbidity - Diagnostic process and impact of psychosocial consequences, severity of tics, pharmacological treatment, and intelligence" (University of Copenhagen).

In 2014, I finished my medical specialization in pediatrics, and in 2017 my subspecialization in neuropsychiatry. I am currently working as a neuropsychiatrist at the pediatric department, Herlev University Hospital in Denmark and clinical associate professor at the University of Copenhagen.

Since 2017, I have had a combined research and clinical position, which has given me the opportunity to initiate several neuropsychiatric research projects at our department, among others on Tourette syndrome.

In 2008, while doing my PhD on Tourette syndrome, I attended a meeting on Tourette syndrome in Bari, Italy. This turned out to be the meeting, where ESSTS was resurrected and I feel privileged to have been able to see ESSTS growing and developing in the years thereafter. It was a great pleasure to host the ESSTS meeting "at home" in Copenhagen in 2018.

After all these years on the sidelines, I would like to become a more active part of the still developing and growing society. I believe, I can contribute with my clinical and scientific knowledge, and my personal motivation and enthusiasm, to continue the work of the present board and increase awareness, scientific activities, networking, and exciting conferences on Tourette syndrome during the coming years.

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Secretary: Natalia Szejko

Dear ESSTS Members,

I am currently working as Postdoctoral Associate at the Department of Neurology, Yale University, USA. I am also affiliated with the Department of Neurology and the Department of Bioethics, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland.

I have attended ESSTS meetings since 2014 and became extremely interested in TS both scientifically and clinically. Since then I have been participating in several local and international projects aimed to investigate the pathophysiology and treatment of TS.

I have also been awarded grants that enabled me to gain more expertise abroad: in 2017 I visited for 6 months the TS Outpatient Clinic in Hannover Medical School Germany, led by Prof. Kirsten R. Müller-Vahl, world acclaimed specialized in TS, with whom I am closely co-working until now. While in Hannover, I was able to gain expertise in various clinical aspects of TS and participate in variety of scientific activities. Together with Prof. Müller-Vahl we have published eight articles dedicated to the treatment of TS with cannabinoids, DBS and pathophysiology of tics. We are now finishing the preparation of the new version of European Clinical Guidelines for Tourette Syndrome and Other Tic Disorders (Assessment and DBS Parts as well as Editorial).

I am also the co-author of the Polish Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of TS (Janik et al. 2018). Together with the supervisor of my PhD thesis dedicated to clinical aspects of TS, such as self-injury and dystonic tics, Prof. Piotr Janik, we have published eleven articles aimed to investigate the pathophysiology and treatment of TS.

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In 2019, I have been awarded the Research Fellowship granted by the Kosciuszko Foundation and spent 3 months at the Yale University, working in the Lab of Prof. Michael Bloch and Prof. James Leckman. I have also been awarded the Clinical Fellowship of the European Academy of Neurology and gained experience in movement disorders in Department of Neurology, Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria (September-October 2018) as well as Joined Clinical Fellowship awarded by the Movement Disorders Society and the European Huntington's Disease Network (Department of Neurology, Ramon and Cajal Hospital, Madrid, Spain, November-December 2017).

For my accomplishments, I have been awarded the Scientific Award for the Young Scientist founded by the Journal "Polityka" (2019) as well as have been nominated to the Adam Rojszczak Prize founded by Foundation for Polish Science.

As one of the Members of the ESSTS Board, I could offer my omnipotent energy and enthusiasm for this Society as well as TS. As I already have experience in international co-operation and I know how important, challenging, but also fulfilling this experience is, I will do my best to make our Society flourish. Therefore, I would greatly appreciate your support and would be honored to help with our future, common accomplishments.

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Treasurer: Andrea E. Cavanna

I currently work as a clinician (Consultant in Behavioural Neurology at the Department of Neuropsychiatry, National Centre for Mental Health, Birmingham, UK) and as an academic (Honorary Professor in Neuropsychiatry at Aston University, Birmingham, UK).

Since 2008 I have been Lead Consultant for the specialist Tourette syndrome clinic, and I feel genuinely happy that my working life is mainly devoted to patients with Tourette syndrome.

I also hope to be able to train the future generation of clinical scientists by running the Tourette syndrome module of the MSc in Clinical Neuropsychiatry at the University of Birmingham.

I don't have other credentials for the post of ESSTS treasurer: my goal is to make ESSTS "something worth defending", and my take on finance management and resource allocation is encapsulated in a [Congressional Testimony from the challenging times of the Cold War](#). (link)