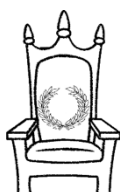
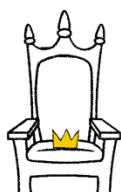
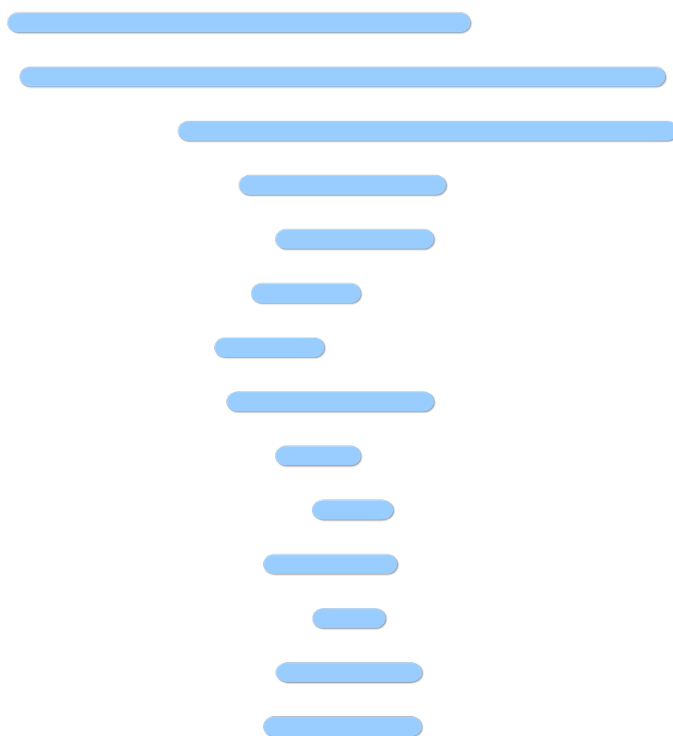


2023-2026

Board candidates



Board positions & candidates



Chair

Nanette Mol Debes

(Current Vice-Chair)

Affiliation:

Paediatric Department, Herlev University Hospital, Denmark

As a junior researcher, just started on my PhD, I was so lucky to be able to join the meeting where ESSTS was reformed during the Italian Neurological Society meeting in Bari, Italy, in 2008. Since, I have actively participated in almost all annual meetings. After hosting the 11th European Conference on Tourette Syndrome and Tic Disorders in Copenhagen in 2018, I became even more engaged in ESSTS and since 2020 I have been vice-chair of the ESSTS board.

I would love to continue as a member of the board, making sure ESSTS will keep moving forward, will expand and will develop further. I love the teamwork in the ESSTS board resulting in among others organizing the annual European conferences, stimulation of world-wide collaborations, and development of new educational activities and initiatives.

In everyday life, I am working as a neuro-pediatrician (combined research and clinical position) at the paediatric department, Herlev University Hospital in Denmark and clinical associate professor at the University of Copenhagen. In 2014, I finished my medical specialization in paediatrics, and in 2017 the subspecialisation in neuropaediatrics.

Since 2020, I am the head of the neuropaediatric research clinic at the paediatric department, Herlev University Hospital, Denmark, currently leading several scientific research projects on Tourette syndrome, paediatric headache, sleeping disorders in children and adolescents, post-streptococcal neuropsychiatric disorders, cerebral palsy, and epilepsy in children and adolescents.





Vice-Chair

Tammy Hedderly

Affiliation:

Evelina London Childrens Hospital, GSTT and Kings College London, UK

I am a paediatric neurologist and have been a member of ESSTS from the early days and was present at one of the first few meetings with just a handful of friends in Leiden. I have had the pleasure of being the clinical chair at all our meetings since and I hope I have met many of you at our fantastic meetings across Europe.

I studied psychology as an undergraduate and was fortunate to gain a first-class honours degree, which included dissertations on autism spectrum, anxiety difficulties and wider neurocognitive modules. When I became a consultant paediatric neurologist in 2005, this experience helped me to develop a service for children integrating biopsychosocial aspects of movement problems.

I now lead a Tourette and movement disorder service in London as a full-time clinician and we aim to support trainees from across the UK, Europe and internationally to gain experiences in the clinical aspects of TS. We have contributed to descriptions of some novel phenotypes and we also develop therapies in our teams, with the help of connections and collaborations formed in ESSTS. I hold educational supervisor roles, am a UK Mentor for the British paediatric Neuro associations and I contribute to writing and leading teaching courses for tics, TS and stereotypes.

If successful in this role, I would aim to support budding Tourettologists and would love to be part of the Board so we can continue to also represent and canvass a wide involvement of the clinical teams and practitioners.





Treasurer

Natalia Szejko

(Current Secretary)

Affiliation:

University of Calgary, Medical University of Warsaw

I have become fascinated by the research and clinical work dedicated to Gilles de la Tourette syndrome (GTS) since my 5th year of medical school.

In 2013, I attended for the first time the ESSTS meeting in Paris where I presented my first research projects dedicated to GTS. From the very beginning I felt the atmosphere of acceptance and collaboration provided by the ESSTS community. Since then, I have actively participated in all ESSTS meetings. I was also supporting the organization of the 2016 annual meeting which was held in Warsaw, Poland.

Since 2020, I have had the privilege of serving as Secretary of ESSTS.

With my wonderful colleagues and world-known experts, Prof. Kirsten Müller-Vahl, Prof. Nanette Debes, Prof. Andreas Hartmann and Prof. Andrea Cavanna and the outstanding support of Anna Kanta, we have introduced new pathways for the Society's development and outreach, such as organization of virtual meetings and monthly/bimonthly webinars that have reached high attendance & viewing rates; we have also contributed to the Society with a number of research projects, mostly evolving around the topic of functional tic-like behaviors and have co-organised the ESSTS congress in Lausanne and the upcoming meeting in Brussels.

In collaboration with TS experts, we have also prepared the new version of the ESSTS guidelines for assessment and treatment of tics which were published in 2022.

I would be more than grateful for your support of my candidacy to continue as ESSTS Board Member – I have all my heart and enthusiasm dedicated to the



prosperity of the Society, organization of new educational, scientific and collaborative activities for all of our members and, first and foremost, support of our patients.

As for my professional background, I completed my medical studies at the Medical University of Warsaw, Poland (2014); I later pursued residency in adult neurology in the Department of Neurology, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland which I completed in 2022. In 2020 I also received a PhD from the Medical University of Warsaw; the topic of my doctoral thesis was clinical phenomenology of tic and related disorders in patients with GTS.

During my residency, I extended my clinical and research experience in GTS during Erasmus scholarship for PhD students in the Tourette Study Group of the Prof. Kirsten Müller-Vahl in Hannover Medical School, Germany and Child Study Center of the Yale University, USA, under the supervision of Prof. James Leckman and Prof. Michael Bloch; as a result, I published more than 50 original and review papers and book chapters dedicated to GTS. I have also been awarded several awards for my scientific contributions such as the scientific award of the journal “Polityka”, Research Scholarship of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Research Scholarship of the Polish Ministry of Health for the best Young Scientists, Supertalents in Medicine Award, Rojszczak Award of the Polish Foundation for Science and I was selected for a Leadership Program of the Movement Disorders Society (2022-23).

Currently, I am completing a research and clinical fellowship dedicated to GTS and movement disorders at the University of Calgary under the supervision of Prof. Tamara Pringsheim and Prof. Davide Martino. For this fellowship, I was awarded clinical and research scholarship by the American Academy of Neurology, the Tourette Association of America and the American Brain Foundation.





Secretary

Christelle Nilles

Affiliation:

Université Paris Cité, Paris, France

My name is Christelle Nilles and I would like to submit my candidacy as Secretary of the ESSTS Board.

I graduated from Université Paris Diderot, and I am currently finishing my residency in Neurology in Paris, France. I have a deep interest in Tourette syndrome and tic disorders, as well as in movement disorders in general. I completed a fellowship in movement disorders last year at the University of Calgary, under the supervision of Prof. Tamara Pringsheim and Dr. Davide Martino. I was involved in wide-ranging research projects in relation to tic phenomenology, sex differences in tic disorders, and functional tic-like behaviours.

Sex differences in tic presentation, impact on life and outcome in adulthood are topics that I am particularly interested in.

Thanks to the support and vision of Dr. Andreas Hartmann, Dr. Yulia Worbe, and Prof. Emmanuel Flamand-Roze, I continue to research these subjects, using an extensive database of individuals with tic disorders in France.

I would be most interested in participating in ESSTS associative activity that brings the European community together, and thereby facilitating connections between professionals from all over the world - such associations often lead to the birth of great projects. I would love to help develop educational activities with the wider community of patients and Tourette-experts.

I believe the recent ongoing research on anti-tic therapeutics brings hope for the future. Regarding the recent phenomena of functional tic-like behaviours, although their incidence seems to be decreasing, I do not think their occurrence has yet been fully understood, especially their connection with primary tics and



the risk factors for worse outcomes. I hope functional tic-like behaviours will soon be explored using neuroimaging.

As my experience underlines, I am at my best when working in a team, enabling my enthusiasm and commitment to flourish. I would very much like to have the opportunity to take up the position as Secretary of the ESSTS Board.

The chance to work with inspirational neurologists, pediatricians, psychiatrists, psychologists, researchers and others in the field of Tourette syndrome is both stimulating and motivating.

Sincerely,
Christelle Nilles

