



Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a great honor and privilege for me to serve for the next two years as President of United European Gastroenterology (UEG). First of all I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing interest and support of UEG and myself in the past year. I wish you all a good start into the next decade, hopefully the golden twenties, and all the best for a healthy, lucky and successful Happy New Year 2020.

I am very confident that the future of UEG will also be golden. UEG is fit for the future due to its past and current thoughtful volunteer leadership, its organisational structure with volunteer leadership and a professional dedicated office in our House of Gastroenterology in Vienna and its strategic plan and ideas. It is important to point out that UEG is not governed by a president, but by a **council that represents the whole**

spectrum of European digestive health stakeholders, the president being a part of this council. I wish to act in continuity with our past president Paul Fockens and to serve UEG and all its members and hope to further increase the success of UEG. It is clear to me that UEG should act as an umbrella organisation for the 48 national and 17 specialist member societies in the field of digestive health across Europe. Together, we are much stronger and more prominent in shaping EU policy in Brussels to advocate for more research funding. UEG is very well placed to support cross-societal activities and digestive health initiatives within and outside European borders. With the help of our volunteers throughout Europe and a highly dedicated and professional team at the UEG office in Vienna, UEG will continue to act as an umbrella organisation and I will do my best to strengthen its role as the united and trusted voice of European gastroenterology and to be recognised as the leading authority for digestive health in and outside Europe. In my video message I will tell you more about my motivation to work for UEG and how everyone can benefit from becoming part of the community.

For the coming two years, my goals are to continue and expand the success of UEG and our UEG Week, to increase the diversity of our society and to recruit the best talents for our organisation regardless of age, gender or nationality. UEG will continuously endeavour to reduce health inequalities across Europe and its neighboring countries. We will achieve our goals by promoting best science, research, education, quality of care, public affairs activities and UEG Journal. The hallmark of all our activities is still our annual congress, this year in Amsterdam, with nearly 13,500 attendees annually. Our Post-Graduate course during UEG Week, that attracted 4,050 delegates last year in Barcelona, provides regular attending participants with a complete and structured update of their knowledge.

But as times are changing and we are facing a digital and technical revolution in the next decade we need to be open for new ways of education, scientific exchange and interaction within and outside our community. This should not be limited to classical stakeholders like physicians, scientists and nurses, but should also involve patients and policy makers like politicians, funding or licensing agencies. All of the above can only be achieved with the trust and respect of our member societies and this will require continuous interaction and involvement of all. Together as UEG we are now stronger, more visible and prominent in shaping EU policy in Brussels to advocate for more research funding, pan-European research activities and consortia, as well as educational and quality of care initiatives to overcome inequalities in digestive health in Europe. With your involvement we will be able to make UEG even more successful in the next decade. I would appreciate your feedback and invite you to get in touch with council and myself by sending ideas, comments or ideas for improvement or change of our organisation, our strategic ideas, our congress, our activities or any other areas of concern to the e-mail future@ueg.eu.

With your support I am confident that we will have two successful years with some challenges and hopefully many achievements. I would be extremely pleased to see as many of you as possible at our next UEG Week in Amsterdam October 10-14, 2020 and invite you to [submit your abstracts](#) to apply for our numerous awards and travel grants. I also invite you to find more information about UEG and our activities on the [UEG website](#) and in our [social media channels](#), where you can find detailed presentations and videos to various areas of interest related to UEG and digestive health. Please forward this message also to your junior colleagues, and allied health care professionals to make them aware of the unique opportunities that are provided by UEG.

Yours sincerely,
Axel Dignass

© UEG 2020

All rights reserved. Use of this website constitutes acceptance of the User Agreement, the General Terms and Conditions and the Data Protection Statement.

Design by Felt Branding
Development by WebAgentur Körbler

Contact us

House of European Gastroenterology
Wickenburggasse 1
A-1080 Vienna, Austria.
Tel: +43 1 997 16 39
Fax: +43 1 997 16 39 10
Email: office@ueg.eu

Community

[Twitter](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Linkedin](#)
[Youtube](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)