



AND ITS NAME IS CROES

Jean de la Rosette and Stavros Gravas

Introducing CROES: The Endourological Society is one of the major societies and was established in an effort to facilitate scientific dialogue among endourologists worldwide. The Society supports especially the global diffusion of knowledge and skills in the field of endourology and laparoscopy. Within this frame, it is of great importance to further advance endourology and emerging technologies, and to implement high level basic and clinical scientific research within the Endourological Society. At present, however, there was no official organ within the Society responsible for organizing, structuring and favoring a global network on endourological research. It was therefore logical to found such a research office under the umbrella of the Endourological Society. This office is called Clinical Research Office of the Endourological Society (CROES) and was founded during the World Congress on Endourology meeting 2008 in Shanghai.

The aim of CROES: The objectives of this office have been determined as follows:

- a) to promote and support international clinical research in all fields of endourology, laparoscopy and emerging technologies under the umbrella of our Society by partnering with fellowship based academic centers and urologists worldwide who are members of the Endourological Society
- b) To create a global network of centers involved in endourology, laparoscopy and emerging technologies
- c) To provide the infrastructure and support to conduct global multicenter studies in the field of endourology or laparoscopy
- d) To provide a platform for technological development in partnership with industry and undertake phase 1–3 studies.

CROES Council: The CROES council will be composed of a chairperson and 6 international members (2 American, 2 European, 2 Asian). There is no monetary compensation for serving on CROES. The chair of CROES is a member of the board of the Endourological Society and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the CROES office and will address questions and/or issues related to the progress of a project. The operational activities will be located in the office of the chairperson of CROES, whereas headquarters of CROES is located in New York (Endourological Society office). Operational activities include ICT/database/website support, statistical/epidemiological support, and will be assisted by an office manager.

The first CROES council members are: Jean de la Rosette (Chairman), Dean Assimos and Margaret Pearle (representing Americas), Ying-Hao Sun and Tadashi Matsuda (representing Asia), Adrian Joyce and Stavros Gravas (representing Europe).

How it works? Any member of the Endourological Society can put forward possible projects to the CROES council. The board of CROES will evaluate the quality and the resources of the proposed projects, the feasibility to undertake such projects and investigate the support necessary. The board may consider inviting experts in the evaluation and/or seeking advice. The chair of CROES communicates closely with the treasurer about the budget of each project. Once both have reached agreement a project may be initiated.

For each specific project a steering committee will be installed that will be responsible for that project. The Steering Committee per project will be composed of a chairperson, 6–8 members, one to two CROES board members (ex officio) who will be part of this group and report to the complete CROES board on the progress of each project. Centers from all over the world, which will be willing to actively participate in each specific project, will be welcome to join the CROES Global Network.

Ongoing projects:

- a) The Global PCNL observational study: The first CROES project initiated and is closing in the 4th quarter of 2009. The primary objective is to assess the current indications for PCNL and the treatment outcomes in terms of the stone free rate and secondary to assess the peri-operative morbidity (30 days) by using the Clavien system and to define risk factors for the development of peri-operative morbidity after PCNL.
- b) The Global Greenlight Laser observational study that aims to evaluate the indications and outcomes of HPS Greenlight Laser treatment for BPH based on data collected during a one-year period from participating sites all over the world. It is open for those who are willing to participate.
- c) The Global Ureteroscopy observational study that will evaluate on a global basis the indications and outcomes of both flexible and semi-rigid URS (open for participation).
- d) The Global Renal Mass Study that aims to assess on a global basis the indications, treatment modality and outcomes of instrumental treatment for renal masses including (laparoscopic/robotic) radical or partial nephrectomy and (percutaneous/laparoscopic assisted) ablative treatments (open for participation).

- CROES has been granted a page in every issue of *Journal of Endourology* in order to inform Society members about the progress of CROES studies and encourage participation of interesting centers in this global network.
- This is the first article from a series on CROES activities. Future topics include the reasons to participate in this global network, the example of PCNL study, current and future CROES projects in details, and preliminary results from the first projects.
- For further information please visit: www.croesoffice.org or contact the office manager of CROES, Mrs. Sonja van Rees Vellinga (s.j.vanreesvellinga@amc.uva.nl).