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MISSION

Through worldwide collaboration, CROES seeks to assess, using evidence based scientific methodology, the various aspects of clinical endourology.

VISION

By applying rigorous scientific evaluation to the field of clinical endourology, CROES will enable all urologic surgeons to bring to their patients the most effective and efficient care possible.

PROJECTS

- Global PCNL study
- Global URS study
- Global Greenlight Laser study
- Global Renal Mass study
- Global NBI study

CONTACT

For more information please contact Sonja van Rees Vellinga (info@croesoffice.org).



GUIDELINES FOR CROES PUBLICATIONS

Jean de la Rosette and Stavros Gravas

The Clinical Research Office of the Endourological Society aims to promote and support international clinical research in all fields of endourology and emerging technologies by partnering with fellowship-based academic centers and urologists worldwide who are members of the Endourological Society.¹ CROES provides the infrastructure and support to conduct global multicenter studies and facilitates the design and evaluation of studies as well as the administration of protocols. The data collection will be via an electronic Data Management System with a simple user-friendly interface. Participants in each project will be updated about the progress of the work with regular newsletters and via the CROES website (www.croesoffice.org). Upon completion of each study an analysis by an independent team will be conducted and the CROES office will support the preparation of abstracts and manuscripts. The CROES Council recognizes the importance of the communications derived from the different studies and has therefore prepared the following guidelines for publications.

1. CROES will communicate on the progress and outcomes of their projects via:
 - a. Manuscripts prepared under the responsibility of the Steering Committee.
 - b. Abstracts submitted to (inter)national meetings under the responsibility of the Steering Committee.
 - c. PowerPoint presentations prepared under the auspice of the Steering Committee.
 - d. Webpage of CROES under the auspice of the CROES council.
2. The first paper prepared from each project should be a descriptive one authored by all the members of the Steering Committee.
3. Each following manuscript will be authored by up to seven co-authors selected from all the contributors. The first three authors will be selected based on their contribution to the preparation of the manuscript and significance of input in the data collection. The senior author is the chairman of the Steering Committee of the project.
4. At the end of every manuscript all other contributors will be included in an appendix. One contributor from each center can be included and the name of the contributor is at the discretion of the participating center.
5. The supporter of each project will be acknowledged at the end of the manuscript.
6. Each abstract submitted to an (inter)national meeting will follow the same sequence for authorship, but the presenting author may differ from the first author and is identified as such on the abstract.
7. Suggestions for analysis and a subsequent manuscript preparation will be put forward by the Steering Committee of the project. The topics for analysis will be disclosed on the CROES website. Six months after closing the study all contributors may propose to the Steering Committee topics for analysis. Upon receiving approval by the committee this proposal can be worked out further. The contributor will be responsible for preparing the manuscript in due time.
8. CROES publications will be highlighted on the CROES website with a link to *Journal of Endourology*.
9. A complete slide set will be made available on the website. Contributors have access to this via a login code.
10. Contributors may present abstracts at national meetings after approval by the Steering Committee and in agreement with the guidelines for CROES communications.
11. In case of a disagreement regarding issues related to these guidelines the CROES council would make the final decision. In the rare case in which a further appeal is made, then the issue will be placed before the executive council of the Endourological Society.

These guidelines secure in a transparent way the recognition in publications and presentations. The participants will transfer their data to CROES to allow data collection, analysis, and preparation of manuscripts without impairment by the participating center. On the other hand, participation in CROES projects does not hinder the independent publication of data from contributing sites. To give surety to the quality of the data, the CROES council will ask each participating site to provide confirmation of Internal Review Board (IRB) approval or a similar document. Moreover the CROES office will implement tools for data validation and in the future CROES may consider including data monitoring and audits as well.

CROES encourages endourologists from all over the world to participate actively in ongoing projects. 'With your contribution, CROES will be able to help each of us reach the ultimate goal of our professional career: to provide the absolute best, least invasive, quality of care for all patients. The time is now—with CROES, the ability is yours'.¹

Reference

1. de la Rosette J. A platform for global endourological research. *J Endourol* 2009;23:1551–1553.

- Ongoing projects are: the Global PCNL observational study, the Global Greenlight Laser observational study, the Global Ureteroscopy study, and the Global Renal Mass study.
- For further information please visit: www.croesoffice.org or contact the Executive Office Manager of CROES, Mrs. Sonja van Rees Vellinga (info@croesoffice.org).

