

European Society of Ophthalmology



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Project Abstract

Title of Project: Creating an EuLDP Alumni Network

Background and purpose:

Since its inception, the EuLDP has included more than 100 European ophthalmologists. During the 2-year programme, the participants work on their individual projects while participating in formalized basic leadership training. To learn from individual experiences, cultivate international co-operation and networking, and to contribute to a strong platform for ophthalmological advocacy and educational harmonization under the SOE, the aim of this project is to create an EuLDP alumni network.

Methods:

The new alumni network will include graduates from concluded EuLDP classes. Invitations to join the network will be sent during Spring of 2024 along with a questionnaire. The questionnaire will explore participants' EuLDP experience as well as their attitudes towards how to best implement the skills that individuals have gained. Future EuLDP graduates will receive an invitation along with their diploma.

Focusing on future classes, alumni can provide constructive feedback to course organizers and contribute with talks to the incoming class. Inspirational and reflective aspects can be conveyed with working titles such as "My EuLDP experience" and "How can the ophthalmological community benefit from the things I have learned?" When relevant, EuLDP alumni could be invited as co-mentors for new participants or as teachers during courses.

Focusing on the SOE, the alumni network could provide support and help draft proposals regarding e.g. advocacy issues, harmonization of health care and ophthalmology teaching in the European perspective. This could compliment and support the work of the SOE Board and Committees. Meetings are expected to be biannual and organized in conjunction with the SOE congresses. In between congresses, online activity is planned.

Conclusion:

The EuLDP alumni network has the potential to create an impactful organization to support the continued development of European ophthalmology. Invitations will be sent in the coming months and the aim is to host the first EuLDP Alumni Network meeting in Lisbon, Portugal at the SOE 2025 congress.