Call for Participants in the ECCO Topical Review on Optimisation of Therapy

Deadline for submission is November 4, 2024

Context and aim of the project

Biological therapy has been widely used for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The first group of approved biologics is comprised of tumor necrosis factor antagonists (anti-TNFs). Data have been accumulated demonstrating the efficacy of these agents in inducing clinical remission, reducing the need for hospitalizations and surgeries, and improving patient´s quality of life [1,2].

Advances in understanding pathological mechanisms involved in IBD resulted in the development and approval of new biological agents with different mechanisms of action or small molecules targeting intracellular pathways. Registrational and real-world studies have shown that vedolizumab, ustekinumab, risankizumab, and small molecules such as tofacitinib, upadacitinib, and ozanimod have proven efficacy in inducing and maintaining clinical remission.

Unfortunately, roughly one-third of patients are primary non-responders, and of those who do respond to treatment, a significant proportion experiences partial response or loss of response during treatment [3]. These clinical scenarios are not adequately addressed in the official drug labels and established IBD guidelines. However, several studies have consistently shown that a variable proportion of patients can recapture response with treatment intensification [4-6]. Consequently, there exists a compelling clinical imperative for physicians to gain insight into when and how to optimize biological therapy and treatment with small molecules.

Timeline

DATE	ACTION
OCTOBER 2024	Call sent out
NOVEMBER 2024	Applicants selected and notified
DECEMBER 10, 2024 (14:00 -16:00 CET)	Virtual Kick-off Meeting (mandatory)
DECEMBER - MARCH 2025	Literature research Drafting of text First draft of "ECCO Positions" (incl. first draft of supporting text and recommended summary tables for literature research)
LATE MARCH 2025	Online voting
MID MAY – EARLY JULY 2025	Revision after online voting Final draft of "Current Practice Positions" and supporting text
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 (13:00-17:00 CET)	Virtual Final Consensus Meeting (mandatory)

MID AUGUST - MID SEPTEMBER 2025	Finalisation
LATE SEPTEMBER 2025	Cross-check by medical writer
EARLY OCTOBER 2025	Revisions by Coordinators
EARLY NOVEMBER 2025	Submission of abstract and submission to JCC
ECCO'26 (FEBRUARY 18-21)	PRESENTATION/ABSTRACT

Failure to deliver any task by the defined deadlines will lead to exclusion from the Project.

Workgroups:

WG1: Optimisation of anti-TNF therapy and the role of TDM
WG2: Optimisation of Vedolizumab
WG3: Optimisation of anti-IL 12/23 (Ustekinumab/Risakinumab)
WG4: Optimisation of small molecules (JAK inhibitors/S1P modulators)

Eligibility criteria:

- You are an ECCO Member (in good standing – 2024-2025 Membership) and are interested in joining one of the Workgroups for this project;
- You are able to fully commit to the process including participation in the two meetings: virtual **Kick-off Meeting** (December 10, 2024; 14:00-16:00 CET) & virtual **Final Consensus Meeting** (September 2, 2025; 13:00 – 17:00 CEST)
- You must not be involved in more than one ongoing ECCO manuscript project that has not yet reached the final consensus meeting by the time this Topical Review kicks off.

To apply online*, please click here and use your **ECCO Portal Credentials**.

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If you have trouble logging in, please contact ecco@ecco-ibd.eu
ECCO is looking forward to your application!

Best regards from the Project Coordinators,

Uri Kopylov
Natália Queiroz

**Data processing consent and retention: By sending an application, you agree to the data processing for the above-described project: ECCO Office stores applicants' personal data of this application for the project timeframe. You have the right to object at any time at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu. ECCO Office will delete data securely after the end of this project*