
Call for Participants in the ECCO Topical Review on Microscopic Colitis

Deadline for submission is April 8, 2026

Context and aim of the project

In recent years, there has been increasing recognition of **Microscopic Colitis (MC)** as an important and often underdiagnosed cause of chronic watery diarrhea, particularly in older adults. Although traditionally considered a relatively benign condition, MC can substantially impair quality of life and is frequently associated with significant healthcare utilisation. The condition encompasses two main histopathological subtypes, collagenous colitis and lymphocytic colitis, which share similar clinical features but differ in their histological characteristics.

Patients with MC often present with chronic non-bloody diarrhoea, urgency, and abdominal discomfort, while endoscopic findings are typically normal, making diagnosis dependent on histological assessment of colonic biopsies. Increasing awareness, improved diagnostic practices, and a growing body of research have expanded understanding of MC. Advances in molecular science regarding the microbiome, genetic susceptibility, and proteomic signatures highlight a clear convergence between MC and classic IBD. These parallels are particularly striking in budesonide-refractory cases, where increasingly success with biological therapies can be seen. However, important uncertainties remain regarding its epidemiology, pathogenesis, optimal diagnostic strategies, and long-term management.

This Topical Review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of Microscopic Colitis by focusing on three key areas: **1) epidemiology and terminology, 2) underlying mechanisms, and 3) monitoring and treatment.** The review will summarize current evidence on disease burden, risk factors, and diagnostic definitions; explore emerging insights into pathophysiology, including immune-mediated mechanisms, environmental triggers, microbiome alterations; and discuss evidence-based approaches to management, including pharmacological therapy, medication review, and long-term follow-up strategies.

In line with ECCO's REACH strategy, this review will highlight the importance of timely diagnosis and effective treatment (Rapid diagnosis and treatment), multidisciplinary and patient-centred care addressing comorbidities and medication exposures (Holistic IBD care), and improving recognition and management of a condition that remains underdiagnosed in many healthcare settings (Equitable access to care).

Tentative Timeline:

DATE	ACTION
MARCH 2026	Call sent out
APRIL 2026	Applicants selected and notified
MAY 18, 2026	13:00 – 16:00 CET - online Kick-off Meeting (mandatory)
MAY-AUG 2026	Literature research Drafting of text First draft of "Current Practice Positions" (incl. first draft of supporting text and recommended summary tables for literature research)
SEPT 2026	Online voting
SEPT 2026 (2nd half)	Revision after online voting Final draft of "Current Practice Positions" and supporting text
NOV 16, 2026	13:00 – 18:00 CET - online Final Consensus Meeting (mandatory)

DEC 2026	Finalisation
DEC 2026/JAN 2027	Cross-check by medical writer
JAN/FEB 2027	Revisions by Coordinators and GB
FEB 2027	Submission to JCC
MARCH 2027 at ECCO'27 CPH	PRESENTATION

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

Workgroup Topics:

WG1: Epidemiology

WG2: Immunopathophysiology

WG3: Diagnosis

WG4: Treatment

Eligibility criteria:

- You are an ECCO Member (in good standing – ECCO Membership 2026) **OR** EMCG Member 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: **online Kick-off Meeting** (May 18, 2026) & **online Final Consensus Meeting** (Nov 16, 2026).
- 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 m.baeva@ecco-ibd.eu
ECCO is looking forward to your application!

Best regards from the Project Coordinators,

Andreas Münch

Bram Verstockt

**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*