European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation

ECCO Call for CONFER Cases, round 13: Call for proposal of rare cases

Deadline for submission is September 1, 2026

Context and aim of the project

ECCO COllaborative Network For Exceptionally Rare Case Reports (CONFER) is an initiative to identify, assemble and report together rare IBD cases of clinical relevance, which are otherwise seldom reported. By joining forces of the many members and supporters of ECCO, a joint report of all similar such rare cases can result in a large case series that will advance our knowledge about these uncommon patients.

ECCO CONFER is now launching its **thirteenth round**.

We have defined **5 main themes of interest** for proposed cases:
- Unusual clinical situations facing diagnostic or therapeutic gaps of knowledge
- Rare infections
- Uncommon drug beneficial effects or side-effects
- Rare IBD manifestations
- Infrequent disease associations (neoplastic, infectious, etc.)

If you wish to propose a case, and serve as a principal investigator of its development into an ECCO CONFER project, please send us your suggested case according to the following format via email at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu:
1) Case title
2) Short case description (max. 150-200 words)
3) Main clinical question to be answered by this case series (How is the case series expected to change our practice?)
4) Existing literature on the topic (number of published cases with references)
5) Submitted by (Name, Medical Center, City, Country, Contact email) *

Timeline

DATE	ACTION
September 1, 2026	Deadline for submission of suggested cases
October 2026	Selection of 2-4 topics by the Steering Committee
March, 2027	Notification of selection of cases & call for similar cases
April, 2027	Deadline for the PI and the Case Manager to finalise the CRF (if the call for similar cases proves the project feasible)
May 30, 2027	Deadline for completing CRFs Please note that no reminder will be sent by ECCO Office as the collection of the CRFs will not be monitored by ECCO anymore. It will be up to the PIs to remind the potential contributors.
October 2027	Interim report on the project
November, 2027 [deadline to be confirmed at a later stage]	Draft of abstract Please note:

	The abstracts should be drafted **4 weeks** before abstract submission deadline, [date to be confirmed at a later stage] in order to have time to have it circulated among contributors and CONFER taskforce)
3-4 months later	Draft of manuscripts
ECCO Congress 2028	Interim report, in case manuscript is not published at this time.

Publication and Authorship

Rule 1
First author: the principal investigator is granted the authorship if they provide a case. There can be only one principal investigator or first author per case.

Rule 2
The last author should be the Case Manager of CONFER Taskforce.

Rule 3 – Co-Authorships
For every 10+ cases you include from the same centre, one additional author is included.
From 10 to 19 provided cases, one additional author is included.
From 20 to 29 provided cases, one additional author is included.

If submitting to another journal with a different authorship policy, the authorship will be given according to:
a) the rules of the journal regarding the maximum number of co-authors;
b) number of cases provided.

Those investigators who provided the cases, but are not listed among the authors of the manuscript (due to the Journal's regulations), will be listed in a study group and hence affiliated with the manuscript on PubMed.

Rule 4
When a P.I. of a Study is a CONFER task member and the Case Manager, then an additional co-author from the P.I.'s centre is granted, since the P.I. must fulfil two tasks at the same time.

Rule 5
If the PI collaborates with other societies, the second last authorship can be given to a representative of the other society. The last authorship can potentially be shared.

Rule 6
The maximum number of authors from one centre is 3.

Deadline for submission is September 1, 2026

Please submit your proposal via email at: ecco@ecco-ibd.eu.
ECCO is looking forward to your application!

Best regards from the CONFER Steering Committee,
Mette Julsgaard, Julien Kirchgesner, Marie Truyens, Maria José Casanova, Thomas Greuter

**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*