



by Paul McGinn



## EU awards ESCRS grant to develop outcomes registry for cataract and refractive surgery

In a landmark decision, the EU has awarded the ESCRS a grant towards its European Registry of Quality Outcomes for Cataract and Refractive Surgery (EUREQUO).

With the grant, the ESCRS and its 12 partner national ophthalmic societies will expand the web-based registry to enable European ophthalmic surgeons to record and confidentially compare their surgical outcomes with their peers. The ESCRS plans to collect data on two million cataract and refractive operations, thus providing the evidence-based groundwork on which to build – and harmonise – levels of patient safety and quality of care throughout the region.

In awarding the grant, the EU's Public Health Executive Agency called the registry an "interesting, high-value project" that "should provide input for the development of related EU clinical standards/guidelines".

ESCRS president Paul Rosen, FRCOphth, said the grant represented a milestone in the history of the society and European ophthalmology.

With the grant, the ESCRS and its partner groups can begin the process of improving cataract and refractive practice throughout Europe, Dr Rosen said. "The registry will also allow individual surgeons to carry out with ease basic audits of their outcomes and benchmark themselves against others in the same clinic, country, or the EU. This should lead to self-assessment and correction of any deficiencies."

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**Mats Lundstrom MD**

Mats Lundstrom MD, who chairs the European Cataract Outcome Study Group and directs Sweden's web-based National Cataract Register, said the results of the registry will benefit ophthalmologists and patients alike.

"The effect will be knowledge about reality which means knowledge about results in daily clinical practice," Dr Lundstrom said. "This will show the gap between evidence-based medicine and reality. The knowledge will also start a process of clinical improvement work. The winner in the end is the patient."



Paul Rosen



Mats Lundstrom

He added that the registry will help ophthalmologists decide for themselves how they can improve their practice. "A systematic documented data collection on outcomes will identify both good and poor outcomes and thereby what needs to be better. Judgement of your own results over time and comparison with others will definitely raise the standard of surgery. Knowledge about outcomes will also confirm in many cases that the standard of surgery is good."

Participating in – and learning from – the registry will demand commitment from ophthalmologists, Dr Lundstrom added. "The challenge will be to have surgeons accept that collecting data on outcomes is a part of the job," he added. "To be a good surgeon includes knowing one's results. This means some relearning for many surgeons and good leadership for heads of departments."

The evaluators noted that the ESCRS and its project partners were "well positioned, both institutionally and from an organisational point of view to lead this project, the international partnership already exists and contacts are longstanding between partners. The project's partnership structure and the participation of the EU and national societies provides for key synergies and complementarities: the network structure is very good, leadership and role distribution is clear and successful implementation of the project can be assumed."

*For details about the registry, contact:  
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### European Registry of Quality Outcomes For Cataract and Refractive Surgery (EUREQUO) Associated Partners:

EyeNet Sweden

United Kingdom and Ireland Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (UKISCRS)

Slovak Cataract, Implant and Refractive Society

Societa Oftalmologica Italiana

Netherlands Intraocular Implant Club

Sociedad Espanola de Cirugia Oculos  
Implanto Refractiva

Hellenic Society of Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery

Turkish Ophthalmological Society

Scandinavian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

German Speaking Society for Intra Ocular Lens Implantation and Refractive Surgery

Hungarian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

Belgian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery



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