



## European Gastrointestinal Motility Hub

Most patients with digestive problems have a “functional” gastrointestinal disease, such as dyspepsia, gastroparesis, chronic constipation, irritable bowel syndrome or fecal incontinence. The aim of [clinical investigation](#) is to explain the cause of symptoms and establish a diagnosis based on results that can guide rational and effective treatment; however, until very recently, these aims were rarely met in this field of medicine.

Advances in high-resolution manometry (HRM) and pH-impedance studies, have had a major impact on the investigation and treatment of [esophageal motility disorders](#) and [reflux disease](#). By contrast, technologies to assess gastric, intestinal and continence function are less widely available and, until recently, there was little consensus on how to analyze results. To address this need, an [international working group](#) endorsed by the [ESCP](#) and [ESNM](#) and other international NGM societies recently published evidence-based guidelines in Nature Reviews Gastroenterology and Hepatology:

- (i) [Advances in the diagnosis and classification of gastric and intestinal motility disorders \(recommendations on Manometry, scintigraphy, etc.\)](#)
- (ii) [Evaluation of anorectal function \(HRManometry, rectal barostat, etc.\)](#)

The next step is to ensure best practice is applied. Endorsed by the [ESCP](#), [ESPGHAN](#) and national societies with funding from a United European Gastroenterology activity grant, the GI Motility Hub will use an on-line platform to disseminate guidelines and provide practical training. At the same time [ESPGHAN](#) will extend the remit of the guidelines to include evaluation of digestive function in children and adolescents.

The [European GI Motility Hub](#) is now looking for senior and junior faculty in adult and pediatric gastroenterology to act as representatives of the organization in as many countries as possible. Writing local guidelines and translating teaching materials is just the start. We are also looking for collaborators to assist with on-line training modules and to co-ordinate multi-center studies to assess inter-observer agreement and the clinical impact of these investigations. Finally, the evidence base is expanding all the time and new classification systems are in development ahead of the “Ascona III” Advances in Clinical GI Measurement Conference in 2020. If you have an interest in disorders of gastrointestinal and anorectal motility and function, then get involved!

Contact [Prof Mark Fox](#) or [Dr. Henriette Heinrich](#).

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