



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Manuel Heitor to share perspectives on the future of research in Europe at launch of EndoCompass: A Research Roadmap for Better Hormone Health in Europe**

*At the upcoming Joint Congress of the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE) and the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) in Copenhagen (10–13 May 2025), the European endocrine community will get a first look at EndoCompass, a landmark hormone health research initiative set for publication in June.*

Endocrine diseases affect millions of people in Europe, yet research into hormone health remains underfunded and fragmented. EndoCompass aims to change this. By identifying key research priorities and knowledge gaps, the roadmap will guide future studies, funding programmes and policy decisions at European and national levels.

Although the full publication is still to come, two dedicated sessions at the Joint Congress will offer an exclusive preview:

- On Sunday 11 May, a Scientific Symposium will introduce key findings from the EndoCompass project, focusing particularly on cross-cutting areas of endocrine research including artificial intelligence, laboratory medicine and early careers in endocrine research. The session will be chaired by two of the EndoCompass co-chairs, Martine Cools and Martin Fassnacht, with speakers including Guillaume Assié, Annemieke Heijboer, Rade Vukovic and Jonathan Mertens.
- On Monday 12 May, a Special Session will focus on the importance of endocrine science for society and the need for greater investment. Manuel Heitor, former Portuguese Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education, will give a keynote speech on Scientific Activism for “Choose Europe” and share his perspective on the future of research in Europe. Professor Heitor served as the Chair of the Independent Expert Group on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon

Europe that provided the European Commission with recommendations on how to enhance the EU research and Innovation programmes. He is currently a professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisbon, Portugal.

Speaking ahead of the event, Professor Heitor said:

"Europe has a unique strategic opportunity to advance research and innovation at a world level. This means strengthening European, national and regional investment in research and innovation to face emerging threats, together with prevention, preparedness and readiness," he said. "It requires us to ALIGN coordinated investments and policy in health security, energy and environmental security and overall citizen security; ACT on our common institutional framework; and ACCELERATE investments in basic science and disrupting innovation. At the same time, we must promote a strong "Choose Europe" programme, making Europe an attractive place for researchers to choose as a base for their careers. EndoCompass is a great example of a scientific community leading by example and showing how collaboration can make this a reality."

The publication, "**EndoCompass Research Roadmap: Directions for the Future of Endocrine Science**," is set to be published in June 2025 as a supplement to both the *European Journal of Endocrinology* and *Hormone Research in Paediatrics*. This follows two years of dedicated collaboration led by ESE and ESPE, together with representatives of nine partner societies in Europe and Endo-ERN (European Network for Rare Endocrine Diseases). The project involved 228 experts from across Europe, reflects the collective expertise of the European endocrine community, bringing together clinical experts, researchers, patient advocacy groups and specialist partner societies.

Designed to strengthen coordination and visibility in the field, the new research roadmap spans eight endocrine specialties and five cross-cutting themes. It also emphasises the importance of research that bridges paediatric and adult care, supports early-career scientists, and addresses emerging challenges such as environmental effects on the endocrine system and the rising burden of non-communicable diseases.

With publication in sight, the focus now shifts to putting the recommendations into practice and ensuring the findings drive real change in endocrine research. This will be an invaluable resource for the endocrine community to use, reference and share – and ensure hormone health gets the attention it deserves.

Find out more about [the EndoCompass project](#).

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#### **Notes for the editor:**

To register to attend the Joint Congress in person or online, please mail [media@ese-hormones.org](mailto:media@ese-hormones.org) with your press card and letter of assignment.

## **About ESE**

The European Society of Endocrinology (ESE) provides a platform to develop and share leading research and best knowledge in endocrine science and medicine. Through the 50 National Societies involved with the ESE Council of Affiliated Societies (ECAS) and partnership with specialist endocrine societies, ESE and its partners jointly represent a community of over 20,000 European endocrinologists.

ESE and its partner societies work to promote knowledge and education in the field of endocrinology for healthcare professionals, researchers, patients and the public.

ESE informs policymakers on health decisions at the highest level through advocacy efforts across Europe. Find out more: [www.eese-hormones.org](http://www.eese-hormones.org).

## **About ESPE**

The European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) is an international society registered in Europe that promotes the highest levels of clinical care for infants, children and adolescents with endocrine problems throughout the world, including in less advantaged areas. At the EU level, it works with the EU and partner organisations to create a healthier environment for children and adults.

To find out more about ESPE, please visit [eurospe.org](http://eurospe.org).