



It is my great pleasure to announce that the "Analysis of the Burden and Economic Impact of Digestive Diseases and Investigation of Research Gaps and Priorities in the Field of Digestive Health" – in short "White Book 2" was published yesterday [in UEG Journal](#). This important study commissioned by UEG has been conducted over the course of two years by a team of researchers from the University of Liverpool led by Tanith Rose.

At UEG we are committed to [raising political and public awareness of digestive diseases](#) throughout the continent, informing policy makers, and encouraging research. To support this effort, accurate and up-to-date information is needed on the true burden of digestive diseases and the current organisation and delivery of care.

Data from the White Book 2 highlights worrying increases in the prevalence of several digestive diseases since 2000, including chronic liver diseases, pancreatitis, gastroesophageal reflux disease, and coeliac disease in children, to name a few. In addition, age-standardised incidence and mortality rates have increased for liver and pancreatic cancer in the majority of European countries since 2000. Modifiable lifestyle factors are key contributors, with especially alcohol use still representing an important burden and high Body Mass Index (BMI) on the rise. Stark health inequalities remain across Europe and with emerging economic challenges, we expect these inequalities to be further exacerbated. More information on the burden of diseases can be found in the full report [White Book 2 – part 1](#) and [on the UEG website](#).

One of the strategic objectives of the UEG Research Committee which I chair, is to increase EU funded digestive health research by providing evidence and advice to funding bodies on priority areas in close liaison with our member societies. The White Book 2 is incremental in providing evidence-based data which will allow to define and advocate for broadly agreed research priorities. It combines a survey on the research priorities and preferences of UEG national society members, answered by 73% of the societies, a bibliometric analysis providing an overview of the distribution of research activity in the field of digestive health, and an analysis of Horizon 2020 funded research projects in digestive disease research. More information on the research gaps and priorities in the field of digestive health can be found in the [White Book 2 – part 2](#) and [on the UEG website](#).

[Access White Book 2](#)

## Burden of digestive diseases and priorities for digestive health research



New data are needed to raise political and public awareness of digestive diseases. The White Book 2 commissioned by UEG provides an international analysis.

## Our publication of the White Book 2 is just the beginning!

Our Research and Public Affairs Committee will now work hand in hand in the upcoming months to disseminate the results: in collaboration with the National Societies, the specialist Societies, and of course the European policy-makers. Stay tuned and please engage with us to help increase awareness of the burden of digestive diseases amongst governments and citizens!

## Don't miss the presentation of the White Book 2 at UEG Week

The White Book 2 will be prominently on the agenda of our [UEG Week Vienna Live TV Studio](#). October 10, 13:30 CEST join live in hybrid format for [Digestive diseases: Big burden, low funding?](#) – a ground-breaking TV Studio session focused on UEG Research!

Finally, I am delighted to honour [Research Prize Awardee 2022](#), Neil Henderson during UEG Week [Opening Session Part I](#) on October 9, 13:30 CEST. We are also organising the [Connect with... #UEGResearch Fellows!](#) A face-to-face networking opportunity where you can directly ask previous Research Fellows Lucas Wauters, Chloé Melchior, and Michal Zorniak for tips on how to be successful in applying for the [UEG Research Fellowship](#), how to find the right host supervisor, how to plan for the Research Fellowship, and how to grow in UEG and in your research career as a young investigator!

In other news, the Biomedical Alliance, the association representing medical societies in Brussels, has launched an important [survey on the availability of medical devices](#). Following the implementation of the new European Medical Devices Regulation, this survey intends to assess whether clinicians in different fields are experiencing issues around the availability of certain medical devices, which devices are affected and whether they expect to experience any issues in the future.

Looking forward to seeing you at UEG Week 2022,  
With my best regards,  
Luigi Ricciardiello