

Shaping the future of ENT: Young ELS and YCOHNS

Here we highlight two excellent societies that offer valuable support and opportunities for ENT trainees, from early in their career until the end of their training.

Young ELS: a fresh voice and community for the next generation of laryngologists

BY JULIËTTA HC SCHUERING, ANTÓNIO NICOLAU FERNANDES, COLOMA GRAU-VAN LAAK, DAŠA GLUVAJIĆ, NIA LABAŠ AND JOÃO VIANA PINTO

At the European Laryngological Society (ELS) Congress in May 2025, Young ELS – a vibrant new network for trainees, ENT specialists and researchers with a keen interest for laryngology – was officially launched.

From idea to reality

While the ELS has long been a leading international platform for experts, there was no dedicated space for young professionals to meet, collaborate and get involved in research and education in the field of laryngology. For early-career colleagues, the step toward senior involvement can feel unclear and intimidating – it's not always clear where to begin, how to get involved or who to approach. Likewise, senior members eager to inspire the next generation may not always know how to connect meaningfully with younger peers.

What began as an idea between Juliët Schuering (The Netherlands) and new colleagues at the Winter Laryngology Days has since evolved into a formal initiative – Young ELS – to bridge that gap and foster a space where young laryngologists can connect, grow and innovate together.

“Young ELS is more than a network – it's a community where early-career professionals can connect, grow and innovate together”



What is Young ELS?

Young ELS is more than a network – it's a community within ELS uniting early-career professionals including residents, young researchers and junior ENT specialists with a keen interest in laryngology.

Its mission:

- **Promote career development** in both research and clinical practice by encouraging active involvement in ELS congresses, courses, committees and collaborative research projects.
- **Foster a strong, supportive network**, not only between juniors and senior mentors but also among young laryngologists worldwide who can support and learn from each other.
- **Provide accessible educational resources**, such as practical instructional videos (e.g. 'Stroboscopy

– How to describe the findings'), to support daily clinical work and enhance expertise.

- **Highlight training opportunities and events**, keeping young professionals up to date with developments in the field.

Rapid growing community

The response has been enthusiastic: within two months of its launch, Young ELS welcomed over 100 members – a testament to the strong need for such a platform to shape the future of laryngology together.

The founding board consists of:

- **President:** Juliët Schuering (The Netherlands)
- **Board Members:** António Nicolau Fernandes and João Viana Pinto (Portugal), Nia Labaš (Croatia), Coloma Grau-van Laak (Spain), and Daša Gluvajić (Slovenia)

“Our vision is to actively shape ENT careers and experiences, embrace the family community and shape the future”

What's ahead

Young ELS is actively working to expand its reach and impact. Key plans for the coming year include:

- Launching a country-representative board to strengthen local connections and representation.
- Developing a Research Opportunities Hub, where members can find and share collaborative projects within the ELS community.
- Expanding educational offerings: a growing video library (Young ELS Basic Laryngology) will soon be available in the ELS Member Zone.
- Providing on-demand access to recordings from the 2025 ELS Congress in Warsaw and the monthly Monday Meetings (held every first Monday at 18:00 CEST), available in the memberzone. Together, these resources ensure that high-quality laryngology education is accessible anytime, anywhere.

Looking ahead, In November 2026, Young ELS will also contribute to the ELS Workshop on Neurolaryngology in Porto, Portugal – another exciting opportunity for



young professionals to engage in high-level, hands-on learning together.

Through these initiatives, Young ELS aims to empower the next generation of laryngologists and make the society more accessible, inclusive and engaging than ever before.

Make sure to follow us on Instagram for updates and announcements!

Join the community

Young ELS warmly invites all interested trainees, ENT specialists and researchers <40 years to get involved.

The first two years of membership are free for ENT residents!

To join, simply follow the instructions at: www.elsoc.org/membership/ or email: youngelsmembers@gmail.com

Stay connected

Follow Young ELS on Instagram [@youneuropeanlaryngologists](https://www.instagram.com/youneuropeanlaryngologists) to stay updated on events, news and member stories. The launch of Young ELS marks a crucial step in shaping the future of laryngology. By uniting and empowering early-career professionals, the community fosters a new strong, innovative generation of connected, confident and collaborative specialists. Join now and help shape what comes next.

For questions and membership enquiries contact:

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What is the Young ELS - ELSOC
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YCOHNS: over 30 years of supporting the next generation of ENT consultants

BY NINA MISTRY, SEVINA TZORTZIS AND JAMES BARRACLOUGH

The Young Consultants in Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery (YCOHNS) was established over 30 years ago by a group of young ENT consultants including Tony Narula, Alan Johnson and others who all went on to become highly influential members of ENT in the UK. The basic premise was that the group wanted to establish a voice for the younger generation of consultants so that decision-making made at a national level could include their views and wishes.

Initially, meetings were held yearly and were informal events where families were invited and discussions were conducted over dinner and drinks to improve ENT practice for younger consultants. The meetings were very popular and grew as the years progressed. The venues for the meetings were often in hotels so that families could stay, and included places like The Belfry Golf Club and Spa in the Midlands.

As the years progressed, many of the discussions changed, but there have been a number of recurring themes that bear relevance to all new ENT consultants. These include contracts, job planning, adapting to life as a new ENT consultant, setting up a new service, development of other interests such as teaching, research and management, the changing NHS landscape and private practice.

There has always been an emphasis on panel discussions and an open forum for discussion rather than traditional didactic lectures. A major component has always been the social aspect of the meetings, where the key benefits of networking with others include forging new relationships and opening doors to different opportunities. Many important discussions and sharing of ideas have occurred during this part of the meeting – potentially changing the face of ENT as we know it now.

YCOHNS ran independently of any other organisation until around 2018, when it was decided that the group would become part of the wider ENT UK group network. This was really to improve membership, better advertise events, widen appeal and improve governance of the organisation. The membership criteria now include all ENT trainees post-CCT and those up to five years after starting a consultant post.



There was a hiatus of meetings during the COVID pandemic. However, YCOHNS returned with a face-to-face relaunch event in November 2023 which was a huge success and re-emphasised how important the meetings are to all new consultants as well as senior trainees. Since then, the group has gained an increasing membership and a new committee. The most recent annual meeting and networking event was held in Birmingham at the end of June 2025, gaining excellent feedback from delegates. Topics from job planning and pensions to taking on wider roles and private practice were covered. There are plans to host further events for members in the coming year, and preparation for the YCOHNS session at BACO International 2026 has already begun.

As a committee, we deeply appreciate the invaluable contributions of YCOHNS members and how their efforts have significantly benefited the ENT community. Our vision is to actively shape ENT careers and experiences, embrace the family community and shape the future. Your participation is vital to our success. We are thrilled to welcome new members and look forward to your ideas and input in future events.

For questions and membership enquiries: Contact **Nina Mistry** (nina.mistry@nhs.net) or **Sevina Tzortzis** (sevina.tzortzis@nhs.net)

Or visit www.entuk.org/about/groups/ycohns/default.aspx



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