30th anniversary – the roots and the future

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ESGENA marks its 30th anniversary by reflecting on its evolution from a small founding group to a pan-European nursing society and outlining future priorities including cross-border nurse certification, AI integration, and expanded mentorship programs.

KEY POINTS

- The society was founded in the early 1990s by Jean-Francois, Diana Dufour, and Christine Peterson to create a European organization for endoscopy nurses, complementing the physician-focused ESG, and has grown to include over 28 board members from 16 countries.
- ESGENA focuses on networking, education through biannual conferences with ESG and UEG, guideline development, and political representation through ESNO at the European Parliament level.
- Endoscopy has evolved from 1806 candle-lit procedures to advanced techniques including capsule endoscopy, confocal endoscopy, and third space endoscopy, with nurses progressing from assistive to procedural roles and specialized positions in IBD, hepatology, and therapeutic endoscopy.
- Future priorities include establishing a unified European framework for specialist nurse certification and creating transferable curricula, as advanced nursing scope currently varies widely across countries.
- The organization aims to develop competency platforms, integrate AI and technology training, expand digital tracking tools for structured nurse education, and strengthen partnerships with ESG and UEG for mentorship programs.

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