

Welcome to the Buyers' Guide to Respiratory Care Products 2008.

The aims of this guide remain as before: to meet the needs of respiratory professionals by providing them with an up-to-date directory of equipment suppliers and resources from around the world.

As last year, the guide is divided into three main sections.

Section 1 (chapters 1–14): Topical reviews on a wide range of subjects. This year, we have commissioned new articles from experts in the field of physiotherapy and healthcare scientists. The series of reviews on paediatric lung function testing continues, and we have covered various areas of testing and patient management, including CPAP/NIV interfaces, MRI scanners and cough assist devices.

More of the articles review the equipment available and present information on the range of equipment. It is not the remit of this guide to recommend which equipment you should use; rather, it is to provide information on what is available so you are able to make informed judgements, as well as perhaps realising just how much equipment is actually out there.

It is intended for the 2009 edition to continue with such a mixture of articles, and to expand this section further.

Section 2 (category and company indices): As in last year's edition, we provide a comprehensive, but not exhaustive, list of suppliers of medical equipment from around the world. It is divided into equipment type, *e.g.* spirometers, pulse oximeters, and from this list of suppliers, reference to the second section will list company details (head offices and website links).

Section 3 (professional societies): This section lists professional societies, with their Web addresses. Many of the sites have useful links to patient educational material and practitioner resources, such as national guidelines. It is inevitable that this list will not be complete, and we apologise if we have missed anything. We will endeavour to correct this in next year's guide, so if you are aware of something we have missed, please let us know.

We welcome any comments and suggestions from members and attendees at the ERS Congress concerning future topics for reviews; offers to write reviews and updates; and any changes to the professional society and company listings.

As I'm writing this editorial, I'm gently reminded that the conference is not far away and the printers wish to print this guide.

To finish, therefore, I would like to thank:

The authors of the articles and reviews for giving up their time to produce yet again a series of excellent reviews.

The staff of the ERS Journals publications office in Sheffield, UK, who despite some interesting summer weather conditions have continued their hard work to ensure this guide happened! In addition to the efforts of the publications office, the hard work of the Lausanne office in ensuring the viability of this guide continues is also recognised.

Finally, the companies who have, as in previous years, generously advertised in this guide. Without their continuing support, this resource would not exist.

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