

**Report of the business meeting of Assembly 1, Berlin, Monday 06/10/2008 (B. Balbi, Chair – J. Vansteenkiste, Secretary and Report)**

**Report from the group meetings**

1.1. Clinical (V. Cottin)

- Group meeting was not very well attended.
- Negative feedback on electronic posters, normal posters are preferred.
- Procedures of submission of proposals for the Congress or the School were explained.

1.2. Rehabilitation (E. Clini)

- Increase in membership of the group and of abstracts at the meeting.
- Transition in officers: Sally Singh and Martin Spruit are new officers.
- Attendance to rehabilitation sessions at ERS improved over last year.

1.3. Imaging (W. De Wever)

- Group meeting attendance about 10 people.
- Two types of symposia. First are the ones proposed by Group 1.3 on its own, had good attendance (up to 140). Second are other proposals where there is imaging involvement. The group regrets that they are not always consulted about these proposals. Bruno and Johan will translate this message to Program Committee and School Committee.
- Overall low quality of submitted abstracts. 40% no shows.
- Contacts between ERS and ESTI (Eur. Soc. of Thoracic Imaging) are sought for the future.
- Group mentions that the electronic poster format is good for imaging contributions.

1.4. Endoscopy (J. Janssens)

- Group meeting was well attended, about 60 people.
- Mediastinal staging symposium had a very successful attendance.
- The group has an increasing number of abstracts, up to 124 now.
- Thoracoscopy courses in different countries is a successful activity.

1.5. Parenchymal (C. Robaro Cordero)

- Well attended group meeting, around 60 people.
- Only one symposium in Berlin, but very well attended.
- Proposals for Barcelona 2010 were initiated.
- Cooperative efforts with WASOG in place, met in 06/2008 in Athens, next is 2011 in Maastricht.
- The European IPF network was discussed.

1.6. Primary Care (M. Fletcher)

- Well attended group meeting (about 35 people).
- Symposia in Berlin were well attended.
- The group regrets that organisers of symposia are no longer listed in the program.
- All assembly members are invited to contribute to ELF.

**Report from the Assembly Chair**

Overall the ERS Congress is a great success as far as science and participation to the event, with more than 19,000 registered attendees. The Clinical Assembly heavily participates in this success as for its many events ongoing and the interest that they are able to attract from Congress attendees. PG courses, Symposia, communication sessions were all, although of course variably, very well attended and the general feed-back is generally positive.

Maybe the only negative comment I keep getting from many members is about E-Communication Sessions, as they can be very frustrating and not enough time-rewarding especially for the role of chairpersons. Probably E-communication sessions could be useful and attractive only for imaging sessions. I will represent this word of criticism on the Congress structure to the Committees in charge of structuring and organizing future Congresses.

As far as the general feeling on the weight of the Assembly inside the Society as depicted from the space we have during the Congress, I would like to remember to all assembly members that, due to the growth of the Society, it is now time for a wider view on this issue: many symposia are usually organised each year at each Congress and thus, basically each Study group will end up having at least one proposal accepted. However, the activities of the Society have grown dramatically over the last years. ERS school is now an important pillar of the Society, new web-based activities are another one, and there is always the possibility to apply for extra-Congress.-type of activities/events, as Research seminar (I organised the first one of our Assembly in 2001!) and external Courses. Check the websites for instructions and deadlines and give your contribution to all these events.

As for the main Scientific Programme in Vienna, we had already accepted two proposals: one on eosinophilic lung diseases (V.Cottin) and another one on asthma in Primary care (M.Fletcher). Other proposals are still pending and depending on the priorities from the Groups they will be supported during the upcoming meetings of the Congress Committee.

Last but not least, 2008 will close with elections for many positions of Assembly Officers, including Assembly Head and Secretary. Electronic or postal vote will be managed through the Office and all members will receive notification of elections and candidates that will be willing to run for the posted positions. For info again look at the website or get in touch with the membership dept. at the ERS Headquarters.

### **Report from the Assembly Secretary**

Postgraduate courses in Berlin 2008

- Assembly 1 had 5 PGCs on the program. Four had a registration of about 100 people, one had 42. Very good in comparison with overall picture across assemblies.
- Assembly 1 had 3 MTPs. Two had around 40 registrations, one had 17.

Items for Vienna 2009

- Assembly 1 is involved in 2 core curriculum courses
  - Thoracic Oncology (Ass. 1 and 11)
  - Burden of COPD (Ass. 1 and 6).
- Assembly 1 has 6 other PGCs on the list for final decision:
  - Drug-induced pulmonary disease (Ass. 1)
  - Interventional Pneumology (Herth)
  - Simple spirometry for underdeveloped countries (Chavanes)
  - Complexity of COPD (Clini, Burghuber)
  - Exercise testing (Ward, together with Ass. 6 and 9)
  - Pleura (Herth, together wit Ass. 8).
- Assembly 1 has 3 MTPs on the list:
  - Endoscopic volume reduction (Herth)
  - Neuropathy in sarcoidosis (Drent) (a broader title like “extrathoracic sarcoidosis” was suggested here)
  - Heart-lung interactions(Burghuber)
  - Imaging group might have a 4<sup>th</sup> proposal.

Items for Barcelona 2010

- Are awaited now. Please address Education proposal (PGC – MTP) to the Assembly Secretary.

### **Elections**

- Assembly 1 is entitled to 10 Assembly Delegates. Three end their mandate at the present meeting: H. Matthys, E. Clini and M. Drent.
- There were three new applications: F. Herth, S. Singh, and Dr. A. Moeini. These three were accepted with consent of all attendants.
- The Assembly should have Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC). Four members of it end their mandate now: W. De Wever, J. Janssen, M. Fletcher and C. Bolliger. There were no elections, as the principle of LRPC does not function in its present form. Bruno Balbi suggested to have this planning meeting with the Assembly Officers, attached to the Zürich spring meeting. All attendants agreed with this.

The Head and Secretary of the Assembly would like to thank all members and officers for their support and participation to the activities of the Assembly. The success of 2008 Congress should lead us to a renewed commitment for upcoming events and deadlines.