



The HERMES Exam:

Harmonising Education in Respiratory Medicine for European Specialists



THE ERS



The challenging task of harmonising education in respiratory medicine for European specialists (HERMES) is on the way to achieving its objective.

The HERMES initiative of the ERS School is progressing at high speed with phases 2 and 3, European core curriculum recommendations and a European examination, respectively, nearing completion.

In 2006, the HERMES project, run by a task force of 13 experts and a team of national representatives, published the first consensus-based European core syllabus. This core syllabus is gaining extensive coverage in the European community. A survey performed among 18 countries in December 2007 revealed that seven countries have already implemented the core syllabus, one country has partially implemented it, while the remaining 10 already have

plans of implementation in place. Aside from the educational ERS publication *Breathe*, the core syllabus was published in four national publications and on four national society websites. Furthermore, this core syllabus has also been discussed at 14 national and regional congresses.

At present, the HERMES Task Force is finalising the exact phrasing of the European core curriculum and is about to launch the first European examination. The consensus-based European core curriculum will be published this summer.

Talks for phase 4 of the project, aimed at developing standards for training centres, have already begun.

The principles and ideals of the HERMES initiative have begun to spread to other respiratory specialties. The Paediatric Assembly has recently started work on its Paediatric HERMES Task Force, which will

produce an updated consensus-based European core syllabus. In January 2008, Assembly 9 launched a project called the European Spirometry Driving Licence, which is aimed at making a comprehensive review of the currently available spirometry training programmes in Europe. This project will result in recommendations for a spirometry certification programme in Europe. This is in line with harmonising the education and training which is already available in spirometry.

On October 4, 2008, at the annual ERS Congress in Berlin, the European examination in adult respiratory medicine will be held for the first time.

All information relating to the exam and full registration details are now available on our website at: <http://hermes.ersnet.org>