

Lung Science Conference 2010

Over 120 participants gathered in Estoril under the Portuguese sun in March for the eighth Lung Science Conference. This year the topic of the meeting was "Biology of gene-environment interactions in the lung", and once again the scientific programme covered a wide range of themes.

Outstanding scientific programme

The success of this year's Lung Science Conference was largely due to the superb series of lectures, which were presented by outstanding, leading respiratory and non-respiratory scientists. The invited speakers included: M. Amaral (Portugal), S. Belinsky (USA), W. Cookson (UK), J. Garcia (USA), M. Kabesch (Germany), J. Kere (Sweden), S. Kleeberger (USA), G. Laurent (UK), D. Lomas (UK), D. Schwartz (USA), T. Sigsgaard (Denmark), A. Spira (USA), B. Trapnell (USA), J. Michael Collaco (USA) and P. Hiemstra (Netherlands).

Once again, presentations from the invited faculty were mixed with shorter oral presentations given by selected authors of high-scoring abstracts. The atmosphere of this year's Conference was relaxed. All of the sessions were highly interactive with the poster session proving to be a highlight.

Congratulations!

For the second year running the "Young Investigator Competition" took place. Four entrants were selected on the basis of the highest abstract score awarded by the Scientific Committee for authors under 35 years old. Once again, the delegates participated in selecting the winner by voting for their chosen candidate. This year the award was won by Alice Wood from the University of Birmingham (UK) with her abstract "Vitamin D binding protein is functionally important in airway infections".

The four poster sessions were also very well attended and produced. Irene Oglesby from the Royal College of Surgeons (Dublin, Ireland) won the Best Poster Presentation award with her abstract "Expression



Irene Oglesby won the Best Poster Presentation Award.

profiling in cystic fibrosis reveals differential expression of miRNA".

Both winners will receive a bursary and a free registration to present their research at the 2010 ERS Annual Congress in Barcelona.

Another highly successful event was the mentoring lunch, which enabled the younger Conference delegates to interact with our esteemed faculty. This was an animated event which was enjoyed in equal measure by both participants and faculty.

A team effort

The 2010 Lung Science Conference was a huge success both in terms of the science and the social programme. The ERS is indebted to the outstanding faculty and the organisers, Geoffrey Laurent, David Lomas and William MacNee, for their enthusiasm and dedication which has ensured that this is always a truly memorable event. There is also no doubt that the concepts and ideas that were discussed will be invaluable to our endeavour to discover novel therapies to better treat patients affected by respiratory disease.

The ERS wishes to thank Prof. Geoffrey Laurent

Prof. Geoffrey Laurent has played a key part in the success of the last three Lung Science Conferences, acting as Conference Chair. During the

Conference, Prof. Laurent gave an enjoyable presentation entitled "Getting scientists and physicians to talk to each other". As a gesture of thanks for all his hard work and commitment to the Lung Science Conference, Nikos Siafakas, ERS President, presented Prof. Laurent with a certificate.



ERS President Nikos Siafakas and Conference Chair Geoffrey Laurent

Continuing the success

Under the supervision of Prof. Oliver Eickelberg, who was elected ERS Conferences and Seminars Director in 2009, the next Lung Science Conference will once again be held in Estoril from April 1-3, 2011. The focus of the Conference will be "Immune system dysregulation or inflammation in chronic lung disease". Once again, many experienced speakers will be presenting and sharing their knowledge and findings. We hope the friendly and relaxed atmosphere will once again provide a good platform for knowledge exchange.

If you are involved in cutting-edge research and would like to share your findings with others in your specialist field why not submit an abstract for the 2011 Lung Science Conference.

Abstract submission and registration to the Conference opens in September 2010
Deadline: October 31, 2010
See you there!