

European Respiratory Society

World TB Day 2009



Dr. Crump, TDR, WHO/Science, Photo Library.

I am stopping TB. Are you? Find out how you can take part in World TB Day 2009 on [page 14](#)



Find out how the ERS School is involved in the new EU project TB PAN-NET on [page 11](#)



Find out more about the brand new, interactive addition to the ELF website. See [page 13](#)

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Society News From The ERS President

Distributing the ERS Newsletter in Spain

This issue of the ERS Newsletter will not only be available to ERS members, but also to all members of SEPAR, the Spanish Respiratory Society. President of the International Relation Committee, Prof. Marc Miravittles, and the Spanish national delegate, Prof. Esther Quintana Gallico, have contributed an article in the Spanish version of this newsletter. This is the first step in the strategy for national societies/delegates to provide information, in their own language, to ERS members and specialists working in the field of respiratory medicine in Europe and, hopefully in the future, specialists in other continents, of the newest developments within the ERS.

Marie Curie fellowship

On February 14, 2009 a call was launched on the ERS website for applications for the ERS Marie Curie fellowship. This postdoctoral long-term research fellowship funds scientific excellence and is an important supplement and expansion of the already existing Short- and Long-term ERS fellowships. This fellowship is a result of the long-term strategic vision of the ERS to play a key scientific role in the field of respiratory diseases. It is also expected that, in the near future, the ERS will hold an important role in the dissemination of EU-IMI projects. The ERS Brussels office is vital in increasing the Steering, Executive and Scientific

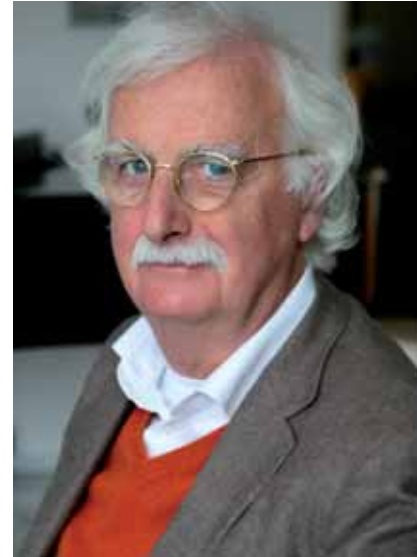
Committees' awareness of potential themes of EU calls which might be worthwhile for ERS members. In the future, we expect that the involvement of the ERS in EU research projects will increase.

Benefits of ERS membership

The number of ERS members has been increasing steadily over the years and there are currently approximately 9,000 members. The membership packages are extremely attractive with packages offering the printed or online versions of the *European Respiratory Journal*, *Breathe*, the *European Respiratory Review* and the *European Respiratory Monograph*, all of which provide insights into the newest clinical and scientific developments in a specific field of respiratory diseases. In addition, members can access and download material from the ERS annual Congresses, including postgraduate courses, symposia, etc. ERS members also have the option to apply for ERS fellowships, providing them with the opportunity to work in top clinical and research centres in Europe for 3-12 months. ERS members are also encouraged to join the ERS Assemblies and Groups, in which they can actively participate.

The 2009 ERS Congress

The forecast for the annual congress in Vienna is positive and the number of submitted abstracts looks set to match, if not exceed, the



Jorrit Gerritsen, ERS President

number submitted last year. In previous years the number of submitted abstracts was strongly related to the total number of participants. This year the Scientific Committee has decided to allow the late submission of abstracts if they show the results of cutting-edge research; however, these abstracts will be charged an extra fee. These abstracts will be incorporated into the Scientific Programme, which will be finalised at the end of April.

The 20th anniversary of the ERS

The ERS will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2010. Nikolaos Siafakas will be ERS President during this year and, together with the ERS Committees, is planning to celebrate this exciting time with several events. The year 2010 has also been declared as the "Year of the lung". Nikolaos Siafakas is working closely with the European Lung Foundation on different initiatives to bring the importance of lung diseases to the attention of the public and policy makers.

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ERS and the European Union

Jean-Luc Eiselé, ERS Executive Director, and I were invited to contribute to the Public Service Review: European Union, which is distributed to Members of the European Parliament. We focused on the fact that respiratory disease is alongside cardiac disease as the leading cause of death in the world and that it has a high impact on public health and

health economy in all European Countries. We also stated that research on respiratory diseases focuses on prevention and decreasing mortality and morbidity, which must feature highly on the list of future research initiatives in Europe.

Have your say

I previously mentioned that the President's forum has been launched on the ERS website. This allows ERS

members to contact me and other members of the ERS Steering Committee. It is your chance to have your say and make your views heard. I would like to encourage all ERS members to log on to the Forum and leave questions, suggestions, announcements, etc.

J. Gerritsen
ERS President

ERS First-Round Election Results 2009

This year's first round of Assembly and Group elections has involved 65 candidates for 34 Assembly and Group positions. The National Delegate elections are currently underway. We would like to thank all candidates in both the Assembly and Group elections, and also in the National Delegate elections for their commitment and willingness to serve the Society.

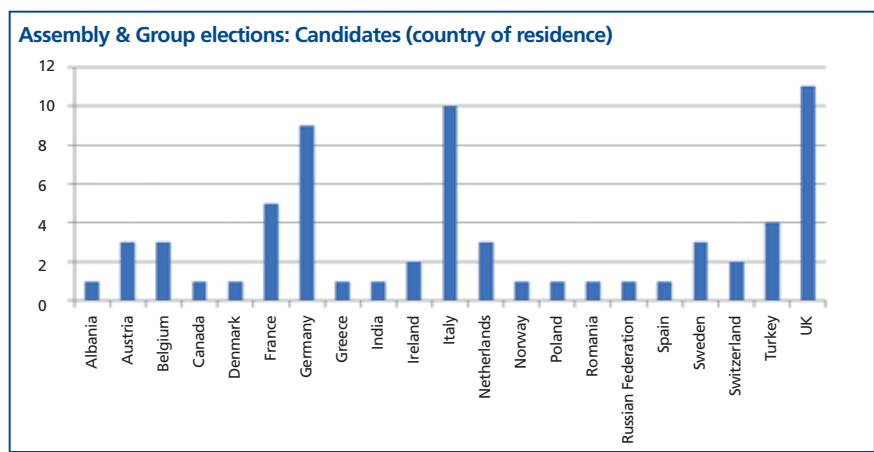
The election of dedicated leaders is essential for our future vitality and gives you, as ERS members, a chance to contribute to the life of the Society. The high number of votes cast in these Assembly and Group elections has clearly shown the dedication of our members and the high numbers of younger candidates in the elections is an extremely positive sign for the continuing success of the Society. We would like to thank all the members who nominated candidates or who took part in voting for their representative.

Each ERS member can join up to three scientific groups but can only take part in elections for their first-choice affiliation. The high number of votes cast in the elections for Assembly and Group positions indicates an

extremely active membership showing their support for their future leaders. Assembly Heads and Assembly Secretaries must be based in Europe throughout their mandate.

The success and progress of our Society depends on the enthusiasm and active participation of all our

members and, in particular, of the ERS Officers. We would like to thank all Officers finishing their mandate on September 15, 2009 for their hard work and commitment, and would like to wish all newly elected Officers every success in their new roles within the Society.



Impressum

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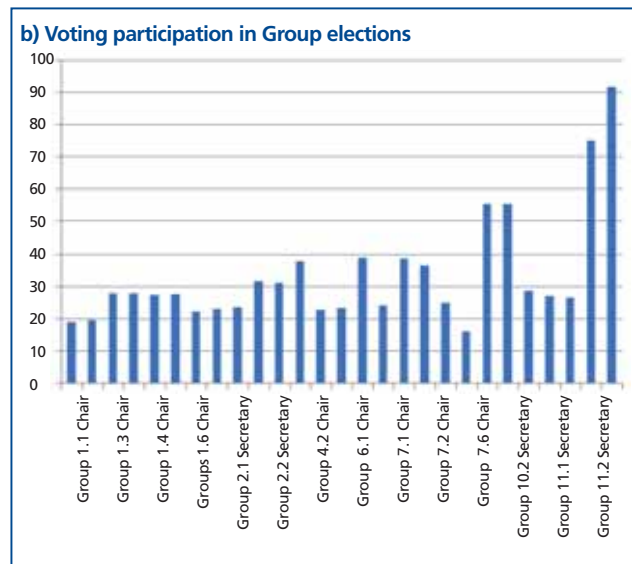
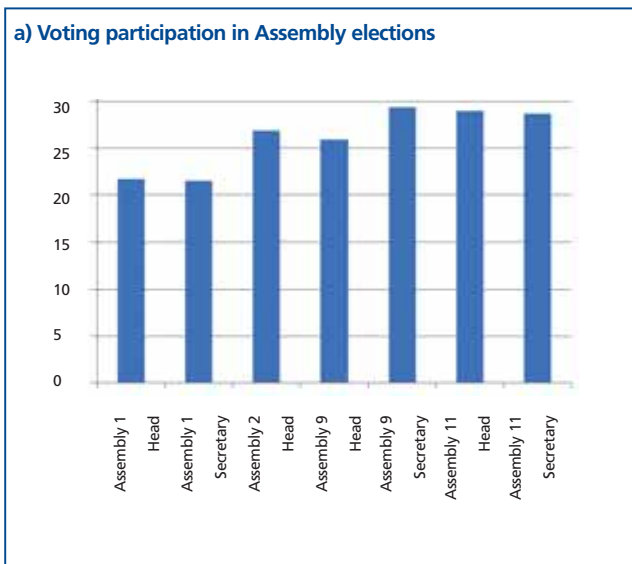
The ERS Newsletter is published six times a year by the European Respiratory Society. More than 20,000 online copies are viewed by pneumologists in Europe and overseas.

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ERS First-Round Election Results 2009 (cont.)

Assembly/Group	Position	Elected Candidate
Clinical Assembly (1)	Assembly Head	Vincent Cottin
Clinical Assembly (1)	Assembly Secretary	Enrico Clini
Clinical Problems Group (1.01)	Group Chair	Otto Chris Burghuber
Clinical Problems Group (1.01)	Group Secretary	Maurizio Marvisi
Imaging Group (1.03)	Group Chair	Sebastian Ley
Imaging Group (1.03)	Group Secretary	Walter De Wever
Interventional Pulmonology Group (1.04)	Group Chair	Felix J.F. Herth
Interventional Pulmonology Group (1.04)	Group Secretary	Stefano Gasparini
General Practice and Primary Care Group (1.06)	Group Chair	Niels Chavannes
General Practice and Primary Care Group (1.06)	Group Secretary	Bjorn Stallberg
Respiratory Intensive Care Assembly (2)	Assembly Secretary	Paolo Pelosi
Acute Critical Care Group (2.01)	Group Secretary*	Stylianos Orfanos
Noninvasive Ventilatory Support Group (2.02)	Group Chair	Paolo Navalesi
Noninvasive Ventilatory Support Group (2.02)	Group Secretary	Wolfram Windisch
Molecular Pathology and Functional Genomics Group (3.01)	Group Chair*	Philipp A. Schnabel
Sleep and Control of Breathing Group (4.02)	Group Chair	Stefan Andreas
Sleep and Control of Breathing Group (4.02)	Group Secretary	Renata L. Riha
Epidemiology Group (6.01)	Group Chair	Christer Janson
Tobacco, Smoking Control and Health Education Group (6.03)	Group Chair	Carlos Jimenez Ruiz
Paediatric Respiratory Physiology Group (7.01)	Group Chair	Paul Aurora
Paediatric Respiratory Physiology Group (7.01)	Group Secretary	Enrico Lombardi
Paediatric Asthma and Allergy Group (7.02)	Group Chair	Karin C. Lodrup Carlsen
Neonatology and Paediatric Intensive Care Group (7.05)	Group Chair	Robert I. Ross-Russell
Paediatric Respiratory Epidemiology Group (7.06)	Group Chair	Stephen Turner
Paediatric Respiratory Epidemiology Group (7.06)	Group Secretary	Franca Rusconi
Allied Respiratory Professionals Assembly (9)	Assembly Head	Brendan G. Cooper
Allied Respiratory Professionals Assembly (9)	Assembly Secretary	Geraldine A. Bale
Tuberculosis Group (10.02)	Group Secretary	Giovanni Ferrara
Thoracic Oncology Assembly (11)	Assembly Head	Jean-Paul Sculier
Thoracic Oncology Assembly (11)	Assembly Secretary	Johan Vansteenkiste
Lung Cancer Group (11.01)	Group Chair*	Nicolas Schoenfeld
Lung Cancer Group (11.01)	Group Secretary*	Fernando Gamarra
Pleural and Mediastinal Malignancies Group (11.02)	Group Chair*	Arnaud Scherpereel
Pleural and Mediastinal Malignancies Group (11.02)	Group Secretary*	Bogdan Dragos Grigoriu

Unless indicated otherwise, all mandates will begin at the ERS Congress in Vienna (September 15, 2009). *: these positions begin from February 1, 2009.



The Experiences of One ERS Fellowship Recipient

The ERS offers Fellowship schemes for professionals actively engaged in clinical and basic research in respiratory medicine and clinical pulmonary practice. These enable doctors and respiratory investigators to carry out research and obtain training in a clinical or research unit in another European country.



ERS Long-term Research Fellowship

Robab Kohansal
Home country: Austria
Host country: Spain

Before starting my fellowship in Spain my aim was to work in an institution where I would be able to learn from experienced scientists and where the research was focused on epidemiology, as I believed that this would provide answers to some of my questions. The International Centre for Advanced Respiratory Medicine (Caubet-CIMERA) in Spain was initiated to investigate the major fields in respiratory medicine and fortunately the ERS/SEPAR fellowship gave me the opportunity to carry out my fellowship at this institute.

During my time at Caubet-CIMERA, my colleagues and I aimed to investigate the natural history of COPD by recreating, 30 years on, the so-called Fletcher and Peto Curves

using longitudinal data from the Framingham Heart Study.

“This investigation gave me the opportunity to be involved in the study from start to finish.”

Beginning with the hypothesis (making the protocol and asking the right questions), continuing with the methods (applying for the external data and analysing them with statisticians and epidemiologists) and, finally, the results and discussion. I was also involved in interpreting the data and writing up the results in a paper which considered recent knowledge, different approaches and the expertise of international authors with whom I had the honour to work.

“The intensive literature research prior to the investigation provided me with an overview on the topic of the natural history of COPD.”

Therefore, we decided to write a review concerning this subject. This experience was quite different to writing an original article. I learned how to collect, search for and evalu-

tate recent articles and opinions by presenting broad literature in a restrictive and comprehensible way.

“I really appreciate the new skills and challenges this provided me with, especially as it was accepted by an international journal!”

During my stay I also had the possibility to attend and present at national and international conferences, to be involved in investigation meetings, to listen to periodic educational seminars, and of course to learn Spanish. Furthermore I was privileged to work every day with colleagues, such as biologists, statisticians, epidemiologists and lab technicians, who had a “non-medical” way of thinking which improved my personal approach to research and motivated me to continue my work back home.

In order to sample the pleasures of a fellowship I strongly suggest a common purpose prior to application supported by the home and the host institution (and of course by the fellow) to avoid misunderstanding and/or disappointment.

In conclusion I would like to thank the ERS and SEPAR, my home institution in Austria and my hosts from Spain for giving me the opportunity to further my learning.

Representing the ERS in Your Country

During 2008, several National Delegates gave us an insight into their experiences and responsibilities. Over the forthcoming issues of the Newsletter we will put the spotlight on some more National Delegates and what they aim to achieve during their mandate.



Yavor Ivanov
Bulgarian
National Delegate

Three years are ahead of me, perhaps time to dream and work. One should imagine the chance of bringing the advances in European pulmonary medicine closer to his country, to all pulmonologists in Bulgaria and especially for the young ones! How?

Maybe I could start with trying to increase the number of ERS members. It is nice to know that you can turn on your computer and dive into the ocean of information, images, lectures, live presentations, Congress symposia, etc.

“Isn't it exciting to be part of that big European family?”

Then, maybe hold more ERS sponsored meetings here in Bulgaria, for example seminars, symposia and lectures. We have already held several symposia during our second national Congress in October 2009. We had lectures from respiratory experts, such as William MacNee, Ulrich Costabel, Jorgen Vestbo, Mark Woodhead, Tobias Welte, Jean-Pierre Zellweger, Heinrich Becker, etc. And it worked very well!

“At our next congress, in June next year, we intend to organise, for the first time, postgraduate courses for GPs

and young pulmonologists. We will certainly ask the ERS for their support and know how!”

I would very much like to encourage young pulmonologists to apply for project funding. We have had several successful attempts which have given courage and enthusiasm to those who applied.

All the information will be available from the Bulgarian society website: www.thorax.bg

In addition, every national and regional meeting will be used to attract attention to the opportunities the ERS provides.

I do hope that, in three years, at least part of that dream will come true. I am sure it will bring satisfaction to us all.



Talantbek M. Sooronbaev
Kyrgyz National
Delegate

Representing the ERS as a national delegate is an important position to hold as it ensures coordination and effective cooperation between the ERS and national societies. In these terms, a national delegate can and must actively work on informing doctors within that country about events and ERS activities, promoting ERS membership to as many doctors as possible and participating in various educational and scientific projects. An important part of this work should involve organising thematic workshops and research seminars on a regular basis, which are supported

by the ERS and attract the attendance of leading specialists in the field of respiratory medicine. It is worth noting that, as a national delegate, you represent the interests of your country, and are able to introduce proposals for a closer integration and development of cooperation within the EU.

“An ERS national delegate should aim their efforts at dynamically developing respiratory medicine within their country.”

As a national delegate, I would like to achieve the following.

1. Increase the number of associate and full ERS members from Kyrgyzstan in order to help doctors become actively involved in educational and scientific projects.
2. Provide doctors with information on and assistance in receiving Short-term and Long-term ERS fellowships.
3. Create the best possible opportunity for active participation in the HERMES educational project.
4. Organise and hold annual themed educational workshops at the country level with support from the ERS over the most important problems.
5. Increase the number of papers published in the *European Respiratory Journal* reporting the results of the research carried out at a national level.
6. Increase the number of participants from my country at the ERS Congresses.
7. Introduce new technologies for the management of respiratory diseases.

Representing the ERS in Your Country (cont.)



Dragos Bumbacea
Romanian
National Delegate

I am honoured to have been elected to serve as the ERS national delegate of Romania for the next three years. I strongly think that, apart from scientific groups, there are also national communities of pulmonologists that have different needs and expectations from the ERS, and thus need a voice to speak for them.

“My personal experience of 8 years as a member of the Committee of Directors and 4 years as Secretary General of the Romanian Society of Pulmonology is very useful in this new position.”

An obvious goal of a national delegate is to increase the number of ERS members within that country. However, I would like to focus

mainly on: increasing the quality of the membership by bringing in more young members and more relevant personalities from the country; increasing the quality of the scientific contribution of the Romanian pulmonologists to the ERS annual Congress and to other ERS meetings and publications; and extending the use of ERS resources by Romanian members. Any other suggestions from Romanian members will be more than welcome. I hope that in three years I, the ERS, and the Romanian members, will be satisfied with my achievements in this position.



Belong to Europe's largest team of lung specialists

ERS Membership



- **PROMOTING RESEARCH**
- **FOSTERING EDUCATION**
- **IMPROVING PATIENT CARE**
- **STIMULATING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

www.ersnet.org



ERS Publications Update

THE ERS



European Respiratory Monograph

The main function of the *European Respiratory Monograph (ERM)* is to serve as a source of information for clinicians in pulmonary medicine, a resource for the education of students and physicians during their specialist training, and to be used in postgraduate courses and other areas of higher education in respiratory medicine.

In 2006, an editorial board was formed under the Editorship of Kjell Larsson and the first editorial board meeting was held in 2007. It was then planned that the forthcoming

issues of the *ERM* should cover several different areas of respiratory medicine. As a result, a number of future titles were identified, along with guest editors for each issue. The work has so far been successful and the guest editors of more than 10 monographs have commenced work on their issues.

The first results will start to bear fruit in 2009 when the first *ERM* that was discussed and decided upon at the first editorial board meeting will be published. Monographs will appear in the near future on: interstitial lung diseases, lung diseases in the elderly, thoracic malignancies and lung transplantation.

At present we are awaiting the results of an ongoing market research survey to explore the attitudes towards the *ERM* among members. Further decisions about the direction of the *ERM* will be made after these results have been evaluated and we will keep you updated.

European Respiratory Review

In January a new online submission platform was launched for the *European Respiratory Review*. This will facilitate the review process, and enable the editorial board to quickly assess the quality of the submitted manuscripts, ensuring that there will be no delay in the decision process and enabling a fast revision and/or acceptance process. The Chief Editor of the *Review*, Marc Humbert, is looking for high-quality, cutting-edge editorials, reviews and case studies. If you have an article you would like to publish in the *Review* please go to the submission website: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/err>

Forthcoming topics for 2009 and 2010 include: asthma, cystic fibrosis, COPD, rare diseases, inhaled medication, pulmonary hypertension and scleroderma.

Celebrating 20 years' Service in the ERS

THE ERS

On January 23, 2009, Claire Turner became the longest serving members of ERS staff, having worked in the organisation for 20 years. Claire works in the Production Department of the Publications Office and is responsible for the high-calibre figures which are printed in the ERS publications. Jean-Luc Eiselé

presented Claire with a certificate, signed by the Steering Committee, in recognition of her dedicated work and outstanding contribution to the ERS over the past 20 years.

It is great to see that after 20 years working for the ERS, Claire is still one of the most enthusiastic members of the team.



European Respiratory Monograph Goes Green: What Does This Mean?

The *European Respiratory Monograph (ERM)* is one of the fixtures on many of our members' office shelves. The complete works of red books are often used as reference material throughout the year. However, we are aware that not all titles are of interest to all members and that, for many of you, paper is now a problem rather than a welcome addition to your work space.

In addition to this, the cost and environmental impact of sending out each edition of the *ERM* to all full members is high. Each year the postage costs amount to nearly €100,000 and its footprint with respect to paper consumption and transportation is significant.

For these reasons, as a full member you may have received the e-mail

below asking whether you wish to receive the paper copy of the next *ERM*, Smoking Cessation edited by Stefano Nardini. Thank you to those of you who visited our web page and made a selection for either paper or online only.

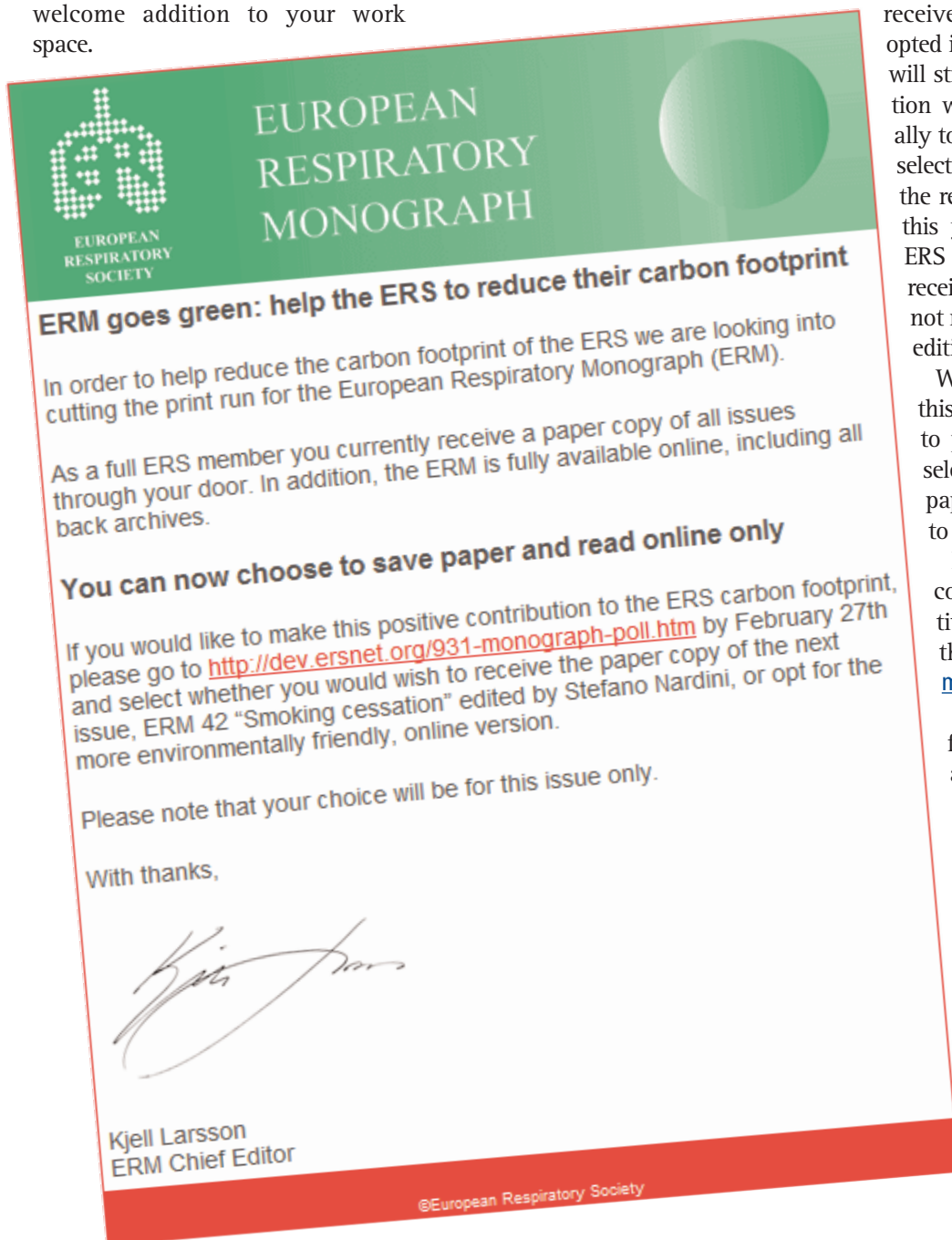
For those of you who missed the e-mail, don't worry. For this edition only those who opted out will not receive a copy. For those who opted in or did not respond a copy will still be sent to you. Each edition will be dealt with individually to allow full ERS members to select between titles. However, for the remaining issues of the *ERM* this year we will be expecting ERS full members to opt in to receive a copy and those who do not respond will not be sent that edition.

We hope you will all support this move by the ERS and help to prioritise print and post by selecting issues of the *ERM* in paper format that are relevant to you.

Please look out for e-mails concerning the forthcoming titles. If you have any queries then please contact us at: monograph@ersj.org.uk

All issues of the *ERM*, from 2001 to present, are available in full to all ERS members online via the ERS website at:

www.ersnet.org/monograph





Scientific and Educational Round-up

2009 Congress: Scientific Programme

In February, the Vienna Programme Committee met in Geneva to finalise the Symposia Lectures to be presented at the 2009 ERS Congress. This year, another attractive programme is being prepared in order to match the Congress delegate's needs and interests.

Following last year's success, the presentations of Clinical Trials will again feature in the Scientific Programme. If you wish to submit an application for a Clinical Trial presentation please refer to the rules and fill in the submission form that can be downloaded from:

www.ersnet.org/clinical-trials

The deadline for submission is **April 10, 2009**.

As usual the Programme Committee reserves the right to change, merge or modify the proposals received. Some topics that are not selected for Vienna might be used for future Congresses.

Visiting Professorships and Fellowships

At the Executive Committee meeting in Geneva, the Scientific Committee awarded six new Visiting Professorships to:

- Peter Macklem (Canada)
- Stephen Stick (Australia)
- Thais Mauad (Brazil)
- Michael Francis Beers (USA)
- Chris Thomas Bolliger (South Africa)
- Michael David Goldman (USA)

During the meeting the Scientific Committee also awarded 12 new Short-Term Fellowships to:

- Marina Susanne Leino (Finland)
- Lauren Mott (Australia)
- Marina Shevchenko (Russia)
- Nidia Aparecida Hernandez Fujii (Brazil)

- Angelo De Lauretis (Italy)
- Efimia Boutsikou (Greece)
- Beatriz Lara Gallego (Spain)
- Francesca Polverino (Italy) – Joint ERS/AIMAR Fellowship
- Giovanni Malerba (Italy) – Joint ERS/AIMAR Fellowship

A further three Training Fellowships were also awarded during the Executive Committee meeting to:

- Aikaterini Samara (Greece)
- Meltem Tor (Turkey)
- Ann Decraene (Belgium)

The next deadline for Visiting Professorship and Short-Term Fellowship applications is **April 1, 2009**.

ERS / Marie Curie Joint Fellowships Programme

COFUNDED BY



MARIE CURIE

The ERS is pleased to announce the opening of the call for postdoctoral Joint ERS/Marie Curie Research Fellowships, which is co-funded by the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)/Marie Curie Actions. The programme aims to fund investigators to carry out research projects of scientific excellence in an area of respiratory medicine for a 12-month period in another European country. All applicants must have a PhD or be postgraduates with 4 years' full-time research experience. Applicants must also have at least one first author publication in an international peer-reviewed journal.

The deadline for application submission is **April 13, 2009**

For more information please go to: www.ersnet.org/ers-fellowships

2010 Congress: First-Round Symposia

The Scientific Programme Committee will meet in April to select the First-Round Symposia for the 2010 Congress in Barcelona. All ERS members are encouraged to submit proposals by **March 31, 2009**. Instructions and the submission form for First-Round Symposia submissions can be found at:

www.ersnet.org/barcelona-symposia

2009 European respiratory medicine examination

The second European examination in adult respiratory medicine will take place on September 12, 2009, at the ERS annual Congress in Vienna, Austria. Registration is now open. For more information, please visit: <http://hermes.ersnet.org>

This year, candidates will be able to benefit from the new mentoring scheme. Prospective candidates can seek advice from a previously successful candidate who completed the first exam in 2008. For more information and to view the profiles of the candidates who successfully passed the 2008 exam visit:

www.hermes.ersnet.org

The ERS School has also announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Swiss Society of Pneumology. Starting in 2009, the Swiss Society of Pneumology, which is in charge of staging exit examinations for all Swiss pneumology trainees, will use the European examination as the written part of its own national exit examination. This means that all

Scientific and Educational Round-up (cont.)



Swiss exit trainees will attend the ERS Congress in Vienna to sit the examination alongside the other candidates. This will also provide the candidates with the ideal opportunity to attend the ERS annual Congress. The ERS would now like to offer similar opportunities to other national societies or health authorities that wish to avoid the financial and administrative burden of organising an annual, high-quality written examination, often for very few candidates.

ERS School courses

Registrations for ERS School courses on lung transplantation and

medical aerosols, and for the GRACE workshop, are now open. For more information please visit: www.ersnet.org/schoolcourses

TB PAN-NET



The ERS School is involved in a new European Union (EU)-funded project called TB PAN-NET. This project aims to establish an integrated network to address the challenge of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) that is facing the EU. To reach this objective, a European consortium of partners with extensive experience in the conduct of basic and clinical research relating to MDR-TB, tuberculosis control and epidemiology will be established. The main objectives are as follows.

- To conduct an extensive and focused programme of basic and

clinical research to improve the diagnosis and management of MDR-TB.

- To develop a broad training curriculum leading to the creation of a new generation of scientists and clinicians who are experts in the management of drug-resistant TB.
- To create field sites across the EU with the capacity for evaluating new diagnostic systems and novel drug therapies on behalf of European industry and government.
- To establish a unified and robust quality assurance mechanism for the accurate and rapid diagnosis of drug resistance and to develop an appropriate safety standard for European healthcare workers.

The ERS School involvement in TB-PAN-NET will comprise the following.

- Organisation of postgraduate courses, external courses and seminars as well as “train the trainers” courses.
- Dissemination of information through the creation and maintenance of a project website to provide factsheets, newsletter articles, etc.

More information on the project will be available soon at:

www.tbpannet.org



European Respiratory Journal: Editors' Selection

Selection for March: Volume 33; No. 3

1. COPD in Chinese nonsmokers. Y. Zhou, C. Wang, W. Yao, et al. pp. 509–518.
2. Extracorporeal pumpless interventional lung assist in clinical practice: determinants of efficacy. T. Müller, M. Lubnow, A. Philipp, et al. pp. 551–558.
3. Circulating cell-derived microparticles in patients with minimally symptomatic obstructive sleep apnoea. L. Ayers, B. Ferry, S. Craig, D. Nicoll, J.R. Stradling and M. Kohler. pp. 574–580.

Access the *ERJ* online: www.erj.ersjournals.com

NEW Postdoctoral Research Fellowships



European Respiratory
Society

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Co-funded by the EU FP7 People
Programme - Marie Curie Actions

Apply for an ERS/Marie Curie Joint Fellowship

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- › Access to Europe's finest research facilities
- › Supporting talented researchers to carry out promising projects

Deadline for application: April 13, 2009

www.ersnet.org/fellowships

Conditions:

- PhD holders or postgraduates with 4 years full-time research experience
- At least 1 first author publication in an international peer-reviewed journal
- 12-month fellowship in another European country

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ERS MARIE CURIE



New ELF Interactive Video Feature

Early 2009 welcomes the launch of European Lung Foundation (ELF) videos based on selected factsheet topics. This fantastic new feature enables patients and the general public to submit questions that will be answered by an expert in that field. The expert will record the answers as a video, which will later be available on the ELF website and on YouTube for everyone to view and access.



EUROPEAN
LUNG FOUNDATION

This new idea has been piloted using the spirometry factsheet. It was promoted *via* the ELF website and e-newsletter to attract patient queries, and *via* the ERS homepage to encourage clinicians to spread the word to their patients. A large number of questions were received when the scheme was piloted and these have been answered by Prof. Paul Enright, an ERS spirometry expert. Prof. Enright encourages the listener by demonstrating the breathing manoeuvre necessary to achieve accurate results

and explains what the results may mean for a patient.

The presence of an ERS expert emphasises the quality of the information and this aims to encourage people to submit questions on future factsheet topics. Website users can express their concerns and receive reassuring answers from the comfort of their own home. While waiting for their questions to be answered, their knowledge of the topic will grow by listening to the whole video.

Increased interaction between the ELF and our website visitors will

reinforce our supportive role for patients with lung disease. The spirometry video is now available online at:

www.european-lung-foundation.org/index.php?id=11728

OR

www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgouMVeZ3VA

The next ELF video will answer questions related to the allergy and asthma factsheet, which will be online in March 2009. Questions can be submitted to elf@ersnet.org once the factsheet is online.

Will I be able to blow hard enough?

Do the mouthpieces vary in size?

How long will it take?

What will I have to do?

Might it show that I have something wrong with me?

What will it mean if it is abnormal?

If the test is normal, are my lungs okay?

Can I eat before taking the test?

Can I take my usual medication before taking a test?

World TB Day 2009: I am Stopping TB

This is the message of World TB Day's global two-year campaign, held every year on March 24. World TB Day is an annual event organised by the Stop TB Partnership, which aims to raise awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and the efforts involved in eliminating the disease.

Supporting World TB Day

The ERS and the European Lung Foundation (ELF) will be marking World TB Day by urging national delegates and societies to contact their governments to mobilise political commitment and increase research funding in order to prevent the growing public health threat of multidrug-resistant (MDR)- and extensively drug-resistant (XDR)-TB.

TB: one of the world's biggest killers

At present, and compounded by the rising threat of antibiotic drug resistance, TB represents the second deadliest infectious disease worldwide. In 2006 there were some 9.2 million cases of TB and 1.5 million TB-related deaths. Since the EU officially issued its Framework Action Plan to Fight Tuberculosis on March 17, 2008, the three main threats that



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hamper an effective elimination of TB in the EU, according to European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Director Zsuzsanna Jakab, are: 1) unevenly distributed risk with certain vulnerable groups, such as immigrant populations, HIV-infected individuals, and prisoners being at higher risk; 2) the rising problem of drug resistance; and 3) suboptimal patient management.

However, in the EU, public health remains primarily a Member State competence, which means that most of the efforts to control and manage TB will continue to rely on national efforts. The ECDC is, however, an important agency, in that it supports the work of Europe's national disease control agencies. The ERS will continue to engage with the ECDC to represent health professionals and clinical expertise in the field of respiratory infections, including TB.

Strengthening multidisciplinary clinical research collaborations

The ERS is also supporting the work of a multidisciplinary network called the Tuberculosis Network European Trials Group (TB-NET). This was set up in 2006 to promote clinically oriented, industry-independent research in the field of TB in Europe by sharing and developing ideas and research protocols. Members of TB-NET are very active and largely consist of European, research-oriented clinicians, microbiologists, epidemiologists and public health specialists with an interest in TB and mycobacteria diseases. Anybody in the field of respiratory medicine with an interest in TB and a willingness to adhere to TB-NET projects can become a member of this network.

TB-NET recently completed a systematic review of 13 recent studies

on the epidemiological and clinical management of XDR-TB. The aim of this review was to strengthen the global body of evidence for the diagnosis and treatment of XDR-TB and, ultimately, its prevention. The review, the first of its kind, also recommends criteria that future studies on XDR-TB might adopt.

A key stakeholder for TB control and elimination in Europe

One of the next important steps of TB-NET, which is coordinated in close collaboration with the ERS, is the implementation of a pan-European register for patients with MDR- and XDR-TB. TB-NET also forms an integral part of the TB PAN-NET project (see p. 11), a large network of research groups funded by the European Commission's Research Framework Programme. TB-NET will be contributing crucially towards the project's objectives by developing a patient register consisting of important information on the safety, tolerability and efficacy of different drug combinations used in long-term treatment, and will allow for essential information to further improve the treatment of patients with MDR- or XDR-TB. The ERS will assist in managing the training of health professionals to deal with patients infected with MDR-/XDR-TB, particularly in Eastern European countries where MDR-TB poses a particular threat.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

World TB Day: www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/2009

TB-NET: www.tb-net.org/

ECDC Action Plan to fight TB in the EU:

www.ecdc.europa.eu/pdf/080317_TB_Action_plan.pdf

Berlin Declaration on Tuberculosis: www.euro.who.int/Document/E90833.pdf

Meetings Calendar / Deadlines

ERS School Courses 2009

- >April 7–10, 2009 (Marseille, France)
Thoracoscopy and pleural techniques
- >June 18–20, 2009 (Leuven, Belgium)
Lung transplantation
- >October 23–24, 2009 (Rome, Italy)
4th GRACE Workshop: challenges in primary care
- >November 12–14, 2009 (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)
Medical aerosols (organised with ISAM)
- >November 24–27, 2009 (Marseille, France)
Thoracoscopy and pleural techniques
Contact: school@ersnet.org

Meetings and Congresses

- >April 3–8, 2009 (Darwin, Australia)
Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) And Australia and New Zealand Society for Respiratory Science (ANZSRS) Annual Scientific Meetings
Information: www.thoracic.org.au
Contact: tsanz@fcconventions.com.au
- >April 23–24, 2009 (Karakol Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic)
4th National Congress on Respiratory Diseases
Information: denisvinnikov@mail.ru
- >April 23–24, 2009 (San Juan, Puerto Rico)
11th International Consensus Conference
Email: education@sccm.org
Information: www.sccm.org
- >April 25–28, 2009 (St Petersburg, Russia)
II World Asthma and COPD Forum
Information: www.wipocis.org
Contact: info@wipocis.org
- >May 1–3, 2009 (Lugano, Switzerland)
European Multidisciplinary Conference in Thoracic Oncology
Information: www.emcto.org
- >May 6–9, 2009 (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)
17th European Congress on Obesity
Information: www.easo.org/eco2009
Contact: eco2009@easo.org
- >May 10–14, 2009 (Monterey, CA, USA)
International Society for Aerosols in Medicine Congress 2009
Information: www.isam.org
- >May 15–20, 2009 (San Diego, CA, USA)
From Bench to Bedside
Information: www.thoracic.org
Contact: ats2009@thoracic.org
- >May 27–30, 2009 (Dubrovnik, Croatia)
5th Congress of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
Information: www.depol.org/iatd2009
Contact: ivana@depol.org
- >May 30–June 2, 2009 (Valencia, Spain)
2nd World Congress of Thoracic Imaging and Diagnosis in Chest Diseases
Information: www.2wcti.org
Contact: 2wcti@grupogeyseco.com
- >May 31–June 3, 2009 (Krakow, Poland)
17th European Conference on General Thoracic Surgery
Information: www.estsmmeetings.org/2009
Contact: sue@ests.org.uk
- >June 6–10, 2009 (Warsaw, Poland)
XXVIII Congress of the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology
Information: www.congrex.com/eaaci2009
Contact: eaaci2009@congrex.com
- >June 10–13, 2009 (Aspen, CO, USA)
Thomas L. Petty Aspen Lung Conference
Information: www.aspenlungconference.org
Contact: aspenlungconference@comcast.net
- >June 11–13, 2009 (Aarhus, Denmark)
Nordic Lung Congress
Information: www.nordiclung2009.dk
Contact: nordiclung2009@ics.dk
- >June 15–17, 2009 (Groningen, the Netherlands)
Bronchitis 8: Obstructive Lung Diseases from Conception to Old Age
Information: www.wenckebachinstituut.nl
Contact: paog@wenckebach.umcg.nl
- >June 27–30, 2009 (Mannheim, Germany)
1st Meeting of the European Academy of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (EAORL-HNS)
Information: www.eaorl-hns.org/banLinks/events.php?sort=date
Contact: karl.hoermann@hno.ma.uni-heidelberg.de
- >August 9–September 13, 2009 (Bonn, Germany)
2nd International Congress of Respiratory Science (ICRS)
Information: www.respiratory-science.org
Contact: info@respiratory-science.org

