

Welcome to the Buyers' Guide to Respiratory Care Products 2007.

As in previous years, the guide aims 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. Parts of the guide have been revamped to make it more user-friendly. It is hoped that in future years, the guide will form the main resource for all respiratory healthcare professionals wishing to purchase equipment. It is hoped that this guide will be accessible on the ERS website, incorporating some enhanced features.

The guide is divided into three main sections.

**Section 1 (chapters 1–13):** In this section are a series of topical reviews relating to laboratory equipment and tests and their use in clinical practice. In addition to the new articles, a number of recently published review articles from ERS publications have been reprinted as they represent current best practice or knowledge that remains topical within the field.

**Section 2 (category and company indices):** This section is divided into two. Firstly there is a list of equipment suppliers, divided according to equipment type (spirometers, CPAP machines, and so on). Reference to this section will list the companies supplying specific types of equipment. In the second part are details of the companies' head office addresses and their website links.

**Section 3 (professional societies):** This section lists professional societies according to country, with their web addresses. Many of these 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're aware of something we've missed, please let us know.

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

To finish, I would like to thank:

The authors of the articles for giving up their time to produce these excellent reviews.

The staff of the ERS Journals publications office for their hard work and gentle, stress-laden reminders that ensured this guide happened!

The companies that have generously advertised in this guide, without whose support this resource would not exist.

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