

Year of the Lung: European launch (cont.)

because they are affecting an increased number of people every year and account for a socio-economic burden of €102 billion due to lost working days in Europe alone. The 'Big Five' lung disorders are lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD), pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB) and asthma.

Under the direction of President Nikos Siafakas, the ERS is responsible for European activities during the Year of the Lung. The main objectives are to:

1. Increase awareness for lung health and to initiate action in communities worldwide, and advocate for resources to combat lung disease.
2. Reinforce the need to provide increased resources for basic and clinical research, and support and improve education for respiratory health professionals.

3. Convey the message that most respiratory diseases are treatable, and that prevention is highly cost effective.

4. Spread the message that clean air is a fundamental human right and should be recognised as such.

5. Promote a modern image of science and the widespread access to new basic knowledge in respiratory medicine.

The ERS issued a press release on the occasion and has sent out letters to national respiratory societies, as well as European umbrella organisations representing patient organisations requesting them to join this global effort.

We urge ERS members to spread the message to your local societies, foundations and lung advocates about the 2010 Year of the Lung awareness campaign,



and recommend them to use this unique opportunity to launch and publicise their activities in the name of the 2010 Year of the Lung.

For more information on the European Year of the Lung activities please visit: <http://alturl.com/p466>

To get more involved in Year of the Lung activities, go to: www.2010yearofthelung.org

World Spirometry Day: October 14, 2010

World Spirometry Day is a Year of the Lung initiative aimed at raising the awareness of lung health worldwide. The European Lung Foundation (ELF) will assist institutions interested in taking part in the world event, using its knowledge and expertise of carrying out mass lung function testing since 2002. The ELF will also coordinate PR coverage and press releases to help raise the profile of respiratory disease in the media.

Each national society and patient association will have the opportunity to support the event by offering spirometry testing using the facilities available in local hospitals. Larger events will also take place in each country to increase visibility and attract media attention.

Why is spirometry important?

The main aim of spirometry testing is to identify members of the local population who may not have been previously diagnosed with a lung condition. It gives local citizens the opportunity to test their lungs for free and to raise awareness of lung health in general.

Doctors will be on site to offer advice in the event of discovering abnormal results. Individuals in this category will be given a letter addressed to their general practitioner requesting that further tests, confirmation of the findings and follow-ups are performed so that any abnormal lung function can be treated to improve quality of life.



Take part in World Spirometry Day and help raise awareness of lung health in your country!

For more information, please visit: www.yearofthelung.org