



# Focus on Lower Respiratory Tract Infections: GRACE Workshop



Genomics to combat Resistance against Antibiotics in Community-acquired LRTI in Europe

The first two GRACE workshops took place in Prague on October 22–24, 2007. The overall title of the workshops was “Lower respiratory tract infections: current concepts in pathogenesis, microbiology, epidemiology and economic impact”. The topics covered within the workshops were drawn from the GRACE Curriculum developed by the GRACE Education and Curriculum Committee (Workpackage 12), which is led by Roger Finch (ESCMID) and Francesco Blasi (ERS).

ERS SCHOOL

## Shared sessions

The workshops began with several shared sessions which focused on host–pathogen interaction in the lung. These were followed by two separate workshops which dealt with the “Bacteriology of respiratory tract infections” and “the epidemiology and economic impact of common respiratory infections”, respectively. The presentations were outstanding and much appreciated by the delegates, who were science and medical graduates specialising in primary care, clinical microbiology and infectious diseases.

## Presentations

After the shared sessions, the evening of the first day provided an excellent opportunity for GRACE researchers from Workpackages 9 and 10 to make presentations in a session covering research in progress.

## Current research and future studies

Theo Verheij set the scene for the major case–control study which will recruit 3,000 adults with LRTI and a



matched control population. Clinical features are being recorded and a variety of investigations conducted. Some of the preliminary results were also presented. An intervention study is also planned in which amoxicillin and a placebo will be compared.

Jacqui Nuttal and Kerry Hood reported on the logistics and implementation of what is the largest ever prospective clinical study of LRTI in the community. Preliminary research findings based on in-depth interviews with all patients recruited was most informative and has already identified some of the key variables across Europe. The presentations complemented those reported at the ERS Congress in Stockholm and published in the October 2007 GRACE Newsletter.

The material from the GRACE workshops is accessible from the GRACE ([www.grace-lrti.org](http://www.grace-lrti.org)), ESCMID ([www.escmid.org](http://www.escmid.org)) and ERS websites ([www.ersnet.org](http://www.ersnet.org)).

On the websites you will find a rich resource of lecture material, such as web-casts, presentation slides and references, that we encourage you to access and disseminate to other colleagues and students.

*Prof. Roger Finch  
Co-chair GRACE Education and Curriculum Committee*

