



Message from the President

Funding for respiratory diseases guaranteed

It has been a busy time for ERS over the last few months with officers and members participating in numerous scientific and educational activities across the Globe. The most important recent news for respiratory medicine has been the positive vote by the European Parliament to include "respiratory diseases including those induced by allergies" as a major disease under the sub-heading "Other chronic diseases" in the "Health" research theme of FP7 (the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities 2007–2013).

Recognition at the EU level of the need to fund research in respiratory diseases is an incredibly important event since FP7 will now offer opportunities for research on the causes and consequences of chronic respiratory diseases with lasting benefit to patients. The ERS has campaigned over the last two years to guarantee such funding and this positive result demonstrates the Society's success in investing in advocacy activities. The ERS Brussels Office, the Advocacy Committee, individual officers and members and

all those who contributed to this campaign deserve our thanks for their efforts. We will now be discussing strategies by which the ERS can help members with project proposals for FP7 as we did with FP6 (see pages 6–7). A forthcoming editorial in the *European Respiratory Journal* will also provide more information.

Reviewing the Society's Governance

The ERS has been active in reviewing its internal governance. New regulations have been established for the declaration of conflict of interest for all of our committee members, officers, speakers at our annual congress as well as the task force and guidelines groups. A new Ethics Committee which will oversee and advise on the societies' governance has also been set up. The ERS is increasingly asked for advice and guidance on a whole range of scientific or advocacy issues and we will be developing, with expert help from our members, position papers on a wide range of topics.

Meet the New Officers

Several new posts have been created within the ERS leadership. Peter Helms Professor of Child Health (University of Aberdeen, Scotland) is



William MacNee, ERS President

the Secretary for EU Affairs and will be responsible for Advocacy activities. Prof. Geoff Laurent (London, UK) an internationally renowned basic scientist has been appointed as the Lung Science Conference Director who will be responsible for the programme and the development of the Conference over the next 3 years. Dr Mark Woodhead, a Respiratory Physician (Manchester, UK) and previous Head of the ERS Infections Assembly has taken on the new post of Guidelines Director, in recognition of the work that is now needed in developing society and inter-society guidelines. One of the first tasks of our Guidelines Director will be to work with his counterpart from our sister society the ATS on a workshop for the methodology to be used in the development of guidelines and with other societies and stakeholders to determine the possibility of developing international guidelines.

*William MacNee
ERS President*

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