

# Farewell Message from the President

In my final message as President I thought I may be reporting a slowing down in Society activities, but not so! Indeed, these last few months have been one of the busiest periods for the ERS.

The Society has participated in several recently submitted FP7 research projects. A future call allied to the FP7 programme is the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), which will support pre-competitive pharmaceutical research and development to overcome the identified research bottlenecks in drug development. The ERS has support from a range of specialist societies and has submitted a joint statement to lobby support from professional societies. The ERS is expected to become more involved as the IMI develops.

Recent discussions with the EU have encouraged us to consider applying to the EU for our research fellowship programme as part of the EU Marie Curie programme. We have also decided to initiate a European Respiratory Research summit meeting with relevant stakeholders to develop the important future research questions in respiratory medicine and to influence future EU scientific policy. The increased involvement of the ERS in research activities needs to be supported and we have recently advertised for an ERS Research Director, who will lead

the development of ERS research activities.

The ERS has responded to a number of proposals and green papers from the EU, including a draft report on "current practices with regard to provision of information to patients on medicinal products". The main aim of this was to encourage the provision of good-quality information to patients, but to discourage direct-to-consumer advertising.

Recently, the ERS co-sponsored a workshop with the ATS on the future development of guidelines. The workshop brought together methodology experts and leaders from international respiratory societies and other relevant organisations to devise a template for the development of international guidelines, using COPD as an example. The workshop was an important step in devising the methodology for international guidelines, with the key outcome being to "globalise the evidence and localise the decision making" in developing international guidelines. This is in line with the Society's forthcoming guidelines strategy. Further developments from this workshop will occur later this year.

Over the last year, considerable effort has gone into the development of strategy for every aspect of the ERS. This has allowed the Society to



*William MacNee, ERS President*

assess where it is, what it wants to achieve and how it will do so. This has been a large task and I am grateful to all those who were involved. The final ERS strategy will be launched at the Stockholm Congress, the implementation of which will result in a number of changes in the Society.

I have been privileged to be ERS President over the past year. In completing my presidential year, I have to thank a number of people who have made major contributions to the Society. These include all the Officers and particularly the Executive Committee and my colleagues on the Steering Committee, whom I have enjoyed working with over the year, and the ERS staff in Lausanne, Brussels and Sheffield, without whom little would have been achieved. See you in Stockholm!

*William MacNee*  
**ERS President**

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