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ERS President

The European launch of the Year of the Lung

The European launch of the awareness campaign took place on January 30–31, 2010 in Marseille, France, during the Annual Congress of the Société de Pneumologie de Langue Française (SPLF).

The event started with the leadership of ERS and SPLF walking through the exhibition hall holding a placard, lead by a small band to draw the attention of the participants. This was followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a series of short speeches concerning the aims and objectives of the Year of the Lung campaign and plans to achieve them. Emphasis was placed on two events.



1) The visit to the European Parliament by all the Presidents of the National European Respiratory Societies, which will take place in Brussels on April, 13, 2010. All representatives of National Societies who attended the SPLF Congress were invited to participate in the visit.

2) World Spirometry Day. The event will take place globally on October 14, 2010. Although it became apparent that such an event would be difficult to organise in African French speaking countries due to a lack of equipment, it was discussed that the Panafrican Thoracic Society would lead and coordinate these efforts in the African continent.

The European launch of the Year of the Lung was considered very successful due to the collaboration of SPLF and ERS and in particular due to the efforts of the President of SPLF Prof. Etienne Lemarie.

Finally, I wish to state that the objectives of the Year of the Lung are of concern to all pulmonologists across the world and ask you to visit the following link for further information on the Year of the Lung and how to get involved: www.2010yearofthelung.org

Free ERS membership for under 35s

The leadership of ERS is extremely proud to report the creation of a new category of membership: free membership for people under 35 years of age. This was considered an investment in the future of our Society as well as for the future of pulmonology in Europe. This change allows all young doctors and scientists access to the largest respiratory network in the world, which includes educational resources (the

ERS School), current research breakthroughs (Congress), grant applications and the possibility of fellowships.

We believe that by being a member of ERS you become part of the European wide harmonisation of respiratory health. In addition to the new membership category, we plan to create a “young” or “student” committee with representation in the Executive Committee of the ERS in order allow young members to contribute fully to the life of our Society.

The ERS 20th Anniversary

During the 2010 ERS Annual Congress in Barcelona, Spain on September 18–22, the ERS will celebrate the successful 20-year story of the Society. In the same way that we would celebrate the 20th birthday of a member of our family, we are planning to have a party during the opening ceremony of the Congress. Various events will take place during the party including folk songs and dances from all over Europe. The current and past leadership and all ERS staff will attend the event, so we can all come together to remember and celebrate the 20 prosperous years of the ERS. You are all invited to the party and we hope you take part in the singing and dancing competitions between Nations. It is well known that diversity is the strength of Europe and of our Society.

Happy Anniversary ERS!

Contents

2	– Society News from the ERS President	8	– Congress Scientific programme/Year of the Lung: European launch
3	– TB PAN-NET: evaluating the past and new horizons	9	– World Spirometry Day: October 14, 2010
5	– Educational round-up/ERJ Editors' selection	10	– ERS Assembly and Group elections 2010: results
6	– Meet the new ERS Conferences and Seminars Director	11	– 5th Congress of the Eurasian Respiratory Society
7	– Scientific round-up	12	– Meetings calendar/deadlines