

ECFS NEWSLETTER - Issue 55 - September 2017

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01. Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you well and that you all have had a chance to enjoy some relaxing summer vacation.

For those of you who participated in the June ECFS Conference in Seville, I am sure you will agree that it was a great success, and I would again like to thank the conference President Esther Quintana Gallego for her contribution to the event. I would also like to thank the local Cystic Fibrosis community and all the volunteers for their considerable and enthusiastic support. My sincere thanks go to the Scientific Committee who produced an excellent programme, and to the speakers, moderators and presenters for their superb contribution.

The ECFS continued its tradition of awarding grants to young researchers based on the merit of their submitted abstracts, and we were happy to support 20 young researchers with a Travel Grant. We also granted 3 Young Investigator Awards and were delighted to welcome the Young Investigator Awardees to the Closing Ceremony. All the award winners also received a 1 year free membership subscription to the ECFS.



Young Investigator Awards 2017:
 On the picture, Katharina Staufer (AT) on the right,
 Katie Farrant (UK) in the middle. Yanan Wang (AU)
 could not be present for the picture.

To honour the enormous contribution of Prof. Gerd Döring, the ECFS has initiated a Gerd Döring Award in 2015 that is given annually to honour an exceptional early career young European scientist. This award includes a monetary grant of € 5000 to support research.

This year, the Award was presented to Viola Camilla Scoffone (IT) for her manuscript entitled “Efflux-mediated resistance to a benzothiadiazol derivative effective against *Burkholderia cenocepacia*”, published in 2015 in *Frontiers in Microbiology*.

[More information on the ECFS Awards](#)



Once again, speakers at this year’s conference were asked to make their presentations (slides) available on the ECFS website (for members only) and these can be viewed by signing in under the “MY ECFS” tab on the homepage of our website www.ecfs.eu.

This year in Seville, we also webcasted several sessions, amongst which the CF courses in English and Spanish, and we are working on making these available on the ECFS Education platform that will be launched shortly. We will keep you informed about the developments of our ECFS Education project.

Thanks go to all of you who participated to the Board elections. I would like to warmly congratulate Isabelle Fajac for her new position as President Elect. She will take over as ECFS President officially from the next Annual General Meeting at the Belgrade conference and I look forward to working closely with her over the coming months as I hand over the reins.

I take this opportunity to also congratulate Kevin Southern and Marcus Mall who are starting their second terms on the ECFS Board.

We are always pleased to see new initiatives and projects and I am happy to report that the ECFS Board recently approved two working groups: an international Working Group on anti microbial resistance together with the American CF Foundation, the Canadian CF Foundation and the Australian CF Association; and an ECFS Working Group on fungal pathogens led by Carsten Schwarz.

We are well into the planning for the Basic Science Conference which will be held in Loutraki, on the Gulf of Corinth in Greece (21-24 March 2018), and the annual conference which will be held 06-09 June 2018 in Belgrade, Serbia. Programmes for both conferences will be available soon and we hope that you will take an active part in these events and consider submitting your best work for presentation and discussion. The abstract submission deadline for the conference in Belgrade will be 19 January 2018. More information about the conferences can be found on our website.

I would like to thank those members who participated in this year’s Annual General Meeting in Seville, and you will find the minutes from the meeting included in this Newsletter.

As always, I would like to remind you to please feel free to send us articles that you would like to have included in forthcoming newsletters as this provides a great vehicle for communication.

Best wishes,

Kris De Boeck, ECFS President

02. Annual General Meeting Minutes

For the latest dates of ECFS activities and meetings please refer to Point 09: Upcoming events

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the European Cystic Fibrosis Society

40th European Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Seville, Spain, 9th June 2017

Presiding Officer: Prof. Kris De Boeck

The meeting was opened at 18.30.

Number of Participants: 64

President's Report

Prof. Kris De Boeck welcomed the ECFS members present and thanked them for their participation in the meeting. She hopes for higher number of participants at the AGM and invited all attendees to share a drink as a token of appreciation for their commitment to the ECFS.

She presented a slide listing the current ECFS Projects and Working Groups, and noted that reports on these activities had been provided ahead of the meeting and Coordinators of these projects would be ready to answer questions on their activities later on in the meeting.

Regarding ECFS conferences, she reported current figures of 2345 delegates registered for the Seville conference and a record number of 648 abstracts had been submitted. She announced more communication with the membership during the conference with the introduction of slideshows with important messages to the membership. She took the opportunity to thank the Conference President and all the other organizers for their contribution to a smooth preparation of the conference.

She went on to provide an overview of the ECFS activities this year, beginning with the Steering Committee meetings of the CTN and ECFSPR in January and the ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group meeting in Ljubljana in February. She mentioned the highly successful Basic Science conference held in Albufeira, Portugal where a record number of abstract submissions were recorded.

The President then presented the programme of activities for 2017-2018 to include:

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| • ECFS Autumn Meeting, Indianapolis | 1 November 2017 |
| • CTN Steering Group Meeting, TBC | 25-26 January 2018 |
| • ECFS Winter Board Meeting, TBC | 24 January 2018 |
| • Registry Steering Group Meeting, TBC | 26 January 2018 |
| • ECFS Diagnostic Network WG Meeting, TBC | February 2018 |
| • 14 th ECFS Basic Science Conference, TBC | March 2018 |
| • Young Investigators Meeting, Paris | 21-23 February 2018 |
| • 41 st European CF Conference, Belgrade | 6-9 June 2018 |

Prof. De Boeck presented the breadth of activities and plans ahead for the society.

- Continuing CFTR gene sequencing service with a goal to see 95% of patients with CF in every country to have 2 mutations identified by 2018
- ECFS mental health Working Group: the working group's focus is on the dissemination and implementation of mental health guidelines in Europe as well as the monitoring and evaluation of mental health screening. The working group's web pages on the ECFS website includes resources and links to translations of screening tools
- A strategic plan to maximize progress in CF therapies is being designed under the leadership of Jane Davies, London, UK. Documents related to Optimizing trial design, drug development for patients with rare *CFTR* mutations and speeding up access to successfully trialled drugs will be open for discussion

- Education: The ECFS Education project continues to expand and Prof De Boeck encouraged all to be generous with their slides and educational material and share with the wider CF community. An ECFS Education committee has been formed. The committee is chaired by Daniel Peckham and includes 1 representative of each ECFS Working group, Special Interest Group and project (standards of care, CTN, Registry). The aims of the committee are to work closely with members and support the development of a clear curriculum appropriate to each sub speciality. The committee will advise on existing educational resources to be referenced, assess unmet educational needs and support the development of educational modules.
- ECFS Book: the next ECFS book will be dedicated to infants and young children. The editors, Kevin Southern and Kris De Boeck have invited authors for the different chapters with a deadline of September for delivery of the chapters.

Prof. De Boeck presented some initiatives to further encourage participation of ECFS members to the activities of the Society.

- Board attendance at AGM
- ECFS Community bulletin boards (including job offers, collaborations asked and other announcements)
- Proposal box for ECFS members at the conference where suggestions for project opportunities and questions to ECFS board can be asked.
- Suggestions for tomorrow lounge activities
- Special interest groups associated with ECFS
- Social media
- Board elections on site: this year, elections were open until the day prior to the AGM. 152 members voted (electorate list included 819 members) and Prof De Boeck was disappointed only 10 members took advantage of the voting facility at the conference.

The audience was asked for any questions:

Silke van Koningsbruggen suggested having the election booth available at a central place, maybe in the conference registration area.

Daniel Peckham proposed to look into including the online voting on the ECFS app that will be developed.

Jaroslav Walkowiak noted that attendance to the AGM shows commitment to the ECFS and suggested the votes to take place at the AGM only.

Secretary's Report

Prof. Harm Tiddens reported the preliminary membership numbers for 2017 (until May) were 986, an increase in comparison with the figures reported at the same time frame in 2016. One of the reasons for this was the introduction of conference registration and membership subscription available to all attendees.

In view of the healthy financial situation of the Society, he was happy to inform the membership that there would be no increase to the standard subscription fee in 2018; it will remain at Euro 120. There will be a continued lower rate for some categories of members who do not wish to receive the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis (JCF):

- Allied Health Professionals, PhD Students and Post Docs - 50 € (*)
- Retired members still actively engaged in an ECFS Project or Working Group - Free (*)
- Corporate membership rate for colleagues from the industry - 220 € (full membership benefits but no voting rights).

(*) no JCF subscription associated with this rate

The discounted 3 years subscription (300 € instead of 360 €) introduced in 2015 will be offered as a membership possibility for the years 2018-2019-2020

He communicated the results of the recent elections and was happy to announce the election of Prof. Isabelle Fajac as President Elect. The Board members elected are: Marcus Mall and Kevin Southern, who have been elected for a second term.

The audience was asked for any questions:

Vincent Gulmans asked about the possibility of granting voting rights to ECFS members affiliated with patient organizations.

- This was recently discussed at an ECFS Board meeting and the request was not approved but the topic can be further discussed.

Treasurer's Report

Prof. Harm Tiddens presented the audited ECFS Financial statement for the year 2016. The result of the year was very favourable, with a surplus of € 330,131 resulting in a positive balance for the Society's net assets of € 2,906,334 at 31st December 2016. Prof. Tiddens informed the AGM that the full audited accounts will be posted on the website.

Update on Journal of Cystic Fibrosis

Prof. Scott Bell reported on developments of JCF. There were 409 submissions and 119 Original Research Articles and Reviews published in 2016.

There has been a steady increase in the number of Science Direct downloads (over 500,000).

New initiatives and recent changes include:

- Editorial board: retiring members are Margarida Amaral, Garry Cutting, Sue Wolfe. Suzannah King is newly appointed as editor
- Lancet respiratory Medicine / JCF partnership: papers found more suitable to JCF than LRM sent to JCF
- Joint LRM/JCF symposium at conference: successful in Basel 2016 and Seville 2017
- Supplements: CFF Nutrition guidelines being submitted - ECFS Basic Science conference 2017 (mini reviews of symposia topics)
- CF Research News: high level of commitment (only 9/213 did not provide lay summary) ; 2016 - n=84

Finally, Prof Bell showed a slide with the Top Cites from the start of JCF. He encouraged guidelines to be published in JCF.

Report from ECFS CTN

Dr. Tim Lee presented a graph demonstrating the progression of studies conducted by the CTN since 2009. He also presented the evolution of the CTN services including number of protocols reviewed and number of feasibility checks performed. He reported 6 Protocol Reviews ongoing as of June 2017 and 3 Feasibilities finalized May 2017 as well as 7 ongoing or in setup.

He presented the ECFS CTN sites activity in 2016 with a median of 6 studies per site and a median 7% enrolment. He reported on the implementation of the Additional Research Capacity Award during 2017 to sites that had identified this as a significant barrier and met selection criteria.

All CTN sites have received detailed weighted quality reports and metrics and low performing sites will be offered the possibility to enter a coaching programme before reapplying to be part of the CTN.

He announced a new ECFS CTN expansion for 2019 with applications open in the fall 2018.

Finally, he thanked the CTN team and all those committed in the different CTN committees for their hard work and dedication to the success of the CTN.

Report from ECFS Standards of Care

Dr. Pavel Drevinek reported on the progress of the Standards of Care project.

The best practice subgroup is reviewing and updating the 2014 Standards of Care. The document is to be reviewed by the ECFS Board before publication as open access.

The Quality Management subgroup is finalising a quality management module for the Education platform. A module for benchmarking across countries/centres is being developed in the ECFSTracker.

A successful Standards of Care symposium was held at the Seville conference with simultaneous translation in Spanish available.

The Standards of Care next steps will be looking at accreditation of CF centres or auditing of CF centres.

Finally, Dr. Drevinek thanked Prof Martin Stern for his help and commitment to the Registry and Standards of Care Quality management group over the years.

Report from ECFS Patient Registry

Dr. Luz Naehrlich reported on the activities of the ECFS Patient Registry (ECFSPR).

The ECFSPR is expanding its coverage with 31 countries participating and over 42,000 CF patients.

He reported on the different ECFSPR groups:

- the Data Quality Group with aim to ensure accuracy and quality of data
- the Definitions Group focuses on reviewing variables and definitions
- the Global CF harmonisation project aims to harmonise variables & definitions to allow comparison worldwide
- the Pharmacovigilance project is currently developing a procedure with EMA
- the Patient awareness project develops at a glance report, Posters in cooperation with CF Europe to bring data closer to patients

Finally, Dr Naehrlich thanked Dr. McKone for his leadership of the ECFSPR over the last 3 years.

Reports from ECFS Working Groups

Prior to the Annual General Meeting, members had been sent the progress reports from the ECFS Working Groups.

Current Working Groups:

Diagnostics Network Working Group

Exercise Working Group

Neonatal Screening Working Group

Cystic Fibrosis Molecular & Cell Biology and Physiology Basic Science Working Group

Mental Health Working Group

The audience was asked for any questions: None received.

Special Interest Groups

Prof De Boeck reported on Special Interest Groups and their affiliation with ECFS:

ECFS affiliated:

ECFS Nursing Special interest Group (ECFS NSiG)

European Cystic Fibrosis Pharmacy Group (ECFPG)

ECFS Psychosocial Working Group

European Cystic Fibrosis Nutrition Group

not ECFS affiliated:

International Physiotherapy Group for Cystic Fibrosis

Annual Conference 2018

A slide was shown presenting the 41st ECFS conference, to be held in Belgrade, Serbia, 6-9 June 2018.

Questions/Comments received: None

Any Other Business

None

With no further items being raised, the meeting ended at 19.30.

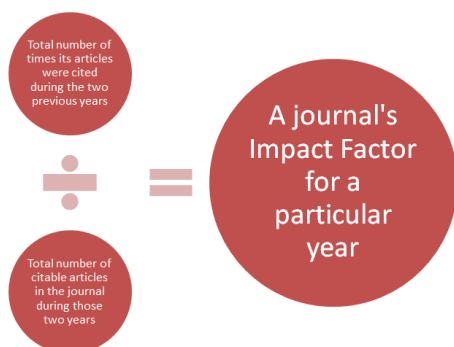
03. ECFS Board elections



Isabelle Fajac (FR) | Marcus Mall (DE) | Kevin Southern (UK)

We held Board elections in June. We are happy to announce that Prof. Isabelle Fajac has been elected as ECFS President Elect and will become President of the ECFS at the AGM in June 2018. Prof. Marcus Mall and Prof. Kevin Southern have been elected as Board Members for a second term.

04. JCF Impact factor



The official 2016 Impact Factors (IF) were released in July, and the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis (JCF) has increased its IF from a 2015 IF of 3.853 to 4.727. JCF ranks 8th of 59 in the Respiratory System category.

The Journal Impact Factor is published each year by Thomson Reuters. It is a measure of the number of times an average paper in a particular journal is cited during the preceding two years.

JCF has continued to work hard for this achievement, through thoughtful structuring of its editorial pages and continuing growth in our international presence. The ECFS would like to thank the Editor in Chief, Prof. Scott Bell, and the Editorial Board. Their excellent service and work have helped JCF gain its current standings and continue to aid its growth.

05. Aerosolized Agents for Airway Clearance in Cystic Fibrosis: When, How and Why? Live webinar

A free live webinar from the Elsevier Office of Continuing Medical Education will be organised on 02 October 2017, at 22:00 CET | 21:00 BST | 16:00 EDT - Tuesday 3 October 2017 at 7:00AM AEDT.

This live webinar is a roundtable discussion between three international expert faculty in cystic fibrosis (CF). This expert faculty will discuss the role of aerosolized agents for improving airway clearance, including caveats from their own extensive clinical experience in managing patients with this condition. The faculty will also deliberate on strategies to improve patient adherence to aerosolized CF therapies in a case study based format. The discussions at the webinar will support participants in clinical decision making as well as in helping their patients achieve optimal benefit through adherence to their aerosolized therapies for airway clearance in CF.

FACULTY

Chair: Professor John P. Clancy, MD

Faculty: Professor Kevin W. Southern, MBChB, MRCP, FRCPCH, PhD

Professor Sarath Ranganathan, MBChB, MRCP, FRCPCH, FRACP, PhD

[More information](#)

06. Job postings



As from 01 January 2018, a Post-doctoral Position will be available at the Department of Cell Physiology and Metabolism of the Geneva Medical Faculty.

Contact person: Dr. Marc Chanson

Deadline for applications: 15 October 2017

[Detailed offer](#)

07. Questionnaire: The treatment “in real life” of first detected PSA in children with CF in different European countries.

Under supervision of Prof Dr. M. Ballmann, Isabell Weber from Rostock University Medical Center is conducting a Europe-wide comparison on the eradication of first proven *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (PSA) infection in children with cystic fibrosis.

With this questionnaire, her objective is to compare the treatment “in real life” of first detected PSA in children with CF in different European countries.

The questionnaire can be completed online with the link below. You will need a password: **psa2017**

<https://evasys.uni-rostock.de/evasys/online.php?p=psa2017>

Should you prefer to use a **paper version**, please print out the pdf- file via the link below and fax it when filled to **+49 381 494 7028**.

You can find more information hereunder:

[Description of the study](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

08. ECFS Award - Dr. Jeffrey Beekman

In Seville, we were happy to hand over the ECFS Award to Dr. Jeffrey Beekman. This award acknowledges Dr Beekman's remarkable contribution to cystic fibrosis, initiating a breakthrough in the field by developing a functional CFTR assay in the CF intestinal organoid model developed in Utrecht. This has brought major advances to the field of this orphan disease, not only for developing and evaluating therapies in the context of personalized medicine, but also for diagnostic purposes and beyond.

2017 is definitely a great year for Dr Beekman as he also received the Excellence Award from the European Respiratory Society in Milan earlier this month.

Once again we extend our congratulations!



09. Upcoming Events



Indianapolis, IN, US

01 November 2017:

ECFS Board Meeting

02-04 November 2017:

32nd North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference

Brussels, Belgium

24 January 2018:

ECFS Winter Board Meeting

25 January 2018:

ECFS Standards of Care Meeting

25-26 January 2018:

ECFS CTN Steering Group Meeting

ECFS Patient Registry Steering Group Meeting

St Gallen, Switzerland:

08-10 February 2018

ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group Meeting

Paris, France

21-23-February 2018

12th European Young Investigators Meeting

Loutraki, Greece

21-24 March 2018

ECFS 15th Basic Science Conference

Belgrade, Serbia

05 June 2018:

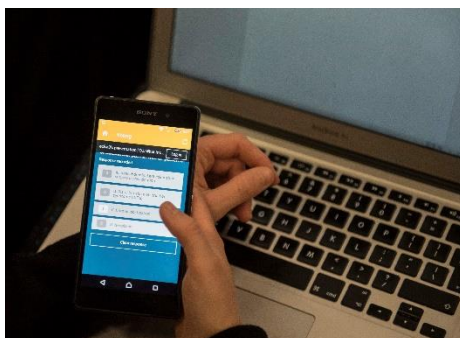
ECFS Board Meeting

06-09 June 2018:

41st European CF Conference

10. Deadlines

- Abstract submission Young Investigator Meeting	01	November	2017
- Abstract submission 15th ECFS Basic Science conference	12	January	2018
- Abstract submission ECFS Conference Belgrade	19	January	2018
- Nomination ECFS Award	15	February	2018
- Nomination Gerd Döring Award	15	February	2018
- Nomination ECFS Elections	30	March	2018



11. 2017 Seville Conference Survey - Free Registration Winners



The ECFS would like to thank all those who took the time to answer the ECFS 2017 Survey after the conference in Seville. The answers and comments help us to keep on improving our conferences.

As announced, three free registrations to the next ECFS Conference in Belgrade were selected from the respondents.

We congratulate the winners:

- Sabina Wiecek, Katowice, Poland
- Kay Ramsay, Brisbane, Australia
- Darren Sills, Nottingham, United Kingdom

12. Current references in CF

Please scroll to next page for full list.

CF Reference List

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