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European Cystic Fibrosis Society
Kastanieparken 7,
7470 Karup, Denmark
Tel: +45 86 676260
Fax: +45 86 676290
Email: info@ecfs.eu
Website: www.ecfs.eu

01. Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

There has been a lot of activity at the ECFS since the last edition of our newsletter and here is a brief review of the special projects, what's new with our society and a few highlights of the upcoming 41st European Cystic Fibrosis Conference taking place in a few days, this year in Belgrade, Serbia.



Changes in the ECFS Board are already happening. Isabelle Fajac as President Elect has been closely involved in the running of the Society and will officially start her 3 year mandate as ECFS President this June at the Annual General Meeting.

Let me remind you of the ECFS Board elections, which are taking place this month. There are three vacancies this year. Prof. Harm Tiddens and Prof. Daniel Peckham both finish their first terms and we wish to express our gratitude to both for their contribution to the Board over the past 3 years. And as I will be finishing my term as ECFS President, this leaves another open position for a Board member.

We have five candidates for the three positions left vacant. It is very important therefore that you as members of ECFS consider carefully and vote accordingly to your assessment of the proposed candidates. It is essential that the Board has a strong and engaged membership to provide leadership to the Society.

The results of the elections will be announced at the AGM on Friday 08 June (18:30-19:30). We very much hope that as many of you as possible will attend the AGM. We value your involvement and it is really important to have members contribute and input new ideas.

More information on the AGM will appear further down in the newsletter.

In January, the **ECFS Clinical Trials Network** and the **ECFS Patient Registry** held their Steering Group meetings in Brussels, Belgium. Both the CTN and ECFSPR remain key projects of the Society. There will be a possibility for new sites to integrate the CTN network in 2019. An information session will be organised in Belgrade on Friday 08 June at 12:10-12:35 (ePoster Corner A, close to the ECFS booth in the exhibition area).

The **15th ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group** Meeting took place in St-Gallen, Switzerland in February, hosted by Jürg Barben.

The **ECFS Basic Science Conference** was held in Greece this year, 21-24 March 2018. Once again, the conference was a resounding success. We would like to thank the organisers, Marcus Mall (DE), Isabelle Callebaut (FR) and John Engelhardt (US) for putting together a high-quality programme. The [abstract book](#) is available on the ECFS website.

We are rapidly approaching our annual conference in Belgrade and the final preparations are well under way. The Scientific Committee has put together an outstanding programme and we have some exciting new basic research and results from clinical trials to discuss. You can find the [final programme](#) on the ECFS website. We would like to thank the Scientific Committee and the Steering Committee for all their hard work over the last year in preparing the programme, selecting the abstracts and sorting the various sessions. Besides the conference Smartphone Application featuring the programme and other useful information, other recent initiatives include the Interactive Case studies session, some 'meet the expert' sessions organised at lunchtime and open to all, and the ECFS Tomorrow lounge which will feature a series of interesting sessions.

As part of our commitment to support young researchers, three Young Investigators Awards and 18 travel grants have been awarded to young investigators based on the merit of their abstract submissions.

Please don't miss a visit to the "CF Community" booth area in the Exhibition Hall for information on the various initiatives and programmes. If you are looking for a position or have a job opening to advertise, please send us the information to post on the website and bring an A4 advertisement to the ECFS booth at the conference.

Many thanks, as always, to Dr. Henry Ryley for compiling the current references in Cystic Fibrosis contained at the end of this Newsletter.

Please contact us if you have news items you would like to have included in future Newsletters or published on our website.

Yours sincerely,

Kris De Boeck
ECFS President

02. ECFS Board Elections - Cast your vote!

The ECFS is holding elections for 3 ECFS Board Members Positions: Harm Tiddens and Daniel Peckham have completed a first term.

Invitations to take part in the elections have been sent to the ECFS electorate by email.

Candidates information and links to supporting documents such as the candidates' nominations, application letters and CVs are [available](#) on the ECFS website.

Job Descriptions are available for Board members.

The election deadline is 7 June 2018, 19:30 CEST.

03. ECFS Annual General Meeting @ Belgrade 2018

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 08 June 2018, 18:30-19:30, at the Sava Conference Centre in Belgrade (Annex B).

The Annual General Meeting agenda:

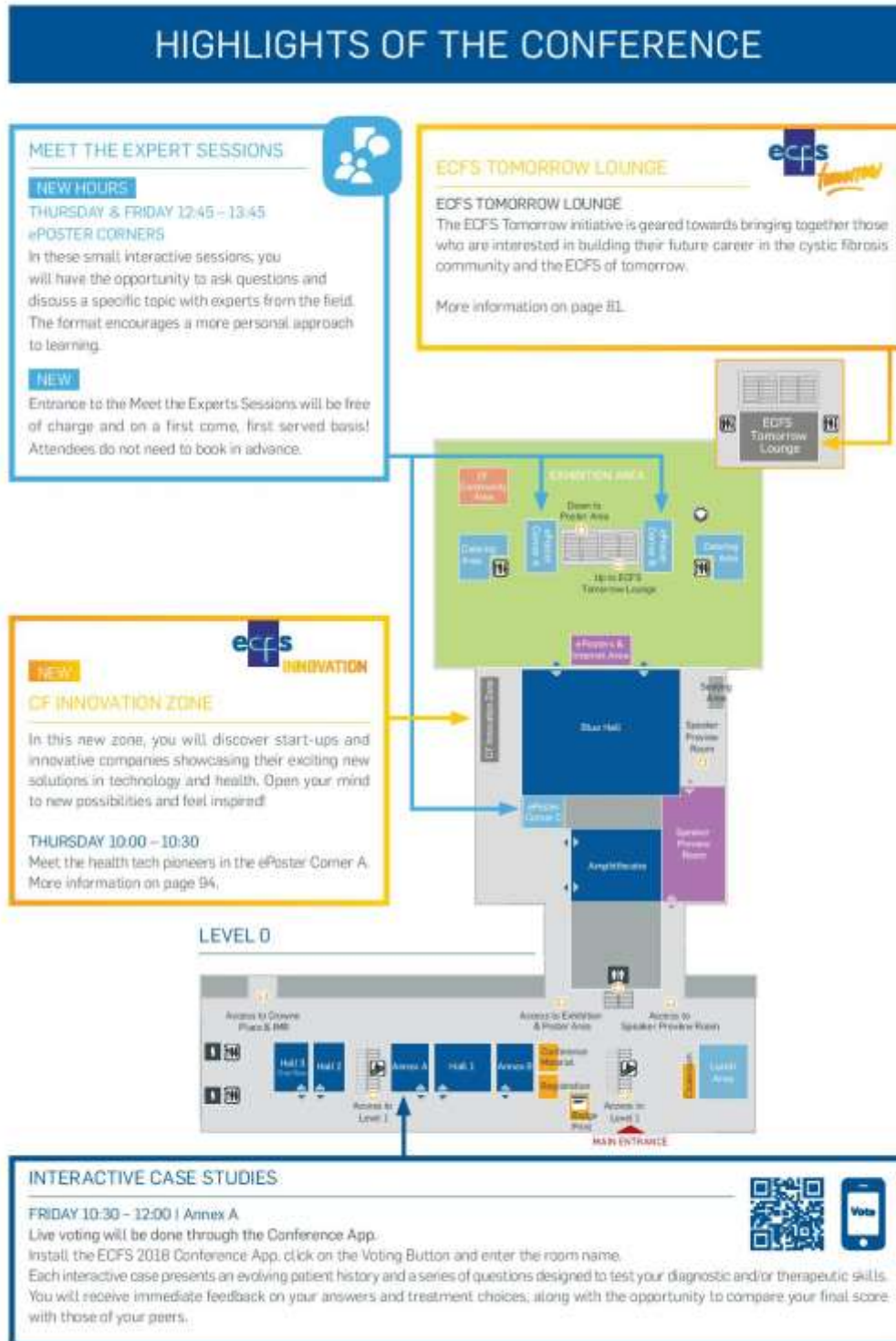
1. President's Report – Kris De Boeck
2. Secretary's Report – Harm Tiddens
3. Treasurer's Report – Harm Tiddens
4. ECFS Board Elections – Harm Tiddens
5. Update on Journal of Cystic Fibrosis – Scott Bell
6. CTN Report – Silke van Koningsbruggen-Rietschel
7. ECFS Standards of Care Report – Pavel Drevinek
8. ECFS Patient Registry Report – Lutz Nährlich
9. ECFS Working Group Reports
 - [Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group](#)
 - [Basic Science Working Group](#)
 - [Diagnostic Network Working Group](#)
 - [Exercise Working Group](#)
 - [Fungal Pathogens Working Group](#)
 - [Mental Health Working Group](#)
 - [Neonatal Screening Working Group](#)
10. ECFS Special Interest Groups
 - [Nursing Special Interest Group](#)
 - [European CF Pharmacy Group](#)
 - [European CF Nutrition Group](#)
 - [European Psychosocial Special Interest Group](#)
11. Presentation of the 2019 European CF Conference
12. AOB

We hope to see you!

04. Belgrade Highlights

As you know, the annual ECFS conference taking place in Serbia this year. You can find all the details about the scientific programme [here](#).

- Below are some highlights of the conference. **Looking forward to seeing you in sunny Belgrade!**



05. Belgrade 2018 Conference App

More than 65% of the delegates downloaded and used the Conference App in Seville last year.

Via the app, you will be able to view all the information on the scientific programme, the exhibitors, the abstracts and ePosters. The ECFS 2018 Conference App is designed to enhance the experience of the participants before, during and after the Conference. Further information is available on the conference website and the App will be ready to download in the coming days.

DOWNLOAD THE ECFS 2018

CONFERENCE APP

USE YOUR SMARTPHONE OR
TABLET TO EASILY NAVIGATE
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- Interactive Conference Programme
- Abstracts and ePosters available via the Library
- Maps and Floor Plans
- Vote via the App during sessions marked with 
- Connect with your peers with the new functionality 'My Community'



Search for "ECFS 2018" in Apple App Store,
Google Play Store or Windows App Store



06. ECFS Award 2018

The ECFS Award is given annually to honour a person who has made an outstanding contribution to our basic understanding of Cystic Fibrosis or to the treatment or care of patients with Cystic Fibrosis.

This year, the ECFS wishes to acknowledge Dr. Susan Madge.

Su has been a leader and pioneer in the development of multidisciplinary care for people with cystic fibrosis for over 30 years. She started her career at Great Ormond Street Hospital, caring for children with CF and moved to adult CF care at the Royal Brompton Hospital in 2002. She has lived through the transition of CF from a disease of childhood to predominantly a disease of adults. Her vision has been to ensure that the best care possible is available to people with CF of any age.

She has been a member, contributor and editor of various national and European guideline working groups, from the first UK Standards of Care in 2001 up to the recent ECFS Best Practice Guidelines, 2018. She has also been a member of various committees aiming to introduce change, from the introduction of new born screening in the UK, to recent challenges of delivering future care for adults across Europe. Her early research work centred on the family experience of cystic fibrosis exploring the emotional and behavioural problems of healthy siblings and parental quality of life. This theme has been sustained throughout her career. She is currently leading a programme using digital technology to improve care delivery in CF.

Su launched the International Nurse Specialist Group in 1998 (now the ECFS Nursing SIG) and has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of nursing and allied health professionals and their roles within the cystic fibrosis community. She has negotiated for the recognition of nursing and allied health professionals within the European CF conference, ensuring parallel sessions within the body of the conference and providing a platform for education of multidisciplinary teams. She is the only non-medical doctor/ scientist to have served on the Board of the ECFS, having been elected in 2006 and re-elected in 2010 until 2014.

Education has been at the core of her work. She started the first university accredited course in managing the care of cystic fibrosis in 1996, with over 1000 multidisciplinary participants from across Europe. Internationally, her role in education has reached from Moscow and Riyadh to Sydney and Sao Paulo, often working with Cystic Fibrosis Worldwide and Cystic Fibrosis Europe. She also set up the ECFS Preceptorship Programme for training CF clinicians of the future from all disciplines.

07. Gerd Döring Award

Professor Gerd Döring was an outstanding leader of the ECFS. During his Presidency the number of members doubled. During this time he also initiated a highly successful annual conference on basic science and consensus conferences on the treatment of lung infection, early intervention and prevention of lung disease, drug inhalation and related devices, nutrition, along with recommendations for several clinical trials in Cystic Fibrosis, which have had a significant impact on treatment.

The support of young investigators was a high priority for him and to honour his enormous contribution, the ECFS has initiated a Gerd Döring Award that will be given annually to honour an exceptional early career young European scientist.

The award is primarily judged on a paper published in the previous 3 calendar years, which has made a significant impact on the understanding or treatment of Cystic Fibrosis. This year, the Gerd Döring Award has been granted to Dr. Tavs Qvist, in acknowledgement of his recent remarkable contribution to Cystic Fibrosis. The Award, which includes a monetary grant of 5.000 Euro to support research, will be presented during the Opening Plenary of the Belgrade Conference.

Tavs started as a physician at the Copenhagen CF Center in 2010, working first in the pediatric department, then in the lung transplant unit, before transitioning to adult CF care. In all three clinical settings he saw first-hand the growing problem of *Mycobacterium abscessus* complex among CF patients. His first CF

publication was on the clinical feasibility of lung transplantation in *M. abscessus* patients, which was highlighted in the recent US CF Foundation and European CF Society's consensus recommendations for the management of nontuberculous mycobacteria. He argued that NTM disease should not be an absolute contraindication to lung transplantation, giving hope to a growing number of young CF patients, whose only hope for survival is receiving a lung transplantation. He went on to write a clinical PhD, which showed how prevalence rates were on the rise in Scandinavia, especially striking young CF patients with the most severe CF mutations. He showed that *M. abscessus* leads to death or lung transplantation within just 14 years of time of infection, making it one of the most serious threats to CF patients.

Together with Professor Niels Høiby, he went on to develop an antibody assay for diagnosing *M. abscessus*. The ELISA assay was tested in the Danish CF population demonstrating that it could be used to effectively risk-assess CF patients, selecting those in need of higher culture frequency. The method proved to be a rational approach to *M. abscessus* diagnosis, which could lead to faster and more effective disease management. A similar method for *M. avium* complex was developed and tested following this.

Tavs collaborated with Andres Floto and Charles Haworth's research team, spending a summer in Cambridge in order to whole genome sequence the Danish *M. abscessus* isolates, confirming the worrying suspicion that human-to-human transmission can take place. This resulted in a 2016 publication in Science, which apart from increasing our understanding of this emerging threat, also identified and ended an outbreak at the Copenhagen CF Center.

Tavs went on to conduct a study of explanted CF lungs, where he was the first to show that *M. abscessus* is a biofilm infection in the CF lung, a finding, which has implications for how to manage and treat *M. abscessus* infection. His newest research plans are directed at early eradication of *M. abscessus* and the identification of novel biofilm targets.



08.CF Courses

Education is one of the major objectives for the ECFS. Several courses will be organised prior to the conference:

- CF Course – the Treatment of Adults with CF – an in-Depth Course
- An Introductory Course in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Interpersonal Therapy
- Nutrition Masterclass - Practical management of nutrition issues in CF
- Physiotherapy Short Course - Airway clearance techniques: basic approach

More information about these courses can be found [here](#)

09.ECFS Tomorrow



We see the ECFS Tomorrow as a means to improve one of the fundamental objectives of the Society – to support and engage young scientists working in the field of Cystic Fibrosis. It is essential to provide professionals who are new to the community with opportunities to connect in a meaningful way with current leaders and experts. In turn, the new generation of specialists bring up-to-date approaches and practices to the wealth of experience that already exists within the society's ranks.

Located in the Exhibition Area of the conference venue, the ECFS Tomorrow Lounge will feature interactive workshops and a debate on Thursday and Friday. Come and take an active part in the debate and discussions on different aspects of cystic fibrosis management and care.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

20:00 – 21:00 Meet & Greet

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

12:45 – 13:45 Mental health Guidelines from East to West (and back). Local adaptation of the implementation of the MH guidelines
Pavla Hodkova, Prague, CZ / Diana Kadosh, Petah Tikva, IL / Urszula Borawska-Kowalczyk, Warsaw, PL / Anna Georgiopoulos, Boston, US

14:00 – 15:00 Managing challenging behaviour in young people with CF during in-patient stays*
Kath MacDonald, Edinburgh, UK / Ann Raman, Ghent, BE

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

12:45 – 13:45 Body Composition - Practical considerations and techniques
Elizabeth Owen, London, UK

15:15 – 16:15 MyCyFAPP: holistic system for children's nutrition and PERT self-management
Joaquim Calvo-Lerma, Valencia, ES / Carmen Ribes-Koninckx, Valencia, ES

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

10:30 – 11:00 Farewell coffee

10.Meetings and Courses in Belgrade

Tuesday 5 June 2018	
08:30 17:00	ECFS Board Meeting*
08:30 17:30	Physiotherapy Short Course - Airway clearance techniques: basic approach **
13:30 17:30	Nutrition Masterclass - Practical management of nutrition issues in CF **
Wednesday 6 June 2018	
15:00 17:00	ACTIVATE-CF Meeting*
09:00 17:00	An Introductory Course in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Interpersonal Therapy **
10:00 16:40	CF Course - the Treatment of Adults with CF - an in Depth Course **
10:00 12:00	CF Global*
17:00 18:00	CFTR3 Investigator Meeting *
08:30 15:30	ECFS CTN Training and Development*
13:15 17:00	ECFS CTN Steering Committee Meeting*
09:00 14:00	ECFS Exercise Working Group Meeting *
16:00 18:00	ECFS Fungal Pathogens Working Group Meeting
09:30 15:00	ECFS Neonatal Screening Working Group Meeting
09:00 16:20	ECFS Nursing Special Interest Group Meeting **
12:30 13:30	ECFS Patient Registry – CFE Joint Project Meeting*
13:30 16:00	ECFS Patient Registry Executive Committee Meeting*
16:30 18:00	ECFS Patient Registry Harmonisation Group Meeting*
09:00 16:30	European Cystic Fibrosis Nutrition Group Meeting
14:00 18:00	European Cystic Fibrosis Pharmacy Group Meeting
09:30 16:45	European Psychosocial Special Interest Group (EPSIG) Meeting **
12:30 14:00	International Physiotherapy Group for Cystic Fibrosis (IPG/CF) Annual General Meeting *
17:00 18:30	IPG/CF Board meeting*
08:30 12:15	Physiotherapy Short Course - Airway clearance techniques: basic approach **
14:30 17:00	Physiotherapy Case Presentations
17:00 18:00	Software training ECFSTracker 2.0*
Thursday 7 June 2018	
10:00 14:00	CFE – CF Community Advisory Board Meeting*
12:30 14:30	CFTR2 project*

Thursday 7 June 2018		
12:30	14:30	ECFS CTN Standardisation Committee Meeting*
18:30	20:00	ECFS CTN Patient Reported Outcome Measures Group Meeting
18:30	20:00	ECFS Education Committee Meeting*
10:00	11:30	ECFS Patient Registry Scientific Committee Meeting*
12:30	14:00	ECFS Patient Registry Data Quality Project Group Meeting*
13:30	14:30	ECFS Patient Registry - Meeting for Interested Parties
18:00	19:00	ECFS Patient Registry Software Training
12:30	14:30	ECFS Standards of Care Group Meeting
19:00	20:00	European CF Registry Forum*
07:00	08:30	Journal of Cystic Fibrosis (JCF) Editorial Board Meeting*
Friday 8 June 2018		
12:30	14:30	ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group Meeting
12:30	14:00	ECFS Mental Health Working Group Meeting
12:30	14:30	ECFS Patient Registry Steering Group Meeting*
15:00	16:00	ECFS Patient Registry Software Training
18:30	19:30	ECFS Annual General Meeting* - ECFS members only
Saturday 9 June 2018		
12:30	18:00	CF Europe, CF Serbia - Family day
13:30	18:00	ECFS Scientific Committee Meeting - Liverpool 2019*

* By invitation only

** Extra registration needed



11. Conect4children (c4c)

Better medicines for babies, children and young people through a pan-European clinical trial network. Conect4children is a large collaborative European network that aims to facilitate the development of new drugs and other therapies for the entire paediatric population. The ECFS-CTN will participate in the work package on training and education. The press release is available [here](#).

12. 2018 ECFS Basic Science Conference - Loutraki, Greece

The **ECFS Basic Science Conference** was held in Loutraki, Greece between 21 and 24 March 2018. With more than 200 participants, the conference was a resounding success. We would like to thank the organisers, Marcus Mall (DE), Isabelle Callebaut (FR) and John Engelhardt (US) for putting together a high quality programme. The [abstract book](#) is available on the ECFS website.



Isabelle Callebaut (FR), Carlos Farinha (PT) and Martin Mense (US) will be the organisers of the 2019 edition of the ECFS Basic Science Conference.

13. ECFS Basic Science WG Workshop

The Basic Science Working Group will organise the 3rd "*Hands-on Workshop Epithelial Systems: Physiology and Pathophysiology*". It will take place in Lisbon, 23 – 27 July 2018.

Free registration - Some travel grants are available

To apply, please send a CV, letter of motivation and recommendation letter to ESP2018@fc.ul.pt

Deadline for application: **10 June 2018**

[Read more](#)

14. ECFS DNWG Workshop

ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group Sweat test Training Workshop

Practical aspects for improvement of CF diagnosis in Europe - Call for applications

From an ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group (DNWG) survey we have learned about important deficiencies in sweat test routine in real life in Europe (Cirilli N et al. JCF 2017).

Therefore, as a next step the DNWG is organising a hands-on workshop for sweat test procedure according to international guidelines and the ECFS CTN sweat test SOP.

It will take place in Belgrade, Serbia on Wednesday 6 June 2018, 15:00-17:00.

Workshop topics:

- Introduction by workshop staff about most relevant details/most common errors (15min)
- setup of 5 sweat test stations (3-4 people each, each station will be supervised by a DNWG group member)
- 1 Chloridometer/Chlorocheck for practical realtime sweat analysis onsite
- Practical training: stimulation, collection, analysis (90 min)
- Q&A (15min)

Applications are welcome from all ECFS members. The workshop will be free of charge and will be limited to a group of max. 20 participants.

Please send your application informally via <mailto:dnwg@ecfs.eu>

Deadline for application: **31 May 2018**

15. Job Posting

Brussels (BE) - The laboratory of Teresinha LEAL is offering a postdoc position in the field of Cystic Fibrosis at the Louvain centre for Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology, one research centre of the Institut de Recherche Expérimentale et Clinique (IREC) situated on the campus of the Université catholique de Louvain, one of the leading higher educational organisations in Brussels, Belgium.

[Read more](#)

PhD position in Newcastle (UK) - The Institutes for Cell & Molecular Biosciences & Cellular Medicine are offering a PhD position. Project: Personalised Therapies for all: Restoring airway function in CF using Alternative Chloride Channels (ACCs). Deadline for applications: 18 July 2018

Contact person: Dr Mike Gray - m.a.gray@newcastle.ac.uk

[Read more](#)

PhD position in Regensburg (DE) - The University of Regensburg, Department of Physiology, is offering a PhD position. Project: Investigation of drugs that modulate ion transport and mucus secretion as a novel treatment of cystic fibrosis

Contact person: Prof. Karl Kunzelmann - karl.kunzelmann@ur.de

[Read more](#)

Postdoctoral position in Paris (FR) - The team of the Centre de Recherche des Cordeliers (CRC) -Institut Necker Enfants Malades (INEM) is offering a Post Doc position in the field of Cystic Fibrosis.

Project: Atp12a as a novel therapeutic target in cystic fibrosis lung disease.

Contact: I. Sermet-Gaudelus - isabelle.sermet@aphp.fr G.Crambert - gilles.crambert@crc.jussieu.fr

[Read more](#)

15.Upcoming Events

- ECFS Board Meeting 05 June 2018, Belgrade, Serbia
- ECFS Annual General Assembly - 08 June 2017 – Belgrade, Serbia
- [41st European CF Conference - 06-09 June 2018 – Belgrade, Serbia](#)
- [2018 European Respiratory Society Congress 15-19 September 2018 – Paris, France](#)
- [North American CF Conference, 18-20 October 2018, Denver, CO, United States](#)
- [42nd European CF Conference – 05-08 June 2019, Liverpool, United Kingdom](#)

16.Current References in Cystic Fibrosis

Please go to next page.

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