ECFS NEWSLETTER - Issue 52 - September 2016

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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 were able to participate in the June ECFS Conference in Basel, I am sure you will agree that it was a great success, and I would again like to thank the conference President Marc Chanson, and the Vice Presidents, Alexander Moeller and Juerg Barben for their contribution to the event. I would also like to thank the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Switzerland and all 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 Travel Grants to young researchers based on the merit of their submitted abstracts, and we were delighted to welcome the 3 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 2016:
Lionelle Nkam (FR) Vilma Rautemaa (UK)
Katie Bayfield (UK)

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 Gillian Lavelle (IE) for her manuscript entitled "*The basophil surface marker CD203c identifies* Aspergillus *species sensitisation in patients with cystic fibrosis*". It describes for the first time the use of the novel basophil activation test for the rapid identification of *Aspergillus fumigatus(Af)*-sensitisation in people with CF, a state associated with poorer lung function.
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 in the top banner of our website www.ecfs.eu.

We have some changes in the ECFS Board and I would like to warmly welcome Isabelle Sermet and congratulate Margarida Amaral who is starting her second term. It's a pleasure to count them amongst the Board and we look forward to their input.
Again, I would like to thank Tanja Pressler, our departing Board member for her commitment and support during her term in office.

We are well into the planning for the Basic Science Conference which will be held in Albufeira in Portugal (29 March – 01 April 2017), and the annual conference which will be held 07-10 June 2017 in Seville, Spain. 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 Seville will be 20 January 2017. 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 Basel, and you will find the minutes from the meeting included in this Newsletter.

As discussed at the AGM in Basel, our goal is to see 95% of patients with CF in every country to have 2 mutations identified by 2018. Please make use of the service and inform those around you about the ECFS CFTR gene sequencing service. More information later in the newsletter.

Finally, the EMA published a Concept paper on the need for revision of the guideline on the clinical development of medicinal products for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (CHMP/EWP/9147/08). This concept paper highlights items that have been identified and would need to be addressed in the revised guideline. The paper is open for comments (deadline of 31 October 2016).

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. Upcoming Events

- ECFS Board Meeting 26 October 2016 – Orlando, Florida, USA
- 30th North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference 27-29 October 2016 – Orlando, Florida, USA
- ECFS Winter Board Meeting - 25 January 2017 – Lisbon, Portugal
- ECFS CTN Steering Group Meeting - 26-27 January 2017 – Lisbon, Portugal
- ECFS Standards of Care Meeting – 26 January 2017 – Lisbon, Portugal
- ECFS Patient Registry Steering Group Meeting - 27 January 2017 Lisbon, Portugal
- ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group Meeting - 16- 18 February 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 11th European Young Investigators Meeting – 15-17 February 2017, Paris, France
- ECFS 14th Basic Science Conference - 29 March – 01 April 2017, Albufeira, Portugal
- ECFS Board Meeting - 06 June 2017 – Seville, Spain
- 40th European CF Conference - 07-10 June 2017 – Seville, Spain

03. Deadlines

- EMA Open consultation	31 October 2016
- Abstract submission ECFS Conference Seville	20 January 2017
- Abstract submission 14th ECFS Basic Science conference	20 January 2017
- Nomination ECFS Award	15 February 2017
- Nomination Gerd Döring Award	15 February 2017
- Nomination ECFS Elections	30 March 2017

04. EMA Concept paper open for public consultation

The EMA would like to draw attention to the publication of the Concept paper on the need for revision of the guideline on the clinical development of medicinal products for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (CHMP/EWP/9147/08) open for public consultation.

This concept paper highlights items that have been identified and would need to be addressed in the revised guideline. We invite you to submit your comments, especially if you identify any overlooked issues.

The public consultation will run until **31 October 2016**. Comments should be provided using this template and sent to respiratorydg@ema.europa.eu.

Following this time period, EMA plans to release the draft Guideline for 6 months public consultation in October 2017, ending in April 2018.

05. CFTR gene sequencing service

As presented at the AGM in Basel, the ECFS ambitious goal is to see 95% of patients with CF in every country to have 2 mutations identified by 2018. The ECFS provides a service for highly parallel sequencing of the complete CFTR gene (including intronic and promoter regions) in patients with confirmed CF (maximum 5 patients per individual site) in whom a disease-causing mutation was not found on both CFTR genes. Please make use of the service and inform those around you about it! More information and request form can be found at https://www.ecfs.eu/ecfs_dnwg

06. Job postings

The BioSys PhD Programme in Life Sciences (http://biosys.campus.ciencias.ulisboa.pt) is an international programme for talented and highly motivated students of any nationality.

Research at the BioSys covers a range of topics with an interdisciplinary nature by applying integrative functional genomics and innovative research approaches. The programme supports its students in their scientific explorations, providing state-of-the-art equipment, expert scientific advisors, and extensive scientific and administrative support.

Applications for the 2016-2017 edition are open Click here (link is http://biosys.campus.ciencias.ulisboa.pt/) to have more details. Deadline for application **21 October 2016**.

07. ECFS Education

The mission statement of the European Cystic Fibrosis Society is to improve survival and quality of life for people with CF by promoting high quality research, education and care. The ECFS has developed a number of educational activities so far: the ECFS annual conference, the Basic Science conference, the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis, development of guidelines and CF courses.

The ECFS is now working on the development of an educational website which will enhance the already existing activities and streamline all educational resources. In addition, the platform will allow for the development of compelling educational modules on different aspects of cystic fibrosis. Please contact us if you have a project or ideas for the educational website, we will be happy to discuss!

08. ECFS Board changes

We are happy to welcome Isabelle Sermet and Margarida Amaral to the ECFS Board.
We would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank Tanja Pressler for her commitment through the years.

Thank you Tania!


Isabelle Sermet


Margarida Amaral

09. JCF Impact factor

The journal impact factors for 2015 have been announced by Thomson Reuters. The journal impact factor is a measure of how frequently papers from that particular journal are quoted.
It is a pleasure to announce that the journal impact factor for the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis has increased this year from 3.475 to **3.853**.
This is the highest our impact factor has been since the journal started and reflects the high quality of papers published now in JCF.

10. JCF Research News

CF Research News offers lay version summaries of the most recent articles published in the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis. The aim of this new initiative is to bridge the gap between people with CF and the researchers investigating CF and how best to treat those with the condition.
We aim to provide access to all scientific work published in the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis (JCF) to patients, parents, relatives, friends and caregivers of people with CF.

To access CF Research News click here

11. ECFS has got talent

At the Get-Together event that we will organise in Seville on the Friday 09 June 2017, we would like to put the spotlights on our ECFS members willing to show their talents. If you are a guitarist, a singer, a magician,… please get in touch with us, we would love to hear from you!

12. ECFS Tomorrow

The third edition of the EFCS Tomorrow in Basel was a great success.

Over the four days of conference, people from our multidisciplinary community researching and treating Cystic Fibrosis could meet at the ECFS Tomorrow Lounge to exchange ideas.
Several interactive workshops and a debate were organised by Special Interest Groups and the feedback received indicated that all were enthusiastic about the initiative.

We also had our second edition of our ECFS Tomorrow Networking Event. During this relaxing evening friends and colleagues had the opportunity to meet new people and exchange experiences.

We also organised a quiz with a free registration to the Annual conference in Seville next year...and the winner is Rebecca Dobra, London, UK.
We are finalising the Seville programme, get ready for changes and look out for more information in the coming months!

13. Annual General Meeting Minutes

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

39th European Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Basel, Switzerland, 10th June 2016

Presiding Officer: Prof. Kris De Boeck

The meeting was opened at 18.30.
Number of Participants: 40

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 next AGM in Seville.

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 that about 2000 delegates had registered for the Basel conference and that 467 abstracts had been submitted. She took the opportunity to thank the Conference President and Conference Vice Presidents 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 over the last year, beginning with the Steering Committee meetings of the CTN and ECFSPR in January and the ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group meeting in London in February. She mentioned the highly successful Basic Science conference held in Pisa, Italy, where a record number of attendees and abstract submissions were recorded.

The President then presented the programme of activities for 2016-2017 to include:

- ECFS Autumn Meeting, Orlando — 26 October 2016
- CTN Steering Group Meeting, Lisbon — 26-27 January 2017
- ECFS Winter Board Meeting, Lisbon — 25 January 2017
- Registry Steering Group Meeting, Lisbon — 27 January 2017
- ECFS Diagnostic Network WG Meeting, Ljubljana — 16-18 February 2017
- 14th ECFS Basic Science Conference, Albufeira — 29 March – 1 April 2017
- Young Investigators Meeting, Paris — 15-17 February 2017
- 40th European CF Conference, Seville — 7-10 June 2017

Prof. De Boeck presented the 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**
- Defining research priorities : a strategic plan to maximize progress in CF therapies is being designed under the leadership of Jane Davies, London, UK
- Education: ECFS has ambitious projects and an educational portal is being developed under the leadership of Daniel Peckham, Leeds, UK
- Implementing mental health guidelines: the ECFS recently approved a new working group dedicated to mental health
- The ECFS website will be refurbished and will also include diary dates of meetings and a page dedicated to announcements for positions within CF.

- ECFS Book: the next ECFS book will be dedicated to infants and young children. Editors are sought for this new initiative and Prof De Boeck encouraged ECFS Members to volunteer.
- Further collaboration across continents

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

- ECFS community bulletin board (Positions offered, jobs wanted, collaboration asked for, etc)
- Suggestion box for ECFS members at the ECFS conference (Suggestions for project opportunities, questions to ECFS board, nominations of candidates for future ECFS board positions, etc.)
- ECFS elections via e-voting also available during the ECFS conference
- Expansion of ECFS Tomorrow lounge activities
- Expansion of Special Interest Groups associated with ECFS

She thanked the departing ECFS Board Member Tania Pressler for her commitment over the years and ended her report by thanking the ECFS Membership, the National Patient Organisations, the Pharmaceutical Industry, and International collaborators for their continuing support of ECFS activities.

The audience was asked for any questions: None received.

Secretary's Report

Prof. Harm Tiddens reported the preliminary membership numbers for 2016 (May) were 925, an increase in comparison with the figures reported at the same time frame in 2015. 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 2017; 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 (*)
(*) 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 2017-2018-2019
He announced the introduction of a corporate membership rate for colleagues from the industry set at 220 € and offering full membership benefits but no voting rights.

He thanked the departing Board members, Tacjana Pressler and Margarida Amaral for their invaluable input over the years.
The new Board members elected are: Margarida Amaral and Isabelle Sermet. Given the fact that the number of candidates corresponded to the number of positions available, no online secured voting was organised. The low number of candidates was disappointing and he encouraged the membership to stand for elections in the future.

The audience was asked for any questions: None received.

Treasurer's Report

Prof. Tania Pressler presented the audited ECFS Financial statement for the year 2015. The result of the year was very favourable, with a surplus of € 118,234 resulting in a positive balance for the Society's net assets of € 2,576,205 at 31st December 2015. Prof. Pressler informed the AGM that the full audited accounts will be posted on the website.

Update on Journal of Cystic Fibrosis

Dr. Scott Bell reported on developments of JCF since the start of his office. The acceptance rate is currently at 26%.
Based on the page budget, the number of paper published per annum should be in the region of 110 – 120.
There has been a steady increase of submitted articles (178 as of 6 June 2016) and a corresponding rise in the number of Science Direct downloads.
New initiatives and recent changes include:

- Ongoing renewal of Editorial Board (Carlo Castellani, Cliff Taggart)
- Streamline MS handling …. though finding 'reviewers' an ongoing challenge
- Editorials in each issue
- Bundled in themes
- "Invited Review" series (Endpoints)
- Highlights ("News" section)
- Lay Journal ("CF Research News")
- Best of at ECFC (Saturday 11 June) and NACFC
- Social media and the Journal – launching Twitter

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 on a recent survey of the CTN sites related to site capacity. Data will be used to apply for some targeted additional research infrastructure support from our European and North American partners

Report from ECFS Patient Registry

Dr. McKone reported on the activities of the ECFS Patient Registry (ECFSPR).
The ECFSPR is expanding its coverage with 28 countries participating and over 42,000 CF patients
He reported that the ECFSPR aimed to publish the 2014 data report in the fall 2016.
He presented a project for a benchmarking tool that will be developed allowing for

- Comparison between centres and centre-country
- Comparison with previous years
- Graphs in real time

He also reported on the recent development of a 2013 at a glance report in collaboration with CF Patient Organizations.
Finally, Dr. McKone thanked the project's sponsors and collaborators.

Report from ECFS Standards of Care
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 goal is to get the document for review by the ECFS Board in March 2017 and ready for publication in May 2017.
The Quality Management subgroup organized its second course in Basel. The group is developing a module in the ECFSTracker for benchmarking across countries/centres.
The centre framework subgroup is focusing on Standards of care in Eastern Europe. Analysis of a recent survey is underway.

Reports from ECFS Working Groups

Prior to the Annual General Meeting, members had been sent the progress reports from the ECFS Working Groups.
Dr Trudy Havermans presented the newly formed ECFS Mental Health working group. The working group is lead by Janice Abbott and Trudy Havermans and is working closely with the CFF Mental Health group.
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 Nurse Specialist Interest Group (ECFS NSiG)
European Cystic Fibrosis Pharmacy Group (ECFPG)
ECFS Psychosocial Working Group
not ECFS affiliated:
International Physiotherapy Group for Cystic Fibrosis
European Cystic Fibrosis Nutrition Group

Annual Conference 2017
A slide was shown presenting the 40th ECFS conference, to be held in Seville, Spain, 7-10 June 2017.
Questions/Comments received: None

Any Other Business
None

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

14. 2016 Basel Conference Survey – Free Registration Winners

The ECFS would like to thank all those who took the time to answer the ECFS 2016 Survey after the conference in Basel. The answers and comments help us to keep on improving our conferences.
As announced, three free registrations to the next ECFS Conference in Seville were selected from the respondents.
We congratulate the winners:
Yulia Gorinova, Moscow, RU
Roger Lundmark, Basel CH
Elena Schneider, Sydney, AU

15. Current references in CF

Please scroll to next page for full list

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