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Letter from the President - Kris De Boeck

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a good start of the year.

2015 was another very busy year for the European Cystic Fibrosis Society, with not only the Basic Science Conference in Albufeira and the Annual conference in Brussels, but a number of special projects and Working Group meetings were held and some selected updates are given below.

Later in this newsletter, you will read some news about recent initiatives which comprise the initiation of ECFS Special Interest Groups, a report from the first beneficiary of an ECFS Short-Term Fellowship and a new membership offer for Allied Health Professionals, PhD Students and Post Docs.

There will be Board elections in 2016 with both Margarida Amaral and Tania Pressler ending their terms in office. I would like to encourage you all to consider your own nomination or to nominate an ECFS member you believe would benefit the ECFS community by being actively engaged in the Board. Please consider how important these elections are for the future of the Society. Further information about the elections is included later in the Newsletter.

Planning for the 2016 Conference is well underway with all necessary information available on the website. I would like to thank all those who have submitted abstracts and all the speakers who have accepted to contribute to the conference. We have excellent programmes planned and we look forward to your participation.

We have a lot to do over the coming months and I hope you will join us for some of these activities.

Many thanks, as always, to Dr. Henry Ryley for compiling the current references in cystic Fibrosis contained in 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

2. ECFS Award - Call for Nominations

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. The winner of the award will be invited to present a lecture at the Opening Plenary on 8 June 2016 of the annual conference in Basel.

You are cordially invited to nominate a candidate for this award. **The deadline for proposals is March 1, 2016.** Please mail your proposal, accompanied by a detailed motivation and curriculum vitae of the candidate to the ECFS Executive Director Christine Dubois (christine.dubois@ecfs.eu).

3. Gerd Döring Award - Call for Nominations

The Gerd Döring Award is a new initiative of the European Cystic Fibrosis Society and will be given annually to honour an exceptional early career young European scientist. The Award, a monetary donation of 5,000 euro to support research, will be presented at the Opening Plenary of the annual ECFS conference in Brussels.

The award will be judged primarily (80%) on a paper published in the previous 3 calendar years (2013-2015) which has made a significant impact on the understanding or treatment of Cystic Fibrosis. Personal motivation and CV will make a 20% contribution to the scoring.

The award is open to PhD students and post-doctoral researchers with up to a maximum of four years' academic research experience following the completion of their PhD, or be of equivalent professional standing at the date of publication of the paper.

We encourage mentors, supervisors and co-workers of today's most exceptional early career European scientists to send in nominations for this competition. Self-nomination is also encouraged. The deadline for proposals is **March 1, 2016**. Please mail your proposal, accompanied by a detailed motivation, a PDF of the nominated paper and curriculum vitae of the candidate to the ECFS Executive Director Christine Dubois (christine.dubois@ecfs.eu).

4. ECFS Board Elections - call for nominations



The ECFS cordially invites nominations for the following Board positions.

In June 2016, Margarida Amaral finishes her first term on the Board (and could stand again) and Tania Pressler is stepping down from the Board after completing two terms.

Job Descriptions and person specifics are available for Board members.

Board Member's Job Description.

Nominations should be sent to the ECFS Executive Director Christine Dubois (christine.dubois@ecfs.eu) by 15 March 2016 together with a motivational statement, confirmation that the candidate has agreed to the nomination, and a curriculum vitae. All nominated candidates must be current members of the ECFS. Information about the nominated candidates will be sent to the membership in April for an online vote prior to the Annual General Meeting in June where the results will be announced.

5. ECFS Meetings in Prague

The ECFS Clinical Trials Network and ECFS Patient Registry Steering Committees met on 27-29 January in Prague for their annual winter meetings. We especially welcomed the new CTN members. This was an excellent opportunity to meet across ECFS projects, discuss common subjects and find new and even better opportunities for cooperation.

CTN Steering Committee meeting Prague, January 27-29



Investigators from 38 of the 43 CTN sites were able to join this yearly winter meeting. Patient organizations from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, Switzerland, The Netherlands and UK were also represented. As in previous years, Dr. George Retsch-Bogart traveled to Europe and attended as CFF-TDN representative.

Investigators of the new sites that have recently joined the CTN attended a one hour introduction and training session to get familiar with the network's code of conduct, available tools and information and the online Trial Management System.

The steering committee meeting started with looking back at 2015. The past year was extremely busy for the protocol review groups and for conducting feasibility checks for new studies at the sites. This means that the network is expecting a significant increase in patients to be enrolled in the upcoming trials.

Dr. Tim Lee provided some examples of successful advocacy by the network and an update on the action items related to the business plan. Options on starting an investigator initiated trial based on patient priorities were discussed. A new committee will look into the setup of a Young Persons Advisory Group.

Updates were provided by the different committees (protocol review, training, DSMB, standardization). Some specific projects and networking activities were also presented.

A significant part of the meeting was devoted to topics related to site quality management. The yearly report on site quality assessment was presented and strategies to cope with the pipeline of upcoming trials were discussed.

Additional meetings were organized between the Executive Committees of the ECFS-CTN and the ECFS Patient Registry and with the patient organizations funding research. As always the ECFS winter meeting has been an excellent opportunity for all parties to meet each other, to have fruitful discussions and to work on new initiatives.

Patient Registry Executive and Steering Committees meetings



The country representatives and staff of the ECFS Patient Registry met in Prague to discuss current developments and future plans in the Executive Committee and Steering Group meetings. In a productive and animated atmosphere the various projects defined in the business plan were discussed: the publication of the Annual Report 2013 in February, with demographic and clinical data of over 39,000 consenting CF patients from 27 countries;

the publication of the Annual Report 2014 in September this year; the progress of an at-a-glance report with a compilation of the information from the Annual Report to bring data closer to patients; and the development of a benchmarking module in ECFSTracker, an important tool to improve CF care. The registry continues to expand; in 2015 Turkey joined the registry bringing the number of participating countries to 29.

6. ECFS Special Interest Groups

The ECFS is pleased to announce the initiation of three ECFS Special Interest Groups dedicated to Nursing, Pharmacy and Psychosocial issues:

[The European Cystic Fibrosis Pharmacy Group \(ECFPG\)](#),

The ECFS Psychosocial Special Interest Group (EPSIG) - CF

The ECFS Nurse Specialist Interest Group (ECFS NSiG)

ECFS Special Interest Groups Membership is open to all. Should you be interested in joining one of these groups, please send a note to Christine Dubois, Christine.dubois@ecfs.eu.

The Special Interest Groups will hold their meetings at the ECFS conference in Basel and more information will soon be available on the ECFS website.

7. Clinical training fellowships

The ECFS has partnered with the course 'Managing the care of children and adults with cystic fibrosis' held twice a year in London, UK or on-line, www.cfcourse.co.uk, to offer clinical placements to members of the CF multidisciplinary team.

Sponsorship includes free attendance at the course in London or participation in the on-line course, followed by a two week placement at the Royal Brompton Hospital (paediatric or adult departments). Travel and accommodation will be covered.

The course is held twice a year in March and September; the on-line course can be done at any time. www.cfcourse.co.uk

If you are interested please contact the ECFS, info@ecfs.eu

8. Letter from the first recipient of an ECFS Short Term Clinical Fellowship

To the ECFS and members of the Royal Brompton Hospital CF Unit,

Last November, I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the ECFS short-term clinical fellowship at the Royal Brompton Hospital Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Unit in London. As a junior CF physician in Sydney, Australia, it was a wonderful chance to improve my own knowledge and clinical skills in CF management as well as take home constructive and practical ideas to help enhance our own program.

My two week fellowship was well structured with time allocated for adult and paediatric clinics, annual reviews, inpatient ward rounds and personalised sessions with the physiotherapy, dietetics, nurse specialist, palliative care and psychology team members. The schedule also allowed for additional time to incorporate many questions and topics that I was hoping to cover during my visit! It included spending half a day at the "Difficult CF Diagnosis" clinic where I learnt about the utility of nasal potential difference in clinical practice, and an afternoon with the clinical trials coordinators and research fellow. Time spent at diabetic ward rounds and at one-on-one sessions with expert clinicians was extremely helpful and comprehensive.

I also attended several meetings including Journal Club and Respiratory Grand Rounds but my absolute favourite was the CF Multidisciplinary meeting. There may be a few team members rolling their eyes or expressing some level of shock at this revelation as the meeting is rather lengthy. It was however run very smoothly as it highlighted strengths of every team member and allowed for time to review all inpatients and active outpatients. I also had my first ever bacon sandwich with brown sauce here, which arrived right at the middle of the meeting, like a much anticipated intermission or halftime show at a major sporting event.

The clinical fellowship also included access to the “Managing the care of children and adults with CF” online course, which had useful detail and reviewed a broad range of topics, including basic CF related concepts as well as evidence based multidisciplinary clinical practice delivered by experts in the field. This was helpful pre-reading prior to my clinical placement.

Suffice to say, I thoroughly enjoyed the clinical fellowship. Hopefully, I am also a better CF physician for it. I felt very at home at the CF Unit as everyone clearly made an effort to make me feel welcome and part of the team. I wanted to especially thank Su Madge, the consultant nurse who organized the placement, for her enthusiasm and kindness, Liz Holder, Nick Simmonds, the acting lead and his team, Christine Dubois and the ECFS for this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

Sheila Sivam
Locum CF Physician
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Sydney, Australia.

9. ECFS Special membership offer for Allied Health Professionals, PhD students and Post Docs

This year a new membership offer was introduced:

Allied Health Professional / PhD Students / Post Docs Subscription: 50 EUR

Allied Health Professionals (AHP), PhD students and Post Docs may apply for membership at the discounted price which excludes access to the on-line and printed version of the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis.

This type of subscription is only available for AHP employed in Nursing, Nutrition/Dietetics, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Psychology or Social Work, PhD students and Post Docs.

For this type of subscription, please contact the ECFS at membership@ecfs.eu for a coupon code allowing the reduced rate.

Special Membership Offers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">3 years special rate	300 € instead of 360 € for a full membership until end 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Registration + membership	Take your membership and register to the conference in one step
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Allied Health ProfessionalsPhD Students and Post Docs	50 € – Same benefits as the Full membership besides the subscription to the JCF (please apply to membership@ecfs.eu for reduction code)

10. ECFS Website

We invite our members to visit the ECFS website and encourage all to send us information and material to be shared with the CF community.

We have recently added a page dedicated to [corporate grants](#), and count on your help to expand it.

Also, the page dedicated to [EU funded projects](#) provides links where more specific information can be found on the projects.

11. Upcoming Events

- ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group Meeting – 11-13 February 2016 - London, UK,

- ECFS Cystic Fibrosis Molecular & Cell Biology and Physiology Working Group meeting - 30 March 2016, 09:30-12:00 - Calambrone (Pisa), Italy
- ECFS 13th Basic Science Conference - 30 March – 02 April 2016 – Calambrone (Pisa), Italy
- ECFS Board Meeting - 07 June 2016 – Basel, Switzerland
- 39th European CF Conference - 08-11 June 2016 – Basel, Switzerland

12. Current references in Cystic Fibrosis

Please scroll down to next page

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