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Letter from the President - Stuart Elborn

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a good start of the year.

2014 was another very busy year for the European Cystic Fibrosis Society, with not only the Basic Science Conference in Malta and the Annual conference in Gothenburg, 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 find some new initiatives recently introduced which comprises the creation of an ECFS Cystic Fibrosis Molecular & Cell Biology and Physiology Basic Science Working Group, ECFS Short-Term Fellowships and a new possibility for long term membership.

There will be Board elections in 2015 with both Dominique Hubert and Milan Macek 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. The Board is now predominantly Pediatric Physicians so I encourage Adult Physicians and Nurses and AHP to please consider standing. 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 2015 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,

Stuart Elborn, 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 10 June 2015 of the annual conference in Brussels.

You are cordially invited to nominate a candidate for this award. **The deadline for proposals is 15 March 2015.** 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 (2012-2014) 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 15 March 2015. 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 2015, Stuart Elborn will finish his term as President and Kris De Boeck, currently President elect, will fully take over the role.

Dominique Hubert will finish her term on the Board in June, and Milan Macek is stepping down from the Board after completing two terms.

Job Descriptions and person specifics are available [here](#).

Nominations should be sent to the ECFS Executive Director Christine Dubois (christine.dubois@ecfs.eu) by **18 March 2015** 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. CTN Steering Committee meeting Barcelona, January 29-30

Investigators from 28 of the 30 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.

Dr. Tim Lee (Leeds) is now the ECFS-CTN Director for the coming 3 years, replacing Prof. Isabelle Fajac. Isabelle was thanked for her excellent leadership and for having moved the network forward during her term.

3 more people ended their term in the Executive Committee and were thanked for all their valuable work and input: Pavel Drevinek (Prague), Nico Derichs (Germany) and Andreas Reimann (patient organization representative, Germany). This also means that new members have joined the Executive Committee: Damian Downey (Belfast), Lieven Dupont (Leuven) and Michael Fayon (Bordeaux) as investigators and Paola De Carli from the French patient organisation.

The first day of the steering committee meeting looked back at the 2014 activities, but mainly focused on the business plan for the upcoming 3 years. The ECFS-CTN wants to increase its impact on CF clinical trials in Europe. Some important topics are the involvement of patients and the establishment of an advisory group of young persons with CF. Also the ECFS-CTN wants to develop an Investigator Initiated Trial involving all stakeholders from the start. Of course, the work on new outcome parameters and surrogate endpoints will be continued.

During the 2 days, updates were provided by the different committees (protocol review, training, DSMB, standardization). 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.

6. Patient Registry Executive and Steering Committees meetings

The country representatives and the staff of the ECFS Patient Registry met to discuss current developments and future plans. The registry keeps expanding and centres of Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania and Ukraine were welcomed in 2014, which brings the number of participating countries to 28. In an animated atmosphere, topics such as the data-collection software ECFSTracker and its launch in Europe in the past year, the quality of data, the publication of the next annual report with 2013 data planned for January 2016, and the business plan were discussed, resulting in constructive input to take forward into the next months.

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

It is always a pleasure to announce the creation of a new working Group.

This working group aims to establish solid grounds for Molecular & Cell Biology and Physiology of Cystic Fibrosis.

Margarida Amaral (PT) and Marcus Mall are respectively the Coordinator and Vice-coordinator of this new working group.

Any ECFS member can join the Working Group.

More information on the Working Group can be found [here](#)

The first meeting of the working group is planned on 25 March 2015, 09:30-12:00, in Albufeira, Portugal, before the opening of the 12th ECFS Basic Science Conference.

8. 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

9. Three year ECFS Special membership offer

This year a new membership offer was introduced: a 3 year membership for 300 € instead of 360 € (3*120€), giving access to the JCF, voting rights and reductions to the ECFS conferences.

You can now show your faithfulness to the ECFS by subscribing for 3 years (2015, 16 and 17) in one step.

So far, we are happy to report that this subscription type seems to be appreciated and quite a few members have chosen this new option.

10. Upcoming Events

- [ECFS 12th Basic Science Conference](#) - 25-28 March 2015 - Albufeira, Portugal
- ECFS Board Meeting - 09 June 2015 - Brussels, Belgium
- [ECFS Quality Management Course](#), 09 June - Brussels, Belgium
- [ECFS CF Course](#), 10 June - Brussels, Belgium
- [38th European CF Conference](#) - 10-13 June 2015 - Brussels, Belgium

11. Current references in Cystic Fibrosis

Please scroll down to next page

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