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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 Brussels, I am sure you will agree that it was a great success, and I would again like to thank the conference President Georges Casimir, and the Vice Presidents, Mario Vanechoutte and Ulrike Pypops for their contribution to the event. I would also like to thank the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Belgium 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 Opening Ceremony. All the award winners also received a 1 year free membership subscription to the ECFS.



Young Investigator Awards 2015:
Rebecca Keyte (UK) Susanne Dittrich (DE) Emma Reece (IE)

To honour the enormous contribution of Prof. Gerd Döring, the ECFS has initiated a Gerd Döring Award that will be given annually to honour an exceptional early career young European scientist.

This award includes a monetary grant of € 5000 to support research.

The first Gerd Döring Award was presented to Florijn Dekkers (NL)

[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.

Thank you to all of you who participated to the Board elections in May. I would like to warmly congratulate Isabelle Fajac, Daniel Peckham and Harm Tiddens. It's a pleasure to welcome them to the Board and we look forward to their input.

Again, I would like to thank Dominique Hubert and Milan Macek, our departing Board members for their commitment and support during their term in office.

How can we thank Stuart Elborn for his 8 years of fantastic ECFS leadership of the ECFS?

It is difficult to summarize all his dedication and commitment through the years in a few lines. Significant successes have been achieved for the Society under his leadership amongst which the officialization of working groups, the Clinical trials network, the ECFS Patient Registry new start, the ECFS book series as well as the Standards of Care initiative.

We are well into the planning for the Basic Science Conference which will be held in Italy in the Spring (end March or early April), and the annual conference which will be held 08-11 June 2016 in Basel, Switzerland. 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. 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 Brussels, 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.Upcoming Events

- ECFS Board Meeting 07 October 2015 - Phoenix, Arizona, USA
- 29th North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference 08-10 October 2015 - Phoenix, Arizona, USA
- ECFS Winter Board Meeting - 27 January 2016 - Prague, Czech Republic
- ECFS CTN Steering Group Meeting - 28-29 January 2016 - Prague, Czech Republic
- ECFS Patient Registry Steering Group Meeting - 29 January 2016 - Prague, Czech Republic
- ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group Meeting - February 2016, London, UK
- 10th European Young Investigators Meeting - 10-12 February 2016
- ECFS 13th Basic Science Conference - end March 2016 - Italy
- ECFS Board Meeting - 07 June 2016 - Basel, Switzerland
- 38th European CF Conference - 08-11 June 2016 - Basel, Switzerland



03. Conference President and Conference Vice President – Call for Application

Further to a recent decision of dissociating country of venue of the ECFS conference and nationality of Conference President, the ECFS cordially invites applications for the positions of ECFS Conference President and Vice-President for the 2017 ECFS Conference.

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

Applications should be sent to the ECFS Executive Director Christine Dubois (christine.dubois@ecfs.eu) by **25 September 2015** using the application form available on the website together the required documentation. All applicants must be current members of the ECFS.

04. Job postings

PhD Fellowship - BioSys Lisbon, Portugal.

The Biosystems and Integrative Sciences Institute (BioSys) PhD Programme in Biological Systems - Functional and Integrative Genomics is an international programme for talented and highly motivated students of any nationality.

Applications for the 2016 edition are open

Click [here](#) to have more details

05. CFTR gene mutation analysis in European patients with CF

This new research initiative aims to provide 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.

Project Leaders: Harry Cuppens (geneticist) and Kris De Boeck (clinician)

In cooperation with the ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group (Nico Derichs)

Supported by a grant from Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Click [here](#) for more information

06. ERS CF Course

The ERS organises a 3 day course on CF in Prague, Czech Republic on 19-21 November 2015.

This course approaches CF from a multi-disciplinary and collaborative approach. The important topics of epidemiology, diagnosis, pathophysiology of CF, treatment, and psychological issues are covered, as well as the key factors involved in the organisation of CF care. Two specific tracks will be available for paediatric and adult care. Click [here](#) to find details.

07. CF Research EU funded projects

We have listed the main EU funded projects related to CF research.

Click [here](#) to find details.

08. Results ECFS Board Elections 2015

We are happy to announce that Isabelle Fajac, Daniel Peckham and Harm Tiddens have been elected as ECFS Board members.

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank Dominique Hubert and Milan Macek for their commitment through the years.

Stuart Elborn finished his mandate as president of the ECFS.

We warmly thank him for all his work through the years. With his strategy and efforts he made significant changes to the Society.



09. ECFS CTN Expansion



A new expansion of the network was announced in 2014 to increase the current capacity. CF centres specialized in clinical trials were invited to send their application by the beginning of 2015.

37 applications were received, scored and evaluated by a selection committee. At the end of this process, 13 sites with the highest ranking were selected to join the ECFS-CTN. Four new countries are involved (Ireland, Israel, Poland and Switzerland) and the network now covers around 17500 adult and pediatric CF patients in 15 countries and 43 sites.

A full list of ECFS-CTN sites can be found on <https://www.ecfs.eu/ctn/list-ctn-centres>. The new sites are now being prepared to actively participate in the network as from 2016

10. JCF Impact factor

The journal impact factors for 2014 slightly decreased from 3.82 in 2013 to 3.475. JCF now ranks 14th in the Respiratory category. Based on the number of articles published and cites over the last 18 months, the impact factor is very likely to increase in 2015.

11. 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](#)

12. JCF App

A Journal of Cystic Fibrosis Mobile App is now available on iOS and Android



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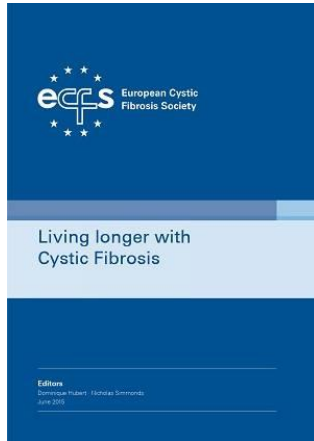
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13. Membership

We are happy to announce that for the first time the ECFS exceeds 1000 members. We currently have 1035 members to be accurate!

Click [here](#) to review our membership advantages.

14. ECFS Book Living Longer with CF



We are happy to announce that the second Edition of the ECFS Book, *Living Longer with Cystic Fibrosis*, is now available.

Many thanks go to Dominique Hubert and Nicholas Simmonds, Editors of the book for their hard work. We hope that this book will help to attract more adult care physicians to the field of CF.

The book has been sent to all ECFS members in July.

15. ECFS Tomorrow

The second edition of the ECFS Tomorrow in Brussels 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.

Alexandra Quittner and Dominik Hartl ran workshops on *Writing successful grants* and on *How to establish a research group*.

All participants were enthusiastic about the initiative.

In Brussels, we also launched an ECFS Tomorrow Networking Event. During this relaxing evening friends and colleagues had the opportunity to meet new people and exchange experiences. We organized a quiz on Belgium and beers as well as on CF. We would like to thank Dominik Hartl who was a perfect quiz presenter!

The price for the winner team was a free registration to the Annual conference in Basel next year...and the winner is Julia Hentschel. Get ready for the next edition in Basel!



16. Annual General Meeting Minutes

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

38th European Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Brussels, Belgium, 10th June 2015

Presiding Officer: Prof. Kris De Boeck

The meeting was opened at 17.00.

Number of Participants: 103

President's Report

Prof. Kris De Boeck welcomed the ECFS members present and thanked them for their participation in the meeting. She thanked Prof Stuart Elborn for his drive of the society over the past 8 years and the numerous achievements for the society under his leadership, amongst which the launch of the ECFS Clinical Trials Network, the development of ECFS Working Groups, the new start of the ECFS Patient Registry, the Standards of Care initiative and the launch of the ECFS Book series.

Prof. Elborn thanked for the years in the ECFS and acknowledged the support received from Prof. Döring, the Board Members and the ECFS staff around Christine Dubois. He thanked Prof. De Boeck for the smooth handover and reiterated his trust in very successful years to come for ECFS under her leadership.

Prof. De Boeck presented the plans ahead for the society.

- Generalization of 3 year terms for leadership roles at the ECFS
- ECFS elections via e-voting also available during the ECFS conference
- Application form for Conference President and Vice President
- Dissociation country of venue and nationality of Conference President
- Monthly teleconference of the ECFS Board
- Further collaboration across continents
- Defining research priorities
- Eg. Academic research to bring treatment to patients with rare *CFTR* mutations: strategic alignment between basic research, patient organization and clinical trial network
- Delineating joint projects with Patient Organisations (she took this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected CFE President, Jacqueliën Noordhoek)

Prof. De Boeck mentioned some of the challenges ahead for CF and the society.

- Research capability and resourcing
- Horizon 2020
- Funding Precision Medicine

She reported that about 2300 delegates had registered for the Brussels conference and that 541 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 Warsaw in February. She mentioned the highly successful Basic Science

conference held in Albufeira, Portugal, where a record number of attendees and abstract submissions were recorded. She encouraged all to attend this very important conference. 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. She announced the launch of CF Research News providing lay summaries of articles published in JCF and thanked Dr Harry Heijerman for taking the lead on this initiative.

Finally, she announced the recently published ECFS Book, 'Living longer with CF'. She thanked the Editors, Dr Nick Simmonds and Dr Dominique Hubert for their hard work and encouraged all to visit the ECFS stand at the conference to take their copy of the ECFS Book.

The President then presented the programme of activities for 2015-2016 to include:

7 Oct. 2015	ECFS Board Meeting - Phoenix, Arizona, USA
27 Jan. 2016	ECFS Winter Board Meeting - Prague, Czech Republic
28-29 Jan. 2016	ECFS CTN Steering Group- Prague, Czech Republic
29 Jan. 2016	ECFS Patient Registry Steering Group Meeting - Prague, Czech Republic
Feb. 2016	ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group Meeting, London, UK
10-12 Feb.2016	10th European Young Investigators Meeting Paris, France
End Mar.2016	ECFS 13th Basic Science Conference, Italy (tbc)
07 June 2016	ECFS Board Meeting - Basel, Switzerland
08-11 June 2016	39th European CF Conference - Basel, Switzerland

She thanked the departing ECFS Board Members for their 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. Milan Macek reported the preliminary membership numbers for 2015 (May) were 921, an increase in comparison with the figures reported at the same time frame in 2014. 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 2016; 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 - 50 € (*)
- PhD Students and Post Docs - 70 € (*)
- Retired members still actively engaged in an ECFS Project or Working Group - Free (*)

The discounted 3 years subscription (300 € instead of 360 €) introduced in 2015 will be offered as a membership possibility for the years 2016-2017-2018

He reminded the audience that following discussions with Elsevier, the JCF publishers, all articles included in the Journal which are more than 2 years old are now freely available for download.

He thanked Dominique Hubert, Carlo Castellani and Stuart Elborn who completed their term on the ECFS Board for their time and valuable contribution to the ECFS Board during their term in office and thanked all for their support, this being his last meeting as a Member of the ECFS Board.

He communicated the results of the recent elections and was happy to announce the election of 3 Board members, Prof. Isabelle Fajac, Prof. Harm Tiddens and Dr. Daniel Peckham.

The audience was asked for any questions: None received.

Treasurer's Report

Prof. Tania Pressler presented the audited ECFS Financial statement for the year 2014. The result of the year showed a deficit of € -164,513 due to extra support needed for some ECFS activities. The ECFS Patient Registry received extra support to cover the accumulated deficit and have a start of the year 2015 at 0 balance. For the Standards of care initiative, the support covered the accumulated expenses over 3 years for the whole project (including Consensus meeting - publication of a supplement and Open access). Despite this negative year result, the audited accounts show a positive balance for the Society's net assets of € 3,053,552 at 31st December 2014. Prof. Pressler informed the AGM that the full audited accounts will be posted on the website.

Report from ECFS CTN

Dr. Tim Lee presented a graph demonstrating the progression of studies conducted by the CTN since 2009.

Among the achievements and milestones:

- Since 2009, 62 protocols have been reviewed
- Since 2011, 24 feasibility checks have been performed
- Participation in EMA workshop to standardize outcome measures and priorities for CF Clinical Trials - and ongoing advice/consultation
- Involvement in Enpr-EMA committees and working groups

Dr. Lee also acknowledged the financial support received from some National CF Patient Organisations and from the US CF Foundation. He announced the expansion of the Clinical Trials Network to include 13 new sites from January 2016.

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 32,000 CF patients. He reported that the new software, ECFS Tracker was launched in January with stages roll-out over Europe.

He announced the ECFSPR aimed to publish the 2011-2013 data report early 2016.

Activities:

- Recruitment of new countries is ongoing
- A new business plan is being developed for the ECFSPR

Finally, Dr. McKone thanked the project's sponsors and collaborators.

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.

He presented a slide showing a decrease in time required to make the first decision.

There has been a steady increase of submitted articles (178 as of 3 June 2015) and a corresponding rise in the number of Science Direct downloads.

New initiatives and recent changes include:

- Composition of Editorial Board and Terms of Reference
- Streamline MS handling (finding 'reviewers' is real challenge)
- Editorials in each issue
- “Invited Review” series currently running (Micro and Basic Science)
- Highlights (“News” section)
- Lay Journal (“CF Research News”)
- Online only publications
- Social media and the Journal - work in progress
- CME initiative

Reports from ECFS Working Groups

Prior to the Annual General Meeting, members had been sent the progress reports from the ECFS Working Groups. The audience was asked for any questions: None received.

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

Special Interest Groups

Prof De Boeck announced that the following groups had been approached to gauge their interest in being affiliated to the ECFS as Special Interest Groups:

- International Nurse Specialist Group
- European Cystic Fibrosis Nutrition Group
- European Psychosocial Interest Group
- International Physiotherapy Group for Cystic Fibrosis
- Pharmacists

Annual Conference 2016

A slide was shown presenting the 39th ECFS conference, to be held in Basel, Switzerland, 8-11 June 2016.

Questions/Comments received: None

Any Other Business

- Membership: Michael Wilschanski suggested reducing to 50 Euro the membership fee for young people in order to increase the membership numbers. It was agreed this would be further discussed by the ECFS Board.
- Membership of Industry representatives: Nico Derichs reported on recent request of industry representatives to be full member of the Diagnostic Working Group.
 - ➔ Question to the AGM: Should corporate members from industry be allowed to be members of ECFS Working Groups?
The audience voted almost unanimously against allowing corporate members from industry to be members of ECFS Working Groups.

With no further items being raised, the meeting ended at 18.00.

17. 2015 Brussels Conference Survey - Free Registration Winners

The ECFS would like to thank all those who took the time to answer the ECFS 2015 Survey after the conference in Brussels. The answers and comments help us to keep on improving our conferences. As announced, three free registrations to the next ECFS Conference in Basel were selected from the respondents.

We congratulate the winners:

Galit Livnat Levanon (IL)

Matthew Moore (UK).

Martin Zapalka (CZ)

18. Current References in CF

CF References

Adults & Adolescents

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Spray-dried amikacin sulphate powder for inhalation in cystic fibrosis patients: The role of ethanol in particle formation
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