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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 39th European Cystic Fibrosis Conference taking place in just a few weeks, this year in Basel, Switzerland.

There will be some changes in the ECFS Board as Margarida Amaral and Tania Pressler end their term this June. As you will remember, the ECFS made a call for nominations for two open positions on the ECFS Board in January. We are in the unusual position of having two applications for two open positions. These are for Margarida Amaral and Isabelle Sermet.

In these circumstances, the ECFS Board decided not to hold secured online elections, but vote at the Annual General Meeting in Basel, similarly to what used to occur in the past. The ECFS Board feel it would not be a sensible use of our resource to organise secured online elections in these circumstances. The ECFS Board welcome these excellent nominations but are disappointed that there have not been more nominations from society members.

We hope that in future more nominations will be forthcoming as a measure of active support for the work of the Society and that we will be able to hold secured online elections for board members.

Tania Pressler will be leaving the ECFS Board. On behalf of the ECFS, we extend our thanks for her excellent contributions; it has been a pleasure working with her.

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 Prague, Czech Republic. Both the CTN and ECFSPR remain key projects of the Society. The support of several national organisations continues to be greatly appreciated and we look forward to working closely with them and increasing our partnerships in the future.

The **13th ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group** Meeting took place in London, UK, 11-13 February 2016, hosted by Jane Davies. The full meeting report is available on the ECFS website [here](#).

The **ECFS Basic Science Conference** was held in Pisa, Italy, 30 March-02 April. With a record number of abstracts and of attendees, the conference was a resounding success. We would like to thank the

organizers, Fred Becq (FR), Ineke Braakman (NL) and David Stoltz (US) for putting together a high quality programme. The [abstract book](#) is available on the ECFS website.

I am happy to communicate that the ECFS board recently approved a new working group dedicated to Mental Health coordinated by Janice Abbott and Trudy Havermans. The group will hold its inaugural meeting at the coming ECFS conference. Also, we have further reflected on Education and will soon be launching an educational website and portal.

The Board has taken proactive steps towards the development of a special project outlining our strategy to maximize progress for CF therapies and we are hopeful this project will be starting soon.

We are rapidly approaching our summer conference in Basel 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 morning 'meet the expert' sessions and the ECFS Tomorrow lounge which will feature a series of interactive sessions and a debate. You can find more about the Interactive sessions and the ECFS Tomorrow further in this newsletter.

This year, we will also be holding a one day Quality management/Quality Improvement course and a one day CF Course on 7 June.

As part of our commitment to support young researchers, three Young Investigators Awards and 16 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

ECFS Annual General Meeting @ Basel 2016

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 10 June 2016, 18:30-19:30, at the Conference Centre in Basel (Room Shanghai).

The Annual General Meeting agenda:

1. President's Report – Kris De Boeck
2. Secretary's Report – Harm Tiddens
3. Treasurer's Report – Tacjana Pressler
4. ECFS Board – Harm Tiddens
5. Update on Journal of Cystic Fibrosis – Scott Bell
6. CTN Report – Tim Lee
7. ECFS Patient Registry Report – Ed McKone
8. ECFS Standards of Care Report – Pavel Drevinek
9. ECFS Working Group Reports
 - [Diagnostic Network Working Group](#) – Nico Derichs
 - [Neonatal Screening Working Group](#) – Kevin Southern
 - [Exercise Working Group](#) – Helge Hebestreit
 - [ECFS Cystic Fibrosis Molecular & Cell Biology and Physiology Basic Science Working Group](#)
– Margarida Amaral
10. Presentation of the 2017 European CF Conference
11. Any Other Business

We hope to see you!

Basel Conference

The annual ECFS conference taking place in Switzerland is fast approaching. You can find all the details about the scientific programme [here](#).

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

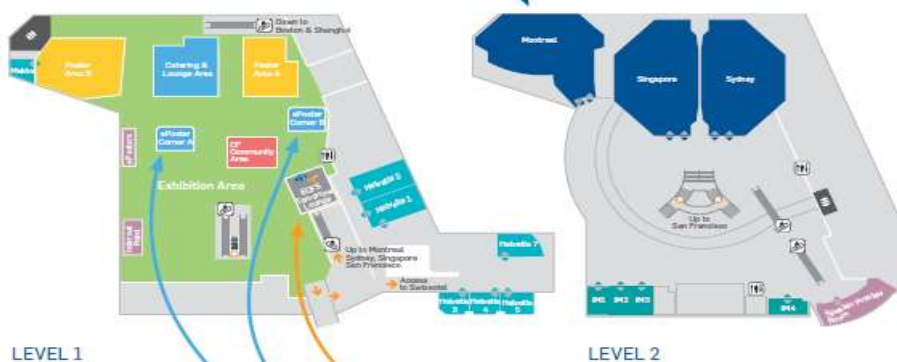
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

INTERACTIVE CASE STUDIES FRIDAY 08:30 - 10:00

Each interactive case presents an evolving patient history and a series of questions designed to test your diagnostic and/or therapeutic skills. You will receive immediate feedback on your answers and treatments choices, along with the opportunity to compare your final score with those of your peers.

INTERACTIVE DEBATES - PROS/CONS THURSDAY 10:30 - 12:00, SATURDAY 9:00 - 10:30

Come discuss the pros and cons, and perhaps even change your viewpoint!



LEVEL 1

LEVEL 2

MEET THE EXPERTS SESSIONS

THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 07:15 - 08:15
ePOSTER CORNERS

In these small interactive breakfast sessions you will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss a specific topic with experts from the field. The format encourages a more personal approach to learning. Registration for these sessions is additional to the conference.



ECFS TOMORROW LOUNGE



The ECFS Tomorrow initiative is specially geared towards assembling those who are interested in building their future career in the cystic fibrosis community and the ECFS of tomorrow. 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. More information page 73



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Basel 2016 Smartphone Application

The number of delegates using the Conference Smartphone App increases every year.

Through the app, you will be able to view all the information on the scientific programme, the exhibitors, the abstracts and ePosters. The ECFS 2016 Conference App is designed to enhance the experience of the participants before, during and after the Conference. Further information is available on the Basel website and the App will be ready to download in early June.

DOWNLOAD THE ECFS 2016
CONFERENCE APP

Search for "ECFS 2016" in
Apple App Store, Google Play Store or
Windows App Store

USE YOUR SMARTPHONE
OR TABLET TO EASILY NAVIGATE
ECFS 2016!

- Interactive Conference Programme
- Abstracts and ePosters available via the library
- Maps and Floor Plans
- Information
- Exhibitors Listings

ECFS Award 2016

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 Prof. Diana Bilton's substantial and remarkable contribution to cystic fibrosis over the past years. The ECFS wishes to recognise her enormous contributions in clinical care, research and leadership. As Clinical Director in two nationally renowned CF centres in the UK, her leadership has been exceptional and triggered appointments to a number of key national committees and international committees. Also, the ECFS would like to honour her leadership in clinical research making contributions in areas of lung physiology, infection and, most particularly, in clinical trials.

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. Gillian Lavelle, in acknowledgement of her 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 Brussels Conference in June.

Dr. Gillian Lavelle is a post-doctoral research scientist in the Respiratory Research Laboratory of Professor Gerry McElvaney in RCSI, Dublin. Gillian obtained her undergraduate degree in Microbiology from Trinity College Dublin before completing her PhD in RCSI in 2015. Gillian's studies culminated in the publication of the manuscript entitled "The basophil surface marker CD203c identifies *Aspergillus* species sensitisation in patients with cystic fibrosis", published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology in 2015 in collaboration with Stanford University. 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. Af-sensitisation likely precedes the development of allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA), a manifestation associated with considerable morbidity. However, ABPA is difficult to diagnose in CF, due to overlapping clinical features of ABPA with CF lung pathology. The aim of this work was to establish whether sensitisation could be accurately identified in affected patients, therefore highlighting those most at risk of developing ABPA in the future. The test is based on the principle that there is a significant upregulation of the basophil surface marker CD203c in response to an allergen to which a person may be sensitised, and highlights the "bench-to-bedside" theme of her ongoing research. This study showed prompt identification of *Aspergillus* sensitisation, and also showed how, in conjunction with other parameters, this test could be used to help diagnose ABPA.

The basophil activation test is now currently used for patients in Beaumont Hospital, Dublin to complement standard clinical practice and has been introduced in Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. The Respiratory Research Laboratory in Beaumont is happy to provide technical support for those wishing to initiate use of this test in their own practice. As Af-sensitisation and ABPA are not exclusively associated with CF, the impact of Gillian's study has great potential in a myriad of other patient cohorts.

Gillian will present her research in the Late Breaking Science Session, Friday, June 10, 17:00 – 18:30 in room Montreal.

CF Courses

Education is one of the major objectives for the ECFS. Two courses are organised by the ECFS this year in Basel on Tuesday 7 June.

- **Quality Management/Quality Improvement**

This course is intended for centre directors and coworkers with a special interest in quality management/quality improvement tools. For more information on the QM/QI Course, please click [here](#).

- **The CF Course - A Tour Of Cystic Fibrosis - The Essential Toolkit**

The Basic Problem Clinical and Science is intended for early career medical and paramedical health care workers involved in cystic fibrosis care and/or cystic fibrosis research. For more information on the CF Course, please click [here](#).

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 and on Level 1 of the conference center, the ECFS Tomorrow Lounge and ePoster Corners 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.

On Thursday night we will also organise a special ECFS tomorrow networking event outside the conference centre. In the trendy Bar Rouge, teams will have the possibility to play a Quiz! The prize for the winner will be **a free registration to the ECFS Conference in Seville** next year.

This year several interactive sessions and a debate will be organised in the ECFS Tomorrow Lounge, below is the detailed programme and the schedule of all activities at the ECFS Tomorrow Lounge is available [here](#)

Thursday 9 June, 12:45-13:45

Adolescence - coaching the patient for the future

In this tomorrow lounge we invite you to participate in a lively discussion and interaction on coaching adolescent patients.

Being a coach to adolescents and young adults requires insight, knowledge, attitude, skills, tools, experience and dedication to this age group.

Can you be the coach these patients of the future require? Join us and find out.

Thursday 9 June, 14:00-15:00

PRO/CON Debate 'Routine Essential Fatty Acid supplements are needed in CF

In the tomorrow lounge, we will debate one of the hot topics in nutrition in CF. We know that there are fatty acid disturbances in our patients. Is there enough evidence out there to prescribe them to our patients who are overloaded with drugs as it is?

Thursday 9 June, 15:15-16:15

Non invasive ventilation - set up and trouble shooting for advanced disease

Establishing NIV in a person with advanced CF lung disease can be challenging, frustrating but also incredibly rewarding. Using real patient cases, this tomorrow lounge session will give you practical hints and tips for overcoming the barriers of achieving effective ventilation by CF physiotherapists who lead NIV set up in their centres.

Ever wished you had more experience in getting the most out of NIV, how to measure ventilation success and what to do when the patient becomes dependent on NIV? We invite you to join our interactive session.

Friday 10 June, 12:45-13:45

How to address the option of artificial feeding with patients

Nutritional status is strongly correlated with morbidities and survival in cystic fibrosis. Therefore nutritional management is standard of care in CF patients. Enteral nutrition is one intervention which can be considered or utilized when adequate oral intake of nutrients is inadequate. Despite the fact that it is a widespread method, outcomes on long term use have not been assessed with randomized control trials. As a consequence, effective standardized guidelines on the use of tube feeding are lacking. Many CF centers use tube feeding but there might be differences in initiation of tube feeding, administration of PERT, type of tube feed used and how to address the psychological aspects of tube feeding. All these aspect will be discussed during our interactive session where participants will be encouraged to share their views and practices.

Friday 10 June, 14:00-15:00

Drug handling in CF - pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic issues

Pharmacokinetics (PK) is the study of how the body processes a drug; pharmacodynamics (PD) describes the effect the drug has on the body. With the increasing range of drugs used to manage cystic fibrosis, and the alterations in drug disposition which occur in people with CF, all of those who prescribe, administer, or monitor the effects of drugs should be aware of the common PK and PD issues. This workshop aims to introduce a multidisciplinary audience to some common PK and PD issues in CF. You will hear from specialist CF pharmacists and clinical nurse specialists who will describe six common issues and how these impact on treatment. Topics which will be covered include the differences in drug handling between children and adults, managing drug interactions with newer therapies and therapeutic drug monitoring of antibiotics and antifungals.

Meetings at the Basel Conference

In addition to the scientific programme, there are the following courses and special group meetings

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

08:30 – 17:30	ECFS Board Meeting*	Room Nairobi
08:30 – 17:15	Physiotherapy Short Course – Airway Clearance – The foundations and the evidence**	Room Lima
08:30 – 17:00	Quality Management / Quality improvement Training Course**	Room Osaka
09:00-17:30	CF Course – A tour of Cystic Fibrosis – the essential toolkit . The basic problem clinical and science	Room Samarkand

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

08:00 – 16:30	International Nurse Specialist Group/CF Meeting**	Room Shanghai 1
08:30 – 15:30	ECFS CTN Training & Development*	Room Boston 1
08:30 – 12:30	Physiotherapy Short Course – Airway Clearance – The foundations and the evidence**	Room Lima
09:30 – 12:00	CFE/ECFS Joint Symposium – Strategies for access to better CF treatments	Room Shanghai 2-3
09:00 – 13:45	ECFS Exercise Working Group*	Paris 2, Ramada Tower
09:00 – 16:30	European Cystic Fibrosis Nutrition Group Meeting	Room Kairo 2

09:30 – 15:00	ECFS Neonatal Screening Working Group Meeting	Room Delhi
09:30 – 16:00	European Psychosocial Special Interest Group (EPSIG) Meeting**	Room Kairo 1
12:00 - 13:00	ECFS Patient Registry – CFE Joint Project meeting	Room Osaka
12:30 – 14:00	International Physiotherapy Group for Cystic Fibrosis (IPG/CF) - Annual General Meeting*	Room Lima
13:00 – 16:00	CF Survival analysis workshop*	Room Osaka
13:15 – 17:00	ECFS CTN Steering Group Meeting*	Room Boston 1
14:00 – 16:30	ECFS Patient Registry Executive Committee Meeting*	Paris 2, Ramada Tower
14:30 – 17:00	Physiotherapy Case Presentations	Room Lima
15:15 – 17:00	ACTIVATE-CF Meeting*	Room Delhi
16:00 – 18:00	European CF Pharmacy Group Meeting	Room Boston 2-3
16:30 – 18:30	ECFS Patient Registry Harmonisation Group Meeting*	Room Shanghai 2-3

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

10:00-11:00	ECFS Patient Registry Scientific Committee Meeting*	Room Osaka
12:30 – 14:30	Anti-Fungal working group	Room Boston
12:30 – 14:30	ECFS CTN Standardisation Committee Meeting*	Room San Francisco
12:30 – 13:30	ECFS Patient Registry Data Quality Project Group Meeting*	Room Shanghai
12:30 – 14:30	Standards of Care core team Group Meeting*	Room Mekka
13:30 – 14:30	ECFS Patient Registry – Meeting for Interested Parties	Room Shanghai
14:00 – 16:00	UK Cystic Fibrosis Trust Meeting*	Room Osaka
18:00 – 19:00	ECFS Patient Registry Software Training – Centre reports in ECFTracker*	Room Osaka
18:30 – 19:30	ECFS CTN Blood Inflammatory Markers Standardisation Group Meeting*	Room Shanghai
19:00 – 20:00	European CF Registry Forum*	Room Sydney

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

07:00-08:30	Journal of Cystic Fibrosis Editorial Board Meeting*	Pullman Basel
12:30 – 14:30	ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group Meeting	Room Shanghai
12:30 – 14:30	ECFS Patient Registry Steering Group Meeting*	Room Boston
15:00 – 16:00	ECFS Patient Registry Software Training – Encounter module in ECFTracker*	Room Osaka
18:30-19:30	ECFS Annual General Meeting*	Room Shanghai

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

11:30-16:30	Swiss CFE Family Day	Room Singapore
13:30 – 18:00	ECFS Scientific Committee Meeting - Seville 2017*	Room Osaka and Samarkand

* closed meeting ** extra registration required

Cystic Fibrosis James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership Survey

The Cystic Fibrosis James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership, based at The University of Nottingham, aims to bring people with CF, those close to them and clinicians with an interest in treatment of CF together on an equal footing to

- Identify the treatment uncertainties which are important to them
- Work together to jointly decide which are the most important
- Produce a priority list of research questions

To find out more please visit cfunite.org/questionCF or click [here](#) to be taken directly to the initial survey.

13th ECFS Basic Science Conference - Pisa, Italy

The **ECFS Basic Science Conference** was held in Pisa, Italy between 30 March and 02 April 2016. With a record number of abstracts and of attendees (more than 230), the conference was a resounding success. We would like to thank the organisers, Frédéric Becq (FR), Ineke Braakman (NL) and David Stoltz (US) for putting together a high quality programme. The [abstract book](#) is available on the ECFS website.



71% of the delegates kindly answered to a survey we launched to evaluate the quality of the conference. The results on the overall satisfaction are quite positive as you can see below (consolidation Excellent+ Good in % of the answers):

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| - Conference: | 93.6% |
| - Scientific programme: | 94.8% |
| - Networking: | 90.4% |
| - Poster Exhibition: | 86.6% |

Upcoming Events

- ECFS Board Meeting 07 June 2016, Basel, Switzerland
- ECFS Annual General Assembly – 10 June 2016 – Basel, Switzerland
- [39th European CF Conference - 08-11 June 2016 – Basel, Switzerland](#)
- [Hands-on Workshop Epithelial Systems: Physiology & Pathophysiology, Lisbon, PT, 18-22 July 2016](#)
- [2016 European Respiratory Society Congress 03-07 September 2016 – London, United Kingdom](#)
- [North American CF Conference, 27-29 October 2016, Orlando, FL, United States](#)
- DNWG meeting – 2017
- [40th European CF Conference – 07-10 June 2017, Seville, Spain](#)

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Please go to next page.

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