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01. 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 40th European Cystic Fibrosis Conference taking place in a few days, this year in Seville, Spain.



But first, let me remind you of the **ECFS elections**, which are taking place this month.

Definitely time flies as we use to say! I personally will finish my term as president in 2018 and the new president will be elected this year in order to have a smooth transition. Isabelle Fajac applied for President of the ECFS.

We also have two positions as Board members. The candidates for these positions are: Jeffrey Beekman, Marcus Mall and Kevin Southern.

If you have not voted so far, you will still have the possibility to do so until Thursday 08 June, 19:00. The results of the elections will be announced at the AGM on Friday 09 June (18:30-19:30). 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 Lisbon, Portugal. Both the CTN and ECFS PR 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 **14th ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group** Meeting took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 16-17 February 2017, hosted by Ana Kotnik Pirs.

The **ECFS Basic Science Conference** was held in Albufeira, Portugal, 29 March-01 April. With a record number of abstracts and of attendees, the conference was a resounding success. We would like to thank the organizers, Ineke Braakman (NL), Marcus Mall and Tzyh-Chang Hwang (US) for putting together a high-quality programme. The [abstract book](#) is available on the ECFS website.

We are rapidly approaching our summer conference in Seville 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 Poster Discussion session, some morning 'meet the expert' sessions and the ECFS Tomorrow lounge which will feature a series of interesting sessions. This year, we will organise two CF courses: one in English and one in Spanish. Beside the course, we will also offer simultaneous translation to Spanish for several symposia.

As part of our commitment to support young researchers, three Young Investigators Awards and 20 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

02. ECFS Board Elections – Cast your vote!

The ECFS is holding elections for the ECFS President elect and 2 ECFS Board Members Positions. Invitations to take part in the elections have been sent to the ECFS electorate by email and access to the online secured voting poll can be found on the ECFS website page below once logged in.

Candidates' information and links to supporting documents such as the candidates' nominations, application letters and CVs are available on the ECFS website at <https://www.ecfs.eu/ecfs-board-elections-2017>

Job Descriptions are available for both the President and Board members. [President's Job Description](#) | [Board Member's Job Description](#).

POLLS CLOSE THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2017, 19:00 CEST

03. ECFS Annual General Meeting @ Seville 2017

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 09 June 2017, 18:30-19:30, at the Conference Centre in Seville (Auditorium 2).

The Annual General Meeting agenda:

1. President's Report – Kris De Boeck
2. Secretary's Report – Harm Tiddens
3. Treasurer's Report –
4. ECFS Board elections – Harm Tiddens
5. Update on Journal of Cystic Fibrosis – Scott Bell
6. CTN Report – Tim Lee
7. ECFS Patient Registry Report – Lutz Naehrlich
8. ECFS Standards of Care Report – Pavel Drevinek
9. ECFS Working Group Reports
 - Diagnostic Network Working Group – Nico Derichs
 - [ECFS Cystic Fibrosis Molecular & Cell Biology and Physiology Basic Science Working Group](#)
 - Margarida Amaral and Marcus Mall
 - [Exercise Working Group](#) – Helge Hebestreit
 - [Mental Health Working Group](#) – Janice Abbott and Trudy Havermans
 - [Neonatal Screening Working Group](#) – Kevin Southern
10. ECFS Special Interest Group Reports
 - [ECFS Nurse Special Interest Group](#) – Ellen Julie Hunstad
 - ECFS Cystic Fibrosis Pharmacy Group – Keith Thompson
 - [Psychosocial Issues Special Interest Group](#) – Anneke Vertommen
11. Presentation of the 2018 European CF Conference
12. Any Other Business

We hope to see you!

04. Seville Conference

Seville will welcome the annual ECFS conference this year. You can find all the details about the scientific programme [here](#).

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

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 treatment choices, along with the opportunity to compare your final score with those of your peers.

NEW!


Voting will be done through the Conference App this year. Search 'ECFS 2017' in your Apple App Store, Google Play or Windows App store, or scan the QR code.

Simultaneous translation to Spanish will be available for designated sessions.





LEVEL 0



LEVEL 1

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 and costs for these sessions is not included in the conference registration fee. Please contact the registration desk onsite.

ECFS TOMORROW LOUNGE



The ECFS Tomorrow initiative is geared towards bringing together 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.

The **Interactive Poster Discussion** session aims at fostering discussion on a chosen theme.

Join us on Friday, 9 June – 17:00-18:30

IPD 1: Discussion on the themes of non-tuberculous mycobacteria and fungal infections.

IPD 2: Discussion on Adherence

NEW!

05. Seville 2017 Smartphone Application

The number of delegates using the Conference Smartphone App increases each 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 2017 Conference App is designed to enhance the experience of the participants before, during and after the Conference. New features this year include the possibility of networking with other delegates via the My Community button, the access to the voting system available in some designated interactive session. This year you will have the possibility to take selfies that will be shown on our selfie wall in the CF Community area. So why don't you show us your talent as a photographer?

Further information is available on the conference website and the App will be ready to download in the coming days.

DOWNLOAD THE ECFS 2017

CONFERENCE APP

USE YOUR SMARTPHONE OR TABLET TO EASILY NAVIGATE ECFS 2017!

- Interactive Conference Programme
- Abstracts and ePosters available via the Library
- Maps and Floor Plans
- Vote via the App during sessions marked with 
- Connect with your peers with the new functionality 'My Community'

7 - 10 JUNE 2017
SEVILLE, SPAIN

40th EUROPEAN
CFROSIS
CONFERENCE

Search for "ECFS 2017" in Apple App Store, Google Play Store or Windows App Store



06. ECFS Award 2017

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 Dr. Jeffrey Beekman for his substantial and remarkable contribution to cystic fibrosis over the past years. Dr. Beekman was appointed as head of the CF lab of the pediatric pulmonology department in Utrecht in 2008. Coming from a Basic Science environment outside CF, he was very eager to learn the clinical aspects of the disease right from the beginning. He

developed as a pioneer in translational medicine with a great drive to bring laboratory discoveries into clinical care.

Dr. Beekman was at the basis of the CF intestinal organoid model. The Hubrecht lab had discovered the intestinal stem cell and elaborated stem cell cultures into so-called miniguts (organoids). Dr. Beekman and his team initiated a breakthrough in the field by developing a functional CFTR assay in this model. This resulted in both a method enabling personalised medicine in individual patients and a screening platform for new compounds.

The model already changed the lives of CF-patients. Several patients with unique genotypes shown to be responsive to correctors/ potentiators *ex vivo* were successfully treated afterwards. Several insurance companies in the Netherlands accepted the combined *ex vivo/in vivo* responsiveness in individual patients as basis for reimbursements.

Besides several top-publications in Nature, Cell Stem Cell and Science Translational Medicine, the CF-organoid model attracted broad international media attention, raising further public awareness for CF. Dr. Beekman has shown to be a great communicator towards scientists, clinicians and patients. He frequently contributes to the ECFS, BSM and NACF conferences.

07. Gerd Döring Award

Professor Gerd Döring was an outstanding leader of the ECFS. 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 is given annually to honour an exceptional early career young European scientist.

This year, the Gerd Döring Award has been granted to Viola Camilla Scoffone, 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 Seville Conference.

Viola has the opportunity to present her work on *B. cenocepacia* at the Seville conference in the Late Breaking Science Session scheduled on Friday 09 June at 17:00

08. Meet the experts sessions

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 lively discussions and a more personal approach to learning. Please note that you must register to attend Meet the Experts sessions. To sign up, please contact the registration desk onsite.

Thursday 8 June, 07:15-08:15

Meet the Experts – Transplantation	
Experts: Dirk Van Raemdonck, Leuven, BE / Amparo Solé, Valencia, ES	ePoster Corner B
Meet the Experts – Next generation microbiology and diagnostics	
Experts: Eshwar Mahenthiralingam, Cardiff, UK / Jean-Marc Rolain, Marseille, FR	ePoster Corner C
Meet the Experts – How to publish?	
Experts: Scott Bell, Brisbane, AU / Stuart Elborn, London, UK	Tomorrow Lounge

Friday 9 June, 07:15-08:15

Meet the Experts – Exercise and bone	
Experts: Esther Quintana Gallego, Seville, ES / Helge Hebestreit, Würzburg, DE	ePoster Corner B
Meet the Experts – Psycho-pharmacological treatments for mental health problems in cystic fibrosis	
Experts: Anna Georgiopoulos, Boston, US / Angelika Graf, Berlin, DE	ePoster Corner C
Meet the Experts – Writing successful grant applications and scientific papers	
Expert: Luis Galiotta, Pozzuoli, IT	ECFS Tomorrow Lounge

09. 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 adjacent to the Exhibition Area, 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.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

20:00 – 21:00 Meet & Greet

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

- 07:15 – 08:15 Meet the experts – How to publish?
Scott Bell, Brisbane, AU / Stuart Elborn, London, UK
- 12:45 – 13:45 Mental health guidelines: how to get started? Practical strategies and challenges
ECFS Mental Health Working Group
- 14:00 – 15:00 Creative methods of intervention*
Diana Kadosh, Petah Tikva, IL

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

- 07:15 – 08:15 Meet the experts - Writing successful grant applications and scientific papers
Luis Galletta, Pozzuoli, IT
- 12:45 – 13:45 Drug administration (nebulisers, new therapies)
Ann Raman, Ghent, BE / Nicola Shaw, Leeds, UK
- 14:00 – 15:00 PRO/CON Debate – the Specialist CF Pharmacist is an essential member of the clinical team in the care of people with CF
Nicola Shaw, Leeds, UK
- 15:15 – 16:15 CFRD- Future nutritional considerations
Sarah Collins, London, UK

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

10:30 – 11:00 Farewell coffee

10. Meetings at the Seville Conference

Tuesday 6 June 2017		
08:30	17:30	ECFS Board Meeting*
08:30	17:00	Physiotherapy Short Course - Exercise in CF: from evaluation to prescription**
		Madrid 2
		Bruselas 3

Wednesday 7 June 2017			
15:00	17:00	ACTIVATE-CF Meeting*	Paris 2
09:00	17:30	CF Course - A tour of CF- The essential tool kit **	Paris 3
09:00	17:30	CF Course - un Recorrido por la Fibrosis quística – ‘Herramientas Esenciales’**	Paris 4
17:00	18:00	CFTR3 Investigator Meeting *	Paris 2
13:15	17:00	ECFS CTN Steering Group Meeting*	Roma
08:30	15:30	ECFS CTN Training and Development*	Roma
09:00	14:00	ECFS Exercise Working Group*	Paris 2
09:30	15:00	ECFS Neonatal Screening Working Group	Auditorium2
08:30	16:30	ECFS Nursing Special interest Group Meeting**	Auditorium3
13:30	16:00	ECFS Patient Registry Executive Committee Meeting*	Bruselas 2
16:30	18:00	ECFS Patient Registry Harmonisation Group meeting*	Bruselas 2
12:15	13:15	ECFSPR – CFE Joint Project Meeting*	Madrid 2
14:00	18:00	European CF Pharmacy Group Meeting	Madrid 2
09:00	16:30	European Cystic Fibrosis Nutrition Group	Madrid 1
09:30	16:00	European Psychosocial Special Interest Group (EPSIG) Meeting**	Bruselas 1
12:30	14:00	International Physiotherapy Group for Cystic Fibrosis Annual General Meeting	Bruselas 3
08:15	12:35	Physiotherapy Short Course - Exercise in CF: from evaluation to prescription**	Bruselas 3
14:30	17:00	Physiotherapy Case Presentations**	Bruselas 3
Thursday 8 June 2017			
08:00	09:00	CFHealthHub - National Self Management Collaborators Meeting*	Roma
18:30	20:30	ECFS CTN Patient Reported Outcome Measures Group Meeting	Bruselas
12:30	14:30	ECFS CTN Standardisation Committee Meeting*	Paris
13:30	14:30	ECFS Patient Registry - Meeting for Interested Parties	Bruselas
12:30	14:00	ECFS Patient Registry Data Quality Project Group Meeting*	Roma
18:00	19:00	ECFS Patient Registry Software training	Roma
10:00	11:30	ECFSPR Scientific Committee Meeting*	Roma
12:30	14:30	ECFS Standards of Care Group Meeting	Auditorium2
19:00	20:00	European CF Registry Forum*	Auditorium2
14:00	16:00	Cystic Fibrosis Trust Fringe Meeting*	Roma
Friday 9 June 2017			
18:30	19:30	ECFS Annual General Meeting*	Auditorium2
12:30	14:30	ECFS Diagnostic Network Working Group Meeting	Bruselas
12:30	14:00	ECFS Mental Health Working Group Meeting	Auditorium2
15:00	16:00	ECFS Patient Registry Software training – walk in session	Roma
12:30	14:30	ECFS Patient Registry Steering Group Meeting*	Paris
07:00	08:30	Journal of Cystic Fibrosis Editorial Board Meeting*	Roma
Saturday 10 June 2017			
13:30	18:00	ECFS Scientific Committee Meeting - Belgrade 2018*	Roma

* By invitation only

** Extra registration needed

11. 2017 ECFS Basic Science Conference – Albufeira, Portugal

The **ECFS Basic Science Conference** was held in Albufeira, Portugal between 29 March and 01 April 2017. With another record number of abstracts and of attendees (nearly 250), the conference was a resounding success. We would like to thank the organisers, Ineke Braakman (NL), Marcus Mall (DE) and Tzyh-Chang Hwang (US) for putting together a high quality programme. The [abstract book](#) is available on the ECFS website.



Marcus Mall (DE), Isabelle Callebaut (FR) and John Engelhardt (US) already accepted to chair the 2018 edition of the Basic Science Conference. It will be organised in Greece, 21-24 March 2018

12. ECFS Short Term Clinical Fellowship

Here is the letter sent by a recipient of the CF Preceptorship Programme

As a young Cystic Fibrosis (CF) pulmonologist at the early stages of taking care of adult CF patients at the Cystic Fibrosis Centre of the Bern University Hospital, I was pleased to have had the opportunity to receive an ECFS preceptorship which included a participation in a comprehensive, multidisciplinary pediatric and adult CF course followed by a two-week observership at the pediatric and adult CF centre at Royal Brompton Hospital London.

I didn't really know what to expect from the CF course prior to start. The schedule which we received at the beginning revealed to be a multifaceted program with various presenters, mainly from the UK and from different disciplines as well as institutions. Although it was relatively compact, it left enough time for questions at the end of most of the presentations. We also formed smaller working groups for a case presentation at the end of the course. Especially emotional was the talk about their life experience of a mother of two young CF patients and an adult CF patient who received a lung transplant. It was impressive how well the mother dealt with her first child's fate who, unfortunately, did not survive until a lung transplant. The course was ended with a nice interactive quiz and a little prize for the winner team where each member of the small working group actively participated.

The observership gave a good insight into the pediatric and adult CF care at a large CF centre. Since I mainly work with adults CF patients, I predominantly spent time with the adult team. Due to the clinical experience from years of CF care treatments sometimes differed slightly from current CF guidelines if alternative options were already tried in the past.

I enjoyed the multidisciplinary approach of the weekly ward rounds prior to bedside rounds in the adult CF care as well as the multidisciplinary exchange of thoughts each afternoon prior to the adult CF clinic

three times weekly. I felt the team spirit with mutual respect among consultant nurses, clinical nurse specialists, house officers, registrars, consultants and head of the adult CF centre. Altogether the experience during the three weeks in London enriched me not only in a medical but also in an interpersonal way. Big "Thank you" to Christine Dubois from the ECFS!
Dagmar Lin

13. Announcements

Michele Milo, a student from the Bari (Italy) CF centre is looking for a co-supervisor for a project on 'cardiovascular diseases in patients with CF'.

He has studied atherosclerosis risk factors, media remodelling and vascular disease CFTR associated and has done an initial data analysis.

The task of the co-supervisor will be to provide input on the analysis and the presentation of the report.

The student's contact details are: m.milo@studenti.uniba.it

14. Upcoming Events

- ECFS Board Meeting 06 June 2017, Seville, Spain
- ECFS Annual General Assembly - 09 June 2017 – Seville, Spain
- [40th European CF Conference - 07-10 June 2017 – Seville, Spain](#)
- [Hands-on Workshop Epithelial Systems: Physiology & Pathophysiology, Lisbon, PT, 24-28 July 2017](#)
- [2017 European Respiratory Society Congress 09-13 September 2017 – Milan, Italy](#)
- [North American CF Conference, 02-04 November 2017, Indianapolis, IN, United States](#)
- [41st European CF Conference – 6-9 June 2018, Belgrade, Serbia](#)

15. Current References in Cystic Fibrosis

Please go to next page.

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