A MESSAGE FROM THE ERS PRESIDENT

We have experienced another successful year with a strong international Congress and catalogue of publications underpinning our three core areas of activity: science, education and advocacy. I am delighted to have taken the helm of ERS at a time where we are achieving our mission to promote lung health and drive standards for respiratory medicine. This report aims to give our members and stakeholders an overview of our achievements during this financial year (April 2016–March 2017) and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the officers and staff who contribute to the success of ERS.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

ERS offers membership agreements with national and regional respiratory societies, offering ERS resources to a broad spectrum of professionals.

CARLOS ROBALO CORDEIRO
Secretary General

32,000* members from over 160 countries
*Individuals with full and active membership only

15 new agreements signed with national/regional respiratory societies

FINANCIAL REPORT

OTTO CHRIS BURGUBER
Treasurer

Download Appendix 1: ERS Income Statement and Balance Sheet
Download Appendix 2: ERS Commercial Partners
A full audit report from the Society is available to download online: www.ersnet.org/accounts
CONGRESS AND CONFERENCES

The ERS International Congress remains the largest meeting in the respiratory field, boasting a cutting-edge scientific and educational programme. The 26th Congress took place in London, UK, attracting over 22,000 delegates. The programme is designed to address the needs of researchers, clinicians, general practitioners, allied health professionals and increasingly patients.

Alongside this flagship event, ERS also runs the annual Lung Science Conference. This event primarily targets early career professionals and aims to showcase cutting-edge research and its translation into clinical solutions. There is also a unique emphasis on mentoring as younger delegates are given the opportunity to learn from faculty members.

ERS CONGRESS

- 22,645 delegates attended the Congress
- 407 scientific and educational sessions
- 5633 submitted and 4092 accepted abstracts
- 155 sponsored delegates and 28 grants and awards offered

NEW FEATURES

- The Congress app featured new interactive functions giving delegates the chance to vote, send questions to session chairs and view trending sessions.
- New session types included professional development sessions, round-table postgraduate courses and sessions featuring state-of-the-art techniques showcasing pre-recorded films of procedures.
- Live@ERS was launched. This online TV channel featuring expert interviews, key presentations and interviews with delegates, giving professionals the chance to remotely follow the Congress.
- Congress Hubs took place in China, allowing delegates to watch remotely and then hold discussions amongst the audience and Chairs on site.

LUNG SCIENCE CONFERENCE

- The 14th Lung Science Conference entitled “Mechanistic overlap between chronic lung injury and cancer” took place on March 23–26, 2017 in Estoril, Portugal
- 10 awards given including the William MacNee Award (for the winner of the Young Investigator session), the Best Oral Presentation Award and eight Distinguished Poster Awards.

ENDORSED EVENTS

ERS is frequently asked to endorse educational and scientific meetings that fulfil standards of performance and scientific quality. In 2016–2017, 35 requests were received and 31 event programmes were endorsed.
ERS scientific activities put an emphasis on respiratory disease research and strengthening the clinical evidence base. This mission spans a range of activities, from fellowship opportunities, scientific conferences and seminars, publications, funding for guidelines, statements and technical standards and the ERS Research Agency, which facilitates respiratory research through the coordination and support of the respiratory research community, and to assists it in its efforts to obtain funding.

This year, ERS created a new position for a Clinical Research Collaboration Director, within the Science Council, aiming to strengthen the link between the Clinical Research Collaborations (CRCs) and the ERS Research Agency.

The ERJ 2016 impact factor is 10.569 – a new record

53 fellowships granted and one new fellowship programme (ERS Fellowship in Industry) was launched

7 published guidelines, statements and technical standards

5 Horizon 2020/ IMI application submitted through the ERS Research Agency

5 accepted CRC applications (including 2 project renewals)

4 Research Seminars held
EDUCATION

The mission of ERS Education is to supply medical professionals across Europe with access to high-quality training and educational resources. This covers a range of activities from curriculum development, courses, online learning, assessments and publications.

This year’s milestones included the publication of a Thoracic Oncology Curriculum, the launch of a training programme in endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) and the first Harmonised Education in Respiratory Medicine for European Specialists (HERMES) examination to be held outside of Europe.

GERNOT ROHDE
Education Council Chair
ERS Advocacy supports the Society’s mission to promote respiratory health and alleviate suffering from respiratory disease. This involves a wide range of activities, from events such as advocacy workshops, policy roundtables with MEPs and summits.

This year saw the appointment of a new EU Scientific Relations Director to forge stronger links between Science and Advocacy within ERS. A stakeholder analysis was also conducted as part of the annual ERS Presidential Summit, gathering qualitative feedback on future trends in clinical care, prevention, research and education and how these developments may impact on ERS.

**AD V O C AC Y**

CHRISTINA GRATZIOU
Advocacy Council Chair

3 ERS-led events in the European Parliament, 5 meetings with the European Commission and over 100 meetings with MEPs

249 MEPs signed a Written Declaration on Chronic Respiratory Diseases

OVER 35 statements/positions launched

2 respiratory priorities successfully included in Slovakian Presidency of EU

ERS Officer participation in 15 EU high-level events/meetings

**K E Y M I L E S T O N E S**

- Recommendations were provided from the Environment and Health Committee into two major EU publications: the European Parliament “Dieselgate” report and the final National Emission Ceilings Directive.
- ERS contributed to the WHO Europe Regional Committee Meeting by submitting three statements and one video message.
- Alongside other partners, ERS coordinated the Act Believe Care campaign on chronic respiratory diseases. This campaign encouraged MEPs to sign a declaration to support action on chronic respiratory diseases, with an emphasis on COPD.
- A high-level event on plain packaging at the European Parliament on World No Tobacco Day with a follow-up campaign to raise awareness at national level.
THE EUROPEAN LUNG FOUNDATION

The European Lung Foundation is dedicated to bringing patients and the public together with respiratory professionals to improve respiratory health. This activity includes actively involving patients in healthcare by ensuring the patient voice is incorporated at every level of ERS activities, alongside disseminating the highest quality patient resources and communicating and translating the work of ERS to those outside the respiratory field.

DAN SMYTH
ELF Chair

4 new resources produced this year that are now available in over 20 languages

Patients involved in 11 task forces and 2 CRC’s

180 new ambassadors for the European Patient Ambassador Programme

KEY MILESTONES

- ELF website launched in Portuguese, the 9th language it is now available in
- The European Patient Ambassador Programme (EPAP) was translated into Italian and French
- A new resource focusing on patient priorities for lung cancer was also launched
- A new working group for ELF Advocacy was created
- The first ELF Patient Organisation Day was held at the ERS International Congress

HEALTHY LUNGS FOR LIFE

The Healthy Lungs for Life campaign focuses on garnering the support of healthcare professionals, policymakers, patients and the general public and media to encourage them to take action on lung health. Putting an emphasis on prevention, a new theme is selected each year and launched at the ERS International Congress to put lung health in the spotlight. This year, the theme was ‘Breathe Clean Air’.

More than 100 patients at the ERS International Congress

Over 3,100 members of the public had their lungs tested at 7 separate events across London

1,000 information packs for professionals were distributed

Over 350 pieces of media coverage were achieved and >1,000 views of the HLFL ERS Vision video on “Clean air and lung health”