



ERS

EUROPEAN
RESPIRATORY
SOCIETY

every breath counts

Annual Report

2019–2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE ERS PRESIDENT



Thierry Troosters
President

The European Respiratory Society has become the interface for all respiratory healthcare providers. It was exciting to witness first-hand how it continues to evolve: creating scientific networks across Europe; providing training and education; and branching out into advocacy networks in Europe and globally. The Society interacts at the highest level, creating opportunities for its members – always with a focus on the best interests of patients.

This year a respiratory virus challenged the medical field to reinvent itself in terms of provision of care, education and funding. In “overdrive” the Society, its employees, officers and members took up this challenge.

We adapted to digital meetings and virtual education. We organised networks to facilitate research on this new respiratory disease, without losing sight of other respiratory problems. The first ever virtual ERS Congress was successfully organised. Organising this event made us realise the benefits of face-to-face meetings, but also highlighted that virtual events can open us up to a global audience, limit climate impact and reduce travel cost. It showed the generosity of our partners that continued to support us and demonstrated that now, more than ever, Europe and the world needs a leading society uniting respiratory healthcare providers.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus has profoundly stirred the Society, but six months into the crisis, I’m confident we’ll come out stronger, together. The achievements of this year (April 2019 to March 2020) are summarised in this document. Thank you to ERS leadership for your dedication and support.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



Joanna Chorostowska-Wynimko
Secretary General

ERS offers membership agreements with partner respiratory societies worldwide, offering ERS resources to a broad spectrum of professionals.



34,032* members from over 162 countries

*Individuals with full and active membership only



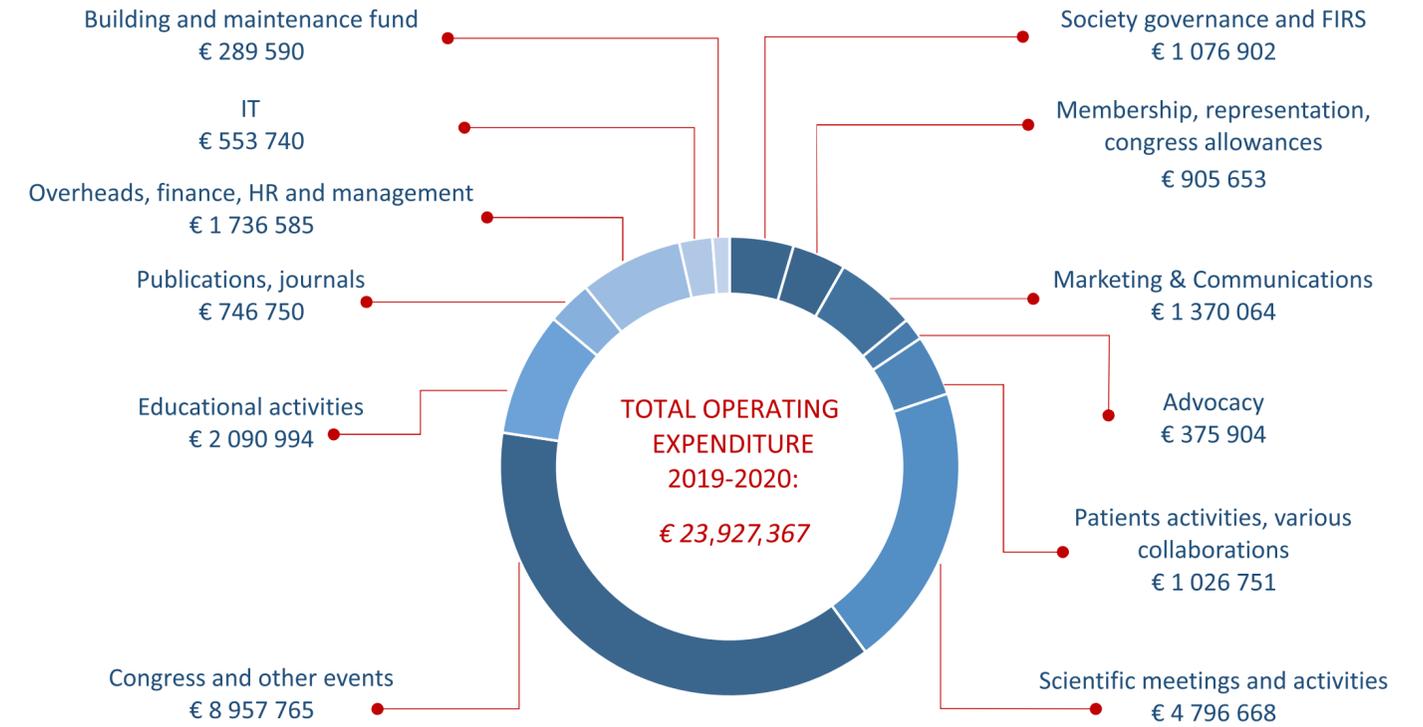
7 new agreements

signed with national/regional respiratory societies – making 100 in total.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



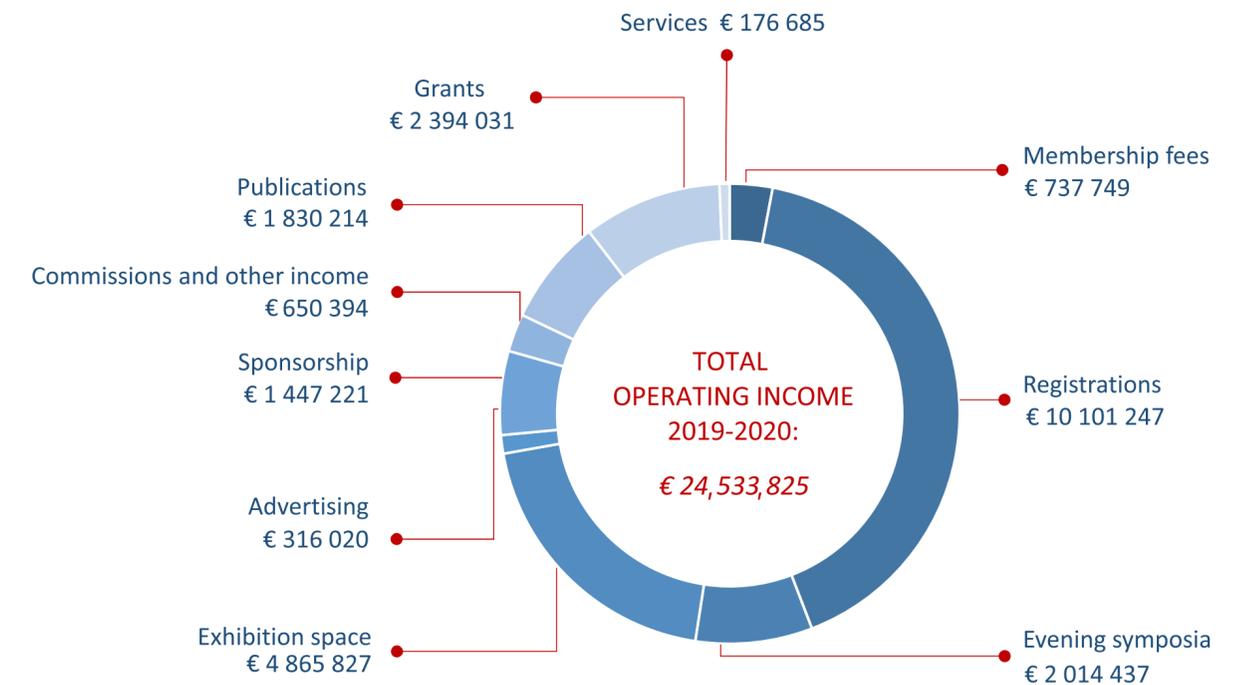
THOMAS GEISER
ERS Treasurer



Download Appendix 1: [ERS Income Statement and Balance Sheet](#)

Download Appendix 2: [ERS Commercial Partners](#)

Note: The full ERS audit report will be presented as a separate document at a later date



CONGRESS AND CONFERENCES

The ERS International Congress remains the largest meeting in the respiratory field, boasting a cutting-edge scientific and educational programme. The 29th Congress took place in Madrid, Spain, attracting over 22,000 delegates. The programme was designed to address the needs of researchers, clinicians, general practitioners, allied health professionals and patients.

LUNG SCIENCE CONFERENCE

The Lung Science Conference is an annual event. It 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. The 18th Lung Science Conference entitled “Metabolic alterations in lung ageing and disease” took place on 5–8 March, 2020 in Estoril, Portugal. 10 awards were given including the William MacNee Award (for the winner of the Young Investigator session), the Geoffrey Laurent Award (for the Best Oral Presentation) and eight Distinguished Poster Awards.

SLEEP AND BREATHING CONFERENCE

The Sleep and Breathing Conference is a bi-annual event organised in collaboration with the European Sleep Research Society. It is the largest pan-European meeting of its kind, offering an integrated approach to the investigation and treatment of sleep disorders. The 2019 event took place in Marseille, France on 11–13 April.

ENDORSED EVENTS

ERS is frequently asked to endorse educational and scientific meetings that fulfil standards of performance and scientific quality. In 2019–2020, 38 requests were received, and 12 event programmes were endorsed.

ERS CONGRESS



22,094 delegates
attended
the Congress



456 scientific
and educational
sessions



5617 submitted
and 4469 accepted
abstracts



1156 sponsored
delegates and 21 grants
and awards offered

- Clinical trials sessions: ‘ALERT’ sessions (Abstracts Leading to Evolution in Respiratory Medicine Trials) were included in the Congress programme. These were special abstract sessions, where important clinical trials in respiratory medicine were presented. The session chairs, along with discussants and abstract presenters, shared the most clinically relevant conclusions from abstracts presented and facilitated discussion with the audience.
- CPR project: game-based activity that included a workstation in the Game Zone and five daily surprise activities in other locations in the Congress venue. The Game Zone offered nine skills stations, a CPR zone, a smoothie stand, an early career stand, and 539 online MCQs. The hands-on area with individual workstations were connected to the ERS online self-assessment learning platform.
- Guidelines sessions: new sessions which enabled interaction with the audience during the session. Sessions included: Presentation 1 – clinical approach, changes from previous guidelines (if relevant); Presentation 2 – treatment options and recommendations; Presentations 3 and 4 – practical approach with cases and interactive questions.
- Women leaders symposium: a session dedicated to celebrating the role that women play in their professional environment. It also addressed the challenges faced by women within the respiratory medicine and science fields.

SCIENCE

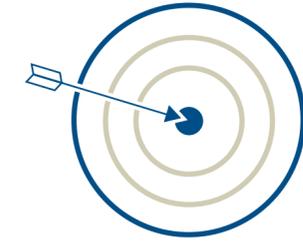


CHRISTOPHER E. BRIGHTLING
Science Council Chair

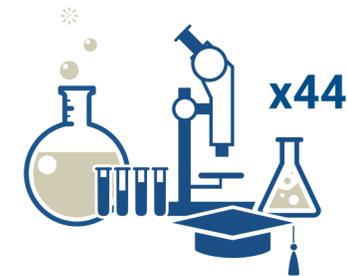
ERS scientific activities put an emphasis on respiratory disease research and strengthening the clinical evidence base. This mission spans a range of activities including: fellowship opportunities; scientific conferences and seminars; publications; endorsement of pragmatic trials; funding for guidelines, statements and technical standards; Clinical Research Collaborations; and the ERS Research Agency, which facilitates respiratory research through the coordination and support of the respiratory research community – assisting its efforts to obtain funding.



The ERJ 2019 impact factor is
12.339



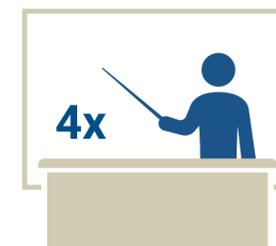
The ERR 2019 impact factor
is 6.220



44 Fellowships
granted



14 published Guidelines, Statements
and Technical Standards



4 Research
Seminars held



5 accepted CRC applications
(including 2 project renewals)

EDUCATION



DAIANA STOLZ
Education Council Chair

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.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic a number of educational provisions were added to ERS's resources, including webinars, a short video series and a discussion forum.



22 courses held including 8 skills courses



3 adult and paediatric ERS HERMES exams. 440 participants in total.



8 ERS HERMES self-assessment courses delivered in the Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Brazil, China, Egypt and Russia



48 Respiratory Digest articles



4 certified training programmes:
23 endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) programmes,
17 regional spirometry programmes,
15 respiratory sleep training modules,
1 thoracic ultrasound programme (TUS)

ADVOCACY



Jørgen Vestbo
Advocacy Council Chair

ERS has put forward, with passion, its stance on the issues affecting lung health in as many arenas as possible. Whether it is interacting with the WHO or EU or in launching the MEP Lung Health Group, the desire to promote respiratory health and stand for scientific excellence has never been greater. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted more than ever the importance of lung health and has been both an enormous challenge but also an opportunity to advance respiratory medicine.



7 awareness-raising events
at the European Commission
and Parliament



Over 35 statements and positions
launched together with partners
and alliances



ERS launched the MEP
Lung Health Group
with 17 supporters



More than 25 high-level meetings with
governments, agencies and health-related
organisations in the promotion of lung health

- ERS stepped up its role as a key member of an active Biomed Alliance participating in many taskforces.
- ERS organised a joint WHO/ERS/HEI/ISEE conference entitled “Air pollution and Health: Recent Advances to Inform the European Green Deal”.
- A successful Presidential Summit on unmet research needs in respiratory medicine was organised in Hanover, Germany.
- The official ERS position on tobacco harm reduction was promoted throughout the year and presented at the ERS International Congress 2019 in Madrid.
- ERS held new interactive awareness raising events on Lung Cancer and COPD in the EU quarter in Brussels.
- ERS carried out advocacy capacity-building workshops on people-centred TB care in Croatia and air pollution in Poland.

EUROPEAN LUNG FOUNDATION



ISABEL SARAIVA
ELF Chair

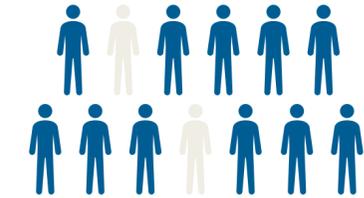
The European Lung Foundation (ELF) is dedicated to bringing patients and the public together with respiratory professionals to improve respiratory health. This activity includes actively involving patients in healthcare by ensuring the patient voice is incorporated at every level of ERS activities, as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

This year's achievements include:

- Effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a new COVID-19 section on the website including a Q&A in 11 languages, with over 100,000 views
- Sarcoidosis Patient Compass launched in 7 languages
- 2 new Patient Advisory Groups (PAG)s formed for COPD and sleep apnoea and new United PAG formed to deal with cross-disease issues



6 new factsheets produced this year that are now available in 24 languages



Patients involved in 37 task forces and Clinical Research Collaborations



European Patient Ambassador Programme (EPAP) launched in Spanish



34,431 factsheet downloads from ELF website



112,328 visitors to the ELF website each month



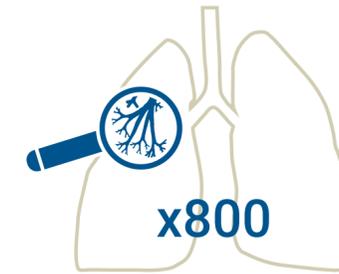
Reached over 10,000 followers on Twitter

HEALTHY LUNGS FOR LIFE



Healthy Lungs for Life is a lung health campaign raising awareness of the importance of healthy lungs to healthcare professionals, scientists, primary care patients, policymakers and the public through a full range of events projects and promotional activities.

The Healthy Lungs for Life campaign won the Incredible Impact Award in 2019 for initiatives creating a lasting legacy.



Over 800 members of the public had their lungs tested in Madrid city centre and 170 pledged to make positive HLfL changes



2019 ELF Award was given to Dr Maria Neira (Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health at the World Health Organization (WHO)). The award recognised the WHO's commitment to improving air quality globally and helping people to breathe clean air.



First global events held using grants from the Healthy Lungs for Life campaign.



www.ersnet.org