



Message from Isabel Saraiva, Chair of the European Lung Foundation:

Picture: European Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis and European Respiratory Society (ERS) President-Elect Thierry Troosters at the World COPD Day event in Brussels

2018 has been a fantastic year for ELF – and the past few weeks have rounded off the year with a lot of activities.

We recently participated in the World Health Organization's First Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health in Geneva. At the event, I spoke in a panel discussion on how the health sector can lead on preventing pollution-related health issues and was one of the only patients present.

It was an honour to be invited to speak at this event alongside national health and environment ministers from around the globe and mayors of major cities.

During the conference, ERS and ELF also publicly made a commitment on behalf of 28 medical societies and patient organisations to take active steps to reduce the harm caused by air pollution through awareness and education measures. You can read more about this – and how you can get involved – later in this newsletter.

We also recently marked World COPD Day alongside ERS at a Healthy Lungs for Life lung function testing event at the European Commission. Hundreds of Commission officials – and two Commissioners – came along to get their lungs tested and to learn more about COPD.

It was great to see how many of your organisations also celebrated World COPD Day with different events and awareness-raising activities. A selection of these are in our patient organisation round-up later in this newsletter.

Finally, as 2018 comes to an end, I want to say a big thank you to those of you that we have worked together with this year. We have achieved so much – and I look forward to continuing to work together in 2019.

December/January highlights and key dates:

- Saturday 1 December: World AIDS Day
- Friday 7 December: Patient Solidarity Day
- Friday 21 December: ELF office closes for the holidays
- Monday 7 January: ELF office reopens

Treating people with COPD for anxiety using CBT reduces visits to hospital and is cost-effective

[Find out more](#)

Study shows the impact of diesel pollution on the growth of children's lungs

[Find out more](#)

Exposure to e-cigarette adverts linked to teenagers using e-cigarettes and smoking

[Find out more](#)



NEW ELF FACTSHEET: CHILDREN'S INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE (CHILD)

We recently published a new factsheet on children's interstitial lung disease (ChILD) aimed at parents and carers.

ChILD is a term used to describe over 200 rare lung conditions that affect children. The factsheet explains what ChILD is, and how it is diagnosed and managed.

It is currently available to download in English, with translations to follow.

[Download the factsheet.](#)

PLEDGES MADE TO TACKLE IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION ON HEALTH AT LANDMARK WHO CONFERENCE

The First World Health Organization Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health took place in Geneva recently.

The landmark conference brought together politicians, scientific experts and activists from around the world with the aim of finding solutions. ERS and ELF were also there to participate on behalf of healthcare professionals and people living with lung conditions.

[Read more.](#)



WORLD COPD DAY: ERS AND ELF HOST LUNG TESTING EVENT AT EU COMMISSION

On Thursday 22 November, we joined the European Respiratory Society to mark World COPD Day with a lung function testing event at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels.

[Read more.](#)



FREE WEBINAR: SUBMITTING A PATIENT RESEARCH ABSTRACT TO THE ERS CONGRESS

Thursday 17 January, 2019 17:30-18:30 (CET)

We want to encourage more patient organisations and patient representatives to share their research at next year's ERS International Congress and so are offering a free webinar on writing and submitting an abstract.

The webinar will cover the submission process, deadlines, designing a poster and presenting your findings. It will be led by ELF and patient organisation representatives who have successfully done this.

Register your interest in the webinar by emailing jeanette.boyd@europeanlung.org. And if you have tips, please share them with us!



COULD YOU HELP SHAPE A GUIDELINE FOR CHILDREN WITH BRONCHIECTASIS?

We need patients and parents to help develop the first ERS international guideline for the management of bronchiectasis in children. Could you help make sure patient and parent views are at the heart of this new document?

[Read more.](#)



INTERVIEW WITH WERNER BILL,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY SOCIETY

We asked Werner Bill, the Executive Director of ERS, about the relationship between ERS and ELF, and the role that patients can play in the Society's activities.

[Read the interview.](#)



PATIENT ORGANISATION ROUND UP, DECEMBER 2018

Over the last few months, patient organisations have been busy supporting and advocating for people living with lung conditions throughout Europe.

[Read the full round-up.](#)

Picture: A tractor run to raise awareness and funds for the Irish Lung Fibrosis Association took place in Dingle at the end of November



The European Lung Foundation (ELF) was founded by the European Respiratory Society (ERS) in 2000 with the aim of bringing together patients, the public and respiratory professionals to positively influence respiratory medicine.

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