

ERS Conferences and Seminars Director

Background information & job description

The ERS Conferences and Seminar Directors is involved in several ERS activities including:

1. ERS Lung Science Conference
2. ERS Research Seminars
3. Online Scientific Workshops
4. External Meetings endorsement
5. Translational Science working group
6. ERS Congress Programme Committee (ICPC)

1. ERS Lung Science Conference

Background information

The ERS Lung Science Conference is a showcase for cutting-edge research and its translation into clinical solutions. Its originality and success are based on establishing dialogue between young scientists and established investigators.

The aim of the Conference is to

- Present the very best of international lung science research
- Highlight new discoveries likely to have an impact on the future of respiratory medicine
- Focus on key mechanisms in the pathogenesis of respiratory pathology
- Facilitate interaction between young post-doctoral scientists and established investigators
- Encourage active participation of young scientists either as participants, abstract presenters or session's chairs
- Explore interfaces between science and new developments in respiratory medicine

Objectives

- Increase number of high quality abstracts, submitted by young investigators and attract the best audience and speakers to the conference
- Spread knowledge and educate the audience with challenging sessions
- Increase the visibility of the LSC at the international level
- Improve interaction between basic and clinician scientists to facilitate translational research

With respect to the Lung Science Conference organisation, the Director has the following roles in collaboration with the Science Council Chair and with the administrative support of ERS staff.

- Chair the Science Events Working Group
- Propose the best Scientific Programme in accordance with potential participant's needs and newsworthy topics
- Coordinate the development and finalisation of the ERS Lung Science Conference Programme (including abstracts selection and allocation)
- Interact with Assembly Heads and Science Council Directors to obtain constructive feedback and proposals for topics, speakers, and target group of specialists
- Ensure the highest quality of scientific content and guarantee spread of knowledge and education of the audience and an appropriate balance among the faculty in term of gender, nationality and age.
- Adjust, whenever appropriate, the Conference format according to participants' feedback and suggestions from the Science Events Working Group.

N.B. On the application form, the candidates have to propose the main topics for the three Lung Science Conferences they will be in charge of, as this will be taken into account in the selection of the final candidate.

2. Research Seminars

Background information

Research seminars are scientific research-oriented events, the programme of which includes cutting-edge and basic science, unpublished data and research in progress. The main aim of these seminars is to gather a limited number (20 to 100) of well-established and young investigators in order to address scientific topics in depth and breaking new ground.

The aims of the Seminars are to

- Facilitate networking of experts and researchers and ensure in-depth discussions of research in progress and recently published work
- Present outstanding breaking news of international research and medicine
- Foster active participation from Early-career delegates either as speaker, abstract presenter or session's chair
- Publish a post-event article in an ERS publications and ensure dissemination of the Seminar's outcome and follow-up activities

Objectives

- Balance topics of seminars according to other ERS events and past seminars
- Attract the best audience and speakers
- Spread knowledge and define roadmaps for future scientific research and investigations
- Offer networking platform for young investigators in their field
- Provide a platform for innovative translational research in respiratory medicine

With respect to the Research Seminars organisation, the Director has the following roles in collaboration with the Science Council Chair and with the administrative support of ERS staff:

- Lead the reviewing process of seminars' proposals and ensure that the selection of topics is aligned with the needs of ERS Members and with the ERS' strategy
- Balance topics and schedules with other ERS events and conferences
- Lead kick-off teleconferences with Chairs of selected seminars, in order to review the scientific programme and expected seminar outcome, and to ensure proper balance of topics and of Faculty in term of gender, nationality, age and no conflict of interest with industry
- Ensure that organised events follow the ERS recommendations, guidelines and policy
- Contribute to the generation of additional revenues to support/enhance ERS Seminars
- Support and follow up on the Seminar's outcome

Note that ERS office provides administrative and logistical support in organising research seminars. The logistical aspects of ERS conferences and seminars are entirely organised by the ERS office (promotion, advertisement, invitations, registration, preparation of handouts, onsite organisation, etc).

3. Online Scientific Workshops

Background information

ERS Online Scientific Workshops are scientific research-oriented events, the programme of which includes cutting-edge and basic science, unpublished data and research in progress. These events are designed to support approved and ongoing CRCs or EU projects in which ERS is a partner.

Criteria for the organisation of ERS Online Scientific Workshops supporting existing projects in which ERS is partner are external funding availabilities, substantial achievements and results to be presented, timely relevance of the programme content and expected outcome need to be justified.

Objectives

- Disseminate projects results
- Foster networking
- Receive input from the community at key milestones of the project timeline
- Gather well-established and young investigators as future leaders of the field

Note that ERS office provides administrative and logistical support in organising Online Scientific Workshops. The logistical aspects of ERS conferences and seminars are entirely organised by the ERS office (promotion, advertisement, invitations, registration, online event, etc).

With respect to the Online Scientific Workshop organisation, the Director has the following roles in collaboration with the Science Council Chair and with the administrative support of ERS staff:

- Lead the reviewing process of workshops' proposals and ensure that the selection of topics is aligned with the needs of ERS Members and with the ERS' strategy
- Balance topics and schedules with other ERS events and conferences
- Lead kick-off teleconferences with Chairs of selected seminars, in order to review the scientific programme and expected seminar outcome, and to ensure proper balance of topics and of Faculty in term of gender, nationality, age
- Ensure that organised events follow the ERS recommendations, guidelines and policy
- Contribute to the generation of additional revenues to support/enhance ERS seminars and events

4. External Meetings Endorsement

Background information

The ERS is frequently asked to endorse main yearly events organised by respiratory national societies. It is key to maintain certain standards of performance and scientific quality in every initiative where the Society actively appears.

The aims of meetings endorsement are

Encourage national societies to collaborate with the ERS in order to ensure the high educational and scientific quality of the organised events. The proposed meeting or course should be able to stimulate an attendance of a reasonable size with regard to the specific characteristics of the initiative (congress, workshop, course, etc.), treating one specific topic, and not in competition with the events organised by the ERS.

Objectives

The applications are forwarded to the Conferences & Seminars Director, the ERS Educational Programmes Director, as well as the Head of the Assembly (if relevant to the topic of the event).

The Director, together with the other reviewers will:

- Review the proposed programme with particular attention to content and balance in topics and faculty expertise
- Assess the interest of the Society in endorsing the event
- Ensure that organised events follow the ERS recommendations, guidelines and policy (i.e: gender balance)
- Revise endorsement rules when required and present regularly events endorsed to the Science Council

5. Translational Science working group

Background information

Translational science studies/abstracts are those aiming at turning basic science observations into clinical interventions, improving the respiratory health of our patients, expanding it to lung diseases patient groups and eventually improving the global respiratory health.

The aims of the working group is:

- Prepare and lead the working group meetings (6 teleconferences/year)
- Collect ideas and proposals featuring the initiative and support the development of activities on all possible levels within the ERS (annual conference, Research and online Seminars, Respiratory Channel, ...)
- Screen accepted abstracts and tagged translational science for congress to propose dedicated translational science sessions

- Review tags for basic, translational and clinical sessions in the congress programme
- Report working group meetings outcome and activities at Science Council

Objectives

The aim of this working group is to strengthen efforts among all assemblies and bridging the gap between basic and clinical science to actively shape translational research at ERS. The objective is to act in a coordinating manner, communicate around the initiatives using different ERS channels and bringing different activities under one umbrella project. A series of ongoing and new initiatives will be put together and communicated to the ERS members to foster active participation.

6. ERS Congress Programme Committee (ICPC)

Background information

The ERS Conferences and Seminars Director acts as scientific programme advisor within the ERS Congress Programme Committee (CPC). In collaboration with the Congress Programme Committee Core group, his/her role is to support the elaboration of the scientific and educational programme of the world leading Congress for respiratory physicians.

Role within the CPC together with other members of the Core group:

- Review and shortlist the best sessions' proposals to ensure that a well-balanced range of topics is offered to delegates
- Identify topic opportunities/gaps in the programme and support the Assemblies to develop proposals to fulfil these needs
- Strive for the highest quality of scientific content and faculty and ensure that all sessions are subject to appropriate evaluation
- Guarantee that Congress sessions are linked and in line with guidelines, seminars, courses, conferences and other ERS activities
- Identify new session formats and suggest improvements of existing formats when needed

As a Director within the Science Council, you will need to attend the Science Council meetings (min. 3 physical meetings and several teleconferences/year). You may also be requested to attend the Executive Committee meetings upon invitation. Your participation to the Science Council meetings and ERS Congress will be fully covered by the ERS.

As member of the CPC core group, you will need to attend the CPC preparatory meetings (around 2 physical meetings and several teleconferences/year) organised alongside ERS congress and Science Council meetings. Your participation to the CPC preparatory meetings and the ERS Congress will be fully covered by the ERS.

Additional teleconferences are organised for the coordination of the different activities under the responsibility of the Conferences and Seminars Director (preparation of meetings, Research Seminars kick-off teleconferences and finalisation of the Lung Science Conference).