

ERS Clinical Research Collaborations Director 2025-2028

Role and responsibilities description

Background

The European Respiratory Society (ERS) supports the work of a Clinical Research Collaboration (CRC) in areas of respiratory medicine where a pan-European multi-centre network of principal investigators aims to advance science and clinical research within a specific disease area. An ERS CRC offers an umbrella for a network of researchers in a specific disease area, and may also integrate non-ERS members, representing different scientific disciplines which complement the network with multidisciplinary and multifunctional know-how and expertise. The aims of an ERS CRC would be to promote the exchange of research ideas among clinicians and affiliated scientists in Europe and/or globally; to plan, conduct, evaluate and publish clinical studies; gain eligibility for network funding; and build an infrastructure for prospective clinical research.

Over the past years, ERS has invested in the development of infrastructures to facilitate respiratory research and to promote high-quality, multinational respiratory research with the goal of improving the health of respiratory patients. To this aim, the ERS Research Agency is currently supporting various activities including, among others, assisting CRC chairs in the development and implementation of clinical research projects.

ERS collaborates as well on a number of EU-funded projects that look at unmet medical and societal needs in the field of respiratory health. The projects address different aspects in the translational process and how observations in the clinic, laboratory or community turn into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public.

Role of the Director

The ERS CRC Director ensures a coherent and comprehensive CRC portfolio as well as a smooth, fair and transparent selection process of new initiatives. The appointed applicant guarantees the development of the ERS Research Agency capacities in line with the ERS leadership vision to position ERS as a key player in the field. The CRC Director advises the ERS Management Group on participation in consortia funded through EU commission framework and international funding programmes and supports the Science Council Chair in the strategic development of ERS scientific activities.

The post is not salaried but participation in meetings and in the ERS Congress will be fully covered by ERS.

Administrative and logistic support will be provided by the ERS Office.

Main responsibilities

- Maintain a diverse ERS CRC portfolio covering the range of respiratory medicine domains and define the strategic intents for the new CRCs in agreement with the Science Council.
- Lead the CRC Working Group, schedule meetings, prepare agendas, chair discussions and select members with the support of the ERS Office.
- Overview and chair the CRC programme application, reviewing and selection processes involving the ERS CRC Working Group.
- Provide leadership, medical and scientific expertise in the development of the ERS Research Agency.
- Report to the Science Council on processes, selection of new initiatives.
- Monitor the work of existing CRCs and propose appropriate corrective measures when a delay is foreseen (ultimate decision by Science Council).

- Contribute to fund raising activities and negotiation with potential industry partners for specific CRCs or research activities.
- Collaborate to the development of Lungs Europe activities and establish synergies between Lungs Europe and the CRC programme.
- Assess relevance of ERS participation in grant funded consortia.
- Ensure synergies between the CRC and other activities e.g. task force programs, , research seminars and online scientific workshops together with the relevant Directors and Science Council chair, or respiratory channel.
- Review the annual performance of the different activities linked to the position and come up with suggestions for changes and improvement to be evaluated by the Science Council.

Time commitment (per year)

- Science Council: 1 physical meeting and 4 teleconferences (including preparation meetings)
- CRC programme: 2-3 teleconferences with the CRC Working Group per year, one kick-off teleconference for each selected CRC, 10-20 applications and 20-25 annual reports to review per year
- Research Agency: regular teleconference with the ERS Office (bi-weekly call), participation in key teleconference with industry partners (about 5 per year)
- EU or other funding applications: 10-15 short proposals review per year
- Task forces: 3-4 teleconferences with the Guidelines Working Group
- ERS Congress participation

Her/his participation to meetings and to the ERS Congress will be fully covered by ERS.

Administrative and logistic support will be provided by the ERS Office

Term of office

This position has a 3-year mandate (non-extendable, non-renewable), commencing after ERS Congress in September 2025 and finishing at ERS Congress in September 2028. The CRC Director-elect would be expected to begin shadowing the current CRC Director around a year before the start of their mandate.

Personal requirements

- A proven track record of respiratory collaborative clinical research published in peer review journals.
- Previous experience in obtaining and managing research programmes, at country level or in a multi-national setting.
- Previous experience on research boards or research evaluation committees would be an asset.
- Good knowledge and experience in setting-up and managing multi-centric research projects, registries and biobanks.
- Keen interest in respiratory research and science at European level.
- Available to attend meetings in Europe, participate in teleconferences and able to devote requisite time to duties and activities follow-up.
- Good knowledge of ERS activities.
- Good team worker.
- Excellent communication and organisational skills with the ability to meet tight deadlines.
- Fluent in English.

Contact details for additional information

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