

Banner: Open Position (Volunteer) EU Scientific Relations Director

Title : Role and responsibilities description: EU Scientific Relations Director

Background information & job description

The European Respiratory Society (ERS) mission is to promote lung health and to alleviate suffering from disease and drive standards for respiratory medicine globally. Science, education and advocacy are at the core of all activities. ERS has an Advocacy Council dedicated to boosting public and political awareness on the importance of lung health, the need to tackle risk factors and to promote respiratory research.

The EU Scientific Relations Director is a member of the Advocacy Council and acts as the main reference point for EU related advocacy and science matters – liaising between the Advocacy Council and the Science Council.

As the sole Director within the Advocacy Council, the EU Scientific Relations Director attends the Advocacy Council meetings (3 meetings a year) and to fulfil the liaison role, should also attend the Science Council meetings wherever possible/relevant.

The ERS EU Scientific Relations Director is supported in their role by the ERS Advocacy Department and when needed by the ERS Scientific Department.

Tasks and responsibilities:

1. To increase awareness and visibility among EU policy and decision makers of ERS expertise and positions and, to communicate the needs of the respiratory research and science community to EU policy and decision makers and other stakeholders.

Examples of topics dealt with in the past include:

- EU research & innovation funding programmes;
- Personalised/Precision Medicine priorities for respiratory medicine
- Chronic disease agenda
- Prevention and public health issues

To fulfil this task, the EU Scientific Relations Director should liaise and exchange information with the ERS Science Council on specific science-policy areas.

2. To promote the involvement of the ERS and its members in European and international research programmes in respiratory science and medicine, not only as applicant, but also as reviewers/evaluators, and in various committees. In this context, the EU Scientific Relations Director together with the Science Council Chair and Clinical Research Collaboration Director should evaluate incoming requests for ERS and/or European Lung Foundation (ELF) involvement/participation as a partner in research projects for recommendation to the ERS Management Group.
3. Lungs Europe is a Brussels-based collaboration between ELF and ERS. Established in November 2019, Lungs Europe allows ELF and ERS to work in partnership and with other important organisations in the respiratory field, to drive policy and the regulatory environment in support of lung health at the European level and participate in the EU projects related to respiratory health and disease. The EU Scientific Relations Director together with the Science Council Chair and Advocacy Council Chair will oversee the work of Lungs Europe, evaluate incoming requests for Lungs Europe involvement/participation as a partner in research projects for recommendation to the ERS Management Group.
4. Given the nature of this role, the Director will be required to attend to external meetings, generally in Brussels, such as EU conferences, meetings of various alliances, workshops and other events – upon recommendation of the Advocacy Department.

Personal Requirements and qualifications

- You are an ERS member
- A proven track record of respiratory research published in peer reviewed journals
- Practical/ field experience in cross-border (trans-national) multi-centre clinical research at European level
- Understanding of the translational respiratory needs i.e. bridging the gap between basic and clinical research
- Understanding and interest in advocacy and its value to the Society
- Interest in developing the ERS science-advocacy interface with the aim to achieve better recognition and awareness from external audiences e.g. funders, European Union decision makers etc.
- Interest in representing ERS towards non-respiratory / non-medical audiences
- Available to attend meetings in Europe (approx. 4 meetings/year)
- Able to devote requisite time to duties
- Excellent communication skills
- Fluent in English

Applications, consisting of a short CV and cover letter, should be sent to Marta Montanari marta.montanari@ersnet.org by 31st January 2025.