



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



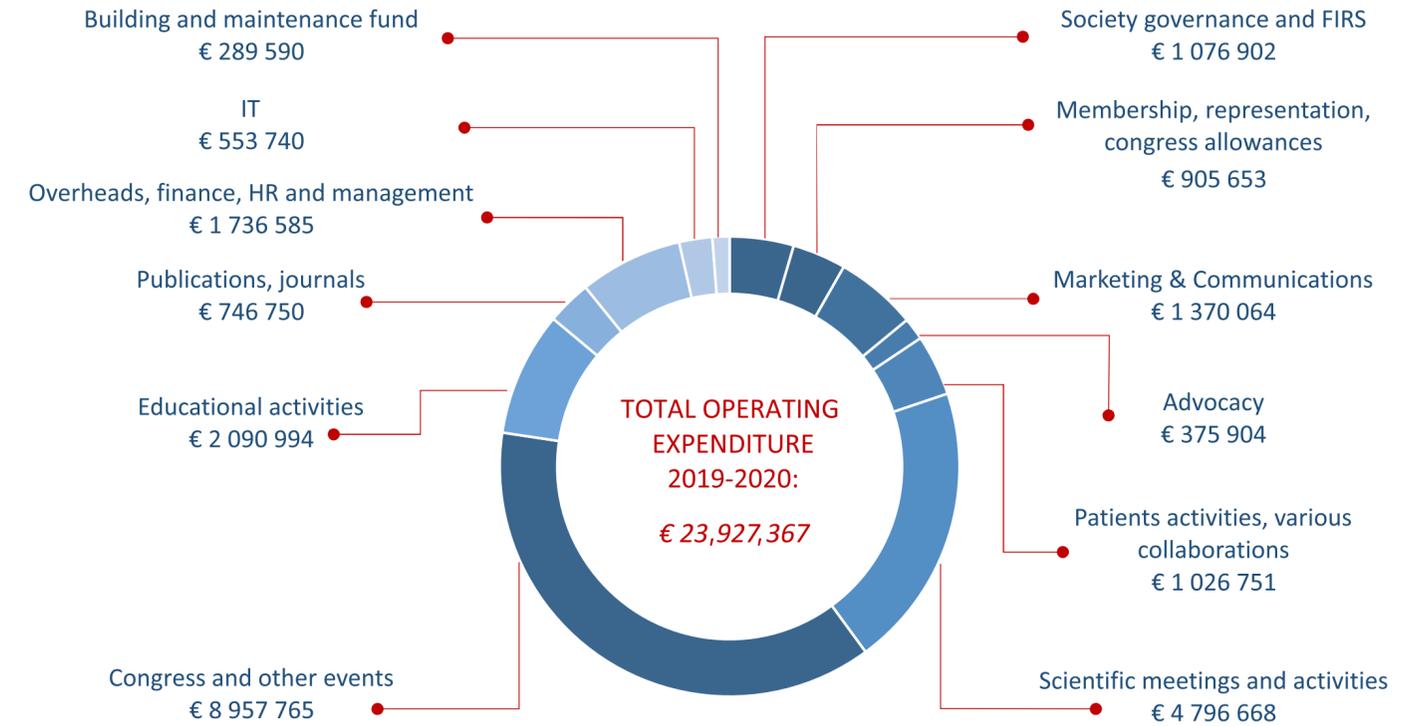
**7 new agreements**

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

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



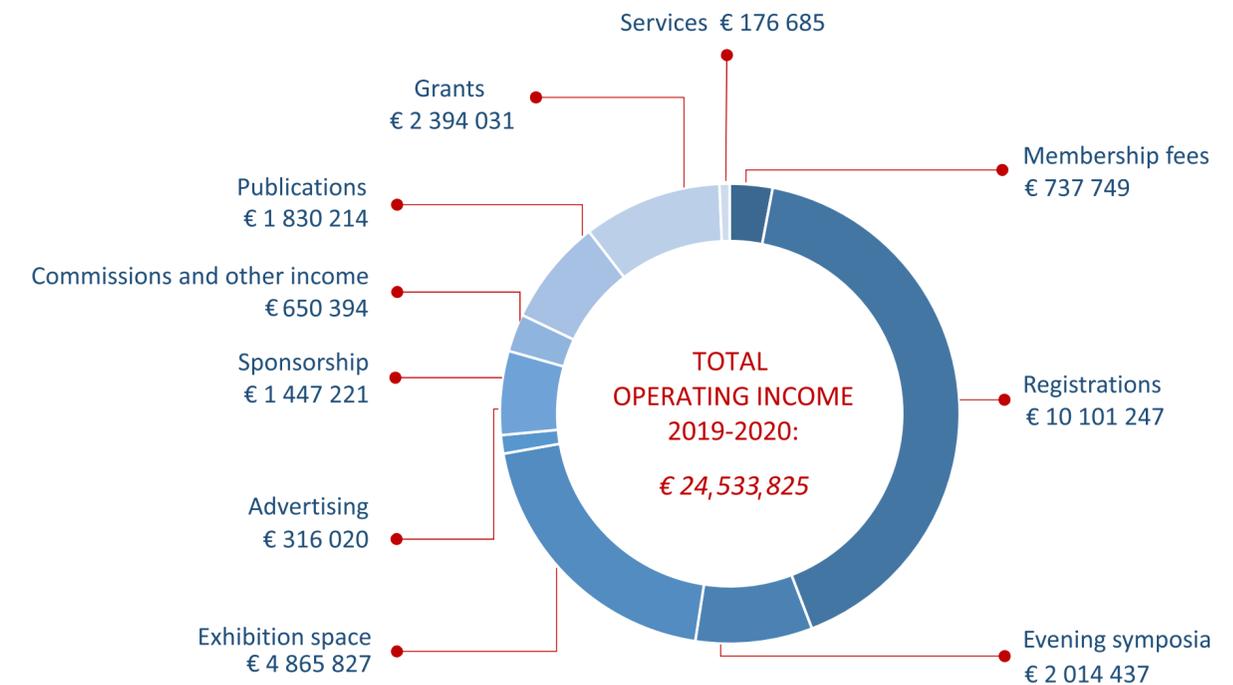
**THOMAS GEISER**  
ERS Treasurer



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

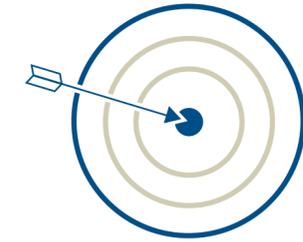


**CHRISTOPHER E. BRIGHTLING**  
Science Council Chair

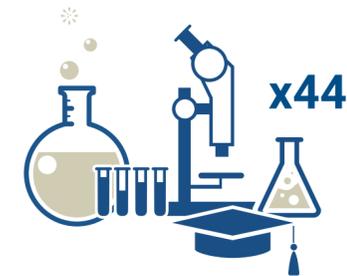
ERS scientific activities put an emphasis on respiratory disease research and strengthening the clinical evidence base. This mission spans a range of activities including: fellowship opportunities; scientific conferences and seminars; publications; endorsement of pragmatic trials; funding for guidelines, 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



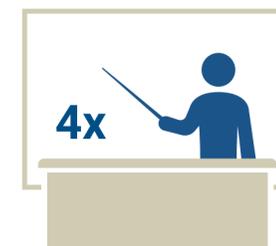
The ERR 2019 impact factor  
is 6.220



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.



[www.ersnet.org](http://www.ersnet.org)