

European Lung Foundation Chair

Role description

European Lung Foundation

ELF is a patient-led organisation with a patient-driven agenda that works internationally to bring patients and the public together with healthcare professionals to improve lung health and advance diagnosis, treatment and care. ELF maintains a close connection with the ERS and its leadership, ensuring that the respiratory voice (both professional and patient) is focussed on achieving common goals.

ELF has two **strategic priorities**:

First, to ensure **that people with lung diseases and the general public have the opportunity to influence respiratory health at the European level**. Second, to ensure that the **messages and latest research from the ERS are communicated to patients, the public and policy makers**.

To ensure that people with lung diseases and the general public have the opportunity to influence respiratory health at the European level ELF has:

- a network and advisory group (PAC) of patient organisations from across Europe covering all respiratory disease areas. The PAC is key in advising ELF and ERS, and inputting into the International Congress, Task Forces and publications
- 15 disease-specific patient advisory groups (PAGs), which provide a strong and stable input for all lung conditions and drive the patient agenda. Members of the PAGs can be patient organisation representatives or individual patients
- 5 working groups, which work on cross-disease topics – such as mental health, transplantation and air quality
- ELF runs EPAP (the European Patient Ambassador Programme), which is a free-to-use educational programme for any individual with a chronic condition to learn the necessary skills for interactions with healthcare professionals, politicians and the media. This platform helps individuals/patients to gain the skills they need to take part in ELF activities, become PAG members and eventually join the ELF leadership, as well as ensuring that ELF is a leader in the field with regards to patient involvement.

To ensure that the messages and latest research from the ERS are communicated to patients, the public and policy makers, ELF has:

- a multilingual website that provides lung information to the public (www.europeanlung.org)
- factsheets, developed with patients and ERS experts, providing reliable and accurate information on a range of lung health and disease topics in 29 European languages
- workshops, conferences and webinars with patients and professionals
- an ambitious and forward-thinking awareness campaign – Healthy Lungs for life – that focusses on the prevention of lung disease by educating all stakeholders in respiratory medicine

ELF Chair

The role of ELF Chair is prestigious, and key to the success of ELF in achieving its aims. ELF is pro-active and innovative, and is at the forefront of defining patient involvement with ERS – the leading respiratory medical society. The ELF Chair is elected for a period of 3 years, not renewable, and has the following roles in collaboration with the ELF Director and staff.

- Providing support and advice to the ELF offices
- Representing ELF in governance of the ERS - the ELF Chair is an observer of the ERS Management Group, a member of the ERS Executive Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Advocacy Council, the Environment and Health Committee and the Tobacco Control Committee
- Working with the ERS leadership to ensure coherent strategies for ERS and ELF
- Chairing meetings of the ELF Council, and a member of the Professional and Patient Advisory Boards, and the United PAG (UPAG)
- Building and maintaining strong relationships with national and international patient organisations – ensuring that patients and patient organisations are valued partners, as well as entities such as WHO
- Furthering the role of the patient in ERS activities – chairing patient sessions at the ERS congress, getting involved with Task Forces and guidelines, advocating for patient input
- Guiding the contents of ELF patient educational material and the ELF website
- Being an ambassador for lung health and ERS/ELF – leading awareness campaigns such as Healthy Lungs for Life
- Keeping up to date with ERS EU activities and effectively representing ELF
- Speaking on behalf of ELF at press conferences and public events

Experience in the following fields is important:

- Passionate about public and patient involvement
- Interest in patient education
- Ability to engage in advocacy at the European (WHO Europe and EU) and International levels
- Interest in educating the general public/raising awareness about lung health
- Ability to devote requisite time to duties
- Excellent communication skills and fluent in English
- Some experience of press or PR experience would be beneficial
- Some experience of supporting income generation/fundraising would be beneficial

The individual

- A patient or someone with lived experience of a lung condition
- Should have strong leadership skills
- Should be 'politically' astute in the area of European healthcare and willing to actively listen to a wide range of views
- Should have good interpersonal skills and be a team player
- Should be prepared for some travel on behalf of ERS and ELF
- Should be prepared to be part of the ERS Leadership, and to interact with them to promote ERS and ELF aims
- Should understand and engage with the committee system of management that both ERS and ELF use
- Should understand and be prepared to work with a professional executive staff, both in ELF and ERS

Timelines

- September-October 2025 – advertisement of position
- November 2025 – shortlist selection process
- December 2025 – one-to-one interviews (date to be confirmed)
- January 2026 – first meeting as ELF Chair elect; start of shadow/handover period
- September 2026 – new ELF Chair assumes role

Process

Please send a CV and covering letter outlining the reasons that you feel that you may be suitable for the post and your vision for the post and the future of ELF to elections@ersnet.org by **01 November 2025**.

Please feel free to contact the current ELF Chair (Dimitris Kontopidis dimitriskontopidis@gmail.com) or the ELF Director (pippa.powell@europeanlung.org) with any questions about the role.