



The Year of the Lung kicks off in Mexico

A campaign for pulmonologists all over the world.

CANCUN - The Year of the Lung campaign was officially launched at the 40th Union World Conference on Lung Health, after the Forum of International Respiratory Societies decided unanimously to designate 2010 The Year of the Lung.

A few years ago, the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) acknowledged that lung health has been neglected in public discourse and on the political agenda, despite the fact that millions of people suffer and die from respiratory diseases. In order to reverse this unacceptable situation and increase the awareness of lung health issues, the FIRS declared 2010 the Year of the Lung.

The objectives of this campaign are to: promote global advocacy on lung health and diseases, act to prevent lung diseases and diagnose these illnesses early in their course, increase the funding for research on the respiratory system, and promote legislation in favour of clean air and a tobacco-free environment.

After a year of intense preparation, this campaign was launched on December 6, 2009 in Cancun, Mexico during the world conference of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (IUATLD).

In a ceremony attended by more than 2,000 delegates, Presidents of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP), ERS, IUATLD, the incoming President of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) and representatives



of the other sister societies (Asociación Latinoamericana de Tórax (ALAT), Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR) and Pan African Thoracic Society (PATS)) presented the aims and objectives of the Year of the Lung and signed a unique declaration. This event was followed by an international press conference with the Presidents of the ATS, ERS and IUATLD. The media were informed about the campaign, its objectives and the importance of respiratory diseases worldwide. Hundreds of millions of people suffer from respiratory diseases globally and these diseases are responsible for millions of mortalities each year. Vital statistics concerning chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other common diseases, such as lung

cancer, tuberculosis, pneumonias and asthma, were presented in order to show the extreme burden caused by respiratory diseases worldwide. COPD is the only chronic disease that is on the increase, in contrast to chronic cardiovascular diseases.

FIRS will invite at least 400 societies and organisations to unite behind this global call for action against lung diseases. Overall coordination will be the responsibility of the FIRS, but each of the international sister societies will organise and coordinate activities in their continent. Thus, the ERS will coordinate actions in Europe.

The European Year of the Lung

The launch of the Year of the Lung in Europe will take place on the January 30, 2010 in Marseille, France during the annual Congrès de Pneumologie de Langue Française (CPLF). Furthermore, in collaboration with FERS, the ERS is organising a number of press conferences at specific events, such as the annual congress of the ERS in Barcelona, Spain.

In April 2010, a visit to the European Parliament from all the presidents of the national respiratory

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Nikos Siafakas, ERS President

societies has been planned, so that they can meet members of the Parliament and the Health, Research and Environmental Commissioners, and lobby for more laws against environmental pollution and climate change that affects the respiratory system, prevention of respiratory illnesses and more funds for research.

In addition, during the Barcelona meeting, the second edition of the ERS White Book will be launched, as well as the Booklet on Clean Air and the Lungs.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Belgian Presidency, a meeting on chronic diseases will take place and chronic respiratory illnesses have been included for discussion. During

the ERS Annual Congress in Barcelona, sessions will be organised with the Spanish Presidency Administration, for the further exploration of home delivery care systems in respiratory medicine.

Finally, a research meeting is going to take place in Brussels, in order to identify the urgent need for further research in respiratory medicine. The conclusions of this meeting will be presented to the Research Commissioner, to IMI, to EMRC and to the committees of the FP8; more funding will be requested in these areas of urgent need.

World Spirometry day

Another global event that the ERS is responsible for is the World Spirometry Day. It was decided that on October 14, 2010 free spirometry will be provided for the public in hospitals, private offices, primary care settings and tents across the world. It is estimated that if this event is successful and a huge number of spirometric tests were performed all over the world on the same day, it would generate great publicity for respiratory health and disease issues globally.

In summary, 2010: the Year of the Lung is a multifaceted campaign that aims to raise awareness about the importance of the lung health, to generate social and political support

for the prevention and treatment of lung diseases and to promote lobbying for public and private funding for research in lung diseases. Please join this first global effort in the field of respiratory health and disease.

For this campaign to be a success, we need all respiratory health professionals to take active part in this global effort. Finally, more information can be found on the following website: www.2010yearofthelung.org

Special activities in 2010 for the Year of the Lung:

- **January 30:** European launch of the Year of the Lung during the Congrès de pneumologie de langue française congress, Marseille, France
- **April 13:** Meeting at the European Parliament with representatives from all National European respiratory societies, MEPs and EU research Commissioner Quality and the lungs
- **September 18-22:** ERS Congress Barcelona; 20th ERS Anniversary with special sessions dedicated to promoting the Year of the Lung
- **October 14:** World Spirometry Day coordinated by the ERS
- **November:** European Conference on Chronic diseases

Impressum

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Graphic design: Alinea édition
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The ERS Newsletter is produced six times a year by the European Respiratory Society and is viewed by more than 20,000 pneumologists in Europe and overseas.

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