

Patient & Professionals: Budding Collaboration in Programme Building

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Patient and public involvement (PPI) is a rapidly developing area of healthcare, with health professionals seeing the value of involving and engaging patients across their activities, for example when writing guidelines and doing research. The European Respiratory Society (ERS) and the European Lung Foundation (ELF) remain at the forefront of this movement by supporting patient involvement across ERS educational and scientific activities. ELF was founded by ERS in 2000 with the aim of bringing together patients and the public with respiratory professionals to positively influence lung health. People with specific respiratory conditions are recruited to take part in the ERS International Congress:

Patient demonstrators participate alongside a health professional to demonstrate a non-invasive technique e.g. inhaler or ultrasound. They may also be asked to talk about aspects of their personal experiences, such as their symptoms or medication side effects. They have no requirement to speak English, as they tend to be local and the guide will be able to translate for them. Demonstrators do not need to prepare a presentation.

Patient speakers give presentations in ERS Congress sessions about living with their condition. They will have a good level of English. Speakers most likely will need to prepare a presentation with accompanying PowerPoint slides. To enable patients to fully engage in ERS activities, we offer appropriate support. At the 2015 ERS International Congress in Amsterdam, we introduced the patient guide role for the first time to help ELF achieve optimum support for patients taking part. The aim of having patient organizations at Congress is to:

- present the patient perspective in scientific and educational sessions
- promote the role of patient organizations
- strengthen the European community of respiratory patient organizations
- encourage professionals to engage with patient organizations
- promote the wider participation of patients and patient organizations in healthcare worldwide

In total, over 90 patients, carers and patient organization representatives took part in the 2017 ERS International Congress. This session would cover the:

- Challenges faced to involve patients (logistical and behavioral)
- Vision of patient-professional collaboration in the future development of (i.e. in the creation of assessments, development of sessions
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