

EDITORIAL

ESRM: What is it?

The European School of Respiratory Medicine (ESRM) was created by the European Respiratory Society in 1992 with two objectives:

- 1 – to harmonize training in respiratory medicine and allied specialities among all European countries.*
- 2 – to promote continuous education.*

Since the onset, ESRM has worked closely with the Pneumology section of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), founded in 1958. This committee, and each of its sections (like the pneumology one), has two representatives nominated by each of the fifteen European Union (EU) countries, one representing the medical profession and one the scientific society (ies).

However, it is the only body officially recognized by the EU Commission, which has till now refused links proposed by the scientific societies, even the European ones.

UEMS and ERS together have issued the first report on training requirements and facilities in Europe, published in the European Respiratory Journal (ERJ 1994; 7: 1019-22). ESRM objectives are broader than UEMS ones, since it has to take care of non (not yet?) EU countries, as well as of specialities outside pneumology (paediatrics, thoracic surgery) and of non medical professions (respiratory nurses, technicians and physiotherapists). UEMS and ESRM are presently coming even closer by establishing a permanent office inside the ERS office in Paris. Their immediate objective is to build a list of all European training centres in pneumology, with a description of the facilities they are offering, in order to promote the circulation of trainees between European countries.

In the field of continuous education, ESRM is trying to cooperate with National Societies and to explore several possibilities for common activities:

- 1 – co-organisation of postgraduate teaching, either in English or in the national language, for instance on the occasion of the national congress or during specific seminars.*
- 2 – organization of courses in several languages during the ERS Annual Meeting (we would be quite happy to add Portuguese in Geneva in 98, which would also be of interest to our Brazilian colleagues).*
- 3 – translation of material published by the ERS Journals Ltd (the ERS branch based in Sheffield, which is in charge of its publications), such as European Respiratory Topic or Monographs. Such translations into Italian are starting, and discussions for a French version are ongoing actively.*

At the personal level, I shall be quite honoured to deliver a lecture at the next SPP meeting and hope that this will be the start of a fruitful cooperation between SPP, ESRM and ERS.

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