

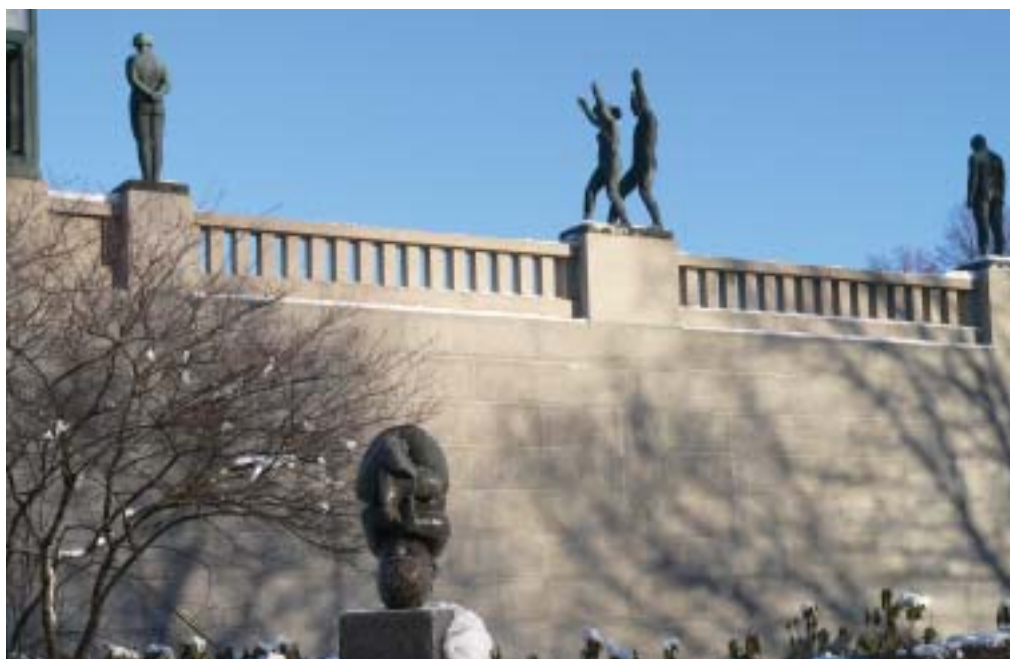


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## Trans-atlantic educational cooperation: ERS and ATS



Over the last 2 years, relations between the European Respiratory Society (ERS) School and the American Thoracic Society (ATS) educational committee have been strengthening. This association has been developed with the support of the leadership and the Executive committees of the two societies.

One of the aims of the collaboration between the ERS School and ATS educational committee is to organise a number of events, the first of which will take place this year. The first is a course on the topic of Basic Asthma and will take place on June 8–10 in Oslo.

The programme will consist of lectures combined with interactive sessions, with presentations of case reports or other material from the participants, and practical sessions, involving the demonstration of lung function measurement, exercise testing, measurements of bronchial responsiveness, exhaled nitric oxide

and breathe condensate (see the Review on page 228 for more information on this subject). The programme is comprehensive but, at the same time, basic. It will give an overview of asthma, epidemiology, pathogenetic mechanisms, diagnosis and diagnostic procedures, as well as different treatment options available. The course will cover the span of asthma, from infancy to old age.

The faculty running the course consists of both respiratory physicians and paediatric pulmonologists. The contributing teachers have been selected from both societies and their areas of expertise cover all fields relating to asthma. Contributors from the ATS include the Past President Homer Boushey from San Francisco (CA), the Chair of the ATS Educational Committee Molly Osbourne from Portland (OR), Fernando D. Martinez from Tucson (AZ), Paul Blanc from San Francisco (CA), and Monica Kraft from Denver (CO). From the ERS, the contributing teachers



include Peter J. Sterk and Klaus F. Rabe, present Chief Editors of the *European Respiratory Journal* from Leiden in the Netherlands, Leo M. Fabbri from Modena (Italy), Andrew Bush from London (UK), the present Secretary of the Paediatric Assembly, and Kai-Håkon Carlsen from Oslo (Norway), present Chair of the ERS School and Chief Editor of *Breathe*.

The course in Basic Asthma has been designed following the model of the ERS School courses, which, over the last 2 years, have been organised in many different cities throughout Europe. We hope that this course will attract many participants and will be highly successful.

The second joint course planned for this year will take place in Prague on June 20–23 and will be concerned with Methods in Clinical Research. This is a course developed by Sonia Buist from Portland (OR), and is based upon the so-called MECOR courses that have been held in Latin America for training participants in methods relating to epidemiological research. The MECOR courses are organised on several levels, and the course on Methods in Clinical Research will correspond to the first level of the MECOR courses and may be followed later with courses aimed at higher levels. The organisers include Sonia Buist and Fernando D. Martinez from the ATS, and Peter Burney and Per Bakke from the ERS. The course will be limited to 30 participants, in order to enhance practical training and interactivity.

The third joint course is being planned for 2006 and will take place in the USA. The topic will be COPD, and the organisers will include Martin Hansen-Flaschen from the ATS, and Marc Decramer and Bruno Balbi from the ERS.

The ERS School courses which now take place outside the Annual Congress were initiated in 2003 and now continue into their third year. So far, they have been highly rated by the participants. One advantage of these courses is their

location: the ERS Annual Congress increases in size from one year to the next, and now, for practical reasons, can only be organised in a limited number of European cities; the ERS School courses are organised in cities distributed around Europe, enabling participants to visit different countries with varied traditions and places of interest. Examples of cities where ERS School courses have been organised include Florence, Barcelona, Pisa, Budapest, Lausanne, Paris and Bucharest, and the list will further increase this year.

The Basic Asthma course taking place in Oslo in June will be organised in a congress hotel located next to the famous ski jump, Holmenkollen. Participants can visit the ski museum and the top of the ski jump, located only a 5-minutes walk from the hotel. They will also have the opportunity to visit the famous Vigeland sculpture park, the museum of Viking ships and the Munch museum, to name but a few locations. We would like to wish you all a warm welcome to this course, as well as to all the other ERS School courses.

