



## A new editor for the flagship ERS educational journal

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As the new Chair of the ERS School, I am very happy to be writing my first editorial for *Breathe* as Chief Editor. This position offers the School Chair a great opportunity to disseminate some of the valuable material produced by the ERS School to a wide audience all across Europe and the World. In addition, the excellent articles now being submitted to the journal make *Breathe* an interesting, varied and informative publication.

I would like to thank Kai-Håkon Carlsen, the previous School Chair and Editor of this educational journal, for his hard work in establishing *Breathe* and for launching it and nurturing it through its first year. This year has seen the journal improve in many ways: substantially increased submission rates, tighter selection policies for inclusion, and more applications for CME

accreditation. In addition, I am delighted that *Breathe* received a special commendation from the judges of the recent awards presented by ALPSP (Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers [www.alpsp.org](http://www.alpsp.org)) and open to journals across the world. They stated: "In the Best New Journal category, *Breathe*, published by the European Respiratory Society has a refreshing and stylish approach."

During my mandate as Editor, I aim to continue the short tradition of the journal by including a true variety of material in each issue. Every edition will include a range of articles from across the field of respiratory medicine, targeted specifically at clinicians and allied respiratory workers. Additionally, in its second year, *Breathe* will develop some new sections, in order to provide more variety and depth of articles.



## This issue

This issue is again packed with interesting articles that I hope will be an enjoyable read. Our up-to-date reviews include a much-needed paper by Jean-Francois Cordier, which discusses the issue of rare and orphan lung diseases. These diseases often lack attention from clinicians, drug companies and the general public, as they occur so infrequently. However, this does not mean that patients and families of patients with these diseases do not suffer just as much as those with common illnesses. In fact, patients with rare and orphan lung diseases may suffer much more, as they may have to wait a long time for a diagnosis and then may not be able to find appropriate treatment. This review gives a great overview on this subject from a renowned expert in this field.

The use of ultrasound and endobronchial ultrasound is discussed in detail in this issue of *Breathe* by Felix Herth. This review assesses the most important and interesting articles in the field, and describes the techniques and developing applications. From this review, it is hoped that readers will be encouraged to learn more about transthoracic techniques, particularly with regard to transthoracic ultrasound.

Following on in the tradition set by Kai-Håkon Carlsen, and utilising the excellent material produced for the ERS School each year, this issue includes one review from the Postgraduate Courses that were held at the ERS Congress in Copenhagen this year and one from the ERS School Course on Asthma that took place in Oslo in June.

## School courses

The Postgraduate Courses in Copenhagen were well attended and successful. Material from the course on "Diet and pulmonary diseases: benefits and risks" has been selected for publication in this issue of *Breathe*, and this brief overview explains that diet can have either a positive or negative influence on lung health. This is a hot topic due to the growing concern over obesity in Europe and the quality of the diet of both children and adults today.



The School Course on Asthma was held in collaboration with the American Thoracic Society, and resulted in a varied and interesting programme. One paper from this course has been selected for publication in this issue and concerns asthma and exercise. With the increasing pressure on athletes with asthma to perform to a high standard, there are now tight regulations concerning medications that can be taken when competing. This review underlines the pathophysiology related to exercise-induced asthma, how this asthma can be treated and what the implications are for high-class athletes. It is most appropriate that the author of this article is the Past-Chair of the ERS School Kai-Håkon Carlsen, assuring us of the continuance of his major contribution to ERS education.

I would like to thank you for picking up *Breathe* and taking the time to read it, and I would like to invite everyone once again to submit review articles, case presentations and any comments to us at [breathe@ersj.org.uk](mailto:breathe@ersj.org.uk)