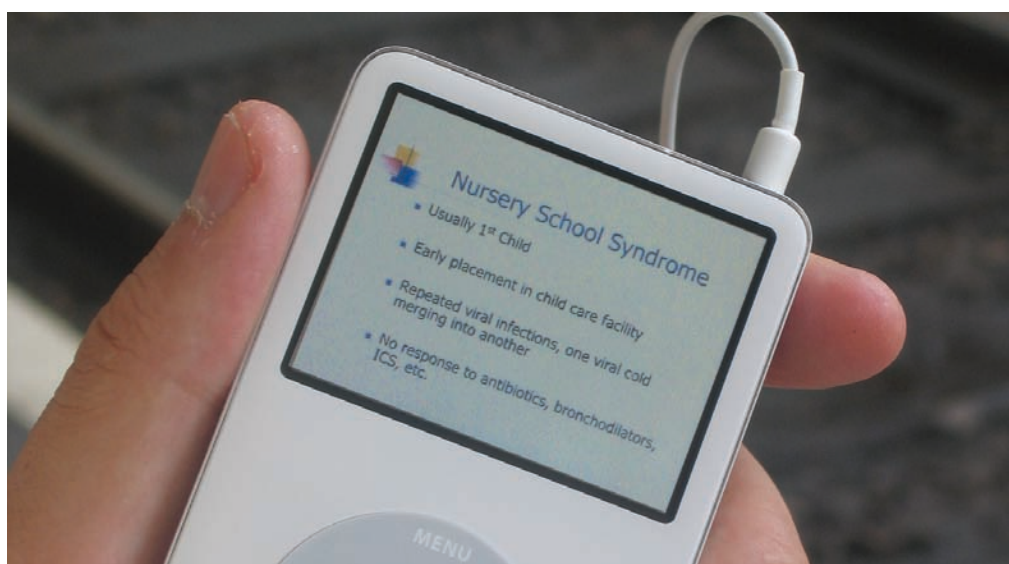




ERS new educational website now offers Podcasts and **RSS**



◀ The lectures and courses recorded from the Annual Congress will now be available as podcasts at www.ers-education.org.

The webcasts recorded from live events, such as School Courses or the Annual Congress, have proven to be a great success in recent years. In order to offer a more up-to-date format and a more convenient technology, the European Respiratory Society (ERS) is now pleased to offer lectures from the Annual Congress in podcast and PDA video formats with RSS feeds.

Web casts on iPod and PDA

From the Annual Congress 2006, lectures recorded at ERS events will be available in iPod audio and video formats, as well as in PDA versions. If you have an Apple iPod supporting videos or a PDA (Windows Mobile), you will be able to listen to and watch the slides of ERS educational material on the train or while waiting for a plane.

One of the limitations of the current webcast is the restriction of watching it in the office on a

computer during work hours, as using a laptop is not always convenient. iPods and PDAs can be used any time, in any situation. You can very simply download the Podcast version of a specific lecture from the ERS Learning resources website the same way you would download a slide presentation or listen to a lecture.

Subscribe to ERS Podcasts

One of the main advantages of Podcasting is the opportunity to receive updated information as it is made available on the web (see box) *via* RSS. A typical RSS feed would be a subscription to news (text and images), which are sent to your computer as they are made available on your favourite journal website. This is comparable to the way you would receive an e-mail automatically when you are working on your computer. RSS feeds can be used with some web browsers (Firefox 1.5, Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0, Opera 8) or by dedicated software called aggregators, such as FeedReader or Pluck.



Podcasting means that RSS can feed you not only information in text format, but also audio and video files. This has been used recently by radio and TV channels to send radio and video programmes to end users. One of the simplest interfaces with which to collect radio and video

podcasting is iTunes, the famous software from Apple dedicated to iPods. Even if you do not have an iPod, you can use iTunes to subscribe to podcasting in a very simple way. Alternatively, you can use dedicated software, such as BitsCast or TVTonic.

Podcasts from the Annual Congress

Before the Annual Congress, or during the event, you will be able to subscribe to the sessions that you think will be of interest to you or those you will miss. With 18 sessions running in parallel, most Congress participants have to make a choice and will often miss some important lectures. By subscribing to the relevant session, the Podcast will be sent to your iPod or PDA as soon as it has been made available on the ERS website. Therefore, there is no need to check the website regularly and no risk of forgetting about it.

ERS Podcasts can also even be watched on the Sony PSP (playstation portable). For a demo, or for advice, please visit the ERS Stand during the Munich Congress.

Try your first ERS Podcast today and enjoy watching the amazing range of material available from the ERS when travelling or in your leisure time.

Visit the new ERS educational website www.ers-education.org

What is Podcasting?

Podcasting is the method of distributing multimedia files, such as audio programs or music videos, over the Internet using the RSS syndication format, for playback on mobile devices such as iPods, PDAs (personal digital assistant) and personal computers. The term 'podcast', like 'radio', can mean both the content and the method of delivery.

Podcasting is an automatic mechanism by which multimedia computer files are transferred from a server to a computer. The publish/subscribe model of podcasting is a version of push technology, meaning that the information provider chooses which files to offer in a feed and the subscriber chooses among available feed channels. While the user is not "pulling" individual files from the web, there is a strong "pull" aspect in that the receiver is free to subscribe to (or unsubscribe from) a vast array of channels.

Podcasting has been made popular by Apple and its famous iPod, but the principle can apply to many devices, from desktop computers to PDAs.

For more information about RSS and podcasting, visit www.rss-specifications.com and www.podcastingnews.com