



Happy birthday *Breathe*

B*Breathe* begins its 2nd year with the present issue, which aims to reach all participants at the European Respiratory Society (ERS) Annual Congress in Copenhagen. In its 1st year, *Breathe* has found its place among the publications of the ERS, as its educational journal. *Breathe* has developed its own style, stimulating its readers with questions and answers related to the different types of articles contained within: review articles, case reports, hot topics and material from the ERS School Courses. One sign that the members of the ERS and other readers are starting to recognise *Breathe* is the increasing number of spontaneous submissions of review articles and case reports. From the beginning, we have emphasised the fact that all material submitted to *Breathe* will be subject to peer review, with a strong focus on both scientific and educational value. This is important to ensure the quality of the content. The current issue contains some of the best material yet in respect to the aims of the journal.

The present issue contains an important review paper on childhood interstitial lung diseases, written by the new Head of the Paediatric Assembly, Andy Bush, from London, UK. Interstitial lung disease in the paediatric age differs to some extent from adult interstitial lung disease. Most of these disorders are rare, but also severe. The diagnosis may be difficult and, in some cases, may depend upon open lung biopsy. An updated review on these disorders is most welcome.

Vocal cord dysfunction has, over the latter years, become increasingly recognised as a differential diagnosis to asthma and other respiratory disorders. This has been particularly focused upon in relation to exercise-induced asthma, although vocal cord dysfunction also has other implications. In the present issue, this topic is reviewed by Andrew Stanton and Christine Bucknall, who put

an emphasis on the presence of laryngeal hyper-responsiveness.

Training of inspiratory muscles is an important part of pulmonary rehabilitation in COPD and other respiratory disorders. Alison McConnell and co-workers focus on this topic, and give an overview of the common techniques and their implementation.

Induced sputum has become an established method in assessing airways inflammation in research studies and is used evermore increasingly. Elizabeth Fireman reviews the usefulness of this method applied to occupational and environmental respiratory medicine as a measure related to environmental and occupational exposure.

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Several topics are presented from the Postgraduate courses and the ERS School Courses. In anticipation of the Postgraduate courses that will be presented at this year's annual congress, R. Zaleskis has contributed a review on the side-effects of TB therapy. In addition, information from presentations that were given at the ERS School Course on Smoking Cessation, held in Bucharest in December 2004, is included.

Finally, three useful case presentations are included in the present issue and four hot topics referring to recently published important scientific articles.

As the Chair of the ERS School for the last 3 years, I have participated in the process of developing *Breathe* from the start, as an idea, to the realisation, as the educational publication of the ERS. It has been a pleasure to work together with Jean-Luc Eiselé and Pippa Powell as the Managing Editors of *Breathe* and Nicolino Ambrosino as the Editor of the Hot Topics in this process. *Breathe* has been one among several measures aimed to put a focus on education within our society. Over the last 3 years, the realisation of the e-learning resource centre on the web and the ERS School Courses outside the Congress at

different locations throughout Europe have taken place. We have also developed cooperation on educational issues with the American Thoracic Society and American College of Chest Physicians. It has been a pleasure to take part in this development and work together with excellent and able colleagues in the management of the ERS School. My term as Chair of ERS School is now complete and, as I now am handing over the relay baton as Chair of ERS School to Patricia Haslam, I wish her all the best luck in the continuation of this work and as the new Editor of *Breathe*.

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