

Dear friends,

We hope you had a good start to a project-filled and successful 2012! We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress of various ESPID activities relevant to Young ESPID.

1) Membership

At present 151 ESPID members are also part of Young ESPID. This means an overall growth of 25% compared to this time last year. 115 of these are from European member states and 36 from non European countries, worldwide. In total 42 countries are represented. A list of country representatives can be found on the Young ESPID webpage. Is your country not listed, but do you want to be a representative, please let us know! You can send your request to youngESPID@kenes.com. We hope to further increase Young ESPID's visibility and improve communication between its members over the coming year. In particular, it is hoped that the restructuring of the ESPID website (see below) will provide an opportunity to increase direct interaction between Young ESPID members.

2) Training questionnaire

Subsequent to the questionnaire sent to the Young ESPID members it was also sent to training program supervisors known to us. This showed similar results: no consistency between and within countries. This is relevant as a an updated curriculum for PID training is due for the UEMS, the European body that recognises medical (sub)specialist training programs. The new regulations also require institutions to be accredited, so your involvement is vital!

Other ways to identify training centres are to approach national paediatric societies and, when present, infectious diseases sections within these societies. We are currently preparing a document with this information, but local help is needed.

Eventually, we would aim to set up a database with details for PID training centres in and outside of Europe that Young ESPID members can access as a resource.

3) ESPID fellowship and awards programme

The ESPID board has increased the transparency and accountability for ESPID members benefiting from any of the ESPID awards and grant schemes. One of the items addressed are availability of funding throughout the year by using multiple deadlines for the smaller grants. For any applications submitted in the current round the required documentation and specifications are detailed on the website. Please be sure to consult the ESPID website to be kept up-to-date with any revised specifications. We would also like to encourage you to feed any relevant positive or negative comments regarding your experience with applications, grants and fellowships back to us. This will help to identify and clarify any problems that applicants may be experiencing.

Note that active participation in the society, and being a member of good standing are required to be eligible for any award. Please plan in advance and apply for funding in an early stage.

Sadly, as many of you who have visited the awards section of the ESPID website will have noticed, it has not been possible at present to secure funding for a second ESPID fellowship. The members of the Board are continuing to pursue options to enable ESPID to offer two fellowships in the future and we will keep you up-to-date regarding any progress in this matter.

4) ESPID website

The new ESPID website was launched last winter with, and a Young ESPID tab where you can find relevant information. Information regarding training and awards can be found in the relevant section. We have expressed the wish to be provided with a Young ESPID discussion forum as soon as possible to facilitate communication for ESPID members. This has not been realised so far.

5) ESPID summer school and educational material

A number of Young ESPID members are involved with the development of an ESPID summer school (Goal #7 in the ESPID strategic plan). Changing times and priorities have resulted for the moment in abandoning these plans. Local initiatives are however still encouraged and applications for funding can be sent to ESPID (for guidelines see the grants and awards section of the website). The development of an online database with relevant guidelines and information for ESPID members is still a key priority. For this good quality updated (inter)national guidelines and the input of Young ESPID members are needed. What information would you want to be present in this database? Please send your ideas to youngESPID@kenes.com. An update on how this is progressing will be available at the annual meeting in Milan.

6) Potential for Young ESPID research activities

To forge stronger ties among Young ESPID members and to give you the opportunity to involve the network in a research project, we have the possibility to carry out 1-2 research projects over the course of each year. The project remit should be to address a PID question by drawing on input from Young ESPID members across a number of countries. Topics may be suggested by the Research Committee or may be identified by Young ESPID members themselves. A one page proposal should be provided for this purpose. During the last ESPID meeting in Greece Ana Brett conducted a project on antimicrobial stewardship. The results will be presented during the Young ESPID session and has also been accepted for an e-poster session.

If we find that such projects flourish within Young ESPID, the aim would be to draw up a more standardised description of this activity and of the processes involved. Please let us know what you think about conducting research through Young ESPID.

7) Representation of Young ESPID in the board

Two Young ESPID members are present in the board as observers. Currently these are Julia Bielicki (until ESPID meeting 2014) and Marieke Emonts (until ESPID meeting 2015). This means that in the coming year we will have elections for one new representative. Young ESPID members who are interested to become more actively involved are invited to send their summarised CV, picture and a short description on their ideas and plans for Young ESPID to youngESPID@kenes.com before December 2013. Voting will take place in January and February 2014.

Finally we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Milan. There will be a Young ESPID session on Wed, May 29th between 8:30 and 10 am preceding the WM workshop. We will discuss the above points and any additional matters and of course spend some time socialising over coffee. In the meantime, please get in touch with any queries or suggestions!

Julia and Marieke