

Dear friends,

We hope you are doing all very well and are making plans to attend the annual ESPID meeting which will take place in Dublin this year! 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 159 ESPID members are also part of Young ESPID. This means an overall growth of 5% compared to this time last year. 117 of these are from European member states and 42 from non European countries, worldwide. In total 41 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. Not that if you have not paid your ESPID membership fees, you will be automatically removed from the list until you are again up to date with your payments.

2) Website

Currently we are discussing with Kenes how to further improve the website to increase Young ESPID's visibility and improve communication between its members over the coming year. Please let us know if you have any particular ideas you want us to explore.

3) PID training

A working group has been formed to make a draft for the updated curriculum for PID training in Europe. This will be discussed during the ESPID meeting in Dublin. We are still looking for one more member from either Eastern Europe or a memberstate that does not yet have a recognised PID training program. The questionnaire sent to the Young ESPID members and training supervisor showed there currently is no consistency between and within countries. This is relevant as a an updated curriculum for PID training, which is due for the UEMS, the European body that recognises medical (sub)specialist training programs, aims to incorporate these differences. 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. The information of various national societies will be published on the ESPID website and that in turn these societies will link to ESPID on their website.

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.

4) 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. 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.

One of the items currently being addressed is streamlining deadlines to allow for better integration particularly for our members from low income countries.

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. As you may have noticed, from this year the timeline are strictly enforced, members should take this into account in their planning.

In contrast to earlier information, the board informed us that luckily last year funding was secured for a second ESPID fellowship. This obviously is good news!! Moreover, additional funding has been made available for educational grants.

5) 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. We aim to publish these newsletters on the website as well.

6) ESPID educational committee

7) A lot is happening:

A first ESPID guideline will be produced, the topic is to be determined and more will follow during the ESPID meeting in Dublin.

Young ESPID members are involved in the organisation and are co-chairing sessions of the WMW!

Young ESPID members are involved in the development of a new antibiotic use online course. We'll keep you informed about the how and when!

A new edition of the Bluebook is being prepared: many Young ESPID members are involved! Local initiatives for educational grant are 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 all this is progressing will be available at the annual meeting in Dublin.

8) 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 Milan Ana Brett presented her project on antimicrobial stewardship.

Last year we unfortunately did not receive any proposals, but do send them they are most welcome! Upon acceptance you will be able to use the (Young) ESPID network to collect data! 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.

9) 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). An election is currently taking place to fill the gap Julia leaves.

Next year there will be another position available, as Marieke's term will finish. Interested in taking up the challenge or you want to know more about what it means? Do feel free to contact us, or approach us during the ESPID meeting in Dublin.

Finally we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Dublin. There will be a Young ESPID session on Wed, May 7th between 9 and 11 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, 02 April 2014