

To Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to attend and present my research at the European Respiratory Society Congress in Madrid between the 28th of September and 2nd of October 2019.

My thematic poster titled *“What proportion of patients with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis fall outside UK prescribing criteria for anti-fibrotic treatment? A UK specialist centre review”* was presented on the 29th of September and garnered a great deal of interest from health professionals both in the UK and abroad. Our finding that 15% of patients with IPF referred to our tertiary hospital were ineligible for anti-fibrotic treatment due to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) prescribing criteria generated significant discussion from multiple viewpoints on the appropriateness and effects of these guidelines.

On the 1st of October I was able to present my research into the underlying mechanisms which may drive IPF disease. The thematic poster titled *“Hypoxia-inducible factor pathway activation promotes bone-type collagen cross-linking in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis”* again attracted interest from a wide range of health professionals. We will continue to investigate the pathways which may promote this deadly disease, and hopefully this could lead to new therapeutic interventions which may slow down this process.

The ERS congress was also notable for a variety of clinical trials in pulmonary fibrosis which have been completed or due to be completed in the near future. The take home message for me is that the landscape of pulmonary fibrosis is rapidly changing. While the development of new anti-fibrotic treatments is still being actively researched, the application of current anti-fibrotic drugs to a broader range of interstitial lung diseases is something we will hopefully see in the not-too-distant future.

Overall my experience at the ERS congress was incredibly positive and I am extremely grateful to *Action For Pulmonary Fibrosis* for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Christopher Brereton

