

London, 1 October 2020

Re: 2020 ERS Virtual Congress - APF travel award

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for supporting my attendance and dissemination of my research findings at this year's European Respiratory Society (ERS) Virtual Congress. The Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis (APF) travel award covered the conference registration and without it I would not have been able to secure my attendance. This event brought together world-leading researchers and clinicians from across the globe to discuss novel findings in the respiratory field.

The APF travel award enabled me to showcase my research during the oral and poster presentation sessions. My PhD research focuses on investigating the role of the microbiome and metabolome in the development of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), a fatal respiratory condition, with a very poor prognosis. I have characterised the airway microbiome in patients with IPF and chronic hypersensitivity pneumonitis (CHP) and, for the first time, we have described the composition of the lung microbiome in CHP. The work undertaken throughout this PhD will hopefully advance our mechanistic understanding of the involvement of the microbiome in both CHP and IPF and, in the long term, may potentially facilitate the development of novel metabolically targeted therapies. Although I was not able to deliver my oral presentation live due to connectivity issues, I was pleased that my recording made it through. This allowed me to share part of my most recent findings which have been recently published in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*. I found the platform functional and convenient as I was able to receive invaluable feedback from leading experts in the field and answer questions remotely.

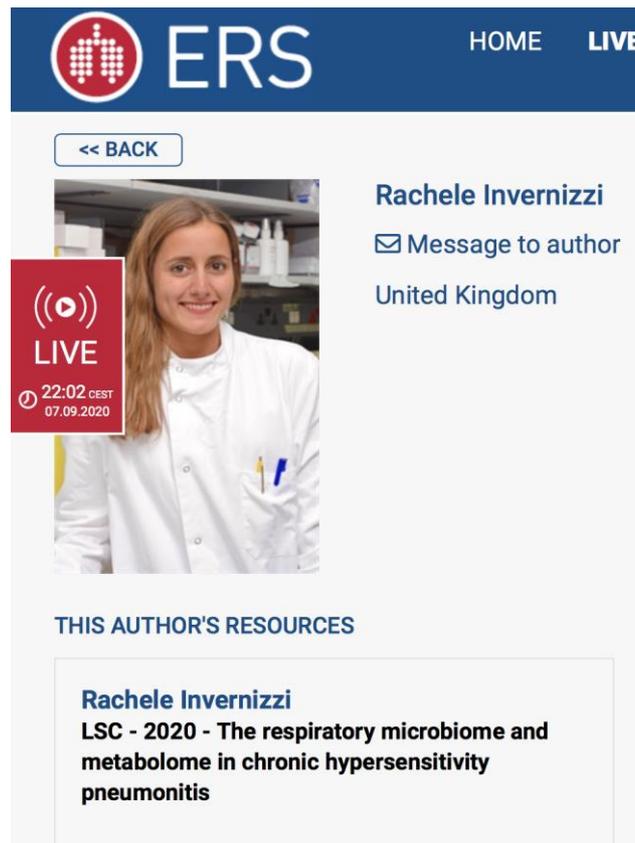
The ERS Virtual Congress provided excellent scientific symposia on a wide variety of basic, translational and clinical topics and advancements. The list of invited speakers featured an extensive selection of renowned speakers and early career researchers in the respiratory field, some of whom I have met at previous conferences, and others responsible for highly relevant research in my specific subject area. I attended several interesting scientific sessions, in which many presentations included aspects of host-microbe interactions and their influence on lung disease onset and severity. The breadth of research spanned a vast array of topics including translational aspects of IPF, novel research in interstitial lung diseases and host-microbe interactions.

The conference provided a great opportunity not only to discuss my findings with international researchers in the field but also to connect with other research groups and enquire regarding future postdoctoral positions. Additionally, the meeting offered an 'Early Career Session', which detailed the opportunities provided by the ERS including current fellowship offers and ways to establish a successful career in respiratory research and medicine.

Overall, this conference proved extremely beneficial for my research, both in terms of current projects as well as future avenues for my work. The virtual meeting was well organised and an unparalleled opportunity to be immersed in the field of respiratory research. I am grateful to have received an APF travel award and I would like to renew my gratitude to the APF Trustees for supporting my attendance and dissemination of my research findings at the very first Virtual International ERS Congress.

Yours faithfully,

Rachele Invernizzi



The screenshot shows the ERS website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the ERS logo (a red circle containing a white grid pattern) and the text "ERS" in white. To the right of the logo are the words "HOME" and "LIVE" in white. Below the header, there is a white background with a blue button labeled "<< BACK". To the left of the main content is a red vertical banner with a white play button icon, the word "LIVE" in white, and a clock icon followed by the text "22:02 CEST" and "07.09.2020". To the right of the banner is a photograph of Rachele Invernizzi, a woman with long brown hair wearing a white lab coat. To the right of the photograph, the text "Rachele Invernizzi" is displayed in blue, followed by a blue envelope icon and the text "Message to author" in blue, and "United Kingdom" in blue. Below the photograph, the text "THIS AUTHOR'S RESOURCES" is displayed in blue. Underneath this, there is a white box containing the text "Rachele Invernizzi" in blue, followed by "LSC - 2020 - The respiratory microbiome and metabolome in chronic hypersensitivity pneumonitis" in black.