Dear Colleague,

In this newsletter we would like to report on a recent, very successful event: the 1st ECTRIMS Summer School on ‘Phase IV studies: New methods in Pharmacovigilance and Monitoring Drug Effectiveness in Multiple Sclerosis’ which took place from 25th to 27th June 2013 in Bari/Italy.

In addition, you will find updates on planning for the 2013 Annual Meeting in Copenhagen (2nd to 5th October 2013) and other meetings, information about the 2013-2014 ECTRIMS fellowship offerings and additional interesting information from ECTRIMS.

Summer School 2013

First ECTRIMS Summer School

The first ECTRIMS Summer School on “Phase IV studies: New methods in Pharmacovigilance and Monitoring Drug Effectiveness in Multiple Sclerosis” took place in Bari, Italy, 25- 28 June, 2013.

Thirty young MS investigators, with an interest in MS registries and post-marketing studies, and twenty-four Faculty members, with expertise in the field of the observational research in MS (neurologists, pharmaco-epidemiologists, pharmaco-economists, statisticians) from 15 different European Countries (FR, UK, IT, AU, SE, DE, CH, DK, AT, CZ, ES, BE, IL, NL, NO) and from North and South America (US, CA, AR, BR) and Australia, had the opportunity to share their own experiences and to discuss issues relevant to Phase IV studies in MS.

The meeting was characterized by an extraordinary and direct engagement of the whole group in the identification of open issues regarding drug effectiveness and safety assessment and in the formulation and management of protocols reflecting real contexts of MS care. The high quality of the project proposals presented by young MS
investigators, at the end of the course, confirmed that the summer school has achieved its goal!

This first ECTRIMS summer school, conceived as a true learning experience for young MS investigators, represents a starting point for other similar experiences on different topics in the future.

Pictured above, participants in the 2013 ECTRIMS Summer School on Phase IV pharmacovigilance studies in Bari, Italy

**Plans for 2014 Focused Workshop and Summer School 2014**

Following the first and successful 2013 Focused Workshop (on Pregnancy and Hormonal Factors in MS, held in London last March), ECTRIMS is now planning to hold a second Focused Workshop in March 2014. The topic of the Workshop is “New Technologies in MS Care”. The workshop is being organised by Xavier Montalban (lead), Tomas Olsson and David Miller, and will be held in Lisbon.

A second Summer School is being planned on the topic of “Genetics in MS” to be held in June 2014. The Summer School is being organised by Bernard Hemmer (lead), Tomas Olsson and Stephen Sawcer. This school will bring together experts and young investigators to discuss this challenging and important topic of MS research.

**ECTRIMS 2013 meeting**

The 29th Congress of ECTRIMS will take place in Copenhagen from 2 to 5 October 2013. The meeting will be held jointly with the 18th Annual Congress of Rehabilitation in MS (RIMS).
Do not miss the deadline for the reduced registration fee on **Wednesday, 7 August 2013**. Register now on the [congress website](#) where you can also book your accommodation and flight to Copenhagen.

The Scientific Programme that includes various new highlights, such as a Social Media and Nurses’ Sessions, and is available on the [congress website](#).

Follow ECTRIMS 2013 on the Social Media platforms to receive the latest updates, statistics and other interesting information on the conference regularly.

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**Joint ECTRIMS/ACTRIMS meeting in 2014**

Save the date for the **2014 Joint ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS Meeting** which will be held from 10 to 13 September 2014 at the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center in Boston.

Abstract Submission will be available as of January 2014. Visit the congress website for further information on this joint meeting: [www.msboston2014.org](#).

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**ECTRIMS Fellowship Programmes**

The **ECTRIMS Fellowship Programme competitions for 2013 are now open!**

**Application Deadlines: 1 December 2013**

**ECTRIMS** is pleased to announce the following Fellowship Programme competitions for the coming year.

**ECTRIMS Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Exchange Programme**

This fellowship is offered to young European postdoctoral neuroscientists to facilitate their conduct of and training in basic, clinical or applied research related to MS in European laboratories or clinics. The goal is to maximize exchange of information and help grow the pool of well-trained scientists focused on MS.

**ECTRIMS** will support as many as two or more fellowships annually, each with duration of 1 or 2 years, with an annual stipend of up to €50,000. Fellows are expected to identify a European research training environment and mentor prior to application and to devote full-time to research and training during their fellowship period (up to 10% time and effort can be spent on teaching and/or clinical care).

**ECTRIMS Multiple Sclerosis Clinical Training Fellowship Programme**

This fellowship is offered to neurologists and other physicians to provide the opportunity to learn the latest techniques in patient management and care and to help foster their careers as MS physicians. It is available for 3, 6 or 12 months and must be performed under the direction of a senior clinical mentor at a European MS clinic and/or MS research center. Fellows may come from any location but priority will be given to candidates from developing countries.

**ECTRIMS** will award as many as two or more fellowships each year, with a stipend of €12,500 for a 3 month programme, €25,000 for a 6 month programme or €50,000 for a 1 year training programme. The programme is intended to be a full-time MS clinical care
training experience. This can include “hands on” clinical care under the guidance of the mentor, correlated course work in the training institutions, and may also include time involved in clinical research under the guidance of the mentor.

Details about the ECTRIMS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programmes and application material can be obtained from the ECTRIMS web site: www.ectrims.eu/fellowships or by writing to the ECTRIMS Fellowship Administrator at: fellowship@ectrims.eu.

New ECTRIMS Multiple Sclerosis Nurse Fellowship Programme

Starting in 2014, ECTRIMS will offer a new MS Nurse Fellowship programme. The programme proposal was developed with assistance from 4 senior MS nurses in Europe: Anne Krakau Hansen (Copenhagen), Lisa Ann Leddy (Munich), Michele Messmer Uccelli (Genoa) and Bernadette Porter (London). It was approved by ECTRIMS Executive Committee in July 2013 and the programme will start with the award of two fellowships during 2014. The purpose of the programme is to provide an opportunity for further training in MS nursing at a recognized centre of excellence for MS nursing in Europe. The fellowships may be of 6 or 12 months duration and the support provided is €25,000 for 6 months or €50,000 for 12 months. More information including instructions and the deadline date for submitting proposals for this programme will be announced shortly.

Update on ECTRIMS Business Plan

The new Business Plan for ECTRIMS is continuing to be developed and should be finalised before the end of 2013. The Plan will ensure that ECTRIMS fulfils its non-profit status by providing a sufficient and on-going funding commitment to a range of activities that support its Mission and Vision. It will also consider strategies to maintain longer term financial stability of the organisation.

ECTRIMS Support of Non-ECTRIMS Activities

ECTRIMS supported the 13th European School of Neuroimmunology (ESNI) which was held from from 3rd to 6th July 2013 in Porto/Portugal.

The ESNI was established in 1999 to provide European framework for a continuous educational program in Neuroimmunology. The program of the 13th ESNI course was designed to provide post graduate and post doctoral participants with an update in current topics of neuroimmunological research with high clinical impact, including success in clinical and laboratory research, role of genes and environmental factors in neuroimmunological diseases, the interface between neuroimmunology and other specialties and diseases, the impact of imaging in the development of basic science, clinical research and clinical practice. In order to foster student participation and networking, the students undertook presentations, engaged in working groups, and translational research topics were addressed through interactive workshops led by ESNI board members. Moreover, there was also a focus on careers, funding opportunities and publishing.

More information is available at www.esnicongress.org.

ECTRIMS also supported the 2nd Conference of the International MS Cognition Society which was held on 28 & 29 June 2013 at the University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland.

For more information please see www.imk.ch/imscogs2013.
Meeting dates

ECTRIMS-ACTRIMS 2014, Boston, USA, 10-13 September 2014
ECTRIMS 2015, Barcelona, Spain, 7-10 October 2015

Other meetings in 2013 of interest to the ECTRIMS Community

Preceptorship on rehabilitation in multiple sclerosis

This live educational course will be held at the Klinik Valens Rehabilitationszentrum, CH-7317 Valens, Switzerland on September 19-21, 2013.

To find out more about the event please visit http://www.neurology.seronosymposia.org/en/neurology/meetings/symposia/preceptorship-on-rehabilitation-in-ms.html and review the attached preliminary programme.

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Contact
secretariat@ectrims.eu

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