

ESID Juniors Working Party Chair Candidate - Antonio Marzollo

MOTIVATION LETTER

June 10th, 2022

Dear ESID Junior Members,

I am writing to propose my candidacy as ESID Junior Chairperson.

ESID has had a crucial role in my growth as an immunologist. I have been involved in the ESID activities since 2015, first as a simple member, then as a participant in the 2018 ESID Summer School, and finally as Italian Country representative for 2020-2022.

I believe that ESID for immunology is much more important than similar scientific societies in other domains. In the field of Primary Immune Deficiencies, we encounter everyday situations where precise and updated knowledge can change the life of patients. Imagine an undiagnosed patient with hypomorphic RAG1 deficiency: he or she might wander among different specialists and suffer severe organ damage before appropriate treatment can be offered. Conversely, the method and concepts developed in the field of PID, including the knowledge of the monogenic basis of disease, can dramatically improve the course of the disease, offering personalized treatment. This is why I am passionate about this immunological approach. However, applying this method requires both very specific skills of the treating team and being part of a larger community of immunologists that can support by sharing their experiences about these unique patients. I think that in every major hospital around the world there should be a health professional knowledgeable in this field and connected to a broad community of immunologists. I believe that ESID has the proper structure and mission to form and sustain such network to help deliver the best care for patients with PID.

I believe that ESID Junior Working Party is contributing significantly to this vision, as its initiatives support the professional path of young professionals in the field with its educational, team building, and organizational activities.

Educational activities were established over the years and recently were potentiated with the addition of Journal Club and Clinical Cases online presentations, in which I was lucky to participate. These efforts provided a very productive tool to share novel discoveries and provide clues on managing complex clinical situations and further insights in the biology of PID. This effort should be maintained and further enhanced with novel formats. I would like to include more juniors from other Immunological Societies and Medical Schools in Europe and beyond, to expand the audience of these events. I would also like to include an Educational Program for Juniors provided by Juniors addressing more basic topics since more “experienced” Juniors have the best knowledge of the educational needs of newbies in the field, as they have been in their shoes most recently. The outreach of such activities might go beyond ESID, including young professionals in neighboring areas, to provide a general idea of PIDs and the knowledge of “when to refer to an immunologist”, which is rapidly evolving in the last few years.

I also believe that including more Junior Members in these activities and other recreational events is a great way to build the future ESID and PID community. For example, someone with whom you discussed a clinical case or biological dilemma at a meeting, but also someone with whom you danced or laughed, will be easy to connect to for a future patient or research

collaboration. I believe that ESID Summer School and other similar residential events should be maintained and potentiated to build these ties. I would also like to expand the small working groups that have been established in the Junior community to allow anyone interested to do their part in this group.

Thank you for considering my application

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