

To the ESID Juniors Working Party,

I am Mahnaz Jamee from Iran and I am writing to express my sincere interest in becoming one of the ESID Junior Country Representatives.

I started research on primary immunodeficiencies (PIDs) in 2018, graduated from medical school in 2020, and since then have worked as a research assistant at the Research Institute for Children's Health in one of the major Iranian referral centers for pediatric patients with PIDs.

Beside research activities, I have voluntarily participated in holding meetings in Mofid Children's Hospital to increase awareness about PIDs among doctors. I also serve as a research mentor for junior medical students interested in PIDs and encourage them to join related national or international schools and meetings. However, junior immunologists (either MD or PhD doctors) in my country are not familiar with ESID and its mission well. In fact, most medical/basic science students have a boring theoretical course of immunology and never have a chance to realize how amazing the PID field is. Iran is located in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) geographical region and due to the high rate of consanguineous marriages has a higher-than-expected incidence of PIDs (particularly those with autosomal recessive inheritance). Despite the developments of diagnostic and therapeutic modalities in the recent decade, the diagnosis of PIDs is still challenging in this area mostly because of the lack of awareness among primary physicians.

I think as a country representative I would have more opportunity to increase knowledge about PIDs among my peers. I also believe (beside the social network all members have in the Slack platform) those who will be assigned as country representatives (under the supervision of Junior WP Chair) can act as a catalyzer in increasing research teamwork among members which can be both enjoyable and rewarding for their future careers and beneficial for the PID patients.

Yours respectfully,

Mahnaz Jamee

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