

Dear members of the ESID community,

My name is Melanie de Gier, I am a Dutch PhD student working in the field of pediatric immunology at the Willem-Alexander Children's Hospital, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, the Netherlands.

Now in the second year of my PhD, I have already had the opportunity to visit and present my work on a national level, at the Workgroup for Immunodeficiencies (WID) Expert Meeting and at the Dutch Society for Immunology (NIVI) Annual Meeting. This year's ESID will be the first international congress where I will be presenting my work on autoimmunity after allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in children.

I am applying for the ESID country representation specifically because this is, in my opinion, the first step in becoming an active ESID member. I enjoy bringing people together and look forward to contributing to the creation of a strong Dutch ESID community, as well as forging the international bonds. These international contacts can be valuable in future, whereby I can also establish myself as a global clinician-researcher.

During my studies, I have been actively involved in education, fulfilling the role of student ambassador and being a member of the educative board and student advice committee. My specific focus in these committees was the improvement of the curriculum and being a first point of contact for student matters. These functions have been great for developing my management skills and organizing activities. I believe these two qualities are important as I face the new challenge of representing the Netherlands within the ESID.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie de Gier