

ANDREEA IOAN

PEDIATRIC RESIDENT

To
ESID Members

From
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Application for the ESID Junior Country Representative

Dear ESID members,

I am submitting my application for the position of first Romanian ESID Junior Country Representative and I wish to mark the reasons behind my wish to be part of ESID.

When I started clinical practice, I learned how to diagnose and treat acute diseases, without questioning the overall impact of multiple acute events on a child's well-being. During my second year of residency, I dwelled more into managing chronic paediatric patients but I still had many unanswered questions. Then I found *Immunology*. During the last 12 months, I observed and followed patients with disorders of the immune system, with the constant guidance of my mentor. Expectantly, I gathered more questions than answers but I learned a critical thing for a clinician: to address the right questions at the right time.

Immunology continues to inspire me because of the opportunity to find a single explanation for a multitude of clinical manifestations and to approach personalised treatment. In spite of the vast implications of an immune disorder, most of the major hospitals in my country lack a specialised immunologist. Being a paediatrician with a strong interest in immunology in the last couple of years, I soon became aware of the utmost importance to have a mentor and cultivate it. The mentorship role could be served by a clinician, a team of clinicians or an entire organisation, particularly when there is a lack of experts in a certain region.

The ESID community can be strengthened by increasing the number of countries represented by a junior member who may determine local doctors to adopt ESID as their mentor. During the next two years, if I am elected, I would dedicate my work for:

- Guiding young doctors to learn more about the organisation's purpose and to enrol in the society
- Building a local network for young doctors and facilitating mentorship with local or external experts
- Sharing information about fellowships/schools/biennial meetings organised by ESID or associated societies
- Organising local events to increase knowledge about IEI and the important role of an immunologist in major hospital settings

For the first time, my country has the possibility of being represented in an international network of immunology experts and it will be of great value for young and expert clinicians.

Thank you for considering my application,

Andreea Ioan