

Athens, July 10th 2022

Motivation Letter

Application for ESID Junior Country Representative 2022-2024

Dear ESID Members,

My name is Dr. Theodora Papastamatiou and I am a specialist Paediatrician holding a PhD in Paediatric Infectious Diseases/Immunology from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Following the completion of my Paediatrics Training and my successful Board examination, I attend now for 14 months as a Clinical Fellow the Department of Immunology in “Aghia Sophia” Children’s Hospital of Athens. This department is the main Referral Center for Primary Immunodeficiencies in Greece and at the same time responsible for the diagnosis and management of this sensitive part of population.

My main career goal is to complete a Clinical Fellowship and subspecialize in Primary Immunodeficiencies (PID). My special interest stems from my special passion for immunology that gradually developed through my PhD studies and my previous clinical experience as a Paediatrician in a tertiary University Department (2nd Department of Pediatrics of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens). During my PhD, in my team, we evaluated, in vivo and in vitro, the antibody and cellular immune response to immunodominant B-cell epitopes, located within pneumococcal proteins, on purpose to be used as vaccine antigens. In addition, I believe that PID research is a fast-growing field that combines my love of paediatric infectious disease and immunology that I developed during my PhD. Furthermore, it is my strong belief that increasing awareness of clinicians on PIDs, will help tackle disparities in health care provision and ensure early diagnosis and appropriate access to treatments for all PID patients worldwide.

My participation in the last *ESID Summer School (May 2022)* was an amazing experience and a great opportunity to update my knowledge and learn from a specialized team of experts in the field who see and manage patients with the whole spectrum of primary immunodeficiency, while also networking and socializing with young colleagues and researchers in this field. By sharing knowledge, educational opportunities, and similar experiences as the *ESID Summer School*, i would like to motivate my colleagues to be an active member in the *ESID community*. Thus, as an

ESID Junior Country Representative, i could be a contact point for the immunologists in my country (Greece) and abroad, on a friendly and collaborative basis, aiming to build a beneficial network to help deliver the best care for all patients with PID.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely yours,

Theodora Papastamatiou MD, PhD

Paediatrician