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to:
ESID Junior Members
Clara Franco Jarava, Chairperson WP Junior
Isabel Meyts, ESID President

Dear ESID Junior Members,

I am a Pediatric Immunologist at Meyer Children's Hospital in Florence where, together with my colleagues, I take care of kids with inborn errors of immunity (IEI). Working in clinics and in lab, I have the opportunity to follow the patients and their families from the bedside to the bench, from genetics to individualized treatments.

I approached clinical immunology in 2015 fascinated by how much IEI can teach us about the functioning of the immune system and by the incredible therapeutic challenges they can present. Since the beginning of my residency in Florence, I have been actively involved in the first Italian project of newborn screening (NBS) with TREC/KREC and ADA/PNP metabolites for the early diagnosis of primary immunodeficiencies (PID). During these years, I had the chance to train both at Boston Children's Hospital and at Necker Hospital and Imagine Institute in Paris, where I learnt the importance of cultural exchange in science, but I also realized how difficult networking could be. I think ESID is the perfect vehicle to ease this first-hand exchange. I can still remember how electrifying was to meet new people at my first ESID in 2017. Since then, I have been relying on its platform to pursue a constant dialogue with top experts and young professionals from around the world. In my experience ESID has represented a new level, parallel to scientific literature, that allows healthcare professionals and scientists to share experiences and technical means. This is crucial to ensure patients with rare diseases with the best care possible. Junior members are the new candidates to maintain and enforce such an interconnected network which would also ease their careers and professional growth.

Therefore, I choose to apply for the position of Italian Representative for ESID Junior. In that capacity I would try and pursue the following goals:

- **strengthen the network of Italian junior immunologists** by giving continuity to the great educational projects started by Antonio Marzollo in the last 2 years. I would like to encourage a constant informal exchange both among young professionals and by meeting with patient associations. Also, I would like to create a periodic session to brainstorm ideas and proposals, choose together the best ones and then commit to inclusive collaborative projects.
- **make the group grow by making immunology more popular.** I would like to bring ESID closer to the medical residents and broadcast these events as widely as possible by harnessing the enthusiasm of the young trainees' associations that are particularly active in Italy and full of passionate young people. Residents should be able to take a closer look to our field that often remains a niche in medical training. More minds to immunology!
- **make the group grow by bringing immunology to non-immunologist.** I would like to open-up our events to all young clinicians from various specialties we collaborate with (all!). We need more and more pulmonologists, haematologists, gastroenterologists, neurologists, nephrologists (to cite some) to get involved in the field of IEI in order to ameliorate multidisciplinary patient care and ease interdisciplinary communication.

The interconnection of Italian immunology centers must start from the youngest in order to fully express its great human potential in terms of research and quality of care. I see in the ESID network of Junior Italian immunologists the cradle of new ideas and a new inclusive way of science.

I hope I can count on your support for the election of the Italian Country Representative for ESID Junior.

Yours sincerely,
Lorenzo