

Dear members of the committee,

It is a pleasure for me to apply for the **ESID Junior Country Representative Elections Candidacy**. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read my letter and consider my application.

After five years working in the IEI field, ESID has been an essential part of my life as a researcher. As a geneticist specializing in bioinformatics, my path to the IEI field was unconventional. However, at the start of my PhD, I fell in love with IEI and was fascinated by its complexity at both clinical and molecular levels. The ESID community played a crucial role in this awakening on many levels.

At the beginning of my career, ESID seminars and Grand Rounds were the perfect starting point for discovering IEIs. I attended (and still do) most of them, and gained a wealth of new knowledge. I also became familiar with the international teams working in the field worldwide, which has greatly helped my projects by enabling me to find the right experts to consult.

In 2022, I had the pleasure of attending the ESID/ERN-RITA workshop on "High Throughput Tools for IEI Diagnosis" in Paris. It was a unique experience to get to know the ESID community in person and to establish collaborations. For instance, I joined forces with another participant, and we prepared a shared presentation, exemplifying the cooperative spirit of ESID.

In 2023, I had the opportunity to participate in the ESID Summer School in Greece. This was a milestone for me as an immunogeneticist, as I had the chance to meet faculty members, share a clinical case with them, and discuss challenges in IEI. Moreover, I met amazing colleagues with whom I still maintain contact. The experience was invaluable, providing insights into many clinical and molecular aspects of IEI and allowing me to contribute a bioinformatics perspective that reinforced the multidisciplinary approach of IEI.

At the end of 2023, I was given the opportunity to present at a Journal Club at the ESID Junior sessions. While explaining our case on somatic variants in ALPS, I received many interesting questions and had people approach me to further explore our newly developed method. This led to a collaboration with colleagues in Poland, resulting in the resolution of a complex ALPS case that had been undiagnosed for over three years. The results of this work will be presented at ESID 2024 meeting.

Overall, the ESID community has given me so much, and I would like to remain close to it as I believe I can now give back in terms of expertise and acquired knowledge. I believe I can be a good representative, always eager to meet people and open to new ideas and projects. I am proactive in starting new activities and leading and organizing ongoing initiatives. I am always happy to welcome new fellows and establish new connections.

Therefore, having such a responsibility at this incredible institution will be a great pleasure. I will be honored to be part of the team and contribute to such an outstanding organization at both academic and social levels.



**Laura Batlle Masó, PhD**

Postdoctoral researcher

Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunodeficiencies Unit (UPIIP)

Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron (HUVH) / Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR)

Passeig de la Vall d'Hebron, 119-129 - 08035 Barcelona

[laura.batlle@vallhebron.cat](mailto:laura.batlle@vallhebron.cat)