

Motivation letter

Application for ESID Junior Country Representative 2024-2026

Dear ESID Members,

My name is Dr Prabal Barman and I recently completed my post-doctoral (DM) training programme in Pediatric Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology from the Advanced Pediatrics Centre, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India. This is the first, and till date the only, such post-doctoral training course in Pediatric Immunology in India. I am currently working as a Consultant Pediatrician-cum-Immunologist at UHS Vista Multi-specialty Clinic and Marwari Hospital in Guwahati, Assam, North-East India.

My major career goal is to increase awareness about Primary Immunodeficiencies (PID) across the length and breadth of my country, particularly in the North-East. India is a vast country and the access to health-care in relation to PID is not uniform at all centres. For instance, there are no PID centres or tertiary care institutes catering to PIDs in North-Eastern India. Similar situations are noted in many low-and-middle-income countries. With improving infant-and-child mortality rates across the world, it is my strong belief that increasing awareness on PID in resource-limited areas will further improve childcare services and quality of life of these patients. Currently, in India, the National Rare Disease Policy (2021) has been implemented, and through this policy I hope to improve the diagnostic facilities and access to appropriate treatment strategies in my country, and to reduce the inherent resistance amongst pediatricians and administrators in acknowledging the often-undiagnosed cases of PID in the country.

My participation at the prestigious 20th Biennial Meeting of the ESID, Gothenburg, Sweden was a unique experience as I interacted with the who's who of Immunology. I learned first-hand the ever-widening and fascinating field of PID from the experts as well as the young

researchers in this field. I recently presented an interesting case of G6PD deficiency mimicking as chronic granulomatous disease at the ESID Juniors Clinical Case Session (April 18th, 2024). The intense deliberations that followed strengthened my resolve to conduct similar meetings at centres in my country and foster inter-institutional collaboration to facilitate research in this field. As an ESID Junior Country Representative, I hope to motivate and inspire doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, administrators, patients and patient-support groups to participate in activities of the ESID community in general, and to be flagbearers of change in improving the landscape of PID across the country. By being a contact point in my country, I hope to build meaningful and congenial partnerships with Immunologists, both in India and abroad, with the end goal of improving care of all patients with PIDs.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Prabal Barman, MD, DM

Pediatric Immunologist