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to:
ESID Junior Members
Antonio Marzollo, Chairperson WP Junior
Fabio Candotti, 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.

I have been the Junior Country Representative for Italy for the past two years. It has been a dynamic teamwork experience. Working together with the other Italian junior immunologists, we achieved many of the goals we had set for ourselves and would like to consolidate them in the two years to come.

Yours sincerely,
Lorenzo