

32nd European Cystic Fibrosis Conference 10 - 13 June in Brest

1500 European and International researchers and care professionals will meet in Brest from 10 to 13 June. Gene therapy, protein therapy and clinical research will be extensively discussed. 20 years after the discovery of the CF gene, this conference will report progress on recent scientific developments targeting the origin of the illness and not only its symptoms.

A European Conference Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the CF Gene Discovery.

During the first plenary session, the discoverers of the CF gene (Lap Chee Tsui, Jack Riordan and Batsheva Kerem) will speak about how the gene was identified and the developments in research since then. Identification of 1600 CF gene mutations and their specific phenotypes. Some of the most important are listed below

- Gene therapy clinical trials, using viral vectors and then synthetic vectors in order to bring healthy genes into the infected cells.
- Implementation of the neonatal screening in The majority of European countries
- Identification of the CFTR protein research to correct or stimulate their's function.

The ECFS conference takes place every year in a different European country and., brings together European and International experts from all research fields of Cystic Fibrosis. The aim of the society is to encourage the delivery of the highest standards of clinical care and research through international collaboration, and sharing of the latest information regarding research progress. 450 to 500 abstracts have been submitted and the programme offers several symposia, workshop and round tables, completed by poster presentations.

**Detailed programme can be found on the ECFS website
www.ecfs.eu/brest2009**

A transition period at the verge of breakthroughs in treatments of the origin of the illness

All research strategies will be presented during the Conference (inflammation and infection, digestive troubles, lung transplantation...),

- Some symposia will evaluate the situation concerning the state of the art of the protein therapy research. This therapy should in the medium term restore the moisturising capacities of the mucus affected by the defective gene. Some major clinical trials in Europe and in the United States should deliver some results in the next three months to a year.
- Gene therapy will be discussed using viral and non-viral vectors.
- Finally, the importance of collaboration with people with CF in clinical research and trials of new therapies and national CF organisations will be during the Closing Session.

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