

The AERA Steering Committee

Prof. Robert J. Moots **Liverpool, UK (Chairman)**

Robert J. Moots is Professor of Rheumatology and Head of the Division of Inflammation at the University of Liverpool, U K. After qualifying in medicine in London, he trained in immunology at the University of Oxford, earning his PhD, and continued his research on immunology of autoimmune diseases at Harvard Medical School, returning to Liverpool in 1997. In 2002 he became Professor of Rheumatology in Liverpool, the youngest appointment to such a post in the UK. His research interests lie in clinical and basic science aspects of inflammatory rheumatic diseases, particularly innate cellular immunity in rheumatoid arthritis and systemic sclerosis. He runs a drug discovery programme, has published extensively in both clinical and laboratory science, has won national and international prizes for research, is active in many medical and scientific societies, and is an active international speaker. He has recently become Editor of the journal *Rheumatology*.



Prof. Damien Bonnet **Paris, France**

Damien Bonnet is Professor of Paediatric and Congenital Cardiology and the Director of the Reference Centre for Complex Cardiac Malformations at the Necker Hospital for Sick Children, René Descartes University, Paris, France. Professor Bonnet's main interests include the mechanisms and molecular basis of congenital heart disease (CHD), prenatal diagnosis of CHD, non-invasive vascular physiology in children, and pulmonary hypertension in children and in patients with CHD.



Prof. Christian Kähler
Innsbruck, Austria

Christian Kähler is Director of Pneumology at the University Hospital for Internal Medicine, Innsbruck, Austria, and head of one of the three University Specialised Centres for Pulmonary Hypertension in Austria. Professor Kähler has spent much of his professional career in Innsbruck where he has worked in the fields of clinical/experimental research in pneumology. His main topics of research are pulmonary hypertension, stem cell biology and neurogenic inflammation. He has over 80 publications in peer-reviewed journals and besides other scientific prizes his team was awarded the ERS Clinical Allergy and Immunology Award in 2003. Professor Kähler is a member of the Austrian Society of Pneumology (ASP), Secretary of the assembly group “mechanisms of lung injury and repair” of the European Respiratory Society (ERS) and member of the American Thoracic Society (ATS).



Dr Alessandra Manes
Bologna, Italy

Alessandra Manes received her medical degree with the academic honour *cum laude*, in 1996. She earned her PhD, also graduating *cum laude* at the Medical Faculty, University of Bologna (UoB), Italy in 2003.



She is a staff member of the Institute of Cardiology of the UoB and serves as the coordinator of the Pulmonary Hypertension Centre. Dr Manes teaches at the international master’s degree programme on pulmonary vascular diseases at the UoB. She has authored more than 200 scientific publications on pulmonary hypertension and heart failure, and has received the “François Brenot Award” of the European Respiratory Society in 1999 as “Promising Young Investigator in Pulmonary Vascular Sciences”.

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Dr John Pernow Stockholm, Sweden

John Pernow, MD, PhD, FESC is Chief of the Cardiology Unit, Department of Medicine at Karolinska Institutet and Senior Consultant in the Department of Cardiology at Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm. He has authored over 100 original publications and 40 reviews in the field of cardiovascular pharmacology and endothelial function.



Prof. Thomas Unger Berlin, Germany

Thomas Unger serves as the Chair of Pharmacology, Director of the Institute of Pharmacology, and Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research at the Charité Berlin. He is also the Chairman of the German Institute for High Blood Pressure Research in Heidelberg. From 2001 until 2006 he was Director of the Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology Charité Berlin and between 1994 and 2001 the Director of the Institute of Pharmacology at the University of Kiel, Germany. Until 1994, Professor Unger held professorships in pharmacology and hypertension research at the University of Heidelberg. He is a member of several national and international scientific societies, and has authored more than 700 scientific publications. He has also been a member of diverse editorial boards of major scientific journals. Professor Unger has received several awards in recognition of his scientific achievements.



Dr Frank van den Hoogen
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Frank van den Hoogen is Director of the Rheumatology Centre of Sint Maartenskliniek, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. He graduated with his PhD in Internal Medicine in 1994. The subject of his thesis was systemic sclerosis: effects of treatment with methotrexate.



He is also head of the Scleroderma Unit Nijmegen. Since 1987 he has initiated and has been involved in many studies in the areas of etiopathogenesis, molecular biology, innovative therapies (including biologics and stem cell transplantation), social impact and follow-up of patients with systemic rheumatic autoimmune diseases. Dr van den Hoogen's scientific work has resulted in more than 150 papers in peer-reviewed journals.