



Guest Editors

Wim A. Wuyts



Wim A. Wuyts is Associated Professor at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Leuven, Belgium) and is Head of the Unit for Interstitial Lung Diseases in the Department of Respiratory Medicine at the University Hospitals Leuven (Leuven, Belgium) and the Laboratory of Respiratory Medicine KU Leuven.

He obtained his medical degree and completed his postgraduate training in respiratory medicine at KU Leuven. He further specialised in the Department of Interstitial Lung Diseases at The Royal Brompton Hospital (London, UK), where he worked with the leading experts Professor Ron du Bois and Professor Athol U. Wells. He also further specialised in PAH in the department of Professor Marion Delcroix at the University Hospitals Leuven.

From 2000 to 2004, Wim Wuyts was an investigator at the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO; Brussels, Belgium). In 2004, he earned a PhD in medical sciences at the KU Leuven with a thesis entitled “Human airway smooth muscle cells, role in chronic inflammatory disorders of the lung”. He graduated in hospital management at the KU Leuven in 2004. He became a Senior Clinical Investigator at the FWO in 2011 and still holds this role.

Wim Wuyts is the driving force behind the ILD programme at the Laboratory of Respiratory Medicine of the KU Leuven. His research interests include immunology and fibrosis in ILDs, clinical research in ILDs and clinical trials in pulmonary fibrosis.

His work has appeared in peer-reviewed journals concerning ILDs, lung transplantation, PH and asthma. He is a member of various national and international task forces and scientific boards. In October 2014, he was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of WASOG (World Association of Sarcoidosis and Other Granulomatous Diseases) and he is member of the medical council of the University Hospitals Leuven.

Vincent Cottin

Vincent Cottin is Professor of Respiratory Medicine and Coordinator of the National Reference Centre for Rare Pulmonary Diseases at the Louis Pradel Hospital (Bron, France) and the Claude Bernard University Lyon (Lyon, France). The Centre has pioneered clinical care and research in patients with rare and so-called orphan lung diseases for many years, and set up the OrphaLung network (coordinated by Vincent Cottin) of 21 expert centres throughout France. The Centre was recently recognised as the institute of its kind in France to be part of the European Reference Network for ILD (ERN-LUNG, ILD).



Vincent Cottin's research interests include rare "orphan" pulmonary diseases including IIPs and especially IPF, as well as CTD-associated ILD. More specifically, he has contributed to characterising and individualising the syndrome of combined pulmonary fibrosis and emphysema, and of IPAF. He is an investigator and member of the steering committees and data safety monitoring boards of many clinical trials on IPF, and is conducting personal research on combined pulmonary fibrosis and emphysema.

Vincent Cottin served as elected Head of the ERS Clinical Assembly from 2009 to 2012. He was Chief Editor of the *European Respiratory Review* from 2013 to 2015, and is currently Section Editor of the *European Respiratory Journal* and Associate Editor of *European Respiratory Review* and of *Respiration*. He recently edited a book on orphan lung diseases and is preparing a second edition. He is an appointed Fellow of the European Respiratory Society and has been awarded the European Respiratory Society Gold Medal of IPF.

Paolo Spagnolo

Paolo Spagnolo is Associate Professor of Respiratory Medicine and Director of the Residency Program in Respiratory Medicine at the University of Padua (Padua, Italy).

He received his undergraduate training and his MD and completed his residency in respiratory medicine at the University Hospital of Bari (Bari, Italy). In 2002, he joined the Interstitial Lung Disease Unit of the Royal Brompton Hospital (London, UK), initially as clinical research fellow under the supervision of Professor Ron du Bois, and subsequently as Honorary Consultant. In 2008, he completed his PhD at Imperial College London (London, UK) under the supervision of Professor Ron du Bois and Professor Ken Welsh, with a thesis on "Genetic predisposition to clinical phenotypes of

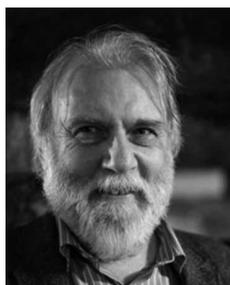


sarcoidosis”. Between 2008 and 2013, he was research fellow and subsequently Assistant Professor in Respiratory Medicine at the University Hospital of Modena (Modena, Italy), where he joined the Centre for Rare Lung Diseases lead by Professor Luca Richeldi. Since 2015, Paolo Spagnolo has been Associate Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the Department of Cardiac, Thoracic, Vascular Sciences and Public Health of the University Hospital of Padua.

Paolo Spagnolo’s main research interests include ILD and sarcoidosis with emphasis on genetic predisposition, prediction of disease behaviour and clinical trials of novel therapies. Paolo Spagnolo is the author or co-author of over 100 journal articles, review articles and editorials.

Paolo Spagnolo is a member of the editorial boards of *BioMed Research International* and *BMJ Open Respiratory Medicine*, and is a Section Editor (ILD) for *Current Opinion in Pulmonary Medicine*. He is the Treasurer of the WASOG (World Association of Sarcoidosis and Other Granulomatous diseases) and Secretary of the Study Group on Sarcoidosis of the European Respiratory Society.

Athol U. Wells



Athol U. Wells graduated at Otago University (Dunedin, New Zealand) in 1979, trained in New Zealand, and eventually moved to the UK permanently in 1999 and regrets not having done this 10 years earlier. He was given professorial status in 2005 and has focused on clinical research in ILD for the last 20 years (including diagnosis, prognostic evaluation and functional–morphological relationships). He has recently been honoured by a European Respiratory Society life-time award but does not see this as an indication that he should retire in the near future! He is very active in guideline groups and has nearly 500 peer-reviewed articles and editorials/review articles.
