

Guest Editors



James D. Chalmers

James D. Chalmers is a Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer in Respiratory Medicine at the University of Dundee, UK. He trained in Glasgow and Edinburgh, performing his PhD studies at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Centre for Inflammation Research in Edinburgh investigating the role of innate immunity in non-cystic fibrosis (CF) bronchiectasis. His research and clinical interests are in respiratory infections, particularly community-acquired pneumonia (CAP), bronchiectasis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He now leads a research group at the University of Dundee investigating the mechanisms of pulmonary bacterial infections, supported by grants from the Wellcome Trust, MRC, Scottish Government and charities.

James Chalmers has been awarded several prestigious young investigator awards, including from the European Respiratory Society (ERS) and British Thoracic Society (BTS). He has published widely on respiratory infections, with over 60 articles in peer reviewed journals since 2008. He is a member of the international advisory board of *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*. He is heavily involved in international respiratory societies, being a current member of the BTS Science and Research Committee, the ERS Long-Range Planning Committee and the American Thoracic Society Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections Program Committee.



Mathias W. Pletz

Mathias W. Pletz, Professor for Infectious Diseases, is a board-certified physician for internal medicine, pulmonology and infectious diseases and the head of the Center for Infectious Diseases and Infection Control of the University Hospital in Jena, Germany. He also leads a clinical research group focusing on novel diagnostic and therapeutic strategies against multidrug-resistant bacterial pathogens, funded by the German Ministry for Science and Education.

Mathias Pletz received his PhD in Virology at the University of Leipzig, Germany. During his thesis he worked as a guest researcher at the Food and Drug Administration Laboratory of Parasitic Pathology and Biochemistry in Bethesda, MD, USA. After his medical training at the University of Leipzig, Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX, USA) and the University of Basel (Switzerland), he started his residency at the Chest Hospital in Berlin, Germany. Subsequently, he spent 2 years as a postdoctoral researcher at Emory University (Atlanta, GA, USA), working with Keith Klugman's group on the spread of multi-resistant pneumococci. In addition he served as a guest researcher at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, exploring the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemics.

After his return to Germany, he finished his medical training at the Dept of Respiratory Medicine at the Hannover Medical School.

Mathias Pletz is the deputy director of the German Competence Network for Community-Acquired Pneumonia (CAPNETZ), a member of the board of directors of the German-Austrian-Swiss Paul-Ehrlich-Society for antimicrobial chemotherapy, and scientific advisor for the German Robert Koch Institute. He has published more than 100 papers on pneumonia, pneumococcal vaccines, respiratory infections, antimicrobial resistance and pharmacokinetics of antibiotics in the critically ill. He has also received numerous scientific awards, *e.g.* the Honor Award Certificate from the CDC, the Kass-Award of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Respiratory Infections Awards from the ERS.



Stefano Aliberti

Stefano Aliberti is Assistant Professor in Respiratory Medicine at the University of Milan-Bicocca, Milan, Italy, and consultant at the San Gerardo Hospital in Monza, Italy. He trained at the Institute of Respiratory Diseases at the University of Milan, under the mentorship of Professor Francesco Blasi. During his fellowship, he received research grants to investigate the epidemiology of non-CF bronchiectasis and COPD, and he worked as a visiting research fellow at the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Louisville, KY, USA. He has been an active member of the Community-Acquired Pneumonia Organization (CAPO) international study group since 2006, and a member of the Community-Acquired Pneumonia Inflammatory Study Group (CAPISG). His research and clinical interests are in both acute and chronic respiratory infections, including CAP, non-CF bronchiectasis and atypical mycobacteria. He was awarded the young researcher award in respiratory infections from the ERS in 2007. During the past 10 years, he has been involved in several clinical and translational studies on these topics at both national and international level. Stefano Aliberti has published over 60 articles on CAP in peer-reviewed journals since 2006. He is associate editor of *Breathe* and the *European Journal of Internal Medicine*. He has been heavily involved in the ERS, as Secretary of the Respiratory Infection Group and Secretary of the Assembly of Respiratory Infections.