

Jonathan Miles ERS Congress 2020 Report

I was extremely grateful to receive a travel award from *Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis* to attend this year's *ERS congress*, which for the first time in its history was held virtually, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst it was a shame to not have been able to attend a physical conference in person, I still found the 4-day event to be highly valuable, with the event organisers putting a great deal of effort into facilitating interaction between their participants. No doubt it is vitally important that health experts can continue to get together to present their work and exchange their ideas without hindrance in these uncertain times, and ERS accomplished this successfully.

At this ERS congress, the first I have attended, I presented evidence that suggests that excess oxidative stress within the lung could be contributing to the chronic cough symptom that many IPF patients suffer from. I am happy to report that there was a large amount of interest from other academics in my poster, expressed both through the event and via email after it had concluded; this is highly encouraging and will hopefully mean that a therapy to treat this distressing symptom can be found sooner.

Being at the virtual ERS congress this year also meant that I had the opportunity to attend various talks from a range of experts in IPF and cough. There were numerous thought-provoking presentations including new ways of detecting cough and measuring its severity, new discoveries of novel diagnostic biomarkers for IPF and new insights into the molecular pathology of IPF; many of these presentations have given me new ideas to pursue in my own research.

Finally, I would like to thank Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis for this opportunity.

