

## **Bronchiectasis Patient Conference: Speaker biographies**

### **Saturday 27 February 2021: 10:00-16:00 (Central European Time)**

Register at <https://bronchiectasis-patient-conference.eventbrite.co.uk>

#### **Professor Stefano Aliberti**

Stefano Aliberti is Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the University of Milan, and consultant at the Respiratory Department and Adult Cystic Fibrosis Center at the Policlinico Hospital in Milan, Italy. He is the director of the Bronchiectasis, Non-Tuberculous Mycobacteria and Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia programs of the Policlinico Hospital.

His major clinical and research interests are in both acute and chronic respiratory infections. He has extensive experience in epidemiological and clinical research in pneumonia since early-2000s when he was working for the Community-Acquired Pneumonia Organization at the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Louisville, KY, USA.



Over the past 10 years he has been heavily involved in chronic respiratory infections, including bronchiectasis and non-tuberculous mycobacteria. He founded the European Bronchiectasis Registry (EMBARC) and is the chair of both the Italian Bronchiectasis Registry and the Italian Registry of Pulmonary Non-Tuberculous Mycobacteria. Prof. Aliberti published up to 200 peer-reviewed articles especially on respiratory infections over the past 15 years and he was part of different international task forces to produce guidelines on bronchiectasis and severe pneumonia, as well as statements on tuberculosis. He is Associate Editor (Chest Infections) for *CHEST*.

#### **Dr Josje Altenburg**

Josje Altenburg is working as a pulmonologist at the Amsterdam University Medical Centres since 2019 where she is involved in clinical care of patients with Cystic Fibrosis, Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia, bronchiectasis and other complex infectious pulmonary diseases.

She participates in national and international guideline development, national education of physicians, and in international working groups in bronchiectasis, education of physicians, and in international working groups in bronchiectasis.



## Professor James Chalmers

James Chalmers is the British Lung Foundation Chair of Respiratory Research at the University of Dundee, UK, and a consultant respiratory physician.

He is an expert in lung infections and has been involved in a number of projects during the COVID19 pandemic including leading the ERS Guidelines Task Force for COVID19, being chief investigator for several trials of new COVID19 treatments and answering many of the questions received for the ELF Q&A.

He works closely with ELF to involve patients in respiratory infection research through projects such as EMBARC, the European Bronchiectasis Registry, and is an advocate for involving patients in guidelines, clinical research, and clinical trials.



## Dr Pieter Goeminne

Dr Pieter Goeminne (1982°, Bruges) is a respiratory physician in AZ Nikolaas and at Longartsen.be, both located in Saint-Nicholas, Belgium.

Following his PhD defence in 2013 on the topic of non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis, he remains a fervent bronchiectasis enthusiast. He is co-author of many publications on the topic, such as the ERS bronchiectasis guidelines.

He is also Board member of the bronchiectasis registry EMBARC and regular reviewer for high impact journals on the topic of bronchiectasis. His further professional interests include air pollution and infectious disease.



## Ben Goldscheider

Over the last year Ben Goldscheider has made his debut with the Mozarteum Orchestra in the Mozartwoche Festival (Salzburg) and with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2020 he was nominated by the Barbican as an ECHO Rising Star and will give recitals at major European Concert Halls throughout the 2021/22 season. This season Ben records as a soloist with the Philharmonia Orchestra, and with pianist/composer Huw Watkin.



*Photo by Kaupo Kikkas*

At the age of 18 Ben was a Concerto Finalist in the 2016 BBC Young Musician Competition. Highlights since then include his debut at the BBC Proms, solo appearances with the Aurora, Britten Sinfonia, English Chamber, London Mozart Players, Lucerne Symphony, Manchester Camerata, Prague Philharmonia and Sinfonie Orchester Berlin. He was a prize winner at the 2019 YCAT International Auditions. In 2018 Ben's debut album was released and he was selected as a BBC Music Magazine Rising Star and Gramophone Magazine "One to Watch".

## Dr Andrea Gramegna

Dr Andrea Gramegna is assistant professor at Milan University (Università degli Studi di Milano) and consultant in pulmonology at the IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico in Milano under the direction of Prof. Francesco Blasi. During his training, he undertook a research fellowship at Belfast City Hospital under the care of Prof. Stuart Elborn.

Dr Gramegna spends a large part of his clinical activity in one of the largest Bronchiectasis Programmes in Europe under the mentorship of Prof. Stefano Aliberti and since last March, he has been working as consultant in a high dependency unit treating patients with COVID-19 and severe respiratory failure.

As a researcher, Dr Gramegna has contributed to clinical and translational research in bronchiectasis, where he studied the role on neutrophil elastase in chronic respiratory conditions. He has spent the last few years participating in the creation of a research network on NTM, both in patients with cystic fibrosis and other chronic conditions. His current projects are about phenotyping among sub-groups of patients with CF and investigating the effects of new CFTR modulators.

Dr Gramegna is the author of more than 40 publications on peer-reviewed journals and a current member of the Italian Respiratory Society and the ERS.



## Dr Felix Ringshausen

Dr. Ringshausen is Associated Professor of Respiratory Medicine and board-certified Infectious Diseases physician at Hannover Medical School (MHH), Germany, where he heads the country's largest clinics for adults with bronchiectasis, primary ciliary dyskinesia (PCD) / Kartagener syndrome, cystic fibrosis (CF) and NTM pulmonary disease.

Amongst others, he is principal investigator of the German Center for Lung Research (DZL), member of the steering committee of the European Bronchiectasis Registry EMBARC, co-chair of the German Bronchiectasis Registry PROGNOSIS, medical advisor of the German PCD patient support group as well as co-founder and speaker of the working group on CF within the German Respiratory Society (DGP).



## **Dr Michal Shteinberg**

Michal Shteinberg received her MD and a PhD in biochemistry from the Technion- Israel institute of technology. She trained in internal medicine and pulmonology, with a Fellowship in bronchiectasis and adult CF.

Dr. Shteinberg is heading the bronchiectasis and adult CF service in the Pulmonology institute and CF center, Carmel medical center, Haifa, Israel.

She is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Faculty of medicine at the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, and a member of the executive committee of the Israeli Pulmonology Society. Her main research interests are bronchiectasis and its overlap with other airway diseases, mainly rhinosinusitis, and connective tissue diseases, as well as adult CF. Dr. Shteinberg is a member of EMBARC2 management and heading Patient Activities Work package.



## **Dr Anna Spathis**

Dr Anna Spathis is a University Lecturer at the University of Cambridge and Honorary Consultant at Cambridge Breathlessness Intervention Service, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, UK.

Anna is the lead consultant for the Cambridge Breathlessness Intervention Service. This unique evidence-based service, set up in 2003 by Dr Sara Booth, supports patients to self-manage breathlessness that persists despite best management of the underlying disease causing it.

She also has a clinical and research interest in the management of chronic fatigue.



## **Dr Arietta Spinou**

Dr Arietta Spinou is a Lecturer in Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Practice and Research at King's College London, UK. She has seen hundreds of people with respiratory conditions as a Specialist Respiratory Physiotherapist and has extensive research experience, with a special interest in bronchiectasis.

As part of her PhD work, Arietta developed a new and short questionnaire for health status, the Bronchiectasis Health Questionnaire (BHQ), and for first time objectively assessed cough frequency in a group of people with bronchiectasis.

Currently, Arietta co-leads the ERS Task Force for the airway clearance techniques in bronchiectasis.

