First Announcement and Call for Abstracts  
(Abstract Deadline 30 June)

Xth INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
RARE DISEASES & ORPHAN DRUGS (ICORD)  
October 15-16, 2015  
Mexico City, Mexico  
"A decade of discoveries and current challenges in the world of rare diseases and orphan drugs"

The conference program and abstract submission guidelines are now available on the ICORD website as well as on the conference website (local Mexican website in Spanish, Portuguese, Esperanto and English).

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS  
ICORD welcomes submission of abstracts representing all topics in the field of rare diseases and orphan drugs. Accepted abstracts are eligible for poster presentation. Part of the submissions will be selected for oral presentations. Abstracts will only be accepted for presentation when at least one of the authors is registered to attend the conference.  
All approved abstracts will be published prior to the conference. It is also possible to submit abstracts for the two meetings preceding the ICORD annual meeting, the ER2015LA and the D&IOD.  
Abstract deadline: June 30, 2015

For more information on abstract submission see the ICORD website and local Mexican conference website. Abstracts submitted for the ICORD meeting are sent to icord@karolinska.se.

INVITATION LETTER

On behalf of the Organizing Committee I am pleased to invite you to the 10th International Conference on Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs (ICORD), which will take place in Mexico City, October 15-16, 2015.  
This ICORD meeting will be connected to two other significant events in the week of October 12-16 which is designated “Global Rare Diseases Week, Mexico 2015”, and promoted by the local hosts Proyecto Pide un Deseo Mexico, PPuDM, and the Mexican Federation of Rare Diseases, FEMEXER. All three meetings will be developed in a coordinated format to incorporate all the main topics of interest for rare diseases and orphan drugs. This week of “Discoveries and Findings” will emphasise the needs and possible solutions for rare diseases.

Starting the week on Monday October 12, 2015 will be the 4th Latin American meeting of Rare Diseases, ER2015LA, jointly organised by FEMEXER and the GEISER Foundation (The Group of Linkage, Research and Support for Rare Diseases), the pioneer institution in the region for those affected by rare conditions. For the first time, this regional meeting of rare diseases patient groups will open its doors to world-wide organizations wishing to discuss concerns and priorities for affected families. The Discoveries & Innovations in Orphan Drugs congress (D&IOD), will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday October 13-14, 2015. ICORD is delighted to be welcomed to these meetings to share ideas and learn from the local experiences.

ER2015LA and D&IOD will provide an exciting prelude to the 10th ICORD meeting which closes the week on Thursday and Friday October 15-16, 2015. The ICORD meeting will concentrate on global policies and successful models of many aspects of rare diseases to be expanded to more countries and regions. The ICORD sessions provide opportunities for researchers, regulatory, industry and patient organization groups to express their special needs and develop joint activities. The conference
Proceedings will be published in the journal Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs, allowing all contributors to expand their links and outreach.

The past ICORD meetings have contributed to the globalization of ICORD, an increased understanding of world-wide needs as well as enlarging the visions and contacts of our members. Indeed, rare diseases and orphan drugs are undoubtedly global matters, which in ICORD find a unique and transparent forum for discussions, presentations of ideas and collaboration.

We are very proud to celebrate our 10th consecutive ICORD conference and we look forward to welcoming you to ICORD 2015 in historic Mexico City, one of the largest cities in the world and the main capital of the Latin-American and Caribbean region.

John Forman

ICORD President and NZORD Executive Director

Conference Program

The 2015 ICORD annual meeting is entitled "A decade of discoveries and current challenges in the world of RD and OD" and will be organized in association with the local hosts Proyecto Pide un Deseo Mexico (PPuDM), the Mexican Federation of Rare Diseases (FEMEXER) and the Latin American Support Group for Rare Diseases (GEISER). The ICORD conference, 15-16 October, will end the Global Rare Diseases Week, which will start 12 October with 4th Latin American meeting of Rare Diseases, ER2015LA and The Discoveries & Innovations in Orphan Drugs congress (D&IOD) 13-14 October.

The ICORD conference program is now available on the ICORD website. Programs for all three meetings can be found on the local Mexican conference website.

Venue

All three conferences will be held at the premises of ISSSTE (Institute of Health Security in Mexico).

ISSSTE Buenavista
Jesús García 140, Buenavista
06350 Ciudad de Mexico, D.F.

Registration

Registration is open. The registration fee includes registration for the full week (i.e. admission to all three meetings). The fees in USD will be as follows:

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<th>Online fee (before 11 October)</th>
<th>On-site rate (after 11 October)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Non-members</td>
<td>$350</td>
<td>$400</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ICORD Members*</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$350</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Fully accredited students, patients associations’ members, caregivers (accompanying patients)**</td>
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*ICORD members should contact the ICORD secretariat to obtain a discount code.

** To get this special rate it is necessary to be previously credited as a student or as a member of an association of patients with rare diseases. For more information contact sg2015eerr@femexer.org or icord@karolinska.se.

Please register through the local Mexican conference website.

Accommodation

Suggestions for hotels are available at the conference website.

Sponsors and Sponsorship Opportunities

A wide option for sponsorship activities will be offered upon request. ICORD is non-profit organization, its program, designations of speakers and activities being free of conflict of interest. Please contact the ICORD secretariat (icord@karolinska.se) for further information.

Conference Organizing Committee

Chairman:
John Forman, ICORD President, New Zealand

ICORD Program Committee:
Stephen Groff, USA
Virginia Llera, Argentina
Ann Nordgren, Sweden
Manuel Posada, Spain
Domenica Taruscio, Italy

Local Organizers:
Celita Palacios, FEMEXER, Mexico
David Peña, FEMEXER, Mexico
Virginia Llera, ICORD and GEISER Foundation, Argentina

Fundraising coordination
Annika Larsson, Sweden
Emilio Roldan, Argentina
Fernando Royo, Spain

Abstract coordination:
Georgi Iskrov, Bulgaria
Annika Larsson, Sweden

Conference services:
FEMEXER, semanaer@femexer.org

ABOUT ICORD
ICORD is an International Society for all individuals active in rare diseases and/or orphan drugs, including health care, research, academic, industry, patient organizations, regulatory authorities, health authorities, and public policy professionals.

The ICORD annual conferences, which are non-commercial meetings, provide excellent opportunities for all stakeholders within rare diseases around the globe to come together and share experiences.

ICORD Secretariat
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www.icord.se

Welcome to ICORD 2015, part of Global Rare Diseases Week, Mexico!