



European Federation of Immunological Societies

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Amsterdam, December 22, 2017

To: Representatives of EFIS Member National Societies

Re: ECI 2021

Dear Friends and Colleagues,


First of all, on behalf of the EFIS Board of Directors (BoD), I want to thank those Societies that contributed to the recent consultation regarding ECI 2021 in Istanbul.

To be brief, the outcome of the consultation was quite clear: out of 24 responding Societies, 15 (accounting for membership bases totalling nearly 7.700 members) expressed the need to relocate the congress; eight (8) Societies (representing fewer than 2.200 members) were in favor of remaining in Istanbul. For the record, one (1) Society expressed the need for further discussion, while nine (9) Societies did not respond.

I think it's important to reiterate that this consultation was not meant to constitute a vote or to substitute an EFIS General Assembly, but was intended only to gather information on the perceptions that EFIS Member Societies have of the prospect of holding ECI 2021 in Turkey. It should be mentioned that several responses in favor of remaining in Istanbul rightfully cited the concept that science should not be subject to political pressures or situations, and that safety could not, regretfully, be guaranteed in any city in these times. Even those Societies calling for relocation acknowledged the fact that the current circumstances in the country are beyond the control of our Turkish colleagues and that the TSI certainly deserves the opportunity to host the ECI. However, the consultation reveals that the majority of EFIS Member Societies will not actively participate – for reasons including travel constraints imposed on their citizens/members, security concerns, repression of Turkish academics – and that this announced lack of participation will seriously jeopardize the scientific and financial success of ECI 2021.

At this point, the EFIS BoD intends to convene a meeting in January 2018 with the Member Societies/stakeholders of the EEIG ECI-EFIS in order to discuss the matter and to plan a course of action, one which will likely lead to a call for new bids for ECI 2021 (and for ECI 2024) to be voted on at the EFIS General Assembly in Amsterdam in September 2018.

With thanks for your attention, and warmest Season's Greetings,


René van Lier
President, EFIS