Purpose of the Conference: 2016 Transatlantic Airway Conference

The Transatlantic Airway Conference on lung diseases, held annually, is now in its 31st year. The general purpose of the meeting is to review recent advances in lung disease research. Specifically, the conference's aims are, first, to summarize current knowledge and to enhance understanding of fundamental mechanisms underlying a well-focused aspect of lung biology with a view to suggesting new investigative approaches and treatment of lung diseases. Second, the aim is to assemble a multidisciplinary group of scientists from within and outside the pulmonary research community in the area of lung research selected for each year's conference. Finally, a major aspect of the conference is to encourage exchange of ideas among investigators from different countries.

We feel that the 31st conference, "Aging and Regeneration in the Lungs," successfully achieved these aims. The chairman of the 31st Transatlantic Airway Conference was Mauricio Rojas. He developed an outstanding program with a group of leading experts in the field, who discussed recent advances in the mechanisms of aging and lung regeneration as well as their role in lung diseases with the potential to define common pathways that may represent targets for therapeutic intervention. The symposium report formed the basis of the presentations and discussions.

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