



Copenhagen Tests its Lungs

During the Congress, the ERS and the European Lung Foundation (ELF) hosted a 2-day spirometry testing event in the centre of Copenhagen. This event aimed to raise public awareness about lung disease, especially COPD and the hidden dangers of smoking. The initiative underlies the ERS' and ELF's commitment to promoting better understanding of lung disease to the general public.

Media Attention and Public Education

On September 16th and 17th, Copenhageners were invited to visit the spirometry tent located in Rådhuspladsen, at the heart of the city's pedestrian shopping area. Extensive media coverage on the television, radio and in the press before and during the event attracted much interest, so when the large colourful tent opened, people were already queuing for a test.

Once inside the tent, members of the public were able to browse the

explanatory panels on COPD and spirometry testing that were positioned at the entrance. Within the tent itself, extracts from the Danish version of *Lung Health in Europe – Facts and Figures* (the small Lung White Book) decorated the walls. Informative brochures were also provided by the Danish Lung Association who manned the reception desk.

1,200 Tested – a New Record!

A team of volunteer nurses and doctors welcomed the public non-stop



Of the 1,200 people tested 25% were referred to their general practitioner

from 10:00-18:00 on both days, testing around 1,200 people in total. Ten individual cabins were constantly in use and after each test the printed result was discussed with participants.

Almost half of those tested were smokers or former smokers and impaired lung function was found in 25%. Around 300 people were advised to seek further help, taking with them an official letter for their general practitioner (GP). Many people who requested a test admitted they knew they were in the high-risk population as a smoker for developing COPD.



The tent generated a lot of media interest



Over 2,500 Copenhageners visited the tent

ERS and ELF express their sincere thanks to the partners who lent their support to the spirometry event: Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH, Pfizer Inc., ndd Medizintechnik AG for their spirometers, Danmarks Lungenforening and the Wonderful Copenhagen tourist bureau. Special thanks also go to Congress Chairs, Peter Lange and Philip Tønnesen, and Copenhagen respiratory specialist Ejvind Frausing Hansen who recruited the respiratory volunteer team and managed the testing.