

Welcome Letter

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Board and the Scientific Organising Committee, we are delighted to invite you to the **14th Meeting of the International Society of Pneumonia and Pneumococcal Diseases (ISPPD-14)**, scheduled to take place from **17–21 May 2026 in Copenhagen, Denmark**.

ISPPD has long been recognized as the premier global scientific event devoted to the exchange, advancement, and dissemination of the latest discoveries in basic science, microbiology, epidemiology, treatment, and prevention of pneumonia and pneumococcal diseases. Building on the success of previous meetings, ISPPD-14 aims to foster cross-disciplinary discussions and collaborations that will drive forward the field of pneumonia and pneumococcal disease research.

This is the second time Denmark will host ISPPD – the first initiating ISPPD-1 meeting was held in Helsingør in 1998. We are honoured to welcome the ISPPD community back to Denmark after nearly three decades, continuing a legacy of scientific excellence and global collaboration.

The upcoming meeting will address pressing questions and challenges, including the development and implementation of next-generation vaccines, advancements in genomics and next-generation sequencing, novel diagnostics, the role of the microbiome, and a deeper understanding of host-pathogen interactions. We also encourage the submission of research findings related to other causes of pneumonia, broadening the scope of our discussions.

The scientific programme will feature plenary sessions that adopt a cross-disciplinary approach to major topics, parallel

sessions delving into specific areas such as clinical and diagnostic issues, host-immune interactions, genomics, immunology, microbiology, and epidemiology. Meet-the-Expert sessions will provide opportunities for in-depth interactions with leading professionals, and interactive poster sessions will allow researchers at all levels to present their work. Emphasis will be placed on translating research findings into policies that benefit individuals affected by or at risk of pneumonia worldwide.

Copenhagen, the vibrant Danish capital, offers a blend of historical charm and modern innovation. From its medieval streets and iconic Nyhavn harbour to world-class architecture and design, the city is a hub of creativity and culture. Home to friendly, forward-thinking locals, Copenhagen boasts a thriving culinary scene, including Michelin-starred restaurants and the renowned Danish *hygge* lifestyle. Whether you're exploring the majestic Tivoli Gardens, cycling along scenic canals, or admiring masterpieces at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Copenhagen promises an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

We look forward to welcoming you to **Copenhagen for ISPPD-14**, where together, we can advance the fight against pneumonia and pneumococcal diseases.

Warmest regards,

Thomas Benfield, Zitta Barrella Harboe, and Hans-Christian Slotved

Co-Chairs, Local Organising Committee