

ECORN-CF: Is the Glass Half Full or Half Empty?

by Prof. Dr. T.O.F. Wagner

We do not yet have good news as far as the future funding of ECORN-CF goes but we do not have bad news either. Is this rather sad or hopeful information for those who would like to continue with ECORN-CF?

Let us look at one "end of the year" letter we received concerning the future of the project: "... Regarding ECORN-CF, I tell you honestly what I think: the results are not yet there to establish this service as a successful example of what could be a European reference network. The principles behind the project are perfect and convincing, but the uptake is very low and cannot make a difference in the way patients are handled. ... I just feel that it is difficult to convince a funding body to invest on the basis of the results so far. The only people who can under-

stand the potential added value of such a service are both the patient organisations and the learned societies..."

But there is a different view on things we have



done so far:

"...particularly in ECORN-CF, because it is a model of partnership with patient organisations. ... we are working as hard as we can to make ECORN sustainable in the long term. First of all we need a legal basis for the European reference networks: This has been included in the EC draft directive for

cross boarder health care. As you may know, after the lack of success of the Swedish presidency to reach a consensus, the adoption of the directive has been postponed... In the meantime, we

are very much aware of the difficult time you are going through, at the end of your three years funding period. We will try our best to support funding for a transition period..."

Now it is your turn to decide whether the glass is half full or half empty.

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