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The PELICAN (Prematurity's Effect on the Lungs In Children and Adults Network) ERS Clinical Research Collaboration: understanding the impact of preterm birth on lung health throughout life

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Infants surviving preterm birth have persistent and potentially progressive respiratory health issues throughout life. PELICAN has been launched as an ERS Clinical Research Collaboration to understand the pulmonary consequences of surviving preterm birth. <https://bit.ly/3q3DiHn>

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An estimated 15 million babies (~11%) are born preterm each year (before 37 weeks of gestation), the rates of which are increasing worldwide [1]. Enhanced perinatal care, including antenatal corticosteroids, postnatal surfactant and improved respiratory management, have markedly improved survival outcomes since the 1990s, particularly for babies born very preterm (<32 weeks gestation) [1]. However, long-term pulmonary sequelae are frequent in preterm survivors and ongoing clinical management is often required. Development and severity of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), a chronic lung condition diagnosed during the neonatal period [2], is a key determinant of long-term adverse outcomes of prematurity.