D.S. Postma has received an unrestricted educational grant for research from AstraZeneca, Chiesi, GSK. Travel to ERS and/or ATS has been partially funded by AstraZeneca, Chiesi, GSK, Nycomed. Fees for consultancies were given to the University of Groningen by AZ, Boehringer Ingelheim, Chiesi, GSK, Nycomed and TEVA.