

EACR President Marco A Pierotti

President, Marco A Pierotti, highlights the EACR's membership of the new ECCO - European CanCer Organisation and the Association's rapid development.



While it does not seem like twelve months have passed since I last wrote an address for this newsletter, I do find it remarkable how much has happened over the last year and how positive the future looks for our Association in this, our 40th Anniversary year.

The new European Cancer Organisation – ECCO

The road to creating the new European Cancer Organisation (ECCO) has been fraught with difficulties but I believe the importance of the organisation's success cannot be overstated. A properly constituted European organisation, where all cancer disciplines can come together and form a collective voice to advance the case for cancer research, prevention, treatment and care has never been more urgent. I take the view that cancer research and the needs and interests of our members are best served by a vibrant and responsive EACR that is at the centre of debate and developments. The

new ECCO is well placed to advance opportunities for the cancer research community to be heard at the highest levels.

EACR is proud to be a founding member of ECCO and has played a strong role in supporting the formation of the new organisation. We are joined by new associations and all but one of the original FECS founding members. The absent member is ESMO (European Society for Medical Oncologists) and this is certainly a matter for regret. However, I am particularly pleased that discussions about membership of ECCO are ongoing with this important European society and hope that it will join the new ECCO very soon.

Working together

I look forward to EACR 20 and to meeting many friends and colleagues in Lyon. Our bi-annual main meeting remains at the very centre of our activity as an Association and much effort has been put into creating an excellent and highly relevant programme.

EACR 20 provides the ideal opportunity for members to meet and interact, and also to talk about the activities the Association is involved in. I would particularly like to encourage all members to find the time during EACR 20 to attend and contribute to the meeting of the General Assembly.

We also wish to be innovative in supporting and developing European scientific meetings. In addition to our main conferences, we have been keen to sponsor high quality, sharply focused meetings and are now

developing new ways of working in partnership with meeting organisers, and of providing appropriate funding.

In the summer of 2009, we will also be launching the EACR Symposia series of European meetings. The first meetings will be held in Cambridge, UK. Future symposia will also be planned in response to the identification of the strong needs and interests of our members.

Communication with and between our members has never been better and has been successfully supported by innovations over the past year. The new style EACR e-news bulletin and website are providing a valuable service to members in 82 countries world wide and use is beginning to be made of both the members' directory and the website forum. The presence of EACR at international meetings has not only given many more members a point of reference for information but has encouraged interest in membership and in the formation of networks in countries that do not have a discrete national society for cancer researchers.

I hope that your own membership of EACR will continue to be supportive and that you are in a position to take advantage of our important scientific meetings and the opportunities presented by our fellowship programmes and awards. I particularly look forward to seeing our meeting bursary winners at EACR 20: an international group of young researchers, many of whom will be attending their first major scientific conference. We hope the meeting will inspire them and all who attend. I also hope that you will find much of what you read in this Newsletter to be a source of encouragement

and that you will suggest to friends and colleagues working in cancer research that they should consider joining us. Please be sure to remind any student researchers you know that membership is entirely free for up to four years while completing post graduate studies.

My report to the General Assembly will mark the end of my term of office as EACR president, a post I have been proud and privileged to hold. I look forward to continuing my support of EACR as past-president and to see EACR take further energetic strides forward under the presidency of Anne-Lise Borresen-Dale.



The Statutes of ECCO- the European CanCer Organisation were signed by the representatives of the founding member societies (Marco Pierotti for EACR, Sara Faithfull for EONS, Thomas Lehnert for ESSO, Vincent Grégoire for ESTRO, Andrea Biondi for SIOPE).

EACR gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of its

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On behalf of ECCO – the European CanCer Organisation, I would like to congratulate the European Association for Cancer Research (EACR) on its anniversary marking forty years' outstanding contribution to the advancement of cancer research.

The EACR not only represents an expanding membership of over 7000 laboratory, translational and clinical cancer researchers, but also organises premier cancer conferences and meetings - providing the European cancer community with a highly respected voice.

ECCO is committed to supporting and promoting the EACR as well as facilitating a connective platform for all its member organisations through leveraging knowledge, promoting education and building awareness.

I would like to thank the EACR and our other members for entrusting ECCO to act as a multi-specialty European forum which exists to deliver on the philosophy that every cancer patient deserves the best.

Alexander M. M. Eggermont,
President, ECCO
– the European CanCer Organisation.